



Pacific Governments and NGOs Make Strong Impression at Barbados



Pacific island countries were strongly represented by national governments and NGOs at the *Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* and the *NGO Islands Forum '94* in Barbados in late April/early May, 1994.

The Barbados Conference, and associated NGO activities, were the first international meetings to address sustainable development and implement *Agenda 21*, after Rio. They concentrated on the special needs of small island developing states (SIDS).

Agenda 21 reflects the global consensus and political commitment at the highest levels for sustainable development and environmental co-operation. The special circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS was recognised during the negotiations for, and adoption of, Agenda 21 at the Rio Earth Summit.

In implementing Agenda 21, therefore, and in accounting for the special needs of small islands, a *Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States* was negotiated at two intergovernmental Preparatory Committees. These were held in New York in 1993 and 1994. The final Programme of Action was adopted at Barbados during the high level heads of government session.

The issues addressed in the Programme of Action were easily agreed on during the negotiations. These included:

- ☒ Climate Change and Sea-level Rise;
- ☒ Natural and Environmental Disasters;
- ☒ Waste Management;
- ☒ Coastal and Marine Resources;
- ☒ Freshwater Resources;
- ☒ Land Resources;
- ☒ Energy Resources; and,
- ☒ Tourism Resources.

National, regional and international actions were identified for each issue.

The difficulties arose in negotiating sections on implementation, monitoring and reviewing the Programme of Action. There were special difficulties in

- ☒ the provision of financial resources;
- ☒ trade issues;
- ☒ intellectual property rights; and,
- ☒ the provision of resources for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to assist in implementing the Programme of Action.

During these negotiations, Pacific island representatives negotiated as part of the broader Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which was chaired by the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN, Ms Annette des Iles. Pacific island countries joined other regions - especially the Caribbean and Indian Ocean countries - to ensure that the world was well aware of their common needs.

SPREP was active as a technical resource for Pacific island countries, and the broader AOSIS group. It has become well recognised for providing effective assistance in negotiations for Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action.

Some international organisations and donor countries also took advantage of the gathering in Barbados to investigate more effective ways to address environmental issues facing small island developing states. These included discussions on:

- ☒ how the Pacific could best gain access to financial assistance through the GEF;
- ☒ possible future directions for US donor aid in the region; and,
- ☒ ensuring input from Pacific island NGOs was accounted for in negotiations for the Programme of Action.

(see *SusTech* feature on Page 3)

Tourism and the Pacific Islands

Bright Future, With Care

Although the South Pacific accounts for only a tiny portion of the world's tourism market - less than 1% - foreign tourism is a major source of foreign exchange for many Pacific island countries. In some countries it is the main earner of foreign exchange.

Island Governments Hesitant

Pacific islands have significant natural and cultural attractions and outstanding marine features. With small land areas and populations, and a narrow base for agricultural exports, there is potential for tourism to encourage economic and sustainable development.

However, many island governments are reluctant to recognise the potential presented by tourism, as they fear possible adverse social, cultural and environmental effects.

Surveys indicate that the natural environment is a popular reason tourists visit the region. There is a growing desire from tourists for more active holidays with some education in local history, culture and the environment. Governments are also beginning to direct promotions towards special interest groups such as divers, big-game fishers, adventurers and ecotourists.

Poor Management Damages Environment

Tourism is blamed for damaging natural and cultural environments worldwide. There are unfortunate examples of uncontrolled and poorly managed tourism development, which eventually destroys the very environment that originally attracted the tourist.

However, when tourism is well-managed and controlled, it can become a tool for nature and cultural conservation. Tourists can and do pay for natural and cultural experiences, provided they are readily accessible, unique and interesting. Conserving biodiversity and other environmental features, be it an ecosystem or a single species, is a difficult and expensive task. Governments can turn to tourism to help fund these conservation activities effectively.

Tourist Markets Fickle

The tourism market is fickle, with national industries depending mostly on regular air and ocean links through international and regional carriers. National airlines have been established to provide these links, but they have only just begun to penetrate world markets. Long-term efforts must be maintained in this area.

The varied natural environments and distinct cultures of the Pacific islands are a magnet to tourists around the world. Sufficient accommodation space and appropriate international, regional and local air links, supported by well-developed inbound travel and tour services in the region, will ensure Pacific island countries can market their tourism potential effectively.

Take Care With Planning Tourism

Unfortunately, in the rush to undertake mass tourism and massive new hotel construction, local communities and environments are often overlooked. The accompanying negative social impacts have already induced local community backlash in some locations - tourists have become unwelcomed and resented.

Sustainable tourism development means that the unique environmental, cultural and social systems of the Pacific islands must be maintained, to preserve the main tourist attraction of Pacific islanders as "the friendly people".

From the Tourism Council of the South Pacific's input to the Barbados Conference, 24 May 1993.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.



The Naviti Fijian Resort, Viti Levu, Fiji. A poorly planned and designed sea wall has been destroyed, along with the beach it protected.

Photo: SPREP.

Visit the South Pacific Year

1995 has been declared Visit the South Pacific Year, the centre of tourist promotion activities during this year. Environment - natural and cultural - is the theme for the promotion activities for overseas markets.

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from the director's desk



The Director
Vili A. Fuavao

I recently returned from the Barbados Global Conference on Sustainable Development of the Small Islands Developing States, therefore the speeches of the Plenary Sessions and the political negotiations of the Main Committee of the Conference are still fresh in my mind.

The successes and disappointments of Barbados reflect the commitments and efforts in achieving sustainable development, and the harsh realities of the current global economic situation.

Throughout the Conference, countries around the world spoke of the meaning of sustainable development, recognising the need for economic development to keep up with population growth while also protecting our fragile environment. This was the central theme of the messages from the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, and it was strongly reiterated in Barbados.

From these meetings, I have noted that definitions of sustainable development differ from country to country, from region to region. This difference is even more pronounced when deciding on the strategies for implementing action programmes needed to achieve sustainable development.

Achieving sustainable development requires a major rethink of national development plans in the region. Environmental concerns should be an integral part of economic growth, and vice versa. Development programmes in tourism, fisheries, and agriculture must be redefined to meet requirements for achieving sustainable development.

It is proper, therefore, that this issue of SPREP's *Environment Newsletter* focuses mainly on one of the important development programmes - tourism, particularly ecotourism.

There has been much debate over the true definition of ecotourism, though I believe there is general agreement that the "eco" stands for "ecological concerns". There is also a general perception that the role of ecotourism is to provide economic benefits to local communities. Surely one can argue that this should be the objective for all tourism.

I do not disagree with this sentiment, but ecotourism should impresses the spirit of a community approach to tourism on all people.

In travelling throughout our region I am impressed by the number of ecotourism projects now being

developed. The prominent feature of the Pacific countries is our complete dependence on foreign exchange and the fragility of our environment.

For the small countries in the Pacific the idea behind ecotourism fits in well with many current national development strategies.

Tourism promotion is the primary responsibility of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP). SPREP and TCSP have had contacts on the issue of ecotourism, and I believe a closer working relationship between the two organisations is in the making.

Whatever the role of SPREP in ecotourism, it should be emphasised that it is to assist TCSP and member countries in ensuring that ecotourism is implemented in an environmentally-friendly manner, and so ensuring its future viability as an economic activity that conforms with the goals of sustainable development.

SusTech '94

A Pacific island company was assisted by SPREP and UNDP to participate in the **SusTech '94** exhibition. This exhibition displayed various small scale and appropriate (and some not-so-appropriate) technologies suited for use on small islands.

Tony Hill, of *Aegis Oil (Samoa)*, was well rewarded for his participation in the exhibition, displaying his plant which recycles used oil.

His video and poster display drew great interest, especially from other small island countries who also face increasing problems from waste disposal on limited land areas.

This, together with the *SOPAC* exhibition, gave the Pacific islands a high profile among SusTech exhibitors.



Tony Hill, Aegis Oil (Samoa) (left), discusses his oil recycling plant with Fiu Elisara Mataese (UNDP) (middle) and Gerald Miles (SPREP) (right).

Photo: SPREP.

Tourists and Marine Parks - Can They Live Together?

Dr Wendy Craik is the Executive Director of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), based in Queensland, Australia.

This Marine Park is a classic model of multi-purpose use of an important marine conservation area, and so Dr Craik has experienced in the challenges presented in developing these areas. In a recent interview with *One World's* Carolyn Court, Dr Craik explained the key issues in planning tourism schemes in marine and coastal zones.

Developing tourism in marine and coastal areas is of great interest to people of the Pacific islands. However, these developments must also retain the elements of the natural environment that originally attracted tourists.

GBRMPA's experience in managing a coral reef environment has shown that there are a number of factors to consider when assessing applications for new tourist operations and so protect the environment.

■ Sediment

If it is necessary to dredge a channel or build a marina or wharf, the main concern is sediment. Sediment smothers corals and clouds the water thereby spoiling the potential tourist attraction of diving and snorkelling on coral reefs.

■ Nutrients

Research shows that nitrates and phosphates affect reef growth. Phosphates weaken the corals skeleton and nitrates lead to faster growth of algae, which changes coral community to an algal community.

These nutrients occur in run off from agricultural fertilizers used on farms, cleaning detergents, human and animal sewerage and water treatment from, or near, tourist resort areas.

■ Physical damage

Anchors and anchor chains damage reefs. The boating public are encouraged to anchor over sand and to use a pronged anchor rather than a larger, heavier one. Plastic tubing over the end of anchor chains can help minimise damage.

Excessive diving and snorkelling can also damage coral. This damage can be minimised if divers and snorkellers are guided by an interpretative guide and warned about standing on corals. They must be educated to care for reefs.

■ Overfishing

If fishing is part of a tourist attraction, then there must be some controls to ensure that fish catches are not excessive, and that small animals such as shell fish are replaced where they are found.

New Environmental Technologies

New, appropriate technologies are now making tourism more sustainable. Small package sewerage treatment plants, which can be installed on isolated resort islands, remove nutrients from the sewerage.

Reef pontoons provide a flat platform on a reef, which not only reassures tourists but protects reefs from physical damage by snorkellers standing on the reef.

Improved moorings for public use reduces the number of anchors dropped. Public moorings are now a condition for some tourist permits for site operators in the GBRMP - they supply moorings so tourists do not have to drop their anchors daily.

For the Pacific

This knowledge and experience can be transferred to operations in the South Pacific, through aid projects or commercial ventures. These new ideas must be adapted to local conditions - these ideas cannot be directly transferred from one place to another. However, the ideas used for moorings, pontoons and sewerage treatment have been tested around the world, and could easily be translated into a viable local package.

GBRMPA works closely with other countries and aid agencies to assist Pacific island countries in using this organisation's experience.

From *One World*, 15/4/94.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.

Cruising yachts anchored in Lami Harbour, Fiji. Do we need to better place their mooring sites?

Photo: SPREP



Bouma, Fiji:

A Study in Village-based Tourism

The *mataqali* (clan) Naituku in Bouma village controls 1,434 ha of land on Taveuni Island, Fiji. The land is rugged and steep, supporting dense tropical rainforest. The land around the village, however, is cleared for food gardens and copra plantations.

The efforts of the *mataqali* Naituku have resulted in a successfully protected area, with locally-owned and managed land, developed sustainably. The area relies on nature tourism as the basis for economic development while protecting an important natural forest from destructive logging practices.

Community Driven

Bouma village accomplished this by:

■ addressing development issues.

Protecting the larger environment was a significant factor in deciding to conserve their forest. The community understood that the forest was vitally important for water and soil conservation. The forest also provided a source for hunting and for gathering some plants.

Protecting the forest, however, was secondary to their needs for development and generating income. Therefore, the native tourism project seeks to fulfill these needs, using forest protection and management. So, development was the key factor underlying community commitment to manage the forest, and forest protection is only part of their development process.

■ being a unified community.

Bouma is a close-knit community of related people, with a common interest in developing their resources. The *mataqali* also has formal land tenure.

■ gaining access to technical expertise and funding.

The *Maruia Society* (NZ) assisted by documenting the biodiversity values of their forest. The *Fiji Native Lands Trust Board* and the *Ministry of Forests* also supported and assisted the *mataqali* Naituku, and the NZ Government financially supported the development of the forest park.

Continued success will depend on the willingness of the outside contributory parties, both national and international, to allow the Bouma community itself to plan and manage their land, ensuring they are not dominated by outside views and agendas.

Others Can Learn

This experience could be useful to other communities in the region "seeking environmentally sound paths to development". Other Fijian communities are interested in the experience at Bouma - other *mataqali* have approached the Native Lands Trust Board wanting to establish similar nature tourism enterprises.

However, all new initiatives must be based on the development aspirations of the landowners. If they can build a protected area proposal into the wider development objectives, and they can recognise the available opportunities that complement nature protection, the proposal is more likely to start and survive.

Excerpts from Annette Lees, "Lessons from the Pacific: linking traditional ownership development needs and protected areas", in *Parks* 4:1, Feb. 1994, pp.41-47.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.

A History of Tourism at Bouma Village ...

The *mataqali* Naituku has been guiding tourists to a local waterfall, about one kilometre from the main coastal road around Taveuni, for over 20 years. The *mataqali* charged tourists a small amount of money, which was locally considered a large income. This income funded village housing, education and other social needs.

In the late 1980s, the *mataqali's* land was considered for logging in an island-wide project, and they withdrew their land from the proposal. They were concerned about the effects of logging on their income from nature tourism, and on their environment generally.

The *mataqali* Naituku then drew up a land management plan with the help of the Native Lands Trust Board, who administers indigenous lands in Fiji. They later extended the tourism operation into the forest surrounding the waterfall, with financial assistance from NZ.

Their commitment to protect the forest was sealed by a *vaka vanua* - a binding traditional agreement. There was also a Memorandum of Understanding between the *mataqali* Naituku, the Native Lands Trust Board and the Ministry of Forests. It is hoped that the current 200-ha protected area will be extended to include more forest and to protect nearby sacred tabu land.

In the *vaka vanua*, the *mataqali* declared that they will not effect "any act or thing on the area which would be harmful to the environment", and will "allow activities that are conducive to nature preservation and the enhancement of communal nature and forest based tourism".

PNG:

Tourism a Viable Alternative for Rural People



Richard Curzon recently represented Kilo Curzon Tonge and Associates, a company operating several tourism projects in PNG. In this article, he describes the Mailu Island Tourism venture, which begins operations later this year.

The article is from an interview with Carolyn Court of Radio Australia's *One World* environmental radio program.

Governments and the private sector now recognize that tourism can play a significant role in PNG's economy, according to Richard Curzon of Kilo Curzon Tonge and Associates, a company operating tourism projects in PNG.

It is also seen as a way for rural people to earn an income from visitors, offering an alternative to other activities such as logging forests.

Why ecotourism?

Ecotourism is also called rural and environmental tourism in PNG, and focuses mainly on remote areas. People in remote areas, with few sources of income, can benefit from this small-scale, alternative industry. Some tourists are now willing to pay substantial sums of money to "rough it" in rural areas. An added advantage is that the enterprises do not have as much impact on traditional lifestyles as larger establishments.

Mailu Island venture

The project at Mailu Island, in eastern PNG, was initiated by the local people, the traditional landowners of Mailu Island. Papua New Guineans are very proud of their attractive environment - rugged tropical rainforests often lie next to pristine coral reefs. The Mailu people believed they had something to offer, and so they sought advice on how they could develop the area for small-scale tourism.

The Mailu people also have traditional lifestyles which could prove to be very interesting to visitors. They have a unique tattoo culture, as well as toea and kina, the traditional "shell currency" of PNG. They also have a remarkable architecture based on stories of "flying magic" and witchcraft.

The Mailu people are also known for their pottery, which was part of an ancient trading system that stretched along the coast of Papua: from Milne Bay and the Trobriand Islands, through the Central Province of PNG, to Indonesia.

There is still much traditional canoe sailing, and the surrounding seas are rich in sea life. Spectacular walks in rainforests can also lead to mountain views of the surrounding islands.

Getting Started

Kilo Curzon Tonge and Associates became involved when the Mailu people sought advice on starting the venture. Company staff were familiar with the area through friendships with people living there. Some spoke the local language, which was an important bond in establishing a working relationship with the people. The company provided the Mailu impressions of what "outside" people might want to see.

At first, the Mailu people thought they needed to build developments which they had observed in other countries. The company impressed upon them it was what they possessed, culturally and environmentally, that they should highlight and promote.

The feasibility study for the venture is now complete, funds are available, and architectural plans have been drawn up for a development based on traditional architecture and building materials. An

advertising and promotion plan is also being assembled. The attractions, such as the coral reefs and the forest pathways, have been identified and are being developed.

Numbers of tourists will be limited, possibly even to certain seasons, so as to minimise the impact of visitors on the Mailu people and the environment. This will allow a "rest period" from visitors so that the Mailu can attend to traditional activities and repair the tourist facilities while there are no visitors around.

Returns to the People

Twenty to thirty tourists will pay \$50-60 for a 2-3 night stay, including food and transportation. Sales of crafts, such as pots, toea and kina, and attending non-sacred ceremonies will be additional income sources from the visitors. Up to 500 people are expected to visit each year.

Minimising Environmental Impacts

Solar panels will provide power for lighting, air-conditioning, and pumping water. It is planned to store non-biodegradable wastes such as plastics, and remove them from the island to a yet-to-be built recycling centre on the mainland. Of course, the traditional Mailu already use materials that produce biodegradable waste, such as products from the coconut. It is hoped that environmental impact from the development will be minimal.

from *One World*, 14/4/94.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.

Tourism Blong Pasifik?

By David Stanley

Tourism is one of few avenues of economic development available for many Pacific islands.

The main tourist markets of Australia, North America, Europe, NZ, other Pacific islands and Japan are often targeted by particular countries in the region. Unfortunately, local natural and cultural environments are affected by contact with these tourists.

Japanese interests have increased dramatically in recent years, investing in hotels in Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. Most attention has focused on luxury hotels and all-inclusive holiday packages - with minimal returns to local economies. Profits are repatriated, as are salaries for top managerial positions, commissions and sales of goods. Only 40% of net earnings from "transnational" tourism actually stay in the host country.

Travel is often only promoted to destinations where there are sizable investments by these international companies. As a result, some companies have a "death grip" on local tourism, able to stop the flow of tourists overnight by cancelling tours, bookings and flights.

Pacific island governments have encouraged hotel construction, by allowing crippling tax concessions and huge infrastructure investments - airports, power, communications and sewers - which benefit these foreign companies.

"Mass" tourism undermines the local social fabric by establishing "enclaves of affluence", creating local dissatisfaction and desires impossible to fulfill. Traditional living is disrupted as custom and government land is converted to resorts and recreation.

Local beauty spots are bought, commercialised, and made inaccessible to locals. Resorts pollute lagoons with sewerage and other waste, reefs are blasted for boat access, and corals and shells are stripped from the reef. Local water sources are diverted to hotels, and food prices soar.

Overseas tourists can benefit from experiencing local cultures, but they can also undermine these cultures. Traditional dances may be modified to suit tourists; celebrations held out of context. Handicrafts are mass produced according to tourist expectations. Authenticity is sacrificed for profits.

Packaged holidays create the illusion of adventure, while avoiding risks and individuality. On many tours, the only islanders seen are maids and bartenders. This elitist tourism continues the colonial master-servant relationships. Island governments favour developments based on local resources and businesses, but this is rarely applied to tourism.

What seems to be needed is softer, people-oriented tourism. Smaller, family-oriented, locally-owned businesses benefit islanders directly and contribute to local development. Guest house tourism offers excellent opportunities for local employment, especially for women. "Independent" travellers may spend less per day, however they tend to stay longer and better appreciate and respect local cultures.

Appropriate tourism needs little investment, there is less disruption, and control remains with local people. Luxury hotels are monotonous - the Pacific is the place for something different.

from *Tok Blong SPPF*, May 1993, 4-5.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.



Marshalls Considering Nuclear Waste Storage

RMI's Ambassador to USA, Wilfred Kendall, announced that his government will study the feasibility of becoming the world's repository for nuclear wastes. He said that "the Marshall Islands had inherited a legacy of contamination from nuclear tests in the 1940s and the 1950s".

"We have islands that are of no use for 10,000 years", he said from Washington, USA, after returning from recent talks in Europe.

Kendall described the proposal as "a very serious undertaking" that must meet stringent international regulations before being approved, adding that it was now being considered by scientists and government bodies in Europe and USA.

If the proposal were approved, it is projected that RMI could receive billions of dollars in revenue for storing the waste.

AFP, in *Samoa Observer*, 5/5/94, p7.

Latest El Niño Finishes

The latest *El Niño Southern Oscillation* event has now finished, according to NIWA, New Zealand. Variable rainfall conditions have returned to most South Pacific islands, particularly drought-affected areas in Melanesia (New Caledonia) and eastern Polynesia. There were two cyclones in the Western Pacific in January.

The recent El Niño event lasted for 3 years, as long as two previous, very long episodes earlier this century.

South Pacific Climate Monitor, 1/94, pp.1-2.

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Landowners Take on Mining Giant over Ok Tedi Mine

The future of Papua New Guinea's mining industry - which last year provided 38 per cent of PNG's export earnings - is now under a cloud. Melbourne-based lawyers Slater and Gordon have taken out a K4 (USD4.4) billion legal action against Australia's mining giant, BHP, on behalf of 6,000 villagers along the Ok Tedi River.

The largest litigation claim in Australia's history, it is being initiated over alleged pollution caused by the Ok Tedi's copper mine operated by BHP.

Slater and Gordon conducted "Litigation Patrols" by boat, down the Ok Tedi River to sign up villagers. They presented the villagers with lists of impacts from the mine - all of which were negative.

The Times of PNG, 5/5/94

Polynesian Supports NGOs and Media to Barbados

Polynesian Airlines, Western Samoa's national airline, was congratulated by the UN for assisting representatives from Pacific NGOs and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) to attend the Small Islands Conference at Barbados in April.

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary General for Policy Co-ordination and Sustainable Development, praised the airline for showing the world that "island states are willing and able to contribute in a most meaningful way to ... Barbados".

UN press release, 23/4/94.

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National Activities

Western Samoa:

A Logging Agreement to Save a Forest?

Aopo village, on the island of Savai'i, is the site of a unique experiment to save a part of the endangered cloud forest of Western Samoa.

The Western Samoan environmental NGO, O Le Siosiomaga Society, or OLSS, now has exclusive rights to log a six-square mile area of the Aopo cloud forest for the next 20 years. On 16 April, OLSS presented a cheque for WS\$ 112,000 (US\$ 42,600) to the village, as part of an Agreement signed earlier this year.

The money for the Agreement was provided by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation in a separate agreement with OLSS. In return for the funds, OLSS undertakes not to use the logging rights, and Aopo village is committed to using the money in ways which will not degrade the environment.

In fact, OLSS has no intention of logging the cloud forest. This logging agreement aims to pre-empt individuals, Aopo village or any others from logging or removing dead or live trees from the area for the duration of the Agreement.

The Aopo cloud forest currently contains a range of rare indigenous tree species. It could also become a refuge for birds and other animals as they are forced from lowland coastal forests because of logging, spreading plantations and the recent cyclones. Both conservation societies involved consider that conserving the forest is essential for maintaining Samoa's biodiversity.

The local member of parliament for Aopo and Minister for Women's Affairs, Hon. Polataivao Fosi, supported OLSS's effort to protect the forest, and was recently commended by the Society for his assistance.

OLS press release, 15 April 1994.

New Village-Based Conservation Project

Aopo, Letui and Sasina villages, on the big island of Savai'i, together own one of Western Samoa's few remaining and significant lowland forests.

These villages will be assisted by the national *Division of Environment and Conservation* (DEC) and the Savai'i-based NGO, the *Faasao Savai'i Society*, with funding from USA, to protect this forest.

The project aims to plan future income generating and sustainable activities such as ecotourism, handicraft production (especially carving), and the development of medicines from forest plants. Villages will be encouraged to protect the forest, instead of resorting to unsustainable logging for "quick" income.

The project began with village meetings in April this year, followed by surveys to investigate current

uses of the forest by villagers.

The Planning Grant from the USAID-funded *Biodiversity Conservation Network*, from Washington, DC, will encourage small businesses. Enterprises such as carving make good business sense. An *ifilele* tree may be worth over \$2000 if converted into 'ava bowls, while the logging companies will pay only \$30 to fell it.

DEC will work with other government agencies, including the *Ministry of Women Affairs* and the *Forestry Division* of the Department of Agriculture and Forests.

An intact forest provides a storehouse of products useful to people, a home for Samoa's unique animals and plants, a source of clean water and a means of preventing soil erosion. This must be a convincing argument for protection.

American Samoa:

Governor Signs Lease for National Park

The long-awaited lease for the American Samoa National Park was recently signed by the acting Governor of American Samoa, Tuae Sunia.

American Samoa's National Parks Service will lease 8,000 acres on the north shore of the main island, Tutuila, and on Ta'u and Ofa island. This has eventuated five years after the initial legislation was passed in USA.

The park will protect unique rainforests, as well as rare animals and plants important in Samoan culture. It will also help identify and protect the ancient archaeological and legendary sites in its boundaries.

The park is unique in USA, as it is based entirely on leased land - necessary because of the local land tenure system. Landowners are protected in that they are allowed and encouraged to use the park for traditional uses, such as gathering plants for traditional medicines and harvesting existing taro, banana and coconut plantations. Most of the land is steep and rocky, and is unsuitable for urban development or commercial agriculture.

At the signing of the lease, the acting Governor said that "this park will provide many long-term benefits for the people of American Samoa, as well as protect our beautiful islands for our future generations of Samoans and all Americans."

Local people will be trained as park rangers and for administrative positions. Local contractors will benefit from park-related developments. The park will also attract tourists who are more likely to be respectful of Samoa's traditional culture.

The lease is one step toward establishing the park. Nine village councils and individual matai (title holders) will now work through the High Court to finalise the proportions of rent to be paid to each group. The Court will then hold hearings to clarify and approve these distributions. Any disputes on ownership or boundaries will not be decided by this Court.

The appraised value of the lease is US\$337,000 per year.

From *Rainforest Echoes*, Le Vaomatua, American Samoa.

Ed.: The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor. @@@



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NZ Pays Damages to Nauru

- NZ's Foreign Minister, Don McKinnon, confirmed that NZ has paid Nauru for its share of the damage caused to Nauru by phosphate mining. NZ and UK have each agreed to pay around USD 8 million towards the earlier settlement by Australia. NZ has not accepted liability for the issues in the original World Court case brought by Nauru.

NZPA, 23/5/94.

UNCLOS Will Enter into Force

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was recently ratified by Guyana, the sixtieth member of the UN to do so. This is the minimum number required for UNCLOS to come into force. The date is set for 16 November 1994.

The Convention covers a number of issues for managing natural resources and conservation: fisheries, marine pollution, conserving species and protecting habitats.

UN press release.

Pacific Monitors Banned from Solomons

Importing the Pacific monitor lizard (*Varanus indicus*) into Solomon Islands has been banned from 28 September 1993.

Traffic Bulletin, 14:2, 1/94.

Waste Incinerator Closed

After local protests and frequent breakdowns, the French Polynesian government has closed down the controversial Tamara waste incineration plant. Fermentation processing at Tamara will continue, however, despite problems with the disposal of by-products.

Washington Pacific Report, 12:11, p5.

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SPREP Climate Change Workshop
Participants at the opening of the recent subregional workshop in Honaraon changing climates and sea levels included scientists, journalists and teachers. Read more on page 13.

Photo: SPREP



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Australia Delays Implementing Ocean Dumping Ban

Australia will not stop ocean dumping of industrial wastes for two years, as it delays ratifying the London Convention. This is to allow zinc tailings to be disposed of (by an Australian mining company) into the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand.

Greenpeace has criticised Australia's move, saying "as long as the dumping continues, how can Australia regard itself as environmentally minded?" The dumping of the tailings is due to stop in 1997.

Greenpeace press release, 21/2/1994.

Japan May Postpone Plutonium Power Projects

In apparent response to international concerns over its plutonium supply, the Japanese government announced it may postpone a series of plutonium power projects. This will also affect plutonium shipments through Pacific islands. A final decision will be announced in a few months.

Washington Pacific Report, 12:11, p5.

Regina Amendments Now in Force

The Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Regina, Canada, in 1987, adopted amendments that greatly strengthened the Convention. These especially influence the decision-making and financial stability for the Ramsar Secretariat, based in Switzerland.

With subsequent agreement to the amendments by Denmark, they will now come into force on 1 May 1994.

Ramsar Sec.
Press Release, 22/3/94.

Regional Biodiversity Programme Reviewed

Technical conservationists from Pacific island countries gathered in Apia, Western Samoa, to review the early progress of the five-year, US\$10-million project to help protect endangered biodiversity in the Pacific islands.

The first meeting of the advisory group for the *South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme* (SPBCP) was held on 9-11 February. Participants reviewed progress since the start of the Programme in April 1993.

The SPBCP aims to establish, and initially manage, a series of diverse conservation areas, which will often combine areas of land and sea. This recognises the critical interdependency of land, coastal and nearshore environments in Pacific islands.

Human activities will be guided in these areas to protect important ecological features and species, while still enabling local people to use the area's natural resources. Local people and landowners will also be closely involved with planning and managing these areas.

This Programme is managed by SPREP and is funded by the GEF, a joint effort of the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. The Programme covers fourteen Pacific island countries.

Ten project proposals for nine South Pacific countries, ranging from the conservation of whole islands to the protection of specific

sites, were considered by the Group during this inaugural meeting.

Countries submitting proposals to SPBCP included FSM, Fiji (2), Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

Projects approved by the advisory group will receive financial and technical support from the SPBCP during 1994. Further funding for these and other projects will be subject to progress achieved as the project unfolds.

The advisory group helped the Programme identify, evaluate and select the candidates for these conservation area projects from member countries. It also reviewed the concept proposals for these conservation areas and their development; monitored and evaluated conservation area projects now being implemented; identified priorities for research, the types of surveys, data analysis and interpretation to be used for these conservation areas; endorsed an annual work programme for the SPBCP; and advised SPREP and UNDP on technical, administrative and management aspects of the Programme, in particular, and on the GEF in general.

These experts originated from many fields, including community development, ecology, resource management, biological sciences, and programme design. There were also representatives from NGOs and member governments, as well as SPREP, UNDP and AIDAB.

Conferences

What? *Second Global Conference: Building a Sustainable World through Tourism*

When? 12-16 September 1994.

Where? Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Who? 1500 delegates from 80 countries.

Objectives: Participants will:

1. present and discuss 200 success stories of sustainable tourism worldwide.

2. develop the Montreal Charter - the "Agenda 21 for Tourism".

For more information, contact:

International Institute for Peace
Through Tourism (IIPPT)
3680 rue de la Montagne
MONTREAL, Quebec
H3G 2A8 Canada

Sanctuary for Pacific Whales in Southern Ocean

In an historic move for marine conservation, the *International Whaling Commission (IWC)*, at its recent annual meeting in Mexico, designated a vast area of the Southern Ocean as a whale sanctuary.

The *Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary*, originally proposed by France in 1992, received increasing support from a majority of IWC member nations in the last two years. SPREP member nations Australia and New Zealand were among the strongest supporters for this initiative.

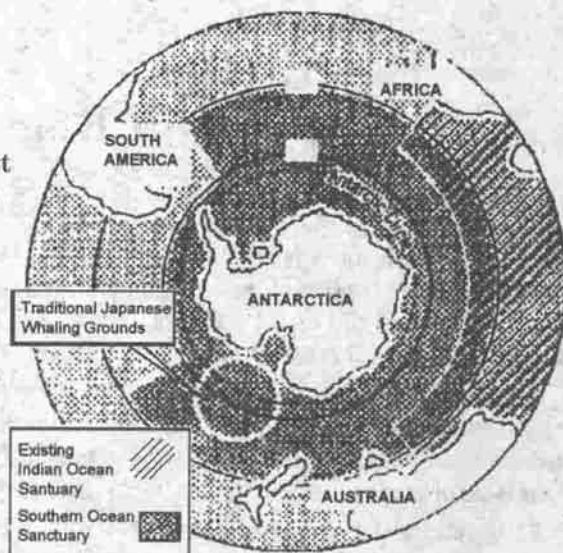
The Sanctuary will protect seven of the eight species of great whales; minke, blue, fin, sei, humpback, southern right and sperm, from commercial whaling if the current moratorium is lifted. The boundaries of the sanctuary were designed to cover these species' feeding grounds and most of their migratory ranges. Whale harvesting previously concentrated on feeding grounds as the congregations of whales made harvesting there most economic.

It has been estimated that past commercial whaling has reduced these species to less than 10% of the original biomass. Only the minke whale remains relatively abundant, although it is estimated that original numbers in some stocks have been reduced by up to 50 percent.

Japan alone voted against the Sanctuary, and also pressed for a harvest quota of minke in the region. However, the reduced biomass, lack of evidence for recovery of any whale population and recent information showing that the former Soviet Union took thousands of whales illegally under the previous management scheme, combined to convince the IWC that the Sanctuary is vital for whale survival.

As seen on the map, the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounds the South Pole, with the northern boundary fluctuating between 40 and 60°S latitude. In the Pacific, the boundary runs at 40°S until it reaches 130°W, where it moves southward to 60°S, excluding waters immediately around South America. The Sanctuary includes the Indian Ocean Sanctuary, extending the southern boundary to the coast of Antarctica. It will be reviewed every ten years.

The only southern hemisphere whale species not protected by the sanctuary is the *Bryde's* ("brodahs") whale, which feeds in tropical waters around many SPREP



The new Southern Whale Sanctuary

Source: WWF

member countries. Many other whale species also migrate to these warmer waters to breed.

Nations have the power to prohibit commercial whaling inside their 200-km Exclusive Economic Zones. This has been done by many countries, including some in the South Pacific: Chile, Australia and New Zealand.

SPREP's *Regional Marine Mammal Programme* is currently looking at the effect of the new sanctuary on SPREP member countries, and will advise them on its influence at a meeting later this year.

SPOCC Meeting:

More co-operation, less duplication

Regional co-operation and avoiding duplication headed the agenda at a recent meeting of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC).

The sixth annual SPOCC meeting, held on 14 - 15 February in Apia, Western Samoa, was opened by Western Samoa's Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, Hon. Misa Telefoni, and chaired by the Director of SPREP, Dr Vili Fuavao.

The SPOCC meeting is an opportunity for heads of regional organisations to discuss issues of mutual concern, and in particular to co-ordinate work activities.

The activities discussed in Apia included rationalising marine resources programmes; developing programmes on remote sensing and geographic information systems; programmes in coastal management and disaster preparedness; preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States, held in Barbados in May 1994; and developing a common position for funding from the Government of Canada.

The meeting also discussed agreed guidelines for institutional matters such as organisational management, budgeting, hiring consultants, conducting meetings and the possibility of pooling insurance arrange-

ments to save costs. Lastly, there was also discussion on the likely issues for the next meeting of the South Pacific Forum, to be held in Brisbane in July 1994.

Members present were the Secretary-General of the Forum Secretariat, Hon. Ieremia Tabai; Secretary-General of SPC, Ati George Sokomanu; Director of FFA, Sir Peter Kenilorea; Director of SOPAC, Mr Philipp Muller; Pro-Vice-Chancellor of USP, Prof. William Pattie; and the Director of SPREP.

SPOCC members will next meet in Brisbane before the South Pacific Forum, in August 1994.

Pacific Island's Vulnerable Coastlines at Centre of Regional Meetings

Protecting the Pacific's vulnerable coastlines was the concern of two recent regional meetings, the first being held on 21 - 23 February in Apia, Western Samoa.

The coastlines of Pacific island countries are extremely vulnerable to erosion and destruction from cyclones and storm surges.

This destruction will only increase if the prediction of rising sea levels and more cyclones and storm surges occurs. As most people live on or near the coast in the islands, leaders are concerned about the effects of this destruction on coastal villages and nearby urban areas and industries, especially tourism and agriculture.

At the last South Pacific Forum meeting in Nauru in July 1993, SPREP, in consultation with SOPAC, was directed to convene workshops of officials and experts on options for coastal protection.

First Meeting

Thirty participants from fourteen island countries and experts from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, SPREP and SOPAC met in Apia to discuss the issues, problems and needs for coastal protection in Pacific island countries. They also identified appropriate future actions required to act on these needs.

A follow-up action from the first meeting was a second, more general meeting for officials from member governments. These personnel reviewed the coastal protection systems appropriate to the needs and capacities of Pacific island countries. This meeting was held on 16 - 20 May 1994 in Suva, Fiji.

Appropriate Systems

This second meeting recognised a number of features for coastal protection systems appropriate to the

Pacific islands. The need for effective coastal protection systems in the region was due to increased use of, and pressure on, the coastal zone for infrastructure, commercial, residential and recreational uses.

Healthy coral reefs and undisturbed beaches and mangroves are Nature's way of protecting a coastline, and are the best and most effective coastal protection systems. However, with increased use and pressure on the coastal zone, and with the lack of proper management the meeting noted that man-made protection structures must now be considered in certain situations.

Effective man-made protection structures in the region required broader considerations and long-term planning rather than a "quick-fix" site-specific response to a problem at a particular time. Currently, man-made protection structures are often for "asset protection" rather than "coastal protection", since these structures can lead to degradation of the coastline elsewhere.

Needs and Priorities

Eight general needs were defined at the first meeting, and further illustrated in presentations by member countries at the second meeting. The needs were ranked in order of importance in each country. While all areas were regarded as being important, high islands and atolls were recognised as having different priorities. However, all countries agreed that rectifying deficiencies in mapping and data collection was a high priority.

The eight general areas of need are the:

- ☒ mapping and collection of data to better understand physical and biological processes in coastal zones;
- ☒ integrated management of coastal zones;

- ☒ education and public awareness;
- ☒ regulatory regimes;
- ☒ consideration of social and cultural practices;
- ☒ assessment of coastal sand and gravel resources;
- ☒ consideration of economic issues; and,
- ☒ coastal engineering.

Better Planning is Essential

It was recognised that better long-term planning was required. Environmental impacts should be studied and assessed before any development activity is allowed in the coastal zone.

Forum Countries, and other island countries and territories represented at the meetings, have a limited pool of expertise in coastal protection. Future national and regional efforts will develop, strengthen and use this pool of expertise.

Donor funds have, and will continue to be, vital to economic development in the region's coastal zones. Donor support is vital, and must be sought, for providing effective management and protection of the coastal zones. There will be substantial costs in satisfying the needs identified. It was suggested that to assist with providing sufficient funding for coastal protection programmes, appropriate economic or financial instruments should also be sought to help fund these needs.

Next Step:

Brisbane Forum Meeting

The draft resolutions from the second meeting will be considered by the next Meeting of the South Pacific Forum in 1-2 August 1994, in Brisbane, Australia.

Forum Scientists Discuss Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

Scientists from Forum island members in Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia have gathered at three sub-regional meetings, in Apia, Nadi and Honiara, to discuss sea level rise and climate change in the Pacific.

Government ministers from Fiji, Solomon Island and Western Samoa opened the training workshops for the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project during April.

The ministers pointed out that sea level and climate change are priority environmental issues for many countries in the region. The South Pacific Forum first raised concerns about man-made global warming and possible sea level rise at the 1998 Forum Meeting. The Project developed from this meeting.

Sea level and climate change was also a major point for discussion at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and at the Barbados Conference on small island states in April-May 1994.

The South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project involves the long-term monitoring of, and research into, changes in sea levels and climate. The processed data from this monitoring and research is then made available to participating Pacific island countries.

SPREP's Climate Change Officer, Dr Chalapan Kaluwin, stated that considerable amounts of scientific information and data will be distributed by the Project. He mentioned that the training workshop allowed qualified personnel to translate information into a form that can be more easily interpreted by decision-makers in Forum island governments.

"The information from this project will assist the governments of the region develop appropriate policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, so minimising or mitigating sea level rise and changing climate in the region", said Dr Kaluwin.

The workshop, organised by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), also included resource personnel and technical assistance from the National Tidal Facility, or NTF, at the Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia. NTF has established a series of eleven sophisticated monitoring stations in eleven Forum member countries over the past two years.

This AUS\$ 7-million project is funded by the Australian Government for the Forum Island countries.

Understanding Changing Climates Vital for Pacific Island Industries

Understanding changes in the region's climate is vital for agriculture, fisheries, tourism, public works and development planning, said Western Samoa's Director of Agriculture, Afioga T. S. Aveau. He was addressing the recent meeting of climate experts in Apia, Western Samoa. Mr Aveau also noted the importance of the region's meteorological services to delivering vital weather services to Pacific island peoples.

The Director was welcoming members of the Project Co-ordinating Committee Meeting of the *Pacific Meteorological Services Project*. This meeting, held on 16 June, reviewed the Project's activities, which include improving meteorological equipment and providing training for the region's meteorological services.

The improved equipment and training will be used to address concerns associated with natural and man-made climate changes.

Aveau praised Australia for undertaking and funding this important project, and also acknowledged the assistance of other international partners in meteorology, including NZ.

One vital piece of equipment for monitoring weather conditions, particularly cyclones, is the barometer, which is used to measure air pressure. The old mercury barometer is the current standard used in most Pacific islands. These are now difficult to maintain, and constitute a health and environment problem, as mercury is highly toxic. Removing these old barometers was considered a high priority by the meeting. New equipment from Australia, including barometers, will be installed around the region.

Experts will visit Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea early next year to determine their requirements for equipment. Further equipment for all 10 countries in the project (which includes Fiji, Solomon

Islands, and Western Samoa) will be purchased during the project as needs are identified.

The second component of the Project is staff training, and inspection of meteorological facilities. Project Manager Dawn Thistlethwaite, from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, stated that this would commence when a trainer was recruited for the Project.

This training, over 2 and a half years in 10 countries, will further educate meteorological staff in establishing and maintaining a meteorological monitoring programme. Training will be conducted in-country to ensure that all staff are properly instructed in using and maintaining their own equipment.

The Pacific Meteorological Services Project will be the basis for a region climate monitoring network for the next century, a valuable and vital need for Pacific island countries in their planning for future natural and man-made climate changes.

The project will be reviewed at its close in 18 months, by AIDAB, to determine any future needs.

Pacific Sustainable Development Network Commences Work

The Pacific Sustainable Development Network (PSDN) recently commenced work, with a Secretariat initially based at SPC in Suva.

With the financial assistance from UNDP, the PSDN was setup to enhance information exchange and communication channels between Pacific island organisations and NGOs. These groups are committed to co-operate in promoting sustainable development, especially at the community level.

The PSDN will address the needs of communities in sustainable development, by improving their access to national, regional and global information services, and improved networking between organisations already dedicated to providing sustainable development information to these communities.

The widespread PEACESAT system and Pactok (a low-cost communications system) will be used to access regional and global databases and information systems, an important part of the SDN. The information gained will be aimed at local communities, as well as national extension services and NGOs.

Access to InterNet, a computerised global information network, is

provided either through a PEACESAT link to UH, in Hawaii, or USP in Suva. Pactok will be a complementary computer communications system, available to all Pacific island countries through normal telephone lines.

Pactok presently operates in PNG, and to a limited extent in Fiji, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. It uses personal computers and modems and is simple to learn and operate.

Pactok can send electronic mail, computer "conferences" and files and documents at a relatively low cost, which is important for the long-term sustainability of any computer communication system for Pacific island countries. Pactok also provides access to InterNet and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) networks.

The Pacific SDN will stimulate and provide support for extending Pactok to a number of Pacific island countries. The PSDN Secretariat is well positioned to provide this training, as it will initially and primarily focus on using computer communications.

from SPC Agriculture Newsletter, June 1994.

Funding

NGO Small Grants Programme

Donor:

GEF (UNDP, UNEP, World Bank)

What for?

Support for small-scale activities that promote local solutions to global environmental problems.

Aim:

To identify and demonstrate community-based approaches to reduce threats to the global environment if replicated widely over time.

Amount: up to US\$ 50,000.

Who for?

community groups, NGOs and NGO networks.

Priority areas:

global warming, protecting biodiversity, international waters and ozone depletion.

Criteria:

1. promote community participation in project design, implementation and evaluation;
2. involve local organisations;
3. focus on women and indigenous groups;
4. use local scientific and technical resources; and,

First Pacific SDN Training in Suva

The Pacific SDN commenced its training activities in April with a training workshop on Pactok, which was hosted by SPC and the Asia Foundation at the SPC office in Suva, Fiji.

The Pactok network provides an accessible and affordable electronic mail (e-mail) system for the Pacific islands. Consequently, NGOs and others expressed considerable interest in Pactok. They also committed computer hardware to the system, and became members of Pactok.

The workshop participants recommended that the PSDN:

- ☒ use Pactok as one of its communication systems;
- ☒ finalise a project proposal to assist the setting up and training of staff at Pactok "host" and NGO user sites in Fiji, Vanuatu and Western Samoa; and,
- ☒ develop guidelines, including objectives, membership, member responsibilities, and a management committee, for use by the local Pactok "host".

This training and initial support is essential for continued use and growth of Pactok.

Assistance is also being sought for the first year for administration and polling charges, the Pactok network hub, gateway redundancy and amortization of the hub's equipment.

5. provide for local capacity building.

For more information, contact:

(Western Pacific)

Resident Representative

UNDP Office,

Private Mail Bag

SUVA, Fiji.

Fax: (679) 301 718

or

(Central Pacific)

Resident Representative

UNDP Office

Private Mail Bag

APIA, Western Samoa.

Fax: (685) 23 555

New Information Directory Nears Completion

People talk about modern times as the "Age of Information". Experts also complain of "information overload", and of being "buried under paper".

In the Pacific, however, there is an additional problem - it could be termed the "tyranny of distance". There is much information available regarding the Pacific islands that could be used to address environmental and development problems, but it is often scattered around the region and the globe, in a number of institutions. It may also be difficult to obtain due to copyright and ownership restrictions.

This is most true of spatial data - information based on maps, aerial photographs, satellite images and digital data. For any one country, this information could be held by national agencies, regional organisations, former colonial administra-

tions, regional teaching institutions, consultants or libraries.

This scattering of information leads to the real possibility of duplication and wasted efforts and funds.

The *Pacific Environmental and Natural Resource Information Centre* (PENRIC), based at SPREP, is working on this problem with a number of national and regional organisations scattered around the region. These organisations are members of a regional *Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Users Group*, who are collaborating with SPREP and *Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd* to produce the *Pacific Information Directory*.

This Directory lists the sources of spatial information available in the region - maps, GIS and remote sensing data and aerial photographs. It also lists organisations and trained personnel who house and use this

information, the formats and software they use, and other useful information to encourage data sharing and exchange.

The first edition of the Directory is nearing completion, and will soon be distributed to members of the GIS Users Group and others in the region, including environment and development agencies. It will be published as a book and as a set of appropriate database files on computer diskette.

It is intended that this so-called "metabase" (information about information) will be regularly updated by regional GIS information users.

For more information, contact:

The Director, SPREP,
PO Box 240,
Apia, Western Samoa.
Tel.: (685) 21 929
Fax: (685) 20 231
E-mail: sprep@pactok.peg.apc.org

Training Courses and Workshops

What? GIS for Resource Decisions.

Time: 30/1-24/2/95

Place: ANU, Canberra, Australia

Who? Professional managers in resource management.

Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. understand the principles and potential of GIS as a tool for resource management;
2. develop skills in using GIS to store, retrieve and analyse complex resource and environmental data; and,
3. develop skills in applying GIS to real world decisions for resource management and planning.

For more information, contact:

Mr George Collet
ANUTECH Ltd
GPO Box 4
Canberra, ACT. 2601.
Australia.
Fax: (61-6) 249 5875, 257 1433

Name: Management and Development of Coastal Fisheries.

Time: 24/10-25/11/95

Place: USP, Suva, Fiji

Who? Fisherfolk, policy makers, middle management in government agencies, NGOs and private enterprise.

Objectives:

Participants will:

1. analyse factors that influence the exploitation of coastal fisheries;
2. highlight the complex physical and cultural aspects of the coastal environment, and the need for an integrated approach to developing coastal fisheries;
3. investigate alternative strategies for managing and developing sustainable fisheries; and,
4. focus on special groups such as women to enhance their roles in self-reliant fisheries.

For more information, contact:

Director, IOI-South Pacific
PO Box 1168
SUVA, Fiji.
Tel.: (679) 304 556
Fax: (679) 305 559
E-mail: south_r@usp.ac.fj

What? International Development Training Programme

Time: 7/94 onwards

Place: UNE, Armidale, Australia

Who? Middle management professionals.

Programmes, and Time:

NGOs in Development

27/7 - 30/8/1994

Agro-forestry Management

16/1 - 17/2/95

Water Resources Planning and

Management 8/3 - 4/4/95

Urban and Rural Planning and Local

Development Policy 3/5 - 6/6/95

National Park and Wildlife Management

20/9 - 24/10/95

For more information, contact:

Program Director
International Development Training
Programme
PO Box U298, UNE
Armidale, NSW. 2351.
Australia.
Tel: (6167) 73 3248
Fax: (6167) 73 3799
E-mail: DSP@une.edu.au



Books, videos, slides and other materials from SPREP and other environmental organisations in the Pacific islands.

SPREP Catalogues Revised for 1994

SPREP has revised its catalogues of technical and meeting reports, and education, extension and training materials, which includes videos and posters. A reminder also that all SPREP publications are free of charge for SPREP's Pacific island member countries.

Write to the Director of SPREP for your copies of these and all SPREP publications and videos.



New SPREP Books

A number of meeting and technical reports have recently been published by SPREP, including:

- ❑ *First Coastal Protection Meeting* (SOPAC Misc. Pub. 175) - SPREP and SOPAC;
- ❑ *Environmental Guidelines for Harvesting Coral Reefs* (SRS 75) - S. Wells, P. Holthus and J. Maragos;
- ❑ *Implications of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Palau* (SRS 76) and *FSM* (SRS 77);
- ❑ *Energy Audit for SPREP Office* (SRS 70) - Greenpeace;
- ❑ *Estuarine Crocodile in Vanuatu* (SRS 74) - Marcus Chambers and D. Esrom;
- ❑ *Proceedings of 5th South Pacific Conference on Nature Protection and Conservation*, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Vol. 1 and 2 - ed. A. Farago;
- ❑ *Strengthening Environmental Legislation in the Pacific Region* - ed. Ben Boer.

All publications are the results of SPREP projects and activities in the region, which may present useful examples in their fields.

New SPREP Videos

Videos are also an effective form of media for showing case studies. SPREP, with assistance from the Media Unit at USP's *Institute for Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture*, has produced two fine examples in:

- ⊕ *Waste Not, Want Not* - profitable waste oil recycling in Western Samoa; and,
- ⊕ *The Wrath of "Val"* - the effects of Cyclone "Val" in Western Samoa.

These were produced for major international conferences to display the attempts of Pacific islanders to address our environmental problems. *Waste Not, Want Not* also has a supplementary brochure to describe the oil recycling process in more detail.



New Staff at SPREP

Dr **Andrew Tilling** is the new *Biodiversity Officer (Socio-economics)* in the SPBCP based at SPREP.

Andrew hails from New Zealand, and holds a PhD in social forestry. He has extensive experience in community forestry, project management, rural development, land-use planning and resource management and market research. His has experience in Cook Islands, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Sue Miller is the most recent recruit at SPREP. She comes from NZ, where she was a conservation scientist and programme manager with WWF-NZ.

She has an M.Sc in Ecology, and wide experience in areas covered by SPREP's species conservation programme. Her most recent as-

signment was helping to establish the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. She replaces Adrienne Farago as *Biodiversity Officer (Species)*.

Gary Spiller is an ecologist and environmental planner who joined SPREP in April as the new *Biodiversity Officer (Biodiversity)*.

Gary hails from Canada, and has a Masters of Science in Biology (Ecology) from McGill University, Montreal. Gary has worked for a number of donor agencies in Palau and PNG, as well as Belize, Brazil, China, Colombia, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Philippines.

Lucas Dosung joined SPREP from Matheson Library, UNITECH, in Lae, PNG, where he was the Deputy Librarian. He has a Masters in Library Studies from UH, Hawaii, USA, and experience in a

number of specialist libraries around PNG. He is the *Co-ordinator* for the new *SPREP Library and Information Centre*.

Satui Bentin is the *Senior Library Assistant* in the new SPREP Library and Information Centre. She is now completing a B.Lib.Stud. from Canberra University, Australia, and comes with extensive experience from the USP libraries in Western Samoa and Fiji.

Other new staff starting at SPREP include **Amy Grace Tielu** (*Administration Officer*) - replacing Ueligi-tone Sasagi, **Usugafono Valasi** and **Ruta Leutele** (*Office Assistants*), **Maria Cavanagh** (*Conference Assistant*) and **Quandovita Reid** (*Registry Assistant*). SPREP welcomes all new staff members.

Meetings '94

Date	Meeting	Venue	Officer
July			
28 - 29	Forum Officials Meeting	Brisbane	Forum Sec.
August			
1 - 2	Sub-regional Meeting on Coastal Management Training Needs	Honiara	A. Smith
1 - 2	2nd TMAG Meeting for SPBCP	Apia	M.I. Reti
1 - 4	South Pacific Forum Meeting, and Dialogue Partners Meeting	Brisbane	Forum Sec.
4 - 5	4th Meeting for Regional Marine Turtles Conservation Project	Apia	S. Miller
8 - 10	Regional Workshop on Pollution Prevention	Nuku'alofa	L. Tulega
8 - 12	Climate Change and Environment Issues	Port Vila	C. Kaluwin
22 - 31	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee 9: Convention on Climate Change	Geneva	C. Kaluwin
September			
5 - 13	International Conference on Population and Development	Cairo, Egypt	M. Chung
12 - 16	Environmental Teachers' Training Workshop	Savai'i, W. Samoa	G.G. Salesa
15 - 22	SOPAC Annual Session	Majuro	SOPAC
19 - 30	Environmental Media Training Workshop	Honiara	G.G. Salesa
October			
3 - 5	2nd SPREP Regional Meeting of Meteorological Service Directors	Nadi, Fiji	N. Koop
6 - 14	WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme Meeting	Nadi, Fiji	N. Koop
10 - 14	Greenhouse '94	Wellington	C. Kaluwin
11 - 13	7th SPREP Meeting	Tarawa	SPREP
25 - 29	ESCAP Committee Meeting on Environment and Sustainable Development South Pacific Conference	?	Bangkok SPC
November			
Early	Forum Officials Meeting	Suva	Forum Sec.
7 - 18	CITES Conference	Fort Lauderdale, USA	SPREP
-	1st Meeting of Biodiversity Convention	tba	
-	Pacific BioNet Planning Meeting	Suva	S. Miller
February, 1995			
6 - 17	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee no. 10: Convention on Climate Change	Geneva	C. Kaluwin
March, 1995			
-	First Conference of Parties to the Convention on Climate Change	Germany	C. Kaluwin

The Last Word ...

In this issue of Environment News, we address a growing and important debate in our region - the effect of the rapidly growing tourism industry on fragile island environments.

Opposing views believe the further development tourism will either save our fragile island economies, or destroy our island cultures and environments. We look at some of these issues from both sides, and at a few examples of local tourism initiatives that seek to protect and enhance the local environment.

The *Barbados Conference* on sustainable development for island countries has come and gone. We study the implications of the Conference for Pacific island countries, and the follow-up commitment and action that is required to achieve the goals of the *Action Programme* signed by most Pacific island governments at the Conference.

It has been said that information is power, and the Barbados Conference recognised that sound, appropriate information was vital to the achievement of sustainable development in small island states. The *Pacific Sustainable Development Network*, which seeks to link existing information sources in the region with local Pacific communications, has now commenced. A report on its first workshop is included in this issue.

The regular features also continue, with upcoming conferences and workshops, book reviews and *EnviroNews*.

Please feel free to send in comments concerning the content and appearance of this *Newsletter* - this enables us to improve our service to you.

Kaselehlie,
Wes Ward
Editor

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