



A New Invention for an Old Concept:

Protecting Biodiversity in the Pacific

These are excerpts from a recent interview with Muliagatele Iosefatu (Joe) Reti, a well known identity and advocate for the environment in the Pacific. The former agriculturalist and forester became Head of Research in the Forestry Division of DAFF in Western Samoa in the late 70s, with a special interest in forest ecology and management. In 1980-86, he was head of that division.

From 1987-1989, Joe was Co-ordinator of SPREP. He then became the first Senior Environment Officer with Western Samoa's new Division of Environment and Conservation. During 1992, he was Team Leader of the team that developed the project document for the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project. He is currently president of the Western Samoan environmental NGO, "O Le Siosiomaga Society", and is working as a private consultant. With this background, he is

Muliagatele Iosefatu Reti:
Pacific Conservationist
(Photo: SPREP)



well qualified to give his views on protecting the environment, and particularly biodiversity, in the Pacific.

Ed: *Joe, we have heard this term "biodiversity conservation" used in many meetings and papers in recent years, especially at UNCED. What does it mean to you?*

Joe: Well, this is a new invention for an old concept. Forestry is not much different to biodiversity conservation. It is simply the conservation of our limited natural resources, which is also our major development resource.

Ed: *What does this conservation mean to Pacific islanders?*

Joe: It is the ability of our Pacific Islanders to share in these resources.

Our view of conservation has changed in recent years. Conservation was area-specific. It concentrated on one ecosystem. With (our better understanding of) bio-systems, we look at the whole system, and the environment where they are. We (must now) look at a number of ecosystems; not just a single reef or a mangrove, but the other land around it. It is a more integrated approach, and more accepted than area-specific conservation.

In some countries, conservation still equals preservation. Preservation doesn't work. There is ample evidence of people thinking that land that was locked away was safe.

In This Issue ...

Protecting Biodiversity in the Pacific ..	1
From the Director's Desk	2
Job Corner	3
The Endangered <i>manuma</i> in American Samoa	4
October Conference focuses on the Community	4
CITES: A Treaty to Protect Strengthening Environmental Institutions in Pacific countries	5
American Samoa: Are Our Reefs Sick?	6
EnviroNews	7
PNG Pushes for Regional Waste Trade Treaty	7
Pacific SDN To Start Soon	8
Funding	9
Environment Book Review	10
Conferences	10
Meetings '93	11
The Last Word	12

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This was not so. The number one problem in these areas was managing the people that were encroaching on this locked-up land. But this (attitude) is changing. We must also manage people. The Pacific islands only have limited land areas - we can't lock land away from people.

Conservation is (now) the proper management of our resources, including people. So we need to manage human resources, too. Some people's attitude is that man is the centre of environment. I don't agree. Man is part of the environment. Trees, birds and reefs are resources, and man depends on them. At the same time, trees, birds and reefs depend on man for their safety. Man is part of the system.

Ed: *Do Pacific islanders want to conserve biodiversity?*

Joe: I believe so, but we must try to change (some) people's and governments' attitudes, and some conservationists' attitudes too. To conserve biodiversity, you must also

(cont'd on Page 2)

A New Invention for an Old Concept: Protecting Biodiversity in the Pacific

(cont'd from Page 1)

meet the needs of the people. And conservationists must realise this. You can't protect the forest unless you provide for the people's basic and economic needs. And some governments and developers must take more care of our environment.

Ed: *Joe, you were closely involved with the planning of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP). What are its aims, and how is it different to previous efforts to conserve biodiversity?*

Joe: The goal of the (SPBCP) is to establish areas different to national parks, reserves or any other protected area I described before. It will establish conservation areas, which will include the use of the resources in these areas, provided the use is sustainable. It is a combination of biodiversity conservation and resource utilisation. Use of resources in core areas, which contain special ecosystems within the conservation area, will not be encouraged.

Ed: *Why do you think the SPBCP has the potential to work?*

Joe: All previous efforts were on government or private land. But most land in the Pacific islands is customary owned. Most biodiversity is on land not controlled by the government. So these areas must be managed by local communities. It must be recognised that these communities own the resources on their land, and so we must involve the local people.

At the same time, governments have a role in supporting these local communities to manage these areas properly. However, success (for the SPBCP) will depend on the support and commitment of the local communities.

In the first two years the (SPBCP) aims to start small, with two or three conservation areas.

This is to develop "model" conservation areas to show if different approaches work, to learn from our successes and failures, and then to expand in the next three years.

Ed: *Your mentioned that local people should have access to conservation areas for economic development. What are some of the income-generating options that you think will work in these areas?*

Joe: I think eco-tourism is one option. With proper facilities and management, the conservation areas can attract money from paying tourists. But the facilities must be maintained to a good standard to attract the right tourist, and they must not destroy the very thing that tourists have come to see.

Agroforestry is another possibility. Areas used for agroforestry are larger than subsistence agriculture. But it can arrest the total area of land used by shifting gardens, and so it can contain agricultural development. But it is a new technology, still being developed in this region.

Ed: *Is there a role for regional institutions in the programme?*

Joe: Yes, regional research and training institutions have a part to play, especially in conducting specific resource inventories and surveys. But the management of the conservation areas should remain with the local communities and NGOs. The local, national and international NGOs also have a role in supporting the project.

Ed: *Where are some possible first sites for the programme?*

Joe: The team visited 12 of 15 possible countries. We received project proposals from most of them. But most of these proposals will need to be developed in greater detail. We found two that were sufficiently developed: the Pohnpei Watershed Management Project in FSM, and

the Rock Islands in Palau. Both of these projects already exist, but they need funding to develop them.

Ed: *What possible problems do you see in the project?*

Joe: I see a possible major problem with people wanting "money to conserve". I have already seen this in some places. They only see the money now, they don't see the need to conserve for the future, for their children. Some people could just be after money to buy co-operation. But they don't see the value of conservation. Education is really the only long-term answer for this problem. They have to see that conservation is worthwhile in its own right.

Ed: *As we go to press, the SPBCP has started, with the project agreement signed by SPREP and UNDP on 21 April. Joe reti will be the Project Manager.*

Note that the views expressed by the author are not necessarily those of The Director, SPREP or the editor.

Job Corner

Research Assistant

What? A research project, on "Recent Climate Extremes in the South Pacific", likely to begin in April 1993.

Supervisors? Dr. Patrick Nunn (USP), Pene Lefale (Greenpeace Pacific)

Required? One research assistant for 12 months.

Where? Archival research based in Fiji, with brief travel to NZ, Tonga and Western Samoa.

Requirements: Graduate, preferably with postgraduate degree in Geography or related subject.

Remuneration: Approx. F\$1 000/month, subject to Fiji income tax and superannuation contributions.

Contact:

Dr P. Nunn
USP Geography Dept.
PO Box 1168
SUVA, Fiji
Fax: (679) 301 487

From the Director's Desk



In this first edition of our newsletter for 1993, I extend my best wishes and New Year greetings to all members of the SPREP family.

1992 was both a demanding and gratifying year for SPREP. Though the Secretariat is still experiencing some teething problems, I can confidently say that the main tasks are over. The successful 5th IGM in September 1992 resolved many uncertainties and moved SPREP towards achieving its goals.

Most staff took leave in Dec. 1992 and Jan. 1993, so SPREP was not the usual hectic place. Things have picked up now, with staff returning, eager to face the challenges of the new year.

And 1993 will be even more challenging than last year. A Plenipotentiary Meeting finalising the Treaty establishing SPREP as an autonomous organisation is scheduled tentatively for 14-16 June. Before this, other activities include:

- the start of the South Pacific Biodiversity Programme in April,
- the Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting in June to prepare for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small States in Barbados on April 1994, and
- national studies on the potential impact of sea level rise on coastal areas, environment education and awareness projects, waste

minimisation and management, coastal protection, and the turtle programme.

The second half of the year will be more hectic with Preparatory Committee negotiations in New York for the Barbados conference, continuation of country specific activities, the negotiations on the Climate Change Convention, and the Fifth IGM and associated meetings in Guam in September. We all look forward to another successful IGM.

In staffing, Dr. Andrew Smith joined the Secretariat as the Coastal Management Officer in January, and Mr. Neville Koop will take up his post as the Climatology/Meteorology Officer in April. The Program Manager for the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme and the Population and Environment Officer will be appointed soon. Merina Solomona and Miriama Wendt recently joined the Secretariat as Registry Assistant and Accounts Clerk respectively. A qualified Accountant will be recruited at the end of April to replace Fuapepe Rimoni, the Assistant Accountant, who will be leaving us soon. Other staff to leave the Secretariat in early 1993 included Jo Devine, Finance Advisor, who returned to New Zealand in March; and David Sheppard, who leaves in mid-April to take up a senior post with IUCN in Gland, Switzerland.

On the financial side, it greatly

concerns me that a number of countries have not paid their contributions for 1991 and 1992. As a result, the Secretariat's operation is hampered, and there is a real threat of insufficient funds and poor cash flow to meet the needs of the organisation. I urge you to please make the effort to meet your obligations, and to give SPREP a chance to grow and fulfil its ambitious mandate.

Considerable efforts in the last twelve months have been directed at strengthening the internal and external co-ordination of SPREP's work programme activities, and in initiating dialogue with other organisations to minimise potential duplication of effort. Success is shown by improved relationships with other organisations and donors, and the more systematic approach now in use to improve co-ordination of the Secretariat's activities.

With more global and regional activities planned for 1993, the Secretariat will endeavour to keep you advised of developments. We continue to coordinate regional inputs into the international negotiations on Sustainable Development. This role will be strengthened if SPREP's application for Observer status at the Commission for Sustainable Development is granted. The Secretariat has worked closely on this issue with the missions of the South Pacific countries to the United Nations in New York. My meeting with the representatives of the missions in New York in January was useful in establishing better co-operation and communication among all concerned.

As you can see, 1993 will be another challenging year for SPREP. I look forward to working closely with you to make it another successful year for the organisation.

Vili Fuavao
Director

Wanted! Young People's Environmental Success Stories

Assisi Nature Council-USA is compiling a book of environmental successes achieved by young people between 9 and 16 years from around the world. These should be successes from children, not those initiated and organised by teachers, group leaders or other adults.

Stories have already been gathered from afar afield as Ecuador, Czechoslovakia, UK and Poland. It is hoped these

stories of inspiration, conviction and action will encourage others around the world to realise the environment can be saved, improved and cared for by individuals.

If you have a story, contact:

Assisi Nature Council-USA
300 Broadway, Suite 28
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94133
United States of America
Fax: (415) 788 7324

The Endangered *manuma* in American Samoa

Pepper Trail
Dept. Marine and Wildlife Res.
American Samoa

A Rare Bird

The Samoan islands are home or a haven for a cross-section of Pacific birds. There are 61 species in American Samoa, including native forest birds, ranging sea birds, and migrating visitors. The rarest to nest on the main island of Tutuila is the *manuma* (or Many-coloured Fruit Dove).

This bird was common in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was usually found in flocks: in 1923, one collector shot 10 birds with a single shot in one feeding tree. However, by the 1970s, the first modern studies only found a few left. Studies in the 1980s confirmed this: the total population on Tutuila was estimated to be 80 birds.

More recent studies by local biologists showed that the *manuma* population continues to decline. Despite careful observations no flocks have been found. Two

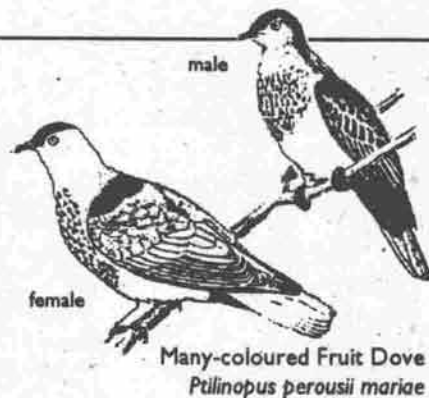
sightings of groups of three birds were reported, but only single birds are now seen. It is estimated there are now 50 birds left on Tutuila. Most biologists agree that populations less than 200 are in danger of extinction.

So what has happened to the *manuma*, and what can be done to help it?

Threatened with Extinction

Little is known about the biology of the *manuma*. It does however, have a very specialised diet: the fruit of the banyan tree.

It is dangerous for an island animal to specialise. If it concentrates on only one food, and that food supply fails, then its survival is at risk. Banyan trees are very vulnerable to storm damage, with their large size and spreading crowns. Two major cyclones in less than two years killed or severely damaged many, and others were stripped of leaves and fruit which lead to famine for the *manuma*.



Saving the *manuma*

Humans can help stop the extinction of the *manuma* by:

- protecting it from hunting. There is currently a three-year ban on hunting all birds and bats in American Samoa. Preventing a few accidental hunting deaths could be significant for such a small population.
- Protecting the banyan tree. Not only do these magnificent trees provide vital food for the *manuma*, but they are also important for other Samoan wildlife such as the fruitbat.

Biologists from the Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources continue to learn more about the *manuma*, and the banyan tree. If all Samoans can work together, then the *manuma* will remain part of American Samoa's wildlife heritage.



Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas:

October Conference focuses on the Community

The South Pacific has a high level of species diversity and endemism. The islands supporting this diversity also support an increasing human population which relies heavily on the islands' natural resources. Island biodiversity is



extremely vulnerable to this pressure, and appropriate conservation strategies are urgently needed.

To assist in developing appropriate strategies, "community involvement in conserving biodiversity" was seen as a most appropriate theme for the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. It reflects the increasing trend in biodiversity conservation programmes in the region, and highlights community involvement as an essential component in these programmes. For biodiversity conservation programmes to be effective,

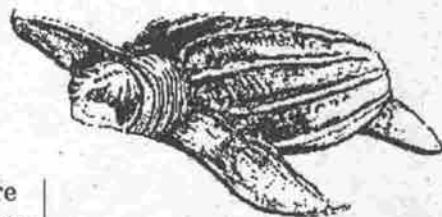
the community must be involved and experience a sense of ownership.

A major regional conference to be held in October will focus on the role and involvement of local communities in conserving biodiversity. This meeting has added importance in that it is the first year of the US\$10 million South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, which has local community participation as a cornerstone.

The Conference is also a major forum for reviewing regional activities in nature conservation and protected areas. It is an opportu-

(cont'd on Page 5)

CITES: A Treaty to Protect



CITES in the Pacific

CITES has established world-wide controls on trade in threatened wildlife, and the products from them, including marine turtles. The Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Project co-ordinated by SPREP seeks to monitor and protect the turtles of the region. The 1991 Second Regional Workshop in Noumea recommended that:

"island countries of the South Pacific give strong consideration to accession to the Washington (CITES) Convention, which provides for the protection of five out of the six species of marine turtles occurring in the South Pacific".

Perhaps now is the time to consider signing CITES, before we face the threat of the local extinction of our marine turtles, similar to our Asian neighbours. The next Meeting of the Parties to CITES is in 1993.



The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) was created to prevent international trade from threatening wild plants and animals. It was first signed in Washington DC in 1973. CITES came into force in 1975, and now has 116 member Parties. In the Pacific, these include Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia. As France and USA are also Parties, some Pacific territories are also Parties.

The Convention recognises that "peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own

wild fauna and flora". States are responsible for protecting species within their borders, and for controlling exports and imports of wild species. CITES aims to effectively control over-exploitation across national boundaries.

This over-exploitation is often due to international trade. This trade is a lucrative business in live and dead specimen and in products. Plants and animals are shipped worldwide, supplying the demand for the pet trade and for ornamental plants. Furs, leather, corals and timbers are widely traded in the Pacific region.



The Rock Islands of Palau: a valuable natural resource needing protection.

(Photo: SPREP)

October Conference focuses on the Community

(cont'd from Page 5)

society to develop a collective approach to future directions in the region.

The Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas will be held in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, on 4 - 8 October 1993. It continues a conference series starting in 1975. Recognising the need to establish a system of national parks and protected areas in the South Pacific, the New Zealand Government hosted the First South Pacific Parks and Reserves Conference. This conference agreed that subsequent conferences should be held every four years.

The name of the conference series has since changed to focus on nature conservation and protected areas, a more appropriate reflection of the region's characteristics. At the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the Kingdom of Tonga kindly offered to host the 1993 meeting.

The conference aims to:

○ review and demonstrate the value of community involvement in conserving biodiversity in the South Pacific region;

- develop strategies to increase effective community involvement in conserving biodiversity in the region; and,
- to clarify future directions of biodiversity conservation in the region.

For further information, details on the agenda, or an application to attend, please contact Adrienne Farago, Project Officer (Biological Diversity Conservation), at SPREP.



Strengthening Environmental Institutions in Pacific countries

David Sheppard

David Sheppard was the RETA Team Leader with SPREP, organising the development of NEMS in five member countries. He is now with IUCN-Switzerland.

What is Institutional Strengthening?

The term "Institutional Strengthening" is now commonly used. Reports from Pacific island countries and donor agencies are littered with the term, and constantly refer to the need to strengthen institutions in the environmental area. But what does "institutional strengthening" mean? Despite its common use there does not appear to be a consistent definition.

We decided to go to the experts, the participants in the recent SPREP Regional Legal Workshop, searching for an answer. The answers varied, proving that it to be an elusive search.

Responses stated that institutional strengthening was the:

- process of clarifying governmental responsibilities and supporting all the entities entrusted with environmental oversight, including government, non-government and public bodies;
- provision of adequate staff and infrastructure, legislature, community involvement and education, as well as a sympathetic Minister; and,
- expansion of areas of influence, "milking the system", absorbing special interest groups, centralizing power and consolidating control(!)

A New Definition

These were good responses, but they were not consistent. It was also clear that viewpoints varied according to "which side of the fence you are sitting". So we synthesised the range of views to develop our own definition of "institutional strengthening" as:

"The process of increasing the effectiveness of relevant agencies responsible for environmental management, at the national and regional level."

Relevance

What is a "relevant agency"? This is a key component of this definition, and need explanation.

In a sense, most organisations in Pacific countries are "relevant agencies" when it comes to environmental management. Developing NEMS in many Pacific countries has clearly shown that nearly all government agencies are involved or directly interested in managing the environment. However, there are two levels of "relevance":

- those agencies described as environment agencies, whose main job is to protect or enhance the environment. Many Pacific countries have established such agencies.
- those agencies whose main job is in other areas, but for which the environment is very important. For example, tourist agencies aim to encourage tourists to visit Pacific countries. However, tourists will only visit if the environment of Pacific countries is attractive. So, tourist agencies have a vested interest in ensuring that Pacific environments are managed well.

Effectiveness

What is "effectiveness", and what makes an agency effective? Effectiveness is the most important element in our definition of institutional strengthening. It is simply the ability to achieve results. This ability varies considerably in the Pacific.

Why are some agencies effective and others not? The answer to this is provided by examining the keys to effectiveness:

- political support,
- partnership,
- staff, and
- funding.

Effective agencies have a high level of political support. This support is often shown by a generous allocation of resources and an ability to raise and implement initiatives in Cabinet. One indicator of political support can be seen by reviewing organisational structures. Organisations with strong political support often report directly to a Minister, and are not "buried" within another agency as a unit or division.

Effective agencies can work closely with other agencies to achieve their own objectives. Often these other agencies see their objectives as shared, and where there is benefit in their involvement. For example, it might make more sense for the Environment Division to encourage the Forestry Division to develop an awareness campaign on sustainable logging rather than to set up its own internal unit to do the same thing.

Effective agencies have enough staff with the right mix of skills. Selecting the right staff is critical, particularly in selecting the agency's Chief Executive Officer.

(cont'd on Page 7)



American Samoa: Are Our Reefs Sick?

Dr Peter Craig,
Dept. Marine and Wildlife Res.,
American Samoa

Coral reefs are special habitats, supporting very diverse and productive biological communities. Pacific islands are surrounded by coral reefs: we see them daily, so we often don't consider them to be that special.

But coral reefs are very valuable. They provide an abundance of food for American Samoans. People walk the reefs with rods, nets and spears, catching jacks, surgeon fish, mullet, octopus, sea urchins, palolo and many others.

This subsistence fishery is very important economically for the country. In 1991, subsistence reef fishing accounted for 82% of the catch and 87% of the total value of American Samoa's fishing industry. The remainder of the catch came from open-ocean fisheries (tuna, masimasi and swordfish) and bottomfish.

But American Samoa's reefs are in poor shape. Visiting experts noted that they have been severely damaged by nature and humans. Three cyclones since 1986 have

damaged many parts of the reef. The reef was still recovering from a devastating invasion by the crown-of-thorns starfish in the late 70s.

Humans have accentuated pressure through their own activities. Pollution, overfishing, siltation from poor agricultural practices and more nutrients in lagoons from sewage all contribute to the degradation of the reefs.

And the signs are there that the reef is in danger of collapse. There is less than 10% coverage by live coral in some parts of the reef. The presence of "coral bleaching" in many coral species shows stress. Fish caught in Pago Pago Harbour can no longer be eaten by humans. It is getting harder to catch fish, as fisherfolk now spend twice as much time as they did ten years ago to catch the same amount of fish.

What then can humans do? We can't stop cyclones and other natural events, but we can address the problems caused by humans. We must find ways to control pollution, prevent siltation, better treat our sewerage and control fishing. Only then can this important resource have a chance to survive the trials of Mother Nature.

Strengthening Environmental Institutions in Pacific countries

(cont'd from Page 6)

This can be seen in the performance of environmental agencies in the Pacific, where there is a clear relationship between performance and the type of people "holding the top jobs". This mirrors the situation in countries such as Australia, where selecting dynamic CEOs often pays considerable dividends in the agency's performance.

Without adequate funding, it is impossible for an agency to be effective. This is closely related to the above factors, particularly the level of political support.

Ed. Note: *This is Part 1 of a two-part article on this topic. Part 2 looks at the past, present and future of institutional strengthening in the Pacific.*

Note that the opinions of the writer are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the editor.



Fishing Ban in Pago Pago Harbour

The American Samoan Health Department has banned the sale of fish caught in Pago Pago's inner harbour. All fish, shellfish and other reef species are included in the indefinite ban. It also stressed the need to properly clean fish from the outer harbour.

A recent study claimed there are excess levels of lead, other heavy metals and other contaminants in fish from the banned area. The ban was deemed necessary as a recent media campaign had failed to reach its desired level of public awareness.

(American Samoan Government,
6 December 1992)

Japanese Plutonium Ship in Solomons EEZ

Despite earlier assurances to the contrary, the Japanese ship carrying reprocessed plutonium, the *Akatsuki-maru*, was reportedly photographed inside the EEZ of the Solomon Islands. This was despite a strong message from all Pacific leaders at the last Forum meeting, and later protests from individual countries, including Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu. Fiji was particularly concerned that the ship was sailing at the height of the southern cyclone season.

(from Greenpeace NZ Campaign News,
no.64, pp 2-3, and Washington Pacific
Report, 11:7, p1)

"Dirty" Dirt Sent Home

Plans to dump thousands of tonnes of contaminated soil at Kwajalein Atoll, RMI, were scrubbed amid a wave of protests across the North Pacific, from Hawaii to Guam. The barge *Pacific Trader* will deposit the "dirty dirt" in Seattle for disposal.

(from Washington Pac. Report, 11:7, p1)
Ed. Strike one for public pressure!

(cont'd on Page 8)

PNG Pushes for Regional Hazardous Waste Treaty

Hazardous waste dumping never seems far out of the news in the Pacific. The latest failed attempt to export a pollution problem from a developed country concerned dumping contaminated soil at Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands.

PNG recently led the call to do something about this "dirty" trade, by calling for a regional treaty to stop the movement of hazardous waste around the Pacific. In 1992, both the South Pacific Forum and SPREP's IGM called on the SPREP Secretariat for technical advice and comments on the PNG proposal.

To do this, SPREP called a technical meeting on the Treaty on the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pa-

cific Region. This open-ended working group included representatives from Australia, France, French Polynesia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and USA. Greenpeace attended as an observer. The meeting was held in Suva on 8-9 March 1993.

It was agreed that a list of factual, technical and legal issues be presented to the 1993 Forum meeting in Nauru, and to the IGM in Guam in September. These will then provide political guidance on the way to proceed to control this trade. Relevant SPREP programmes are ready to provide further information when required. For more information, contact the SPREP's Legal Officer, Bernard Moutou. ☺☺☺

Pacific SDN To Start Soon

The 2nd Working Group Meeting of the Pacific Sustainable Development Network (PSDN) recently convened in Suva, Fiji, to decide on the shape and focus of this new network. The Group recommended that it start operations as soon as possible, with a small Secretariat initially based at the SPC Agriculture Programme in Suva.

The working group is composed of regional institutions, international and local NGOs, church groups and UN agencies, committed to working together to promote sustainable development in Pacific communities. It met with support from the global SDN initiative funded by UNDP. The Pacific SDN proposal, developed by the Working Group, details ways to improve information exchange and communication channels among organisations in the Pacific. Communications between these groups will be based on the extensive PEACESAT satellite system that already exists throughout the Pacific.

Discussions over two days centered on the objectives, the institutional framework and the operational procedures of a Pacific SDN. The Secretariat will initially give technical and training support to the interested SDN users.

The organisations now active in the SDN are the Forum Secretariat, Foundation for Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP)-Vanuatu, O Le Siosiomaga Society (Apia), SPC-Suva, South Pacific Action Committee on Human Environment and Ecology (SPACHEE - Suva), SPREP, UNDP, Unesco/Pacific (Apia), USP, and WWF South Pacific (Sydney). The working group also recommended that efforts to reach the private sector and the media should start immediately.

The final project proposal is now being prepared for approval by UNDP-New York, which is supporting similar initiatives worldwide. Details will be presented to the next SPC Committee of Representatives of Government and Administrations (CRGA) Meeting in May, and the SPREP IGM in September. ☺☺☺



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ADB Acts on NEMS Report

RMI will receive a US\$300 000 technical assistance grant from the ADB to strengthen its Environmental Protection Authority. This will improve RMI's ability to address serious environmental problems including excessive solid waste, sewerage and industrial waste, destruction of reefs, and growing urban populations. This is a particular problem in Majuro and Ebeye.

This grant arose from RMI's National Environmental Management Strategy, funded by the ADB in a regional initiative co-ordinated by SPREP.

Copenhagen Meeting Sets Stricter Timetable

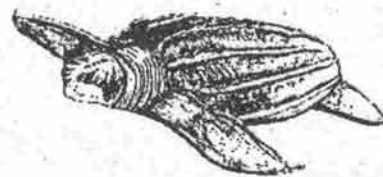
The 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol met in November to revise phase-out deadlines for many ozone-depleting gases. Many of these gases, including CFCs, halons, HCFCs and methyl bromide, are expected to be phased out of use in member countries much faster than previously agreed.

Another major development is the creation of the Multilateral Ozone Fund. It will finance technology transfer to allow developing countries to phase-out these controlled gases. A Non-Compliance Procedure was also adopted.

The Montreal Protocol aims to eliminate the use of industrial gases that destroy the ozone layer which protects the world from harmful ultra-violet radiation.

(from *OzonAction*, 5, pp1-2)

(cont'd on Page 9)



Funding

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

What is it?

Finances small-scale projects which contribute to economic, technical, educational, cultural or social development. Funding requests are responded to quickly and with flexibility.

When?

At the end of the Canadian fiscal year (March 31st), the annual allocation lapses and new amounts are allocated and announced, usually in May or June.

From Where?

Canadian High Commission in Canberra, Australia, (through Canada Fund Co-ordinator, Helene Andersen) for projects in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Canadian High Commission in Wellington (through Canada Fund Co-ordinator, Diane Goodwillie), for Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

Amount?

Normally between C\$10,000 and C\$20,000 (maximum: C\$50,000).

How?

Requests, in writing, with:

- background information about your group,
- membership,
- past administrative experience in projects,
- needs, objectives, a description of the project,
- who will benefit,
- how and when the project will be implemented,
- detailed budget with local contribution,
- name, address, and phone of the person responsible for the project.

Priorities:

Projects which:

- help people help themselves,
- are well planned,
- do not duplicate other resources,
- aim to alleviate poverty,
- increase the participation of women, and
- support sound environmental development.

Excluded:

Scholarships and recurrent administrative costs

Time Period:

within two years; one-time only, non-recurring.

Contact:

Canadian High Commission
Canberra, ACT, Australia, or
Wellington, New Zealand.

US-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP)

What is it?

Places Pacific Island environmental professionals in government agencies, NGOs and businesses in USA, for practical work experience to strengthen institutional capacities to understand and solve environmental problems.

When?

Starts April 1993, for 5 years.

Who for?

Pacific islanders in government agencies, NGOs and private or community enterprises.

Priorities:

Assistance in developing and implementing environmental policy; and conservation-orientated private or community businesses in biologically and economically vital ecosystems.

Contact:

The Representative
The Asia Foundation
Environmental Fellowship Programme
PO Box 15 980
SUVA, Fiji
Tel.: (679) 304 955/956
Fax.: (679) 304 881

USAID Biodiversity Support Program

Who?

South Pacific Development Office, USAID

What for?

Biodiversity Conservation Network Grants Program:

- to support initiatives that allow people to conserve biodiversity, while meeting their economic and social needs.
- to improve the capacity of organisations to support enterprise-based strategies that conserve biodiversity at specific sites.

Who for?

NGOs, local communities, businesses, government agencies, universities, and botanical gardens.

Who with?

Collaborative projects between Pacific and US-based entities are preferred.

How much?

Planning: up to US \$50,000
Implementation: US \$25,000 - \$300,000 per year, up to three years.

When?

Planning: No deadline
Implementation: assessed in three cycles; deadlines are 1 May 1993, 1 June 1993, and 1 October 1993.

(cont'd on Page 10)



(cont'd from Page 8)

Australia Ratifies FCCC

Australia ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in December, making it among the first of the Pacific nations to do so. The FCCC was opened for signing at Rio in June 1992.

(from *Insight*, 2:1, p10)

Ed.: As of 25 November 1992, USA and RMI are the only other SPREP members to have ratified the FCCC.

Hunting Ban for American Samoa

The American Samoan Government has acted on warnings from local ecologists that American Samoa's fruit bat and native pigeon populations are in danger of extinction. It has banned hunting for 3 years to help these populations recover after two recent major cyclones.

New Sea Level Monitoring Stations

What is actually happening to sea levels and climate in the Pacific? Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Tuvalu and RMI now have sophisticated monitoring stations to help answer this question. Data is now regularly collected and analysed at the National Tidal Facility at the Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, as part of a major long-term AIDAB - funded project in 12 Pacific island countries.

Warning for Raro Lagoon

Cook Islands Secretary for Marine Resources, Tui Short, said the lagoon around Rarotonga will be barren in five years if the public does not practice conservation.

(from *Washington Pacific Report*, 11:5, p6)

(cont'd on Page 10)

New SPREP Publications

SPREP has a number of publications for the New Year, on a variety of topics.

Volumes 2 and 3 of the *Proceedings of the 4th South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas* contain the Key and Theme Papers and Case Studies from this meeting. Volume 1 contains the record of the meeting. This is timely release given that the next Conference is in October 1993.

The *Report of the Pacific Regional Workshop on Marine Pollution Prevention, Management and Response* has been co-published by SPREP, IMO and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). This meeting was held in October 1992, in Suva, Fiji.

The *Environmental Education Teachers Manual* has just been

printed, and is ready for distribution. It is the culmination of four years work from many people in the region, including practicing teachers. It is a comprehensive publication, useful for training teachers in environmental studies and for practicing classroom teachers, as it includes a large number of lesson plans on various topics.

SPREP has also updated its lists of *Technical Publications* and *Environmental Education Resource Materials* (in English), and has released a new list of all SPREP publications in French.

For more information, contact:

The Director
SPREP
PO Box 240
APIA, Western Samoa
Tel: (685) 21 929
Fax: (685) 20 231



(cont'd from Page 9)

NGOs Slam World Bank Policies - "No Surprise"

Recent major reports by WRI and WWF assail the environmental impacts of World Bank and IMF policies and projects around the world. Director of the World Bank's Environment Dept., Mohammed El-Ashry, said that the results of these reports came as "no surprise". He admitted that "it's going to take time" to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of some of the Bank's recent structural adjustment policies.

(from *Development Hotline*, 15/1992, pp8-9)

New Solomons Act

Solomon Islands Cabinet has endorsed its new, far-ranging Environment Act. It was drawn up with assistance from the ADB/RETA Project at SPREP.

Conferences

Training Program on Special Area Management for Coastal Environments: Special emphasis on coral reefs.

When? 24 Oct. - 6 Nov. 1993

Where? Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines

Contact:

Training Co-ordinator
Coastal Resources Center
The University of Rhode Island
NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882
United States of America
Phone: (1401) 792 6224
Fax: (1401) 789 4670

Forestry Planning and Management Course.

When? 11 Oct. - 3 Dec. 1993

Where? Canberra and Gympie, Australia

Who? Queensland Forestry Service; ANU, Canberra

Why? Improve planning and management in tropical tree plantations and forests, project planning, financial and economic analysis, and environmental and social issues.

Contact:

George Collet
Course Co-ordinator
Forestry Div., ANUTECH
GPO Box 4
CANBERRA, ACT. 2601
Australia
Tel. (616) 249 0617
Fax. (616) 249 5873

Summer Institute in Coastal Management

When? 30 May - 24 June 1994

Where? Kingston, Rhode Island, USA

Who? University of Rhode Island
Why? Build up professional skills in how to use effective approaches in solving coastal management problems.

Who for? Professionals in government agencies, NGOs, universities, intergovernment agencies and banks.

Contact:

The Training Co-ordinator
Coastal Resource Center
University of Rhode Island
NARRAGANSETT, RI. 02882.
United States of America
Fax: (1401) 789 4670

Funding

(cont'd from Page 9)

What for?

Small Grants Program: Request for Research Proposals

- to support action-oriented research.
- to support research with direct implications for policy.

Who for?

Any individual investigator of applied research relevant to the conservation of biological diversity.

How much?

up to US \$15,000

When?

Deadline: 30 April 1993.

Contact:

Regional Director, USAID
American Embassy
PO Box 218
SUVA, Fiji
Tel: (679) 311 399
Fax: (679) 300 075

Meetings 93

Date	Meeting	Venue	Officer
April			
15 - 16	1st PrepComm for Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSIDS)	New York, USA	G. Miles
16 - 17	NEMS Workshop	Palau	N. Wendt
19 - 23	Pacific Islands Countries / Development Partners Meeting	Suva, Fiji	FS
19 - 23	EIA Workshop	Cook Islands	K. Onorio
26 - 28	National NEMS Seminar	Niue	N. Wendt
May			
4-5	GIS Technical Meeting	Bangkok	W. Ward
4 - 7	IMO-Global Waste Survey Meeting II	London	
10 - 21	UNEP Governing Council Meeting	Nairobi	
20	SPOCC Meeting	Noumea	SPC
24 - 28	18th CRGA	Noumea	SPC
24 - 28	First Meeting of the ICZM Working Group	Apia	A. Smith
31-4 Jun	Regional Technical Meeting for Asia-Pacific (GCSIDS)	Port Vila	G. Miles
26 - 28	35th IUCN Council Meeting	Gland, Switzerland	
31-3 Jun	National NEMS Seminar <i>Environmental Education Multi-media Training Workshop</i>	Kiribati Cook Islands	N. Wendt Gisa G. Sales
June			
5	World Environment Day	everywhere	
7 - 10	Global Aspects of Coral Reefs: Health, Hazards and History	Miami, USA	
9 - 11	Regional Marine Turtle Meeting	Apia	A. Farago
9 - 16	5th Meeting of Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention	Kushiro, Japan	A. Farago
14 - 16	Plenipotentiary Meeting on the SPREP Treaty	Apia	SPREP
14 - 25	1st Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development	New York	
27-3 Jul	VII Pacific Science Inter-Congress	Okinawa, Japan	
28-2 Jul	EIA Workshop	Niue	K. Onorio
29 - 30	IPCC Plenary Meeting - Working Group III <i>Environment Teachers Training Workshop</i>	Kosrae, FSM	Gisa G. Sales
July			
12 - 16	Towards Biodiversity and Conservation	Brisbane, Australia	
12 - 16	Coastal Zone Management Workshop	New Orleans, USA	
27 - 29	National NEMS Seminar <i>National NEMS Seminar Pre-Forum Session 24th South Pacific Forum 5th Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting</i>	Tuvalu Tokelau Nauru Nauru Nauru	N. Wendt N. Wendt FS FS FS
August			
2 - 13	2nd PrepComm for GCSIDS	New York	G. Miles
3 - 6	Asian Pacific Workshop on Vulnerability Assessment of Sea Level Rise and Coastal Zone Mgt	Japan	C. Kaluwin
16 - 27	INC 8 - Climate Change Convention	Geneva	
September			
4	2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the Apia Convention	Guam	SPREP
6 - 7	2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the SPREP Convention	Guam	SPREP
8 - 10	6th SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting	Guam	SPREP
13 - 24	INC 2 - Desertification Convention <i>Regional Meteorological Directors Meeting</i>	Geneva Fiji	
October			
1 - 8	22nd SOPAC Annual Session	Nadi, Fiji	
4 - 8	5th South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas	Tonga	A. Farago
18 - 22	19th CRGA	Noumea	
25 - 27	33rd South Pacific Conference <i>Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol</i>	Noumea Nairobi	
November			
1 - 5	"World Coast": International Conference on coastal Zone Management <i>Forum Officials Committee 1993 Work Programme and Budget Session</i>	The Netherlands Suva	A. Smith FS
January, 1994			
18 - 26	19th Session of IUCN General Assembly	Buenos Aires	
April, 1994			
	Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Countries	Barbados	G. Miles

Please note these Meetings are subject to changes without notice.
Confirm dates and venues with the Director, SPREP. Tentative meetings are in *italics*.

The Last Word ...

from the Editor

Conserving biodiversity is the theme behind this issue of Environment Newsletter. Nature is under increasing pressure in the Pacific. In some countries, this pressure is already taking on economic importance as it destroys the natural resources needed for economic development. Biodiversity is the basis of these natural resources.

Former SPREP co-ordinator, Muliagatele Iosefatu Reti, leads the way with an interview on the changing face of biodiversity conservation, and what it means for the Pacific islands. We also have news from American Samoa on some of their conservation problems, and notice of the next South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation in October in Tonga.

Former SPREP officer, Dave Sheppard, and Neva Wendt look at institution building in the Pacific

in the light of the recent Regional Legal Workshop in Apia. We also have our regular features, including EnviroNews, Book Review, Meetings '93, and Job Corner.

Next issue of *Environment Newsletter* will include a survey on this Newsletter. I urge you to complete this and return it to me. It is vital that the *Newsletter* continues to serve your needs, and to be effective in its delivery of information. This survey is the first formal assessment of the *Newsletter* for some years, and so is important to give direction for its future.

Wes Ward
Editor



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Wanted: Environmental Co-ordinator

Who? Friends of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP)

Job Description? To:

- conduct resource assessments;
- work with communities to conduct and implement their own private enterprise responses to environmental threats; and,
- provide environmental education for project communities.

Qualifications? ○ Master's degree in resource management or an environmental field;

- 2 year's experience, preferably in the South Pacific;
 - fluent in written and spoken English;
 - fluent in one or more Melanesian Pidgin languages, or ability to learn it quickly;
 - self-direction; and,
 - willingness to travel in the South Pacific.
- Desirable: experience in community-based resource management and education projects in less-developed countries.

How long? 27 months

Where? Based at Port Vila, Vanuatu

By when? 15 May 1993

Contact: Dr N. Devoe

PO Box 951

PORT VILA, Vanuatu

Tel.: (678) 22 915

Fax: (678) 24 510

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