



Forum Gives Clear Directions on the Environment

If an issue was clearly evident from this year's Forum, it was the continued importance of regional questions and directions in sustainable development and environmental protection.

The South Pacific Forum Meeting was held in Nauru on 10 - 11 August. It gathered the Heads and officials of 15 Pacific island and neighbouring member governments, as well as major donor countries and agencies and the heads of the regional intergovernmental agencies, including SPREP.

The report of the Meeting of Heads, the Forum Communiqué, refers to a number of concerns and areas of co-operation for member governments, and clearly signals

important concerns on environmental protection and sustainable development to the rest of the world (see box on page 2).

Some foreign governments and unscrupulous individuals were criticised in the Communiqué for their disregard for the environment and the peoples of the region, particularly in overfishing and toxic waste dumping. Methods were considered for curtailing these destructive activities, including international and regional conventions, and more effective registration and surveillance measures by governments and regional organisations.

The "polluter-pays" principle was also established as the method of restitution for pollution from toxic



PNG's Minister for the Environment, Hon. Barry Ziepi, signs the Agreement Establishing SPREP at SPREP Headquarters on 29 September. Onlookers are (from left to right) Dr Vili Fuavao, Director, SPREP; MP from PNG; Misa Telefoni Retzlaff, Western Samoa; and Ata Moava, French Polynesia. (Photo: SPREP)

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nuclear sources, where offending governments would be held responsible, with absolute and unlimited state liability.

All these proposed actions reinforce the spirit of the Earth Summit and subsequent actions: that Pacific island countries must be allowed to develop economically, but in an environmentally sustainable way. Policies and projects that provide short-term gains but threaten the island environment and natural resources that exist there must be reassessed, and more informed and balanced decisions now be made.

International actions also influence the environment of the region, and these were also addressed. Joint actions through region conventions, information sharing and the actions of regional and international agencies were reaffirmed as the means of dealing with the regional challenges in attaining sustainable development for the small island states of the Pacific.



(See box on Page 2)

The 1993 Forum Communiqué and the Environment ... at a glance

The Heads of Government of the South Pacific Forum issued statements on:

Sustainable Development:

- ♦ emphasising that sound environmental practices were now an integral part of economic development.
- ♦ stressing the link between population, environment and sustainable development.
- ♦ calling for a South Pacific Declaration on Population at an upcoming ministerial meeting in Vanuatu.

Fisheries:

- ♦ reaffirming strong opposition to drift-net fishing.
- ♦ calling on remaining Forum members to sign and ratify the Wellington Convention.

Developing Natural Resources:

- ♦ noting common problems with developing natural resources.
- ♦ noting the need for information exchange on resource development, including environmentally sustainable development.

UNCED Follow-up:

- ♦ calling on remaining members to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ♦ calling on members to start carrying out activities in the Convention.

- ♦ calling on remaining members to ratify the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocols.
- ♦ welcoming the creation of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.
- ♦ urging members to promote the signing of the Law of the Sea Convention.
- ♦ calling for international discussions leading to an international convention to protect forests.
- ♦ urging members to support the GCSDSIDS in 1994, and to be represented at the highest possible level.
- ♦ reaffirming that global warming and sea-level rise were among the most serious threats to member countries.
- ♦ calling for appropriate renewable and efficient energy technologies, economic measures and reforestation to be developed and transferred.
- ♦ reaffirming the need for research on the impacts of global warming on island countries.

Whaling:

- ♦ supporting the continued moratorium on commercial whaling.
- ♦ supporting the consideration of a Southern Oceans Sanctuary for whales.

Nuclear Testing and Pollution:

- ♦ welcoming the extended nuclear test ban by France, Russia and USA.
- ♦ calling for international law to include the "polluter pays" principle in all cases of transnational nuclear pollution.

Ocean Waste Dumping:

- ♦ calling on members to continue to support the total ban on nuclear waste dumping at sea.
- ♦ calling on Japan to consult fully with Forum countries on plutonium shipments through the Pacific.
- ♦ calling on Japan to provide information to the Forum on its use of plutonium.

Moving and Managing Toxic Wastes:

- ♦ expressing concern about the uncontrolled and unmanaged movement of toxic wastes into and within the region.
- ♦ endorsing consultations and negotiations to conclude a regional convention to prevent these movements by the 1995 Forum.

Coastal Protection:

- ♦ requesting a detailed report on coastal protection options for the 1994 Forum.

Greenpeace Applauds Forum Leaders

The international NGO Greenpeace welcomed the attention paid to the Pacific environment at the recent South Pacific Forum at Nauru. Greenpeace also hailed the discussions on sustainable development and the rate that natural resources are currently being exploited in the region.

The Forum's decision to develop a regional Convention prohibiting the importation of hazardous wastes into

the region was acclaimed by Greenpeace as a "win" for the Pacific environment and its people.

"The Pacific has declared to waste producers around the world that this region is off limits to other countries' waste", said Bunny McDiarmid, Greenpeace's Pacific Co-ordinator.

"It's very encouraging that we can join other developing regions in putting pressure onto industrialised coun-

tries to deal with their problems at home", she added.

The Forum is also committed to ending all ocean dumping of radioactive and industrial wastes at this year's meeting on the London Convention. Forum members will ensure their participation in the November meeting to make this commitment a reality.

(from Greenpeace, 25 August)

From the Director's Desk



The 1993 South Pacific Forum meeting in Nauru was the fourth since I became head of SPREP, starting with Port Vila in 1991. The Communiqués from all these Forum Leaders' meetings have one common feature: environmental issues were a primary focus. This shows that the region is now more aware of the importance of our fragile ecosystems for our very survival, and that it understands that good environmental investment is a sound economic investment, and vice versa. So one question is: does the work and activities of SPREP, the spearhead environmental organisation in the region, address the technical issues in the Communiqué?

The 1993 Communiqué has a long list of environment issues that will impact on the well-being of all peoples in the region. This year's list lengthened to: depletion of the ozone layer, climate change and potential impacts of sea level rise, disappearing biodiversity, importing and disposing of hazardous wastes, ocean dumping of nuclear wastes, assessing appropriate coastal protection systems to control the coastal erosion, population and its linkages to exploiting resources, the region's preparation for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States (GCSIDS), improving environ-

ment education, and the follow up to the Earth Summit.

This year's Forum Meeting endorsed PNG's proposal for a regional convention on the control and management of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. Negotiations will start early next year, with the aim to open the convention for signature at the 1995 Forum Meeting scheduled for Port Moresby. SPREP will be involved in this process, given its expertise and mandate in this area.

The Forum leaders acknowledged the importance of the GCSIDS and agreed to participate at the highest level in this conference, scheduled for April 1994 in Barbados. There was a clear consensus that negotiations would aim for a more focused and action-oriented agenda for the Conference. The world focus on their unique needs is a first for small island developing states. SPREP is the leading agency in this region's preparations for the Conference, and will play a vital role in negotiations leading up to Barbados.

Recognising that much biodiversity is disappearing, SPREP, through the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP), is addressing the issue. The SPBCP, however, also considers that small land areas and complex land tenure must also be accounted for. The SPBCP approach

is innovative, and complies with the principles of sustainable development. If this approach succeeds, it will have an impact on the world's perception of "conservation". This is an example of the innovation needed to meet the unique problems of the region.

SPREP is now also formulating a comprehensive integrated coastal zone programme. This includes an assessment of appropriate means of protecting our coastal areas. Coastal areas are the most productive part of most Pacific islands. They also host some of the most vulnerable ecosystems found in the islands. Coastal erosion greatly concerns all Pacific islands. The urgent effort to find appropriate coastal protection systems for the islands of the Pacific continues. SPREP will organise a series of workshops for world experts to discuss and assess appropriate available systems to match the needs and capacities of this region.

Several new SPREP projects aim to improve the message reaching the grassroots: the "One World" radio program, and the integration of environmental issues into primary and secondary schools curricula are two examples. Using environment impact assessment (EIA) as a decision-making tool and linking population issues to attaining sustainable development are also recent initiatives by SPREP that aim to achieve sustainable development in the Pacific.

Vili Fuavao
Director



The Forum Officials Meeting precedes the Meeting of Forum Heads, and includes much discussion of the programmes of the regional organisations. The Director of SPREP Dr Vili Fuavao (second from left standing) was on hand to explain SPREP's programmes to the region's political heads.

(Photo: SPREP)

Earth Day 1993

A regional round-up



This year, Earth Day was officially celebrated on 5 June, with theme of "Poverty and the Environment: Breaking the Vicious Circle". As noted by UNEP, "it is humanity's excesses which threaten the planet on which we live; be they the excesses of greed or of deprivation, they are both destructive."

The destruction of the the air, the sea, the forests and the rivers may be attributed to "the excesses of a society driven to consume", be they for industry or agriculture or disposing wastes.

However, there is another side. Those in poverty must eat, so they revert to cutting down precious trees or depleting reefs or poaching and selling rare animals and birds. This issue was covered extensively in UNEP's April issue of *Our Planet* (5:2, 1993).

In the Pacific

Many Pacific organisations and countries celebrate this day at other times of the year and in many ways. This article is a round-up of these activities by governments, schools and NGOs.

Fiji

SPACHEE celebrated Earth Day on 22 April, with a photo competition sponsored by Kodak Australia. Over 50 entries in the professional, amateur and junior categories competed for cash prizes for the best environmental photos of subjects in Fiji. This NGO used the occasion to launch a new tee-shirt - "Every Day Earth Day - Handle with Care".

SPACHEE also held a day-long Earth Day Conference at USP Laucala Campus, concluding with its Annual General Meeting. All these activities were promoted on the local 104 FM radio station, as well as various problems faced by our fragile island environments.

SPACHEE and the National Trust of Fiji then coordinated the 1993 National Environment Week.

This was celebrated on 9-13 August in centres around Fiji: in Labasa, Levuka, Lautoka and Suva. Activities included marches by local school children; poster, essay and model competitions; poster and information exhibitions; and a day-long symposium at USP Laucala Campus on "Poverty and the Environment: Breaking the Vicious Cycle".

(USP Bulletin, 26:14, p3 and 26:25, p4, and SPACHEE Environwatch, 6:1, p3)

Ed.: SPACHEE is located on USP Laucala Campus, in Suva.

Nauru

Students from Nauru Secondary School showed the way on 4 June with a clean-up of their environment - their own school's grounds. Other activities included an intensive "can-crushing" campaign, where four bus loads of students travelled to strategic positions around the island to collect cans for the school's aluminium can crusher.

Students also entered essay, poster and bin-decorating competitions to promote environmental awareness around the school.

(Nauru Bulletin, 20/93, p3)

The Nauru Environmental Association (NEA) and Nauru Dive Club were also active, with a clean-up of Makwa cave on 5 June. Cans and rubbish were collected from under the water, inside the cave and from areas around the cave.

(Nauru Bulletin, 21/93, 4-5)

Ed.: NEA is to be commended for its practical display of what a group of committed people can do to protect our environment.

The winning smile Ms Teamaea Kamoriki, first place in the Float Competition at Kiribati's Environment Day.

Photo: David Murphy

Kiribati

National Environment Day was this year's "curtain raiser" for Kiribati's 14th Independence celebrations. It was celebrated at the capital, Bairiki, Tarawa, on 9 June. The Kauoman President, Hon. Taomati Iuta, officially opened the day in front of a large crowd, imploring that the day should become a regular annual event.

A number of national competitions were held in conjunction with Environment Day. These emphasised the importance of protecting and preserving Kiribati's natural resources. Prizes were awarded for bio-aesthetic, theme, song, essay and poster competitions.

The Float competition, based on environmental themes, was a major attraction. Competitors were from government ministries, the media and the national women's organisation, *Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati*. The police band provided the music for the winning float by Teamaea Kamoriki, representing the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rural Development.

SPREP provided funding for Kiribati's National Environment Day. ☼☼☼

Ed.: SPREP and the rest of the region would like to know what you did for your Environment Day or Week in 1993. Send your stories and photos (with captions) to the Editor, Environment Newsletter, at SPREP.

Protecting Apia's Water



Apia is the rapidly growing capital of Western Samoa. Its population relies on surrounding dams and catchment areas for clean drinking water. Protecting these supplies means protecting the water catchments, especially the forests above the streams that fill the dams.

Forests are vital for supplying clean water. When rain falls on forests, the leaves break the fall of the rain, and so the rain falls gently to earth. Plant roots and fallen leaves further slow the movement of water to the stream.

When trees are cleared, rain falls directly and heavily to the ground surface and moves quickly to the stream. If this rain falls on steep slopes, it also erodes the soil, removing many nutrients that would otherwise go to plants. The soil sediment in the water then deposits in dams and fouls water supplies.

Many agencies are working to protect water supplies in Western Samoa. The Division of Environment and Conservation recently replanted trees on the steep slopes in the Fuluasou Water Catchment Area. People from Tapatapao and Fuluasou villages were employed to weed and plant trees "on the contours" of the slopes. This contour planting slows soil erosion by acting as tiny dams that catch the water moving down the slope.

Over six months, these people planted fast-growing gatae and tamaligi trees. Gatae also puts the important soil nutrient nitrogen into the soil, and so further improves soil fertility. The Division is checking tree growth. Birds are starting to return to planted areas, and these birds also eat insects in nearby plantations.

The Division also assisted the Department of Agriculture, Forests

and Fisheries (DAFF) in a seminar organised to show the importance of fruit trees in watershed management. DAFF will now manage this watershed, and is establishing a tree nursery at Fuluasou.

The Survey Section of Ministry of Lands, Survey and the Environment will soon survey more land in the watershed to further protect Apia's water supplies.

Many agencies, with UNDP financial support, work together to protect Apia's water supplies. Government legislation is also playing a role, with the Municipal Water Supply Bill now in front of Fono (parliament). Part of this bill aims to control use of Apia's water supplies.

(From the Division of Environment and Conservation, Western Samoa.)



Acronyms

- ADB Asian Development Bank
- AIDAB Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
- 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
- FSM Federated States of Micronesia
- GEF Global Environment Facility
- GCSDSIDS Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States
- IMO International Maritime Organisation
- IPCC Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change
- IUCN World Conservation Union

- NEMS National Environmental Management Strategies
- NGO Non-government Organisation
- NZ New Zealand
- PIDP Pacific Islands Development Programme (EWC)
- PNG Papua New Guinea
- RMI Republic of the Marshall Islands

- SOPAC South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
- SPC South Pacific Commission
- SPREP South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- UH University of Hawaii
- UN United Nations

(Cont'd on page 11)

Funding

Title: *Sasakawa Pacific Islands Nation Fund*

For What?

1. Exchange programmes and co-operative work between Japan and Pacific island countries.
2. Human resource development and educational programmes.
3. Improving information and communications networking.

Prerequisites:

Projects should:

1. be in at least 2 Pacific island countries.
2. have results which are applicable in other Pacific island countries.

3. conform with and encourage regional initiatives.
4. promote understanding between Japan, Pacific island countries, and the rest of the world.

Who for?

NGOs, educational and academic institutions, and regional agencies.

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Introducing the Project to the Pacific Region

The National Tidal Facility, co-ordination centre for the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project, recently hosted its first training workshop. NTF is based in Adelaide, Australia, at the Flinders University. To date, NTF has built and commissioned nine fully-automated sea level and climate monitoring stations around the Pacific in the past year.

Training Strategy

Apart from building and maintaining monitoring stations, the Project also has an important information and training role, aimed at Pacific island governments. A training strategy has been developed to:

- improve understanding of the general sea level and climate information from the Project. Data

South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project:

Sub-regional areas for the planned training workshops.

Sub-region 1:

FSM
PNG
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
Nauru

(Possible venue: Honiara.)

Sub-region 2:

RMI
Kiribati
Tuvalu
Fiji

(Possible venue: Nadi, Fiji)

Sub-region 3:

Tonga
Western Samoa
Niue
Cook Islands

(Possible venue: Western Samoa.)

will be circulated monthly from NTF as "real-time" data for the recipient country.

- train key operational staff in the Forum island countries in relevant professional topics in oceanography and climatology, and who will understand how these influence sea level and climate change. These people can then provide sound advice to their governments.
- provide research information on national, regional and international climates.
- provide basic information for policymakers and planners about the project. Information will be spread by visits, seminars and papers to inform senior officials and politicians about progress in the Project.

Adelaide Meeting

With the last point in mind, twenty senior policymakers and planners met at NTF in Adelaide on 21-25 June 1993. Participants included Hon. Ionatana Ionatana, Minister of Labour, Works and Communication from Tuvalu, and the Australian Minister for Pacific Affairs, Hon Gordon Bilney, who also officially opened the workshop. During this week, participants also travelled to Melbourne to learn more about the operations of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology in the Project.

The visit to both institutions was most valuable, exposing participants the complexities of climate science and monitoring. It is hoped that this greater appreciation of these complexities and the information from this Project will eventually lead to more appropriate development policies in Forum countries.

Future Training

To fulfill the training strategy, twelve sub-regional training workshops have been planned for the region. The first round of workshops will be held in March-April 1994. Two further rounds will be conducted in 1994-95, and a final round in 1995-96.

SPREP's Climate Change Officer, Chalapan Kaluwin, will identify appropriate personnel from each sub-region (i.e., 3 persons per country - see box) to attend the first round of workshops early in 1994. Member governments will be notified soon.

The South Pacific Climate and Sea Level Monitoring Project is now reaching into the region. With the data generated from the monitoring stations and relevant training for national personnel, Forum member governments will be better able to deal with the serious effects of sea level rise, by making more informed decisions for national policies and projects.



Participants at the first Training Workshop for the South Pacific Climate and Sea Level Monitoring Project.

Photo: NTF

The ENSO Applications Centre

The El-Niño event, or so-called El-Niño / Southern Oscillation (ENSO), is an irregular interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere that occurs irregularly in the Pacific.

The effects of the ENSO can be catastrophic. It causes large variations in climatic conditions in this region and around the world. It causes significant changes to sea and air temperatures, rainfall and the occurrence of climate extremes such as tropical cyclones, droughts and floods. These in turn affect agriculture, fishing, and tourism, which erodes the stability of the vulnerable economies of Pacific island countries that depend on natural resources.

Predicting an ENSO

ENSO has been the subject of intensive research in recent times, and the scientific community has now learned much about it. As a result, limited seasonal forecasts for future events are now available. It is now possible to predict ENSO events with sufficient accuracy so that governments and businesses can plan activities around the expected climatic conditions for the coming year. This can save mil-



This sea level and climate monitoring station in Nauru is the latest, commissioned in July during the recent Forum meeting.

(Photo: SPREP)

lions of dollars for economies in the region, so reducing the economic losses caused by ENSO.

The Pacific Basin Development Council (PBDC) and UH are establishing an ENSO Applications Centre. The project aims to further develop scientific knowledge on ENSO, and combine it with technical expertise to provide an ENSO warning system. It will concentrate on the American Pacific territories of American Samoa, Hawaii, CNMI and Guam, the freely associated states (RMI and FSM), and Palau.

Research and Education

Research and education are the basis for the project's goals. Research will be handled by UH, and includes regional climatology studies and modelling, developing forecast models, and studies on teleconnections. Education will be co-ordinated by PBDC, involving workshops for government officials, and distribution of regional climate predictions with interpretations.

SPREP will be closely involved in the Centre. As a regional intergovernmental organisation, SPREP is well placed to co-ordinate other country members in this project. Specific involvement will include training climate staff, improving climate data gathering and analysis, and building up staff and physical resources of meteorological services in the region. Neville Koop, SPREP's Meteorology/Climatology Officer, attended the steering committee meeting in Honolulu on 4 October.

This project could provide significant economic benefits to the Pacific region, and will be a valuable tool for member governments in formulating development plans. There is still much more to learn about ENSO, but this is a first step in overcoming some of the socio-economic problems caused by ENSO.



Short environmental news stories from around the Pacific

Pacific still in ENSO

The entire Pacific region continues to be in the grip of a prolonged El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) effect, which started in 1991. This has effected sea surface temperatures, sea levels, winds and, most importantly, rainfall across the region.

The south-west Pacific, including eastern Australia, western PNG, New Caledonia, Tonga, Niue, and most of the Cook Islands and French Polynesia received less than their 50% of average rainfalls in May. There is a warning that agricultural production in some countries will be adversely affected by this ENSO unless there are good rains soon. It is expected that rainfall will be affected in the South Pacific until the end of the dry period and into the early wet season (November).

(from *South Pacific Climate Monitor*, May 1993, pp1-2 and June 1993, p1)

US Signs Biodiversity Convention

President Clinton recently ordered US representatives to sign the Biodiversity Convention, nearly a year after it was first opened for signature at the Earth Summit. This was in spite of lobbying since the days of the Bush Administration from major US corporations not to sign.

The US representatives affirmed the US commitment to "conserve the biological wealth of the planet," and in USA taking the lead in forging a consensus on the loss of global biodiversity.

(from the *Biodiversity Coalition Newsletter*, no. 5, pp1-2)

(Cont'd on page 8)



(Cont'd from page 9)

Trochus Exporter Prosecuted

A would-be exporter of trochus shells will be prosecuted in Fiji, after customs officials seized 9 tonnes of under-sized shells. The shells, worth US\$64 000, were to be shipped to Japan to make ornaments and buttons. Fijian law prohibited the export of shells under 9 cm in length.

(from *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 13, p 109)

Palauan NGO Wins Global Award

Otil a Belaud, a women's and youth organisation that defends Palau's culture and unique environment, recently won a prestigious environment award from UNEP. This active organisation was successfully included on the 1993 Global 500 Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement, recognising its efforts to have the plans for an oil superport shelved, for preserving traditional taro swamps, and lobbying for alternative energy systems and limits to building heights.

(from UNEP, May 1993)

OPEC Concerned by Environmental Taxes

Senior OPEC official, Dr Ibrahim Ismail, warned of the tremendous impact on the demand for oil if environmental measures aimed at stabilising carbon dioxide emissions are imposed by OPEC clients, which are mainly the developed countries.

(from *OPEC Bulletin* 26:7, p21)

(Cont'd on page 9)



Regional:

The "One World" Project



There are many dilemmas facing Pacific island countries as they strive for economic development and improved living standards. Development projects and policies that achieve short-term economic gains are sometimes at odds with the long-term survival of the natural resources that these projects and policies use and rely on. People must become more aware of these long-term costs, and the possible alternatives in using these limited natural resources in the region.

The "One World" radio program, broadcasted by Radio Australia, targets the decision makers and opinion leaders of the Pacific who initiate or affect these policies and projects. It is also aimed at people who want to make a difference in the environment and in sustainable development in the region, especially those in the 22 Pacific island members of SPREP.

"One World" reports on and analyses current issues in the environment and sustainable development that are important to the region. The Program is aimed at Pacific audiences, always with a Pacific perspective. The producers also pay particular attention to traditional means of protecting the environment.

The Project

The "One World" Project aims to make a significant difference to the levels of awareness on the environment throughout the Pacific. Funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), it will run for three years, starting in June 1993.

The Project will:

- produce and broadcast a series of weekly, half-hour radio programs, in English, French and Tok Pisin.

- train local environmental specialists from government agencies, NGOs and the media to contribute to the radio program. It will also encourage media productions in local languages, through print, radio, television and electronic networks available in the region; and,
- establish an effective information network using existing satellite, computer and broadcasting technologies.

Partners in the Network

Radio Australia is managing the project, in close co-operation with SPREP. The English language program is produced for Radio Australia by the Melbourne-based production house Public Radio News (PRN). The Tok Pisin and French programs are produced by Radio Australia staff, also in Melbourne. All producers and SPREP co-operate closely to produce a quality and relevant program for the Pacific.

The producers use regionally-based expertise on the programs, with assistance from SPREP. SPREP and Radio Australia have established a network of Pacific island people to provide information from around the region for the programs, to receive these programs for use in their own countries and to exchange information between themselves on common environmental issues and problems.

The network uses existing communications such as PEACESAT. The producers and SPREP already "meet" weekly using PEACESAT, and a regular meeting between network members will start soon.

(Cont'd on page 9)

PINA Conference Focuses on Environmental Reporting

Environmental issues, and their reporting, was the subject of three workshops during the annual conference of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) held in July in Suva.

Adlai Amor, Deputy Director of WWF's Communications Unit, travelled from Switzerland with a wealth of experience in this growing field of journalism. He started his career as a reporter and publisher in Philippines, and he drew on this experience to discuss the special circumstances and skills needed for reporting on the environment.

Robert Hooper, from USA, spoke on television and video as a power-



Adlai Amor, Deputy Director of WWF's Communications Unit
(Photo: SPREP)

ful media for addressing environmental issues. He also used examples of how to develop environmental documentaries, and the way one documentary could develop from another, especially at the film site while shooting.

Wesley Ward, SPREP's Information and Publications Officer, assisted Adlai by providing background to environmental issues in the Pacific, and sources of information for reporters dealing with environmental issues in the region. WWF and SPREP also displayed publications and videos on environmental issues and problems at various times during the meeting.

PINA has a wide membership, from junior journalists to editors and publishers. Over 100 print, radio and television media people were at USP's Laucala Campus, Fiji, to be part of the 1993 Conference.

The conference agenda also included seminars on ethics in journalism, the Bougainville crisis and press freedom in the Pacific.

The 1994 PINA Conference will be held in Apia, Western Samoa. SPREP is already involved with planning for this meeting.

The "One World" Project

(Cont'd from page 8)

Training

Participants in the network, drawn from government agencies, non-government organisations and the media, recently attended a two-week training workshop in basic radio interviewing and production techniques, and effective use of the media (Ed. see the next issue). They also gained a better appreciation of the main environmental and development issues in the region.

There will then be follow-up training through visits from Radio Australia, PRN and SPREP staff, as well as advice and encouragement through regular PEACESAT meetings.

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(Cont'd from page 8)

NZ Committed to International Treaties

The NZ Cabinet has authorised the ratification of the Framework Convention for Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity Conservation. By ratifying these conventions, NZ Cabinet also agreed to contribute to the Global Environment Facility. The instruments of ratification were signed on 6 August.

FFA Steps up Actions Against Illegal Fishing

FFA will press tougher regulations on illegal fishing in the region. From 1 September, all operators of foreign fishing vessels in countries that have signed the Niue Agreement must register directly with FFA, and not through the licensing country as previously.

FFA criticised Japan for opposing this move, saying that its fisheries relations with the region would improve if it co-operates with the new registration rules. Up till now, because of poor reporting practices by some Asian fleets, FFA has estimated that member countries received only 2-3 percent of the actual landed value of the catch through harvest fees.

(from PACNEWS, 12 August 1993)

TCSP Announces 1995 as "Visit South Pacific Year"

The Tourism Council of the South Pacific has announced an ambitious marketing plan to make 1995 the "Visit South Pacific Year". TCSP Director, Levani Tunabua, announced plans at a TCSP-hosted lunch during the 1993 Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) Conference in Suva.

Theme? - "Come See the Natural and Cultural Environment".

(Cont'd on page 10)

Environmental Law in the Pacific

David Sheppard, formerly RETA Team Leader at SPREP, is now Co-ordinator of the Protected Areas Program at IUCN, Geneva, Switzerland. This is the third article on a series about the NEMS Project which is co-ordinated by SPREP.

Pacific countries are now more aware of the need for sustainable management of their environments, and for conserving important ecological areas. The rapid growth of SPREP indicates the importance which Pacific island countries attach to their environment, as SPREP implements many environmental management programmes throughout the region.

The NEMS

Two major regional projects were developed through SPREP to address these management concerns: the RETA (Regional Environment Technical Assistance) and NEMS Projects. These important projects have been implemented with technical and financial assistance from ADB, IUCN and UNDP.

These projects are developing NEMS, or its equivalent, in 12 Pacific countries: Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu are covered under separate projects.

Reviews of environmental laws

Another key objective of the RETA/NEMS Projects is to review environmental legislation in each participating country. In many Pacific island countries, environmental legislation is poorly developed, inappropriate or non-existent. Environmental management responsibilities and associated legislation are also often spread over many government agencies, with little co-ordination between them.

The Reviews in the RETA Project were undertaken by four legal consultants: Ben Boer, David Farrier, Mere Pulea and Elizabeth Harding. They were funded by IUCN and co-ordinated by IUCN's Environmental Law Centre in Germany.

These Reviews have been published for Solomon Islands, FSM, Palau, RMI, Cook Islands and Tonga. Draft legal reviews have also been prepared for Kiribati, Tuvalu, Niue, Tokelau and Western Samoa.

General findings

Each review is a comprehensive statement of the environmental laws in each country. From the reviews completed to date, some broad observations can be made.

Firstly, the reviews showed that much law already exists for managing natural resources in Pacific island countries. This law was usually lifted directly from Australia, New Zealand or USA. Few countries have consolidated environmental legislation, although some countries are now moving towards this.

Secondly, existing laws have varying success in addressing environmental concerns. In some cases, there are difficulties in enforcing environmental laws using penalties derived from "Western" laws.

(Cont'd on page 11)



(Cont'd from page 9)

SPREP Director Accepts CNPPA Position

SPREP Director, Dr Vili Fuavao, is now the Working Group Leader for the South Pacific Marine Region of the IUCN's Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas. Dr Fuavao is already a regional Councilor with IUCN. This further strengthens the links between SPREP and IUCN.

(from CNPPA Newsletter no. 60, p. 6)

US Company to Dump Toxic Waste in Tonga

Greenpeace has criticised a proposal to store toxic waste from California, USA, on Niuafou'au Island in Tonga. In return, Tonga will receive about A\$750,000 to store the 35,000 barrels of waste.

Greenpeace Pacific spokesperson, Bunny McDiarmid, said the company involved, Sovereign International Services Ltd, has operated as a toxic waste broker since 1992. She said that the proposal highlighted the urgent need to negotiate and complete the proposed regional convention dealing with toxic waste.

(Suva, 29 Sept. AAP, in Samoa Observer, 1 Oct. 1993)

Australia Pays A\$107 Million Compensation.

The 25-year-old land rehabilitation dispute between Nauru and Australia has finally been settled.

HE President Bernad Dowiyogo of Nauru and Australia's PM Hon. Paul Keating signed an Agreement for Australia to compensate Nauru with A\$107 million for the phosphate lands mined by the British Phosphate Company, and for assistance and national development.

President Dowiyogo was pleased with the outcome, saying that "it is gratifying to the Nauruan people that Australia has now met its responsibilities". He pointed out that "Nauru is now in a better position to better achieve rehabilitation".

(from the Nauru Bulletin, Friday 13 August, p1.)



Environmental Law in the Pacific

(Cont'd from page 10)

In other cases, the laws do not apply to the existing issues in that country. In all cases, more community awareness was needed on what was environmental legislation and why it was needed.

Thirdly, most Pacific island countries have systems of traditional laws which often dictate how resources are used and protected. There is greater scope for integrating traditional law effectively into current environmental legislation. It must be developed by Pacific island countries and relevant to the unique needs and circumstances in each country.

The way ahead

The Legal Reviews were discussed at a major regional environmental law workshop, held in Apia, Western Samoa, in November 1992. This successful workshop involved senior officers from Environment and Legal agencies from 16 SPREP member countries and international experts on environmental law. Participants recognised the importance of appropriate environmental laws in achieving sustainable development, and called on regional and international bodies to assist.

IUCN quickly heeded this call, and funded the preparation of innovative legislation in Solomon Islands, the *Environment Act*. This law reflects the unique needs and circumstances of the country, and was the product of wide consultation in the country. It was produced by Professor Ben Boer, under the direction of SPREP and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, and was endorsed by Solomon Islands Cabinet in March 1993.

SPREP will work with Pacific island countries and relevant regional and international organizations to complete similar initiatives in the area of environmental law around the region.

Stop Press:

SPREP Meeting in Fiji

SPREP's member governments reviewed progress on the Agreement Establishing SPREP at the annual SPREP Meeting, held in September in Suva, Fiji.

The majority of eligible countries have now signed the treaty, with FSM signing at the recent South Pacific Forum meeting in Nauru. Australia signed at the SPREP Meeting, while PNG signed in the week after the meeting, in Apia.

The last Forum showed that political leaders in the Pacific are placing more importance on environmental issues, as they affect the long-term economic development of the region (see front page).

The Meeting examined progress in SPREP projects on these issues, including a number of new initiatives starting since the last meeting in September 1992 in Apia. These included the US\$ 10 million, 5-year South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project; preparations for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States and other follow-up actions from the Earth Summit in Rio last June; a proposed Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project to protect the natural resources of fragile coastlines; and the basic development issues in the Population and Environment Project funded by UNFPA.

NEMS have now been completed for Cook Islands, FSM, RMI, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The Meeting reviewed progress on the NEMS for the remaining 8 countries being assisted by SPREP. These NEMS are now used as the basis for SPREP's annual integrated workplan and budget, which was also reviewed.

SPREP member countries discussed international conventions dealing with the environment, and the status of these in the Pacific. The conventions include the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions, both signed by the majority of Pacific island leaders and officials at the Earth Summit, and the World Heritage Convention.

Other matters included plans for the new SPREP headquarters near Apia, Western Samoa.

The SPREP Meeting ran on Monday - Wednesday, 20 - 22 September 1993 at the Tradewinds Convention Centre, Lami, near Suva. Associated meetings were held for the Parties to the Apia and the SPREP Conventions on 15 - 17 September, and for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project on 23 - 24 September.

Ed.: *These meetings will be fully reviewed in the next issue of Environment Newsletter.*

Acronyms

(Cont'd from page 5)

UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UN)	UoG	University of Guam
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (UN)	UPNG	University of Papua New Guinea
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UN)	USA	United States of America
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund (UN)	USAID	US Agency for International Development
Unesco	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UN)	USP	University of the South Pacific
UNITECH	University of Technology (PNG)	WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
		WRI	World Resources Institute
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

New Forests Newsletter

The UNDP South Pacific Forestry Development Programme, based in Suva, Fiji, has changed the name of its newsletter to *Pacific Islands Forests and Trees*, to reflect its changed focus. The programme now concentrates on encouraging the sustainable use of the region's existing natural forests.

The most recent issue, 2/93, covered a variety of topics: the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing to help monitor and assess logging in native forests; mangrove forests in FSM; the work of the USAID-funded Profitable Environmental Protection (PEP) Project; and information from the Agroforestry Information Service on agroforestry on atolls.

For more information, contact:

Project Co-ordinator
South Pacific Forestry Development Programme
UNDP Private Bag
SUVA, Fiji
Fax: (679) 305 212

SOPAC Coastal Reports

SOPAC recently added to its extensive list of technical reports on specific coastal studies in the region. The latest of these reports

are the focus of *SOPAC Projects* no. 4, a bi-annual publication that summarises SOPAC's technical work.

The *Technical Reports* evaluate hydrological, engineering and some environmental aspects of proposed or completed development projects. The latest reports deal with a wharf in Rotuma, Fiji; coastal erosion on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands; future development on Efate Island, Vanuatu; and the implications of a sewerage outfall off Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Apart from their immediate use for these development projects, these reports could be used as case studies for similar proposals elsewhere in the region.

For more information on *SOPAC Projects* and the *Technical Reports*, contact:

SOPAC Technical Secretariat
Private Mail Bag
SUVA, Fiji
Fax: (679) 370 040

New Fisheries Bibliography

Bibliographies are important tools in finding useful information on a special interest area within a particular subject. The Pacific Islands Marine Information Service (PIMRIS) recently released the useful *Fiji Fisheries Bibliography*, covering general and specific topics,

including environment, various sealife, energy sources, fisheries management, post-harvest processing and many other topics for people interested in Fiji's marine resources.

For more information, contact:

PIMRIS Co-ordinator
USP Library
PO Box 1168
SUVA, Fiji
Fax: (679) 300 830

Fisheries Training Newsletter

Judging from the first issue of the *Fisheries Education and Training Bulletin*, there is plenty of activity in this SPC Special Interest Group in Fisheries Education and Training.

Hugh Walton is editor, and an officer in the Training Section of SPC's Marine Resources Programme based in Noumea. He stated that the Newsletter intends to inform fisheries personnel of training and education opportunities, connections and issues.

For more information, contact:

The Editors
Training Section, Marine Resources Programme
SPC
Bp D5
NOUMEA, New Caledonia.
Fax: (687) 26 38 18

Wetlands Directory

Wetlands are among the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world, especially in the Pacific. Small land areas, limited natural resources for economic development and rapidly growing populations combine to place more pressure on land and coastlines suitable for exploitation and development.

However, the resources in these wetlands are often also the basis for this development. Mangroves and lagoons are spawning grounds and nurseries for the reef fish on which

(Cont'd on page 13)



(Cont'd from page 12)

so many Pacific islanders still depend for food, building materials and firewood. Other areas provide homes for to wild birds.

The first step in addressing the conservation needs of these areas is to find out where they are and what is in them. Derek Scott of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) worked with the Asian Wetlands Bureau (AWB), SPREP and the Ramsar Convention Bureau to compile *A Directory of Wetlands* in Oceania. It covers 25 countries and administrations: from CNMI, Palau and Solomon Islands to New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Easter Island and Hawaii.

For more information, contact:

The Director, SPREP;

or;

Information and Training Section
Asian Wetlands Bureau
University of Malaya
Lembah Pantai
59100 KUALA LUMPUR
Malaysia

SPREP Publications

SPREP Publications continue to flow from the press. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will be a major event for the Pacific in 1994 in Barbados. The Pacific region began its contribution with a Regional Technical Meeting to outline the Pacific and



Indian Ocean regional concerns and actions that were required. The *Report* of this meeting, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 31 May - 4 June 1993, is now available.

The *Report* of another recent meeting is also now available: *Third Meeting of the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme* and the *First Meeting of the Regional Marine Mammals Conservation Programme*. This meeting reviewed activities in both these programmes and recommended new directions for them.

The *SPREP 1992/93 Annual Report* has also been released in English and French. This is an easy-to-read summary of SPREP's activities and institutional and financial arrangements in the past year, and some future directions. There is also a video, *For Our Children*, which can be shown in association with the *Report*. The video outlines SPREP's mandate and philosophy, and activities within its programme areas. This is available in English and French, and in NTSC, SECAM and PAL VHS formats.

SPREP continues to widen the scope of its educational resources materials with two new leaflets in the *Environmental Case Studies* series: no. 6, *Not Always a Pretty Face: Urbanisation versus the Environment in Pacific island countries* (also in French) by J.-F. Dupon and C. Morhange of ORSTOM; and no. 7, *Coral Reef Blasting: the Nauru Case* (in English only) by T. Tebano of USP.

These were written with high school and university-level students in mind, and are excellent background for discussing some of the major causes of environmental problems in the Pacific today - especially poorly-regulated or planned urban expansion.



Fact Sheet no. 9, *Traditional Conservation of Marine Resources*, by J. Veitayaki of USP, explores why traditional conservation methods were successful in conserving marine resources, and how we could use these methods now to conserve the remaining living marine resources on our reefs.

The conclusion and signing of the Agreement Establishing SPREP as an autonomous organisation was a momentous time for the region's newest intergovernmental organisation. Coverage of this meeting can be seen on the video *SPREP Treaty Meeting*, 14 - 16 June 1993. Limited copies are available in English and French.

For latest lists for these publications and videos, and others, contact the Director of SPREP. ☺☺☺

Stop Press

UNEP has now called for nominations for:

The Gobar 500

Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement and

The Gobar 500

Youth Environment Award

Fax the Director, SPREP
(685 - 20 231) for selection criteria and nomination forms.

Conferences and Training Meetings

Title:

Nature Conservation: the Role of Networks.

Where?

Geraldton, WA, Australia.

When? 15-20 May 1994

Theme:

Networks of people are our conservation force, networks of vegetation are our conservation resource.

Organised by:

CSIRO, University of Auckland (NZ), WWF, and CALM (WA, Australia).

Contact:

Dr D. Saunders
CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology
PO LMB no.4
MIDLAND, WA. 6056
Australia
Fax: (619) 252 0134

Title:

XVIII Pacific Science Congress

Where?

Beijing, China.

When? 5-12 June 1995

Theme:

Population, Resources and Environment: Prospects and Initiatives.

Organised by:

Pacific Science Association.

Contact:

Secretariat, XVIII Pacific Science Congress
c/- Institute of Atmospheric Physics
Chinese Academy of Sciences
PO Box 2718
BEIJING, 100080
P.R. China

Title:

Resource and Environmental Management Course

Where?

Canberra, Australia

When? 20 June - 15 July 1994

Theme:

Environmental management of natural resources, particularly appraisal.

Organised by:

ANUTECH and Australian National University.

Who for?

Ministries of Environment, Forestry, Agriculture, Development, Planning, and private organisations and NGOs.

For more information:

Mr George Collet
ANUTECH Ltd
GPO Box 4
CANBERRA, ACT. 2601
Australia
Fax: (616) 249 5875



Fiji's State Minister for Lands, Urban Planning and the Environment, Hon. Joeli Kalou (centre), opened the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Apia Convention in Suva in September. Representatives from four of the six Parties to this regional treaty attended.

(Photo: SPREP)



The Pacific Environmental Assessment and Management Information System (PEAMIS), based at SPREP, leaped forward recently with the signing of a new memorandum of understanding with the Asia / Pacific office of UNEP's Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Activity Centre. Funding is now assured for 1994 to implement Phase II of this innovative project.

SPREP's Director, Dr. Vili Fuavao, is signing the MOU, with (from left) Surendra Shrestha (UNEP/GRID Bangkok) Bismarck Crawley (SPREP) and Dan Claasen (UNEP/GEMS Nairobi) looking on.

(Photo: SPREP)

Meetings '94

Date	Meeting	Venue	Officer
January			
18 - 26	19th Session of IUCN General Assembly	Buenos Aires	
--	<i>Expert Meeting to Assess Proposed Regional Pollution Prevention Programme</i>	Apia	L. Tulega
February			
7 - 10	Economic Growth with Clean Production	Melbourne	
--	<i>Ministerial Meeting on Regional Pollution Prevention Programme</i>	Apia	L. Tulega
--	<i>National Pollution Awareness Workshop</i>	Apia	L. Tulega
March			
--	<i>Meeting on the Regional Convention to Prevent and Control Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste</i>	Suva	SPREP
--	<i>National Pollution Awareness Workshop</i>	Palau	L. Tulega
April			
11 - 15	Tourism Ecodollars	Mackay	
--	<i>Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States</i>	Barbados	G. Miles
--	<i>National Pollution Awareness Workshop</i>	Tokelau	L. Tulega
May			
18 - 28	WMO Meeting for Regional Association V	Noumea	N. Koop
23 - 27	World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction	Yokohama	N. Koop
June			
--	<i>Workshop on Plastic Waste Disposal</i>	Malaysia	L. Tulega
--	<i>Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme Steering Committee Meeting</i>	Apia	SPBCP
September			
5 - 15	International Conference on Population and Development	Cairo	M. Chung
--	<i>7th SPREP Meeting</i>	Tarawa	SPREP
October			
--	<i>WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme Meeting</i>	Nadi	N. Koop
--	<i>CITES Conference</i>	USA	SPBCP
November			
--	<i>2nd SPREP Regional Meeting of Meteorological Service Directors</i>	?	N. Koop

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

The Last Word ...

from the Editor

Welcome to this issue of *Environment Newsletter*. Firstly, an apology for this delay in receiving this issue, but SPREP has been involved with many meetings in recent months.

Some of these meetings are reviewed in this issue. This year's Forum in Nauru highlighted the continuing concerns of the region's leaders with the role of the environment in attaining sustainable development by protecting the finite natural resources of Pacific island countries. A report and a summary of the environmental points from the Communiqué from the Forum Leaders' Meeting is in this issue.

Environment Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day. These are celebrations held by countries around the region to highlight the importance of our local environment. We begin a round-up of national activities in

1993 to celebrate these days. Fiji, Nauru and Kiribati are covered in this issue. Please send your article to me publicise your activities in the next *Environment Newsletter*.

Training workshops have now commenced for the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project, the first being held at the National Tidal Facility in Adelaide, Australia. A report on this meeting and plans for future meetings are also in this issue.

The environmental media is also in focus in this issue, with some information about the new "One World" project managed by Radio Australia in close association with SPREP, and activities at this year's Pacific Island News Association (PINA) Conference in Suva.

The regular features continue. *EnviroNews* gives short environ-

mental stories from around the region, *Environment Book Review* looks at new newsletters and other publications from various regional sources, including SPREP, and this issue includes the first list of conferences and workshops for 1994.

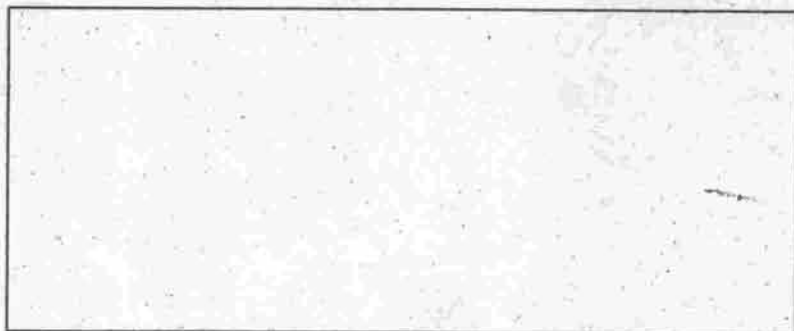
Lastly, a reader survey was distributed in the last issue of *Environment Newsletter* (no. 33). The information from this survey will be vital for assessing the effectiveness of this major publication from SPREP. Have your say - complete this simple two-page survey and return it to SPREP. If you require another survey form, contact the Editor at SPREP. Please, we need your views to improve our publication.

Malo 'Aupito,
Wesley Ward
Editor

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Air Mail

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