



UNCED, Agenda 21 and the Pacific

No other international meeting in the history of the Pacific Islands has generated such support or participation as the Earth Summit (or UNCED). Over 110 delegates, including nine heads of government, a head of state, and two governors, represented the region at the Summit.

The final decisions of the Earth Summit fell short of many expectations. However, for the South Pacific, the small steps taken by the world's leaders in Rio and the preparations for UNCED have had a significant impact on the region, and the role of Pacific island countries in international negotiations has been strengthened.

Preparing for Rio

Preparations started early in 1991 in the South Pacific, co-ordinated by SPREP. These preparations were an investment of US\$ 2 million by the region and its partners in sustainable development. Pacific delegates participated in the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings and convention negotiations, and National Reports were prepared by 13 countries. These reports were the basis of *The Pacific Way* and *Environment and Development: a Pacific Island Perspective*, important documents outlining national and regional concerns for the environment and development.

Three regional meetings involved representatives from governments, NGOs and regional organisations, and produced a Ministerial Declaration, regional statement and strategies for the PrepCom. A video showing sustainable development issues in the region was launched at the Summit.

These preparations were linked to ongoing work to develop National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) in island countries. The NEMS will provide a sound foundation for implementing sustainable development and the outcomes from UNCED.

The Achievements

A significant achievement for the region is the new political rhetoric of its leaders. The last 15 years has seen much done to protect the Pacific environment, but it is only now that the region's leaders clearly state that environment and development must be fully integrated. "All activities in the region must be both economically and ecologically sound" was the sentiment stated in the Forum Communique of 1992.

The co-operation achieved in preparing for Rio, and during UNCED and convention negotiations, was also an important achievement for the region. This collective, co-ordinated approach was recognised by the region's

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Issue no 30

July - September 1992

ISSN: 0257 - 1962

leaders as very valuable to the Pacific, and will be used in other international fora to help ensure recognition and protection of the region's interests in solving global environmental problems.

The Earth Summit endorsed Agenda 21, an action strategy for the next decade, and a statement of 27 principles to guide the actions of countries and the international community called the Rio Declaration.

Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 gave special recognition of the particular concerns and characteristics of small islands. The negotiation of this text was an important achievement for all island countries. Entitled Sustainable Development of Small Islands, this programme area of Agenda 21 contains activities in management, human resources, capacity building and regional co-operation.

(Continued on Page 2)

From the Director's Desk

Dr. Vili Fuavao
Director



UNCED marked a new era in the global attempt to address environmental degradation resulting from years of exploitation and poor management of our natural resources. SPREP was privileged to coordinate the participation of South Pacific countries at the meetings and negotiations leading up to Rio, and at UNCED itself.

The centerpiece documents of the UNCED were the Convention on Climate Change, the Biodiversity Convention, Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration and the Statement of Forest Principles. These were the results of almost two years of negotiations, and were available for signature at the Summit in Rio de Janeiro. South Pacific countries participated actively and, I believe, effectively in these negotiations.

The success or failure of UNCED will not be known for years, and depends primarily on the implementation of Agenda 21. However, there is no doubt that the South Pacific countries made an impact at the Rio Summit. UNCED is only the begin-

ning of our concerted efforts to address the environment problems facing our region today. It is one step in the right direction.

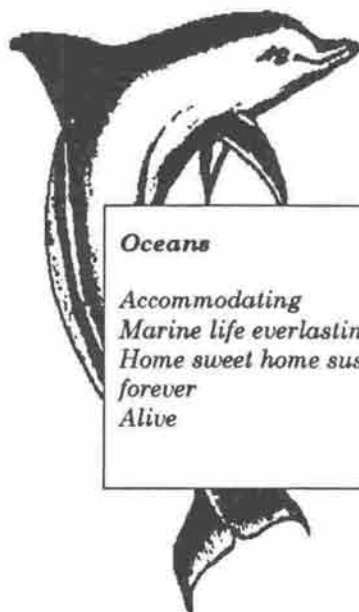
Our preparations for UNCED have been a team effort of the SPREP Secretariat, South Pacific countries, consultants, non-government organisations and international agencies and donor countries. These include the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, AIDAB and the New Zealand government, who generously provided financial resources to allow our success. This team effort, which has become the trademark of SPREP's operations, will also be critical for the success in implementing Agenda 21 in the Pacific region.

SPREP is now preparing for the most important aspect of UNCED - implementing Agenda 21. We are working on an overall strategy for implementing and preparing project proposals that integrate the objectives of Agenda 21 and our own Action Plan, which sets out the priorities of our region.

Well-thought out and practical projects are critical in enabling the region to attract a fair share of the resources available to implement Agenda 21. As part of this, I hope to lead a mission, in late 1992 or early 1993, to present project proposals and to increase the awareness of funding agencies as to the special needs and attention needed by our region.

SPREP will continue to coordinate the actions arising from Rio. It is my belief that SPREP must participate in the global initiatives that have direct bearing and impact on our region. However, it should not lose sight of the fact that its strength and focus must remain with national and regional initiatives.

This implementation stage is a daunting task. I call on the member governments and administrations, non-government organisations, and other regional and international organisations to play their parts, and assist us in making sustainable development a reality in our region.



Oceans

*Accommodating
Marine life everlasting
Home sweet home sustenance
forever
Alive*

"Poee"

UNCED, Agenda 21 and the Pacific

(Cont'd from Page 1)

To continue this international co-operation, the programme area calls for a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in 1993. There are also scattered references in Agenda 21 to issues affecting Pacific Island countries. These include recognising the importance of coastal aquifers and small island ecosystems, and

the importance of sub-regional action.

Other areas of Agenda 21 significant to the region include the establishment of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) to oversee the implementation of Agenda 21; the management of living marine resources of the high seas, especially highly migratory species and straddling fish stocks; and more support for NGOs in implementing sustainable development.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

Protecting the Atmosphere

The Rio Declaration has a number of principles that are very important to the Pacific Island countries - the right to development, the vital need for capacity building, the recognition that Pacific Islands are the most environmentally vulnerable, and that our Islands are most prone to natural disasters. All SPREP member governments who attended UNCED know of this Declaration.

Agenda 21: Plan for the Future

The UNCED's Agenda 21 was developed as the global action strategy for the 21st century, based on the Earth Charter. There are many key environment and development issues in the Agenda, not least of which is the chapter on "Protection of the Atmosphere". This includes the objectives and programme activities also needed to address pressing problems for sustainable development.

Under this chapter, it recognizes that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will cover similar issues. However, in the framework of this chapter, governments can carry out additional measures which are consistent with the UNFCCC.



This chapter of the Agenda looks to co-ordinate and integrate actions to alleviate the problem of global warming with social and economic developments. This is to avoid adverse impacts on development, and to account for the priorities of developing countries for achieving sustained economic growth and to eradicate poverty.

Four programme areas covered under this chapter of the Agenda 21 include: 1. addressing the uncertainties and improving the scientific basis for decision-making; 2. promoting sustainable development, with improvements in energy efficiency and lower energy consumption, transportation, and developing terrestrial and marine resources and land use; 3. preventing stratospheric ozone depletion; and 4. atmospheric pollution across national boundaries.

To fully implement the work programme, it will require international and regional cooperation, considerable capacity building, development of human resources and much financial and cost evaluation.

UNFCCC: More than Hot Air?

The UNFCCC was also an important environmental issue in the Agenda 21 work programme. Though Pacific Islands governments and their colleagues in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) were disappointed with the UNFCCC, they restated their willingness to accept it as what was achievable at this stage in a long process of negotiation and haggling.

At the heart of their concern was that the Convention's text lacked explicit, specific and meaningful commitments by OECD countries to stabilise, and then reduce, their emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, within certain time frame. So AOSIS members pledged to work closely with IPCC and the UNFCCC Secretariat to ensure that effective and equitable measures are taken to stabilise the amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Many SPREP member countries - Australia, Cook Islands, France, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa - signed the Convention. As this is only the start of negotiations, Pacific Islands countries and AOSIS will have to work extremely hard in the future to gain real substance in the convention that will force countries emitting greenhouse gases to slow down.

An interesting development associated with the signing of the UNFCCC in Rio was a meeting of AOSIS. The group met to discuss the future of the Alliance, and to agree on the final text of the AOSIS Declaration on the UNFCCC. This was submitted to the Secretary General of UNCED, Mr. Maurice Strong, on 12 June. The AOSIS Declaration is seen as the progress made by AOSIS during the negotiations for the UNFCCC (see the middle "liftout").



UNCED, Agenda 21 and the Pacific

(Cont'd from Page 2)

Efforts throughout the UNCED process to enhance the role of NGOs in sustainable development also influenced the Pacific. The level of NGO involvement in the preparatory process varied from country to country, but by the Fourth PrepCom in New York, Pacific NGOs were working well with government officials at regular morning briefings. Although they had only slight influence on policy-making at Rio, the momentum generated in the Pacific will have lasting implications for policy and projects in the region.

Some Shortfalls

Leaders at the recent South Pacific Forum highlighted some major shortfalls of UNCED. These included the:

- limited financial commitments made - less than that needed to implement sustainable development;
- inability of the Summit to provide strong direction concerning population growth; and,

- focus of Agenda 21 on waste management and disposal instead of waste reduction at the source.

There are others, but this helps us focus on what happens next.

So what next?

Cynics might say that it will be business as usual in the region after UNCED, but this does not appear to be so. At the next SPREP Inter-governmental Meeting in Western Samoa, from 14-16 September, countries will consider the implications of UNCED outcomes for the 1991-95 SPREP Action Plan. These will include:

- preparations for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to be hosted by the Cook Islands;
- in-service training for development and economic planners in environmental economics;
- the role and involvement of NGOs in sustainable development in the region;
- the evaluation of the need for a new regional convention on the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste;
- the relationship between trade and the environment; and,

- the integration of population and environment, recognising that population growth imposes significant strains on resources in the Pacific.

To deal with these issues and to fulfil country obligations under Agenda 21, regional programmes will be developed based on national priorities identified by NEMS. To implement these programmes, clear relationships will need to be established with the institutions identified as the "money-managers" or "watch-dogs" of sustainable development, including the World Bank (through the GEF), the International Development Association and the Sustainable Development Commission.

Internationally, the level of regional co-operation demonstrated in preparation for UNCED will be valuable in negotiations on global environmental issues over the coming year. These negotiations will include those in the United Nations General Assembly to consider the final decisions of the Summit; meetings of the Contracting Parties to *Climate Change* and *Biodiversity Conventions* to consider developing protocols giving more "bite" to these conventions; and preparations for an international conference on managing living marine resources in the high seas.

Like many other developing countries, "what happens next" in this region will depend greatly on the resources available to strengthen national and regional institutions, and the major groups involved in sustainable development. Nevertheless, with the new rhetoric, good regional co-operation and ongoing programmes on environmental protection, the Pacific is well placed to continue the progress it is making towards sustainable development. ☺☺☺



The Kiribati delegation face the Press in Rio. Sea level rise is a major concern in the Pacific.

The Biodiversity Convention

What does it Mean for the Pacific?



Biological diversity is the wealth of life forms on this earth. It is the millions of different plants, animals and microorganisms, and the ecosystems they form, which have evolved over billions of years. Biological diversity (or biodiversity) is represented by birds, trees, bats, turtles and fish; and the forests, mangroves, reefs, and estuaries that shelter them. Plant and animal species clothe and feed the people of the Pacific, provide economic opportunities through tourism and fishing, and sustain island societies culturally and spiritually.

Biodiversity and Human Activity

It is clear that human activity can have disastrous consequences for the biological resources and diversity of this planet. The rapidly expanding human population and its increasing need for fuel, food, raw materials, land and consumer goods is leading to over-exploitation and unsustainable use of many resources, and the loss of species and whole ecosystems.

Genetic resources exploited by humans can also, however, bring financial benefits - but in the past, these benefits often went to the developed countries which had the technology, rather than the developing country from which the genetic resources came.

The tropical South Pacific region is renowned for its species diversity and endemism (species which occur only in one place). However, island ecosystems are usually very fragile because of their small size, so island biodiversity and the species that comprise it are among the most threatened in the world.

In recognition of the significance of these issues worldwide, the Governing Council of UNEP called for the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in June 1987. This Group's task was to investigate the desirability and possible form of an "umbrella" convention to rationalise current activities in the field of conserving biological diversity.

Five years later, after many meetings and negotiations, and with the Earth Summit as an incentive and a deadline, an international Convention on Biological Diversity is now open for signing.

Heated Negotiations

Many issues arising during the negotiations were a result of the differing needs and expectations of the developing countries, who have these genetic resources, and the developed countries, who hold the purse strings!

Major issues were:

- liability and compensation for damage to biodiversity caused by other States;
- the importance of economic incentives to conserve biodiversity;

- the ability of the Convention to require sovereign states to carry out certain measures in their national jurisdictions;
- the complicated issue of intellectual property rights;
- the need for technology transfer on terms favourable to developing countries; and,
- problems in countries agreeing on how to transfer "new and additional financial resources" to developing countries.

The negotiations verged on collapse several times, and there are still major developed / donor countries with reservations. The United States, for example, despite ensuring that its views are represented in the text, will not become a party to the Convention.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention states that the fundamental requirement for conservation of biological diversity is in-situ, or on-site, conservation. It requires contracting Parties to prepare plans for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into national decision-making and the plans for relevant government sectors.

(Cont'd on Page 6)

The Biodiversity Convention: What does it mean for the Pacific?

(Cont'd from Page 5)

It also requires contracting Parties to:

- ◆ identify and monitor biological diversity and threats to it;
- ◆ control risks associated with biotechnology;
- ◆ preserve and promote relevant indigenous and traditional practices for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity;
- ◆ complement in-situ measures with ex-situ (off-site) measures, including the recovery of endangered species; and,
- ◆ use incentives to conserve biodiversity.

The Convention requires access to genetic resources to be on mutually agreed terms, with the aim of a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from using these resources. Technology transfer to developing countries is to be on fair and most favourable terms, consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.

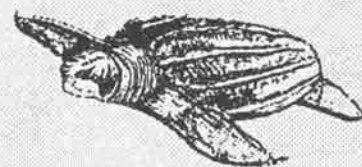
But most importantly, the Convention states that devel-

oped country Parties will provide new, additional financial resources for conserving biological diversity. Special consideration is to be given to the "special conditions resulting from the dependence on, distribution of, and location of, biological diversity within developing country parties, in particular small island states".

What does it mean for Pacific Island Countries?

Biological resources are a capital asset, and their importance to Pacific Island countries are becoming more recognised. Being a party to this Convention should allow access to new financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and allow easier access to relevant technologies, including those that use genetic material.

By the end of UNCED, twelve SPREP member countries signed the Convention: Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, France, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. It is recommended that the other SPREP countries also sign this vital Convention, to conserve our future for our children and for the economic viability of our countries.



EnviroNews

Environmental News Briefs from
around the South Pacific

Pacific Leaders Urged to Halt Environmental Damage

Leaders at the 23rd South Pacific Forum were urged to work together to stop environmental damage in the Pacific caused by industrialised nations.

In the Forum's Opening address in Honiara, Solomon Islands Governor General, Sir George Lepping, said the environment was a major concern to small Pacific island nations, especially with the expected sea level rise from global warming. He cited the destructive effects of pollution and consumerism in industrial nations as major concerns, requiring communal action in the international community.

(from AAP, in Samoa Observer,
10 July 1992, p26 - with thanks!)

Predicting "El Ninos"

Large numbers of international scientists have co-operated to allow the prediction of the 1991/92 "El Nino" effect, which is causing drought in parts of Australia, Indonesia and the Marshall Islands, and a shift in cyclone activity from the Western to Central Pacific region.

(From IMS Newsletter, 62, 1992,
pp1-2 - with thanks!)

Ed. Note: This scientific co-operation will be important in the future in studying the possible effects of global warming on the world's climate and oceanography.

(Cont'd on Page 8)

Forum Leaders Put Priority on the Environment

The South Pacific Forum is the major annual meeting of political leaders in the Pacific. They discuss activities and problems of mutual concern, and attempt to reach consensus in addressing these problems.

The environment was a major issue at the 23rd Forum Meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands, with a number of environmental concerns in the wake of the Rio Earth Summit. Some Forum countries influence some of these issues, while other Forum members will be directly influenced.

Not least among the expressed concerns was nuclear testing, and France's temporary moratorium on testing in French Polynesia. Forum leaders pledged to protest to the remaining "test" countries - the United States, Great Britain and the People's Republic of China - urging them to also suspend testing. The Forum expressed its appreciation and support to the French President for suspending testing, but also asked that the suspension become indefinite. However, Forum leaders agreed that this was conditional on other nations also suspending their test programmes.

The Forum also welcomed France's recent accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, where all France's future nuclear customers have strict safeguards imposed, which are administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Forum members actively participated in negotiations and meetings for UNCED, with the support of SPREP and AOSIS. They place high priority on envi-

ronmental issues, and in developing and implementing the outcomes of UNCED: Agenda 21, the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biodiversity, and the Declaration on Forest Principles. The Forum endorsed the principle of sustainable development, where protecting the environment is integrated into the development process.

Other issues in the UNCED discussions included the:

- serious regional threat of global warming and sea level rise to the region's most vulnerable countries;
- important role of renewable energy resources for slowing global warming;
- AUD\$1.3 million upgrade in regional meteorological services by the Australian Government;
- AUD\$5 million from the Australian Government for the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project;
- ongoing problems in waste management and disposal, including toxic and hazardous;
- essential need for support to environmental education and public awareness;
- need to continue the operation of AOSIS in further negotiations for the UNFCCC;
- role of SPREP as the region's principal environmental organisation, and the Forum's appreciation for SPREP's co-ordination of the regional input into UNCED; and,
- the need for collective and co-operative representation in other international meetings on the global environment to protect the region's interests.

The Forum was also concerned at Japan's decision to ship highly-radioactive plutonium from Europe to Japan via the Pacific. Tuvalu's Prime Minister, Mr Bikenbau Paeniu, said that Forum nations were not told of the proposal, and that they were formulating a strong protest to Japan. Most Forum countries are signatories of the Wellington Convention which declared the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. As most countries rely heavily on their marine resources, an accident involving radioactive materials in the Pacific could severely affect any nearby countries.

The Forum recognised the need for effective coastal protection in the region. It requested that SOPAC and SPREP work together to investigate various options for coastal protection systems, to convene meetings of experts to review these options, and to report back to Forum countries on these deliberations as soon as possible.

Law enforcement was another regional concern at the Forum, and the meeting recognised that environmental issues, such as waste dumping, driftnet fishing, oil spills and wildlife smuggling, must be part of co-operative law enforcement in the region. SPREP was also asked to work with the Forum Regional Security Council on environmental aspects of regional law enforcement.

In all, SPREP Director Dr Vili Fuavao was very pleased with the Forum meeting, especially with the recognition accorded to SPREP by the Forum.



EnviroNews

(Cont'd from Page 6)

Coral Bleaching Increasing?

Some scientists are concerned over the amount of coral bleaching that has occurred in recent years over many of the world's reefs. It has been noted this year on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

As warmer water temperatures can cause this bleaching, some scientists suggest that this may be the first indication of the effects of global warming on the world's ecosystems. Although most scientists feel it is premature to draw conclusions on relationships between coral bleaching and global warming, they are anxious to find the present extent of bleaching on the world's reefs.

(Reef Research, 2:1, p11 - with thanks!)

Another Turtle Tag Sighted

A tagged turtle from French Polynesia was caught off Toberua Island, Fiji. The tag was sent to Fiji's Fisheries Division at Lami for recording.

The tagging programme is part of the SPREP-co-ordinated Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme, which studies the movements and lifecycles of marine turtles in the Pacific. The Fiji Fisheries Division cooperates with SPREP as part of the Turtle Programme.

(Qitawa, 7:2, March/April 1992, p4 - with thanks!)

Haiku

Majestic Palm Tree
Gracefully dancing and swaying
Singing with the wind.

"Poet"

Acronyms

- ADB Asian Development Bank
AOSIS Alliance of Small Island States
CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNMI Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
EC European Community
EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EWC East West Center
FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)
FFA Forum Fisheries Agency
FS Forum Secretariat
FSM Federated States of Micronesia
GEF Global Environment Facility
IMO International Maritime Organisation
IPCC Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change
IUCN World Conservation Union
LDC Less Developed Country
NEMS National Environmental Management Strategies
NGO Non-government Organisation
NZ New Zealand
PIDP Pacific Islands Development Programme (EWC)
PNG Papua New Guinea
SOPAC South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPREP South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UH University of Hawaii
UN United Nations
UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UN)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme (UN)
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme (UN)
Unesco United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNITECH University of Technology (PNG)
UoG University of Guam
UPNG University of Papua New Guinea
USA United States of America
USP University of the South Pacific
WMO World Meteorological Organisation
WRI World Resources Institute
WWF World Wide Fund for Nature



EnviroNews

US Couple Convicted for Stealing Rare Reptiles

A US couple were convicted of scheming to illegally import and exploit endangered reptile species into USA, including the rare Fiji Banded Iguana.

The pair operated a successful import-export and wholesale company in USA, and were a major supplier of exotic reptile species to zoos and private collectors. They used a third conspirator from Malaysia to smuggle four iguanas from Fiji to the US, via India, Pakistan and Malaysia. They violated US law and the CITES Treaty, which seeks to protect wildlife from commercial exploitation.

(from Fiji Times, 24 June 1992, p15 - with thanks!)

New Co-ordinator for SPACHEE

"We must care more for our world to worry less about our environment," is the message of Isoa Korovulavula, the new Co-ordinator for USP-based environment organisation, SPACHEE.

Isoa is a USP graduate in geography and economics. He says that the office will concentrate on educating the community in important environment issues, with special emphasis in the schools.

(from USP Bulletin, 25:22, p3 - with thanks!)

(Cont'd on Page 14)



Small Island Countries Speak Out!

expressed their satisfaction that the text of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted by consensus on 9 May 1992 by the INC, and praised the tireless efforts in this regard by the Chairman of the INC, and those of the bureau of the INC, and the members of the Secretariat.

reiterated the willingness of their Governments to accept the UNFCCC as what was achievable at this particular stage of a lengthy process, rather than what was desirable from the perspective of the AOSIS. While expressing their satisfaction that the text of the Convention was adopted by consensus, they also expressed their serious concern that the text lacks explicit, specific, and meaningful commitments by developed countries to stabilize and then reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, within certain time frames. In this connection, they pledged their continued collective efforts to ensure that effective and equitable measures are taken to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They also expressed their satisfaction that a number of like-minded countries, both developed and developing, are in agreement on this point, and welcomed the statements that have been made by certain developed countries setting forth and renewing their own commitments to stabilize and subsequently reduce their CO₂ emissions in accordance with specific targets and timetables. They also expressed the hope that the Convention would be universally adhered to, and through a sufficient number of early ratifications, enter into force at an early date and be sufficiently strengthened, including through appropriate protocols covering specific issues, in particular the limitation of CO₂ emissions, to ensure that it

effectively addresses the problem of human induced climate change and the adverse effects of such climate change.

stated further that the identification, development, and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and energy efficient technologies would make a significant contribution toward achieving the Objective of the UNFCCC. They, therefore, urged all states to consider taking measures to identify, develop, and promote new and renewable sources of energy, and energy efficiency technologies as an important way of effectively addressing the problem of human induced climate change, and its adverse effects.

decided that the AOSIS should continue to actively participate in the work of the INC throughout the period of the interim arrangements foreseen in the Resolution annexed to the Convention, and should continue to actively function for any period thereafter as may be necessary to help ensure the effective and equitable operation of the Convention. In this regard, they stressed the urgent need for vulnerability assessments of small island and low-lying coastal developing countries, the development of effective coastal zone management plans and methodologies, and financing of adaptation measures necessary to address the adverse effects of human induced climate change in accordance with Articles IV and XI of the Convention. In the latter connection, they welcomed the announcement made in New York on 1 May 1992 by a member of the private sector that it would contribute to the financial mechanism of the Convention funds specially designated for the small island and low-lying coastal developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of human induced climate change. They also urged others, including governments, to consider contributing to this innovative mechanism.

agreed that the AOSIS should continue to function in its present form as an ad hoc coalition of similarly situated and like-minded small island and low-lying coastal developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of human induced climate change. They also agreed that the AOSIS should continue to work primarily through the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of member countries in New York, and through the regional coordinators or capitals of those members that do not belong to the United Nations.

further decided that their representatives should continue to develop and evolve the criteria for membership in the AOSIS based upon current criteria, the six (6) original AOSIS negotiating points, and other criteria which might evolve in the overall interests of the Group.

also decided to request that this Declaration be made an official document of the Conference, and be distributed as such.

concluded by thanking all of those who have contributed to whatever successes the Group has enjoyed, including governments, intergovernmental and international organizations, NGOs, members of the private sector, and the international news media.





The Earth Charter



Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 - 14 June 1992,

Reaffirming the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and seeking to build upon it,

With the Goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among states, key sectors of societies and people,

Working toward international agreements which respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system,

Recognising the integral and interdependent nature of the earth, our home,

[The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development]

Proclaims that:

Principle 1.

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 2.

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to insure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 3.

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 4.

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Principle 5.

All states and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Principle 6.

The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.

Principle 7.

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressure their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

Principle 8.

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, states should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

Principle 9.

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.

Principle 10.

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceeding, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 11.

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be

inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

Principle 12.

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing trans-boundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

Principle 13.

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damages. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damages caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 14.

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other states of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

Principle 15.

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied to

states according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 16.

National authorities should endeavor to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should in principle bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

Principle 17.

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

Principle 18.

States shall immediately notify other states of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those states. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help states so afflicted.

Principle 19.

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected states on activities that may have a significant adverse trans-boundary environmental effect and shall consult with those states at an early stage and in good faith.

Principle 20.

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21.

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and insure a better future for all.

Principle 22.

Indigenous people and their communities, and other local communities, have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Principle 23.

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

Principle 24.

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.

Principle 25.

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

Principle 26.

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Principle 27.

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfillment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

AOSIS Declaration



The Heads of State or Government:

expressed their great appreciation to the Government of Brazil for facilitating this important meeting during the UNCED, and for the overall arrangements made in hosting the Conference in Rio de Janeiro. They also warmly congratulated H.E. Mr. Fernando Collor de Mello, the President of Brazil, on his election as President of the Conference.

reviewed the evolution and growth of the AOSIS since the Group was first convened during the Second World Climate Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 November 1990.

paid a special tribute to H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives for the important initiative he took in convening the Small States Conference on Sea Level Rise in Malt, Maldives from 14-18 November 1989. They also commended the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the important initiative taken at the Second World Climate Conference which led to the formation of the Group as an ad hoc coalition. They also commended the Government of Malta for the initiative taken in 1988 which resulted in the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 43/53 on the protection of global climate and the proposal for a framework convention on climate change. They also expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Vanuatu for the invaluable role played by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations in chairing the Group since the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating

Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC) in February 1991. In doing so, they noted the progression of the aforementioned initiatives, and the trans-regional nature of the AOSIS, and expressed the belief that this is one of the Group's strengths. They expressed their appreciation to other countries, particularly developing countries and the G-77 as a group, for the understanding of the grave and serious threat posed to the future existence of the AOSIS member countries by sea level rise, coral bleaching and the destruction of other ecological parameters, the increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms, and other adverse effects of human induced climate change.

welcomed the recognition extended to the AOSIS as a special interest group during the INC negotiations and appealed to all members of the international community to recall that the special conditions and threat which led to that recognition still exist.

noted that despite recent advances in some areas, small island and low-lying coastal developing countries continue to see, in a general sense, their needs, concerns, and interests assigned relatively low priorities within the United Nations system. They further noted that the role played by small island and low-lying coastal developing countries in the INC, and other negotiations leading to the UNCED underlines the positive and valid contributions which these countries can make in the process of strengthening international cooperation. In this regard, they expressed their intention to

cooperate and collaborate further, particularly in environmental matters, with the aim of increasing awareness of their needs and concerns, and advancing their interests by, amongst other things, assuring adequate representation of small island and low-lying coastal developing countries on relevant international bodies and organizations, and greater responsiveness to their needs, concerns, and interests.

noted with great concern that in addition to the physical survival of small island and low-lying coastal developing countries and their cultures as a consequence of their particular vulnerability to the adverse effects of human induced climate change, the security as well as the economies and ecologies of their countries are, for the most part, also vulnerable in other ways.

affirmed their belief that the economic and social development of their countries is intrinsically linked to the international economic environment, and the economic and social development of all countries and reiterated their commitment to strengthening areas of cooperation, collaboration, and awareness with all countries, particularly developing countries within the G-77 and other countries within their respective geographic regional groups.

gratefully acknowledged the cooperation and assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and various members of the NGO community.

SPREP Director Presses Pacific Concerns to the Earth Summit

This speech was given by the Director of SPREP, Vili Fuavao, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, on 10 June 1992. It highlights the unique environmental problems in the Pacific, coupled with the quest for sustainable development.

Mr President, your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour to address this historic meeting and to follow the two members of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, that have already spoken today - another remains to be heard later this evening, American Samoa. The two distinguished speakers of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Cook Islands have told us of both the satisfaction and at the same time, the ongoing concerns with progress towards sustainable development held by many island countries of the South Pacific. From the viewpoint of the SPREP Secretariat I wish to focus on what happens next.

The Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the two international conventions provide us with a foundation for change. They embody a global recognition of the environment problems we are facing and represent a pivotal step in the right direction. As a result global expectations are high and this is particularly true throughout the vast Pacific region.

It goes without saying that the success or failures of this Summit will be measured to a large extent by our ability to fulfil these expectations and to turn the decisions of the Conference into actions which will have a profound impact on the kind of world we leave for our children and their children's children.

Setting

Islands of the Pacific region share a common thread of evolutionary and human history. Mostly isolated from each other by hundreds if not thousands of kilometres, their people have developed unique cultures and attitudes of self-reliance. Pacific Islanders also share a common aspiration for economic development and improved living standards. Although for thousands of years they have lived a relatively sustainable way of life in their island environments, this was at a fairly low level of material well-being -- a level which is no longer considered adequate.

Pacific Island Countries are strongly committed to maintaining the harmony which has characterised island peoples' relationship with their environment; they do not want the pursuit of material benefits to undermine cultural systems and values nor to cause any permanent harm to the land and marine resources which have sustained island life for many centuries. Therein lies the dilemma.



SPREP Director, Dr Vili Fuavao, addresses the Earth Summit.

These common concerns naturally draw Pacific Island Countries together to seek action on global environmental issues which threaten the countries in the region. Similarly, the region's biological resources are threatened by the patterns of large-scale exploitation of marine and terrestrial living resources from outside the region; concern to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change and to conserve the wealth of species and ecosystems underlies South Pacific interest in negotiations towards global conventions on climate change and the protection of biological diversity. Pacific Island Countries of SPREP, working through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), have continually expressed grave concern that climate change and sea level rise threaten the livelihoods of these countries.

In the Pacific one can see the environmental consequences of poor development. The persistent neglect of environmental issues can, over the long term, limit the opportunities for economic development in many Pacific island countries. This has led to an increasing awareness among the South Pacific governments that environmental management and economic development are inextricably linked.

(Cont'd on Page 14)

SPREP Director Presses Pacific Concerns

(Cont'd from Page 13)

At a regional level, this awareness is part of an ongoing commitment to action on environmental matters. Together with those developed countries which have long standing ties with the region, countries of the South Pacific have demonstrated that they have many common concerns regarding environment and development and are in the process of strengthening the role of SPREP. But although considerable advances have been made in terms of environmental management in recent years, not enough has been done to bring environment and development concerns together with economic planning and decision-making.

This is clearly a challenge for the region if we are to ensure that the way of life; the cultures, economies and environments can be sustained for the generations

EnviroNews

(Cont'd from Page 8)

New Director for TRAFFIC Oceania

Debbie Callister is the new Director of TRAFFIC Oceania, which seeks to conserve biological diversity by monitoring the trade in and use of wild plants and animals in the South Pacific. It also helps curtail possible threats to species created by this trade, by helping the CITES Secretariat in its work.

Debbie succeeded Frank Antram, the founding Director of TRAFFIC Oceania. TRAFFIC is supported by WWF and IUCN, and the Oceania branch is based in Sydney, Australia.

(TRAFFIC Bulletin, 13:1, p1 - with thanks!)

to come. This is clearly stated in the report, *The Pacific Way*, presented by Pacific Island Country members of SPREP to UNCED. This contains the priorities for sustainable development and what actions Pacific Island Developing Countries recognise are necessary to turn their commitment into reality.

Consensus - a way of life

Though scattered, the island countries of the South Pacific are a close-knit family. The co-operative approach to regional development is merely an extension of home-grown processes of government which have traditionally placed very high value on co-operation and the consensus approach to problem resolution. SPREP is one of a number of intergovernmental bodies in the region that, through this consensus approach, have been important to regional preparations for UNCED and will be fundamental to the implementation of UNCED outcomes. With the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, and two of SPREP's members, Australia and NZ, SPREP has coordinated Pacific island country preparations for the Earth Summit.

About SPREP

SPREP is an inter-governmental organisation that is responsible for the coordination, protection and management of the environment of the South Pacific. Its membership is diverse, combining developed and developing countries, individual states and territories. In addition to the 24 countries and administrations of the South Pacific, SPREP's membership includes France and the United States of America. Its mission is



A lighter moment at UNCED ...

to assist countries in protecting and improving their shared environment, and in managing resources to enhance their quality of life for present and future generations.

This already involves co-operation with other regional organisations, in particular the South Pacific Forum, through existing mechanisms such as the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC). Decision-making and implementation also involves non-government organisations, UN agencies, development banks and research organisations - the list is long but includes, among others, UNEP (part of SPREP's function is as a regional seas programme), UNDP, ADB, IUCN, Greenpeace and WWF. This is encouraging the more effective integration of environment and development at a regional level and helps avoid duplication.

Existing Programmes and Agenda 21

It is clear that the implementation of Agenda 21 will be influenced by national priorities. Countries of the region are currently in the process of preparing national strategies with the assistance of SPREP which will identify these priorities. These national priorities form the basis of the SPREP Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the South Pacific for 1991-1995.

(Cont'd on Page 16)

The Alternative Rio: The Global Forum

Clark Peteru
Director, O Le Si'osi'omaga Society
Western Samoa

There were two conferences in Rio: the Earth Summit, attended by the world's leaders and governments; and the Global Forum. Dubbed the "people's conference", the Global Forum was a meeting of NGOs, aiming to monitor the Summit and to respond to the negotiations enacted there.

The Global Forum had the blessing of the organisers of the Summit, with representatives from NGOs allowed to attend Summit meetings and report back to the Forum, and their own organisations. Some groups responded through the media: others made representations to their governments. The Forum also responded as a united group.

The Earth Summit was basically split into two groups:

- the industrialised countries, who are well down the track of development and
- the developing countries, with 77% of the world's population, and who consume just 12 % of the world's natural resources.



Protecting the environment in Rio?

This disparity underlays much of the argument between these camps. Yet, if the third world developed in the same way as developed countries had, the world would quickly become uninhabitable. The devastation and environmental disasters of Eastern Europe attest to this.

Agenda 21 is a plan to help the developing world to develop sustainably. The main problem in negotiations for the Agenda was the extent to which industrialised countries would contribute funds over and above their current aid to address development and the environment.

Two important Conventions were also signed at the Earth Summit, each by over one hundred countries. The Biodiversity Convention seeks to protect ecosystems such as coral reefs and rainforests. These are rich in species, as most species are found near the equator, and peak in these reefs and forests.

Malaysia argued that developing countries should not be stopped in their efforts to develop and to raise living standards. It was a national choice as to how much to exploit national natural resources. This line of argument went on to say that industrialised countries had destroyed ecosystems for 150 years in the name of development and improved living standards, without thinking of the rest of the world. So why stop developing countries now?

In the Climate Change Convention, developing countries blamed industrialised countries for destroying the ozone layer and global warming and sea level

rise, which was brought about by years of unrestrained burning of fossil fuels (USA alone accounts for 22% of the world's carbon emissions). The question then became how much industrialised countries were willing to spend to help the developing world not to develop the same way as industrialised countries had. This question included money to help those affected by sea level rise. Financial commitments were made to implement both Conventions, though these were well short of what was expected to bring about useful change.

Meetings of the Global Forum were held daily - morning and afternoon - to discuss developments at the Earth Summit. Regional groups also held regular meetings. Delegates from about 13 Pacific NGOs attended the Forum, also representing women, nuclear and indigenous people's groups. These NGOs also entered into a treaty process involving around thirty treaties on as many topics, because of the dissatisfaction with the two conventions at the Earth Summit.

The Global Forum gave national NGOs the chance to meet other regional NGOs, those from larger countries, and international NGOs such as Greenpeace. A regional dialogue is useful not only for exchanging information, but for international lobbying.

(The views expressed by the writer are not necessarily those of the SPREP Secretariat or the Editor)



SPREP Director Presses Pacific Concerns

(Cont'd from Page 14)

Scattered over more than 30 million square kilometres of the Earth's surface, there are often economies of scale that can be achieved through the delivery of assistance at a regional or multi-country level. Examples of these regional programmes have recently included the effective preparation of National Environment Management Strategies and the development of the South Pacific Programme on Biological Diversity.

The Biodiversity Programme aims to preserve the biological diversity of the South Pacific for the benefit of the peoples of the region and the world, for now and the future. There are fourteen (14) member countries and administrations that will participate in the programme that is to receive support from the GEF, co-financed by Australia.

From the experience of the SPREP Secretariat with these and other activities concerning sustainable development in the region, I would like to make two important observations:

- a close and clear relationship will be needed between the UN institutional arrangements, established to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21, and the region's intergovernmental processes, such as SPREP, that will be intimately involved in implementing UNCED outcomes; and,
- financing mechanisms would be well used if they were able to strengthen the capacity of the relevant national and regional institutions that countries will require to implement Agenda 21.

Funding for Conservation and Development

The Pacific Development and Conservation Trust aims to promote sustainable development and conservation of the physical environment, natural and historical resources, and the cultural heritage of the South Pacific. It was established by the NZ Government in 1989 with funds from the French Government, in the wake of the "Rainbow Warrior" incident.

The Trust has funds available for small-scale community

The cooperative history of development and a consensus approach to problem resolution, mean that the goal of sustainable development to which Pacific Island Countries are committed has every chance of being attained; they can turn talk into action. But they also appreciate that this is not a goal they can hope to achieve on their own. Achievement of this goal will require close co-operation with other regions of the world and continued assistance from the international community. Countries of the South Pacific are ready to play their part.

The path to sustainable development for the South Pacific will not be possible, however, without the political will and co-operation of countries outside the region. Global environmental problems, such as climate change and associated sea level rise, which have their root causes outside the SPREP region, threaten the land and ocean resources upon which Pacific Island people and economies so heavily depend. Indeed, problems such as climate change

conservation or development projects, especially those which will benefit the general public. Priority is given to applications with heavy local involvement and where other sources of funds are unavailable. Applicants must be from SPREP Pacific Island member countries, or New Zealand. Closing dates are on 1 March and 1 September each year.

For more information, contact:

The Secretary
Pacific Development and
Conservation Trust
PO Box 10 345
WELLINGTON
New Zealand



threaten the very existence of small island nations in the Pacific. A lack of appropriate legislation, human, technical and financial resources are but some of the difficulties we will face on the path to sustainable development.

UNCED aims to reverse the trends towards environmental degradation and establish the basis for a sustainable way of life. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that these necessary "steps" and the "way of life" the United Nations speaks of, is relevant to the South Pacific. Individual island countries, and the South Pacific region as a whole, have a uniqueness and a significance that has been reflected in the Earth Charter and Agenda 21. The SPREP Secretariat strongly urges all those striving to achieve the UNCED objectives to work with us in making sustainable development a reality in the Pacific.

Thank you.



Meeting Report

Scientists Seek Public Support to Save Reefs

Some scientists are becoming concerned at the urgent need to conserve coral reefs. So much so that they now go directly to the public to pressure governments to adopt their recommendations. So said conference organiser Dr Charles Birkeland at the recent 7th International Coral Reef Symposium.

This year's conference, in Guam, concentrated on how to manage and protect reef ecosystems threatened by man's activities, especially coastal development. Dr Birkeland said that previous conferences were mainly used to communicate the latest research findings, but this year "most scientists .. embraced the idea that in order to preserve coral reefs and to have their recommendations adopted by governments, they must devote more time and effort to communicating directly with the public."

The participants put words into action with an evening seminar series during the meeting, which was open to the general public of Guam. Coral reef experts met with local people to show how their work might be applied to development issues in Guam. One pressing local issue was the question of how much tourism development and population growth Guam's reef-fringed coastline could take before this fragile ecosystem collapsed.

Another change this year was the participation of NGOs such as Greenpeace, who also organised national NGO representatives to attend. John Genolagani from PNG described his organisation's efforts to help villagers ban dynamite fishing, a method which is destroying reefs around the region.

Global warming and possible sea level rise are major regional issues at present. Islanders are concerned that their islands will be submerged, especially with the more frequent cyclones predicted for the region. There was some good news from the conference, as reefs should grow fast enough to "keep up" with possible rising sea levels.

However, Robert Buddemeier from USA reported that reefs could also be affected by other aspects of global warming. However, CO2 was a "wild card" in the global warming scenarios, as its effects were unclear. If it dropped too low, coral might not be able to make its skeleton, and so would not grow.

Coral beaching was another "hot" topic, with reports of increases in the area of bleached coral in recent years. After bleaching, many corals die. For the first time, scientists believe they know the cause of this event: sudden high water temperatures and sudden exposure to high levels of ultraviolet radiation may be the culprits.

With these deliberations, scientists at the symposium agreed that the monitoring of coral reefs worldwide was now a priority. A proposed UNEP / IOC programme to develop a global coral reef monitoring network was given the "green light" during a workshop at the symposium.

For more information, contact:

Dr Charles Birkeland
Marine Laboratory, UoG
UoG Station
Mangilao, GM. 96923
USA

Phone: (+671) 734 2421

Fax: (+671) 734 6767



Job Corner

These positions are advertised to invite applicants from SPREP member countries.

Organisation: **SPREP**

Position: Coastal Management Officer

Term: 3 years initially

Level: Project Officer

Location: Apia, Western Samoa.

Organisation: **UNEP**

Position: Associate/Fund Management Officer

Term: 2 years initially

Level: P2/P3

Location: Nairobi, Kenya, E.Africa.

Organisation: **UNEP**

Position: Co-ordinator, Environment Information Network, GEMS/PAC

Term: 2 years initially

Level: P4/P5

Location: Nairobi, Kenya, E.Africa.

Position: Programme Officer, Clearing-house

Term: 2 years initially

Level: P3

Location: Nairobi, Kenya, E.Africa.

For more information on all these positions, contact:

The Administrative Officer
SPREP

P.O. Box 240

Apia, Western Samoa



Environment Book Review

Environment: Fiji

The Earth Summit was a catalyst for a flurry of reports and other publications. Preparing the reports for the Summit brought together many national ministries and departments, NGOs and community groups, politicians and scientists, often for the first time. With a spirit of co-operation, national "State of the Environment" reports were drafted, refined and published. Fiji was one country to produce such a document: *Environment : Fiji - the National State of the Environment Report*.

It is an important and comprehensive document, discussing important topics such as Fiji's:

- environmental resources - population, climate, land, wildlife, vegetation, water and coasts;
- use of these resources - social and economic development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
- environmental problems - water supplies, tourism, mining, introduced plants and animals, energy use and pollution;
- legal and institutional framework for dealing with these problems - policy and development, law and administration, and protected areas; and,
- statements on the state of the national environment - the concerns and the possible solutions.

The book was prepared by IUCN for the National Environment Management Project, as a part of bilateral technical assistance for the ADB to Fiji.

For more information, contact:
Team Leader
National Environ. Management Project
Ministry of Housing & Urban Dev't
Government Buildings
Suva
Fiji

Environment and Development

Another publication prepared for the Earth Summit was *Environment and Development: A Pacific Island Perspective*. Published by SPREP, it aims to present the reader with a complete, up-to-date perspective of the state of the Pacific environment, its local and regional problems, and its concerns and proposals for the future.

Environment and Development initially summarises state of the environment reports for 14 Pacific Island countries, ranging from the relatively large and rich Papua New Guinea to the tiny low-lying atoll country of Tokelau. These summaries are brief and to-the-point, ideal for briefing, familiarising and teaching about the environment in these countries.

The second section synthesises the national reports to give a regional perspective on the challenges to the environment in the South Pacific. These challenges include developing economies, population pressures, changes and problems in the coastal and rural environments, and managing these changes and pressures.

The book also presents a wealth of information: maps, tables, lists and document summaries. It is also made more interesting by a large number of stories and commentaries collected from around the Pacific, from policy makers, scientists, community leaders and worried parents. They add a personal touch to what is a very comprehensive look at the Pacific environment, now and in the future.

For more information, contact the Director, SPREP.

OzonAction

A new serial from UNEP's Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre (IE/PAC) highlights the latest news, views and technology in combatting ozone depletion. UNEP is responsible for data collection, research and acting as an information clearinghouse for



issues related to the Montreal Protocol. This Protocol seeks to limit the production and release of gases that destroy the earth's ozone layer.

Articles are written by participating organisations, private industry and interested individuals. The IE/PAC is looking for more information from around the world to go into this newsletter, including:

- ◆ initiatives and legislation to reduce the use of these gases in this area;
- ◆ involvement by NGOs, private programmes and governments;
- ◆ local research efforts; and,
- ◆ relevant workshops, conferences and meetings.

Please send information for OzonAction to:

UNEP IE/PAC
Tour Mirabeau
39-43 quai Andre Citroen
75739 PARIS CEDEX 15
France

or to the Director, SPREP.

Global Diversity Strategy

"Earth's plants animals and micro-organisms ... form the foundation of sustainable development ... The steady erosion of the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems taking place today will undermine progress toward a sustainable society."

These thoughts introduce the nature and value of biodiversity to its readers in a new short publication from WRI, IUCN and UNEP, in consultation with FAO and Unesco. Titled *Global Biodiversity*

(Cont'd on Page 19)

Book Reviews

(Cont'd from Page 18)

Strategy: Policy-makers Guide, this short booklet provides an overview of the necessary actions to respond to the needs for biodiversity conservation around the world.

It is easy for policy makers to talk of conserving nature, but they must put words into action. These actions must be co-ordinated to make the most of the limited resources of the nation. *Global Biodiversity Strategy ...* sets out how these actions could be co-ordinated, and gives examples of actions that policy-makers and administrators can carry out.

For more information, contact the Director, SPREP.

The Islander

One way to influence future leaders to be more conscious of our environment is to "reach" them at school. Education is recognised as a vital cornerstone in the long-term survival of the fragile ecosystems of the Pacific.

To help influence some of these future leaders and their communities, Vanuatu's Environment Unit produces an excellent environment magazine for schools, *The Islander*. It is part of the Vanuatu Conservation Strategy, and is produced with the co-operation of the Curriculum Development Unit in the Education Department.

Two 1992 issues have looked at protecting marine turtles, the mataweli, flying foxes and bats, as well as giving helpful hints on saving the island environment, and reproducing poems and stories from students and teachers from around Vanuatu. For students, there are also pictures to colour in and games to do. For teachers there are useful teaching hints and ideas.

It is printed in English and French, and is suitable for primary and secondary students. For more information, contact:

Charles Vatu or Jenny Whyte
Environment Unit
Private Mail Bag 036
Port Vila
Vanuatu.



Meetings 1992

August

- 10 - 14 SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Fiji.
- 17 - 21 SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Tonga.
- 20 - 21 South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project (SPBCP) Appraisal Meeting, Apia, Western Samoa.
- 24 - 28 SPREP EIA Training Workshop, and Launch of National Environment Management Strategy, Marshall Is.
- 24 - 28 10th Pacific Basin Coastal Zone Management Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.
- 31 - 1 Sept. Launch of National Environment Management Strategy, Majuro, FSM.
- 31 - 3 Sept. SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Majuro, FSM.

September

- 6 - 11 9th International Waterfowl Ecology Symposium, Hungary.
- 14 - 16 SPREP Inter-Governmental Meeting, Apia, Western Samoa.
- 21 - 25 1992 Heads of Forestry Meeting, Apia, Western Samoa.
- 22 Contracting Parties to the SPREP Convention, Apia, Western Samoa.
- 22 Contracting Parties to the Apia Convention, Apia, Western Samoa.
- 25 - 27 Ecopolitics VI - Interactions and Actions, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia.
- 28 - 7 Oct. 20th SOPAC Governing Council Meeting, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

October

- 12 - 14 ECO Tourism Conference, Auckland, New Zealand.
- 17 - 21 World Congress for Education and Communication on Environment and Development, Toronto, Canada.
- 18 - 23 IMO/SPREP Marine Pollution Workshop, Suva, Fiji.
- 32nd South Pacific Conference, Suva.
- Launch of National Environment Management Strategy, Solomon Islands.

November

- 2 - 6 2nd Princess Chulabhorn Science Congress: Environment, Science and Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2 - 13 SPREP EIA Training Workshop and Launch of National Environment Management Strategy, Cook Islands.
- 10 - 14 3rd International Congress of Ethnobiology, Mexico.
- 23 - 27 SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Tuvalu.
- 33rd Meeting of the IUCN Council, Gland, Switzerland.
- SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Apia, Western Samoa.
- SPREP Environmental Education Curriculum Workshop, Tarawa, Kiribati.

December

- 3 - 8 SPREP EIA Training Workshop, Niue.

March 1993

- 29 - 2 April 4th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography, Hobart, Australia.

These dates are subject to change without notice. Dates and venues for later meetings will be added when available, and are also subject to change. Contact SPREP for more details.



Dolphins

Dolphins
Playful antics
Somersaulting high above
Gleefully entertaining all
Brother

"Poe"

The Last Word ...

A quote from Iceland's Prime Minister summed up the feeling of small island nations at the Earth Summit: "No man is an island. No island is an island either." Humans are social creatures: we depend on each other. Our societies now also depend on each other in this modern world, mainly through international trade. In many cases, however, this trade is way out of balance, with some countries relying on aid, remittances and tourists to balance the national terms of trade.

Pacific Islanders were self-sufficient before the arrival of the Europeans. There was no imports or need for cash. But the colonial powers and Island leaders decided on development, and joined the world economy. And so the Pacific Islands are no longer "islands", self-sufficient and resistant to ex-

ternal influences. They are bound to the fortunes of the world economy and their trading partners.

Imports such as food, fuel and cars are becoming much more than the value of exports, which are based on limited natural resources, such as coconuts, fish and tree crops. These are becoming overexploited in order to narrow the poor balance of trade. Land, lagoon and sea are becoming degraded, and the atmosphere and water more polluted. Add rapidly rising populations and limited usable land resources, and you have a recipe for environmental disaster.

Against this background, Pacific Island heads of state and delegates attended the Earth Summit in Rio, attempting to redress the imbalance between development and the environment in the region and the world. The result was the Earth

from the Editor

Charter, Agenda 21, two Conventions on biodiversity and climate change, and the Statement on Forest Issues.

This special Rio issue looks at these documents, and outlines what they mean for the Pacific region. We also provide some varied opinions on the Summit and its outcomes. We even have the Earth Charter and the AOSIS Declaration in an attractive "pullout" section in the middle of the newsletter. Take it out, and put it on your wall. It reminds us what we are all about as we move into the next century.

This issue continues our regular features on new publications, meetings and news snippets from around the region. And we've even found room for some poetry. Read and enjoy this special 30th issue of the Environment Newsletter.



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Published by:
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
P.O. Box 240, Apia, WESTERN SAMOA
Telephone: (+ 685) 21 929
Fax: (+ 685) 20231