



# New Negotiations Start for Climate Change Convention

**P**acific island representatives are seeking to further reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a new round of negotiations that commenced in Geneva in August.

By 2000, under the current United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, all countries who are Parties to this convention are already bound by international law to cut emissions of gases, which warm the Earth's atmosphere, to 1990 emission levels.

These latest negotiations, however, will look beyond 2000. This is based on scientific evidence that more drastic reductions in the so-called "greenhouse gases" are needed to ensure that the climate of the 21st Century will allow all ecosystems to adapt to a warming global climate.

For Pacific islands, the ultimate aim is to agree on, and implement, a Protocol to this Convention to set targets and a timetable to further reduce greenhouse gases after 2000.

Climate change, shifts in rainfall patterns and rising sea-levels are the most severe environmental threats for the future from global warming in this region. Most small island states emit few harmful gases, but they stand to suffer the earliest and greatest impacts of this potentially dire event.

Under the umbrella of the Alliance of Small Island States, Pacific island countries have worked successfully with their colleagues from the Caribbean and other small island states to persuade developed countries to further cut greenhouse gases. They have also pressed the need for new technology, such as solar power, fuel-efficient vehicles and modern agricultural practices, to be readily and cheaply available to developing countries.

As scientific research reveals new facts on the science of climate change, and the impacts it may bring, Pacific islanders should ensure that their negotiations reflect this new knowledge. SPREP plays an important role in gathering, interpreting and disseminating this scientific information to support the ongoing negotiations.

The five days of negotiations started on 21 August. Neville Koop, SPREP's Meteorology and Climatology Officer, attended this first meeting to provide technical and scientific advice to Pacific island delegates.

This important meeting, and those to follow, are vital to all people, however Pacific islanders especially should carefully study the outcomes of these negotiations.

More meetings are planned in the next two years, to culminate in a draft Protocol to be endorsed by all Parties to the Climate Change Convention in 1997.

### Stop Press!

## SPREP Treaty now in force

SPREP has gained full independence from SPC and is the Pacific's newest independent, regional organisation.

On 31 July, Niue became the tenth country to ratify the Agreement Establishing SPREP, which required ten ratifications to become legally effective. The Agreement came into force on 31 August, over two years after it was first negotiated and signed in Apia, Western Samoa.

"This is a historic occasion for the region and for SPREP", said the organisation's Director, Dr Vili A. Fuavao, from Tonga. "This was a process begun by member countries in 1990, culminating in the formal, legal establishment of SPREP as an autonomous, intergovernmental organisation."

"It is also very timely that this should happen just before the SPREP Secretariat hosts the eighth annual meeting of its twenty-six member governments and administrations," added Dr Fuavao. "This meeting will now have to decide on the procedural formalities for conducting its affairs, as SPC meeting rules will no longer apply", he said.

The **Eighth SPREP Meeting** will meet on 11-13 October in Apia. Senior representatives from member countries and administrations, and a wide range of observers from other governments, institutions and organisations concerned with the environment in the Pacific islands, are expected to attend.



Let our turtle family live!

1995 Year of the Sea Turtle



## Barbados Advisory Committee meets for first time

The Pacific region will have its first opportunity to review progress on sustainable development since the Barbados Conference when its Advisory Committee meets in Apia in October.

This Advisory Committee was established last year by the South Pacific Forum when it met in Brisbane, Australia. It is part of the Pacific's response to the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The Committee includes SPREP member governments, NGOs, regional organisations, development banks and the UN system. It will review recent actions covered in the Programme of Action.

After this review, the Committee will advise the SPREP Meeting on areas of the Programme requiring more attention. This report will then be sent to the UN's Commis-

sion on Sustainable Development, which was established in 1992 to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 - the global blueprint for sustainable development finalised at the Rio Earth Summit.

This Advisory Committee meeting is timely for the Pacific as the Commission will review the oceans and small island parts of Agenda 21 when it meets in early 1996. Thus, the region has an opportunity to send a strong message to the United Nations on the progress of sustainable development in this region, especially as the Pacific is providing a model for other island regions in this follow-up to Barbados.

The Advisory Committee is supported by SPREP and the Pacific Operations Centre of ESCAP. SPREP and ESCAP are also gathering complementary data on the implementation of the Programme of Action by member countries.



Unsustainable development such as this clearing of marginal agricultural land will come under scrutiny.

Photo: SPREP

Gathering this information for the first time is difficult, but once established, this database of activities can be easily updated.

The *Committee Meeting*, on 10 October, precedes the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* on 11-13 October in Apia. For more information, please contact Gerald Miles, the Sustainable Development Officer at SPREP. ☺☺☺

## Palauan Wins Top Environment Award



Orte of Palau's waterways - the site of Noah Idechong's tireless efforts.

Photo: SPREP

Well-known Palauan environmentalist, Mr Noah Idechong, was recently awarded a prestigious *Goldman Environmental Prize* for his efforts to save Palau's threatened coral reefs.

The former chief of Palau's Division of Marine Resources won US\$ 75,000 in the Island Nations category, one of six annual awards from the *Goldman Environmental Foundation*.

Palau has possibly the highest diversity of marine species in the Pacific, and was recently ranked one of the "Seven Underwa-

ter Wonders of the World". Mr Idechong has enforced marine regulations to protect Palau's incredible coral reef systems.

Noah Idechong created a model for marine conservation in the region. He convinced Palauan chiefs to reinstate a traditional conservation measure, or bul, to limit fishing in spawning channels in village reefs between April and July each year, so protecting these fisheries. This has created a bridge between custom and modern science, and provided a model for using traditional conservation ethics elsewhere in the region.

Idechong oversaw the installation of mooring buoys at Palau's most popular and fragile scuba-diving sites to protect coral from repeated

The Secretariat is currently busy preparing for the annual *SPREP Meeting*. This is an opportune time to reflect on issues that affect the implementation of SPREP's work programme and the efficient operation of the organisation.

The agenda of the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* in October in Apia is substantial and ambitious. We have tried to place more emphasis on work programme activities, given the emphasis on institutional and policy matters in earlier meetings.

Various SPREP projects, including those dealing with biodiversity conservation, population, climate change, education and information, and institutional strengthening, will be examined. The *Pollution, Waste Minimisation and Management Programme* has not progressed as well as had been envisaged in the 1994 meeting in Tonga, where the programme was first formulated and endorsed by member countries. However, the imminent appointment of the Waste Management Officer will help rectify this problem.

New initiatives such as the proposed *Regional Convention on Hazardous Wastes* and the *International Coral Reef Initiative* will also be reviewed. Both activities call for SPREP to coordinate and actively participate in the proposed actions.

We are all encouraged by the region's active participation in the 1995 campaign for the "1995 Year of the Sea Turtle". Your response to date has been fantastic, and we are beginning to see positive steps taken by some countries to save this regional treasure.

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I hope this campaign has convinced you that the fate of marine animals such as turtles and whales are in your hands. As the end of 1995 fast approaches, let us hope that the campaign's messages will continue well beyond this year.

Niue's instrument of ratification for the *Agreement Establishing SPREP* was received by the Western Samoa Government, the depositary of the Agreement, on 31 July. This Agreement establishes SPREP as an independent regional organisation, thus completing the amicable separation of SPREP from SPC. The Agreement comes into force on 31 August.

This event marks a new chapter in the history of SPREP. However, while we applaud this occasion, the issue of membership will again be on the agenda of the SPREP Meeting. This will need to be addressed at the start of the meeting.

**SPREP  
Director,**  
Dr Vili A.  
Fuavao



The *Meetings of the Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions* will meet before the SPREP Meeting. The Parties will discuss ways to better implement these conventions, especially in light of commitments made for other recent international conventions and conferences.

The first meeting for senior officials to follow-up the *Barbados Conference* will also precede the SPREP Meeting. To date, the Secretariat has been active in providing information and advice to member countries at the GEF Council in many related issues. Officials will review these and other activities since Barbados, and provide future directions to SPREP in this area.

Looking forward to meeting with you in Apia,

Soifua,

Vili Fuavao,  
Director.

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## Palauan Wins

### Top Environment Award

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anchor damage from dive boats. Palau's tourist industry depends on its pristine reefs to attract a growing Asian tourist market which is particularly keen to snorkel and dive among these reefs.

Idechong also helped secure passage of a nationwide marine resources bill. As it was the first time in Palau's history that a government had placed restrictions on fish-

ers, he also had to overcome significant distrust from this significant group.

In 1994, Noah Idechong resigned his government post to become the first director of Palau's major environment NGO, the *Palau Conservation Society*.

With Palau's new political status of free association with USA, the world's youngest nation is no longer bound by US environmental laws. With independence has also come new interest in Palau's development from foreign investors. This could

be potentially harmful to marine ecosystems, especially as Palau does not have fully developed natural resource regulations.

"The greatest challenge we (now) face is to safeguard our natural inheritance for ourselves and our children", said Noah.

**Ed.:** Congratulations to Noah for his well-deserved prize. Thanks also to the Goldman Foundation for providing this information.

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# Innovation Needed to Save Pacific Biodiversity

A recent meeting discussing the establishment of effective conservation areas in the Pacific islands has called for more work on looking at how Pacific island peoples can exploit their unique plants and animals without driving them to extinction.

Mr Bing Lucas, a conservationist well-known in this region, presented a number of existing and innovative funding options to the third meeting of the Technical and Management Advisory Group for the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP). These options included trust funds, user fees, special taxes, alternative incomes, sponsorships and international funding.

The meeting recognised that natural resources in conservation areas should be used by local people to meet their development needs, which might include income-earning activities which do not harm the long-term survival of these resources.

The meeting also acknowledged that some plants and animals, such as marine turtles, have been over-used. The region's turtles will require both extra resources and huge reductions in the harvest of these

creatures to ensure their survival in the Pacific.

## Opening

On opening the five-day meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu's Third Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Environment, Mr Tiro Vanua, highlighted the importance of environmental consequences in national and regional actions, addressing various conflicts in the Pacific region.

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*"Environment ... has moved to the top of the regional and international agenda."*

*Tiro Vanua, Third Secretary,  
Ministry of Health and Environment,  
Vanuatu.*

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Mr Vanua noted the growing significance of the environment in regional affairs. "Hardly a day passes without news confirming that the environment is very important to the economic, social and political developments of our countries, and the issue has moved to the top of the regional and international agenda", said Mr Vanua.

In his reply, SPREP's Director, Dr Vili Fuavao, stated that "the real challenge now lies in our ability to

turn this (SPBCP) initiative into viable and sustainable conservation areas". Dr Fuavao stressed that it was "a task upon

which rests our hope for the protection of important biological resources - our region's unique plants and animals - for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations".

Dr Arthur Dahl, the co-ordinator of UNEP's global Earthwatch programme, chaired the meeting.

## The Programme

Technical advisers, aid experts and SPBCP staff discussed the progress of the SPBCP in planning, establishing and managing fourteen conservation areas in ten Pacific island countries. Other issues considered by the meeting were:

- how local communities, non-government organisations and government agencies are cooperating to establish and develop these conservation areas;
- continuing support for developing conservation areas in general in the Pacific islands; and,
- the options available for expanding the SPBCP.

## Field Visit

The meeting ran from 29 May - 2 June. On the last two days, the meeting moved north to Santo Island to visit the most advanced of the SPBCP's conservation areas at Big Bay. Vatthe Conservation Area, as it was recently named locally, is one of the few remaining areas of intact lowland rainforest left in Vanuatu, and so is very important for the survival of many of country's endangered plants and animals.

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Dr Arthur Dahl (from left), from UNEP, Mr Iosefatu Reti, SPBCP Manager, SPREP, and Dr Vili Fuavao, Director of SPREP, at TMAG '95 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Photo: SPREP

**Vanuatu:**

# Vatthe Conservation Area

The first features a visitor notices about the land around Matantas village are the huge rainforest trees and the high canopy. As you walk through the lush undergrowth you hear the cries of fruit bats and birds high in this canopy - enormous numbers of black fruit bats and birds unique to the lowlands of Espiritu Santo, the largest island in Vanuatu.

It is the unique animal and plant life that makes the *Vatthe Conservation Area* so important to the local people in the villages of Matantas and Sara. And it is the SPBCP that has helped bring these villages together to conserve the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest in Vanuatu.

During a recent *kustom* ceremony held at Matantas, chiefs from both villages agreed to put aside past differences over land tenure to help save this unique forest from logging companies that were close to the boundaries of the forest. A *namele* palm was planted to seal the agreement between the chiefs, a sign of commitment from both villages.

A number of projects have been initiated in the region as part of the SPBCP and other projects, including eco-tourism, agroforestry, marketing, health and literacy for women. By developing these business and education opportunities, it



A young Matantas villager gathers megapode eggs from the nearby forest.

Photo: SPREP

is hoped that these communities will fund their own development activities by sustainable use of their natural resources, rather than relying on the "quick money" offered by the logging companies.



## The South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme

Conserving the unique plants and animals of the Pacific islands is perhaps the most important basis for the development and survival of its society. Pacific islanders rely heavily on the living natural resources of their islands, reefs and ocean for their food and shelter as well as their economic, social and cultural well-being.

In recent years the region has been recognised as having many species unique to their islands. The region also has the most extensive reef systems in the world and vast, complex marine ecosystems.



This incredible variety of plants and animals, or biodiversity, is also amongst the most threatened in the world. It has been estimated that 75 percent of all birds and mammals to become extinct in recent history were living on islands.

A review carried out by the SPBCP found that the loss of island birds was "an outstanding example of the depletion (due to) the impact of human actions on Pacific island environments".

Past attempts to protect important areas of this region's biodiversity have generally not worked as they have isolated the land from the local communities who depend on it for their livelihood. Most island governments have little power over land allocation, and this also severely limits how they establish and manage protected areas.

The SPBCP recognises these problems and the unique situation of the Pacific islands and aims to conserve biodiversity with the active participation of local communities, NGOs and government agencies. These groups work together to establish and manage a series of conservation areas, aiming to develop communities based on the sustained use of their local natural resources.

The SPBCP is a US\$10 million, five-year project set up to establish viable, locally-managed conservation areas in fourteen SPREP member countries. The project is managed by and based at SPREP, and is funded by UNDP, through the GEF, and AusAID. The project will finish in 1998.

For more information, contact Mr Iosefatu Reti, the SPBCP Manager at SPREP.





Environment news for the Pacific Islands

## France Recommences Nuclear Testing

France's President, M. Jacques Chirac, announced the restart of nuclear weapons testing at its Mururoa atoll test site on 13/6/95. It has done so amid protests from most Pacific island leaders, who fear for the environmental consequences of a nuclear accident.

Greenpeace press release, 13/6/95, and Reuters, 13/6/95.

## Tonga Rejects Whaling Plan

The Tongan government has rejected plans for a Japanese company, MACA Pacific, to commercially hunt whales in Tonga waters.

In rejecting the proposal, the government ruled Tonga should continue its 1980 moratorium on whaling and protect the growing whale-watching tourism industry.

Tongans traditionally hunted 10 humpback whales per year until this was halted by royal decree in 1980. The Japanese proposal was to catch 50 humpback, 200 sperm and 100 mincke whales per year, considered "unsustainable" in a report from SPREP to the Tongan government. *Samoa Observer*, 24/5/95, 18.

## Hawaii Joins Turtle Campaign

The State of Hawaii recently joined its Pacific neighbours in declaring 1995 the "Year of the Sea Turtle".

Hawaii's House of Representatives recognised this important campaign in raising the awareness of Pacific people to the plight of the disappearing sea turtles. It agreed to work with the SPREP members to achieve the goals of the campaign.

Hawaii State Government, 9/5/95

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# Rap Highlights Turtle Plight for Pacific Youth

"Turtle, Turtle", a rap music video with an urgent conservation message, was launched in June by SPREP and leaders of Auckland's Pacific Island community in New Zealand.

"We are facing the loss of sea turtles unless harvests are drastically reduced. The Pacific's youth listens to rap so we are using the music they identify with to get the urgent conservation message across", said Sue Miller, SPREP's Turtle Campaign Officer.

The turtle rap is the latest initiative in the regionwide "1995 Year of the Sea Turtle" campaign. Twenty seven nations and over a dozen NGOs are campaigning together to save sea turtles from extinction. All six sea turtle species are endangered in the Pacific, largely due to over harvest. Sea turtles migrate throughout the region, feeding and breeding in different countries, so regional cooperation is crucial to their survival.

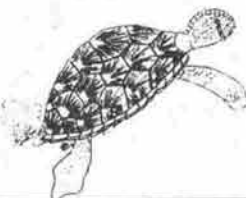
"People must realise that we can't leave conservation work just to the governments and conservation groups. It's up to all of us to play a part or we will lose sea turtles forever," said the song's composer Shane Rivers at the first public screening of the music video. "Rap music is a great way to get the con-

servation message across - it 'pulls no punches' and tells it like it is", he added.

Shane, a popular Samoan musician based in Auckland, performs the song with Auckland "rapper", Herman Loto. Shane's daughter, Renate Rivers, sings the haunting background chant "Laumei faiaga", which is based on a traditional Samoan chant. Growing up in Samoa and taking care of a turtle for three years instilled a strong conservation ethic in Shane, who donated the use of the song to the turtle campaign.

"I'm sure it's the first time governments have used rap music to reach their public," said Western Samoa's Consul-General Leilua Leiataua Punivalu in Auckland, who officially launched the music video at Samoa House. "Like all South Pacific nations, Western Samoa has seen less and less turtles returning to nest each year. We are determined not to lose our turtles, because if this happens we lose a key part of our culture and identity."

**Ed.:** Copies of the audio tapes of "Turtle, Turtle", as well as video and TV broadcast tapes (in PAL, NTSC and SECAM), are available from **Sue Miller**, the Turtle Campaign Officer at SPREP.



Let our turtle family live!



1995 Year of the Sea Turtle

Examples of Pacific children's artwork from the art competition held in 1994.

## Video takes turtle message to region

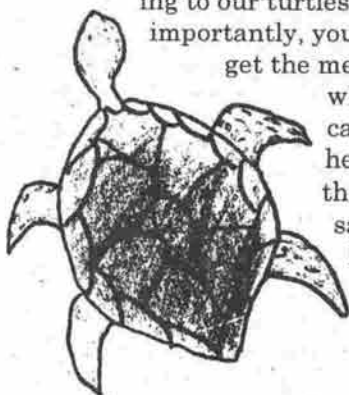
**L**et Our Turtle Family Live" - a video highlighting the plight of the sea turtle in Pacific, was released earlier this year by SPREP. This video is part of the region-wide campaign to save the Pacific's sea turtles from extinction.

"Substantial progress on turtle conservation this year is absolutely critical to their survival in the Pacific", said Dr Vili Fuavao, the Director of SPREP. "Pictures can speak louder than words and television, and video is becoming a powerful tool that can reach many audiences in the Pacific region. SPREP is using all types of media to get the turtle conservation message in this 'Year of the Sea Turtle'", he said.

The video is specifically designed for Pacific audiences and features many Pacific islanders, from Palau to Tahiti, who are actively working for turtle conservation. It presents legends, stories and the traditional controls on the use of turtles. These clearly illustrate the importance of these unique sea creatures to Pacific island cultures and what the loss of turtles would mean to people.

"When you watch this video you not only see what is happening to our turtles but, more importantly, you clearly get the message of

what you can do to help. That's the point!", said Sue Miller, SPREP's Turtle Officer.



"People throughout the Pacific need to stop killing turtles for money and reduce the kill for subsistence and traditional purposes. If we don't we will lose turtles forever - and I do not know how we will explain that to our grandchildren," said Ms Miller.

The video, in English and French, will be shown in schools, villages and meetings throughout the region as part of national campaigns during the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle. Many national television stations have already broadcasted the video.

"Early response to the video has been amazing. Already the TVNZ Pacific Service has showed the video as part of its programming schedule to TV stations in eight countries in the Pacific," said Ms Miller.

Biological facts on the six turtle species are highlighted, making the video extremely useful as a teaching resource for schools in the region. This segment outlines how turtles migrate vast distances, showing that turtles are a shared resource and that Pacific nations need to work together to conserve them. Tahitians like Phillip Siu describe the severe decline of turtle resources in recent years, which is mainly due to overharvest.

SPREP is also consulting with the region's airlines so that the video can be shown on in-flight entertainment services throughout the Pacific. In this way tourists travelling in the region will learn that buying turtle products is adding to the threat of turtle extinction.

**Ed:** This video is available from SPREP in normal video and broadcast formats, in PAL, NTSC and SECAM, and in English and French.

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## Logging Code Nears Completion

Senior forestry officials recently met in Suva, Fiji, to finalise a timber harvesting *Code of Conduct* for logging companies working in Pacific island countries.

The Code was recommended by heads of Pacific island governments at the 1994 Forum Meeting, and drafted at a meeting in Port Vila soon after. The Code aims to "promote forest development consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, so protecting the fragile environment of island countries."

*Forum News*, no. 14, 4/95.

## First Nature Protection Reserve for Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Government recently concluded an agreement to protect an important stand of huge native *kauri* trees. This is Vanuatu's first nature protection reserve.

Mr Aru Mathius, Vanuatu's Director of Forestry, announced that landowners from the Happy Lands area in the south of Erromango Island have leased an area to the Government for five years, which includes the *kauri* forest.

Landowners and surrounding villagers have established a management committee for the area, which seeks to preserve the genetic base for the native *kauris* and protect their watershed from logging.

*One World*, 6/5/95.

## Seabed Authority Commences Work

The UN General Assembly has approved a US\$ 2.5 million budget for the *International Seabed Authority* under the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea. It will be sited in Jamaica. An International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is also planned.

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**Vanuatu:**

# Local Community Chooses Simple Tourism

**F**or the overseas tourist, Port Resolution has all the ingredients for an "adventure in paradise": beautiful palm fringed beaches, interesting cultural experiences, unspoiled rainforests, a volcano, and visiting dugongs and sharks. There are no phones, no television, no traffic.

However, the challenge for local people is to have tourism without spoiling these magic ingredients. People in the Port Resolution area in Tanna Island, Vanuatu, decided that if they were to embark on a money-earning project, it should be small scale, rather than a large, high-class tourist resort built by overseas developers.

Although in the past these people have not needed large amounts of money, they have required income for fuel and soap, and to fund some community services such as a health clinic. Having tourists there would also mean more local buyers for handicrafts and food instead of travelling to markets to sell these goods.

### Business Opportunity

David Sharland, a volunteer business development officer with the Vanuatu government, helped establish the Port Resolution project: one of many small scale tourism ventures now establishing in Pacific island countries. He was asked by local chiefs to suggest how they could attract fee-paying visitors. He suggested building a yacht club, to which they agreed. This was opened in August 1992.

The people then asked David for more ideas. He suggested that the yacht club offered an excellent opportunity to have visitors stay close to their village. So the villagers have built ni-Vanuatu cabins where visitors could stay and become part of a Melanesian community for a short time, as paying guests. These were completed in December 1994, with financial assistance from Australia, New Zealand and Britain.

### Nature's Attractions

The Port Resolution area has a number of natural attractions for visitors. Local beaches are ideal for swimming, snorkelling and diving. There are walks through attractive native rainforests, and a nearby active volcano is a major attraction for more adventurous tourists.

An unusual and regular visitor to the area is a pet dugong, a marine mammal rarely seen in ni-Vanuatu waters. It first appeared in 1981, and now regularly greets swimmers in the harbour. Shark Bay is also visited daily by large packs of sharks, which are visible from a nearby cliff top.

### The Cabins

The visitors' lodge has ni-Vanuatu buildings with Western comforts added, including comfortable beds and mosquito nets. With overseas assistance, solar energy provides electricity, hot water, and even an environmentally friendly toilet. Thus, the resort produces little waste to pollute the surrounding pristine environment.

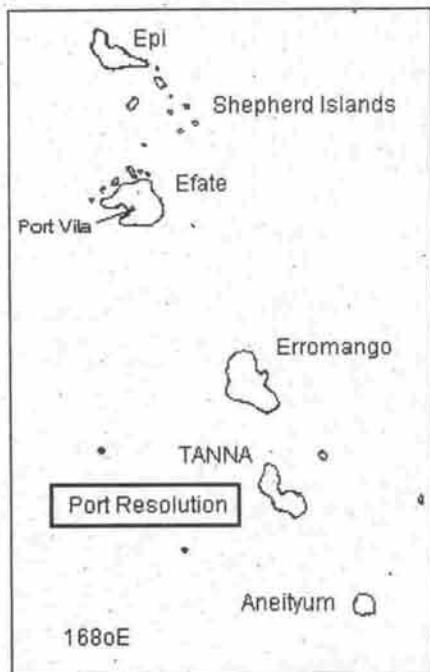
The people who come to Port Resolution want to come and experience Melanesia, and the real Pacific - not sitting in hotels, wondering which country they are really in. They want to experience the culture, the community and the people. Some are backpackers, others are average family tourists.

### Community Run

The whole community participates in decision making. This was a key component in establishing and managing this project. A project committee runs the day-to-day business, while the chiefs only step in if there are any serious problems. People have had to learn about tourism quickly as they were not used to dealing with this industry, and there will no doubt be further lessons for them.

Some money raised at the resort goes into local community services such as the clinic and the schools serving the local community. Local farmers also sell fresh vegetables to the resort instead of transporting them to markets elsewhere, together with the sale of local handicrafts. So foreign currency stays locally.

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Location Map for South Vanuatu, showing Port Resolution, Tanna Island.



## Local Community Chooses Simple Tourism

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### Learning Lessons

One major challenge is for the community to learn how to run a business, with many people having no previous knowledge in this area. This is a continual challenge for traditional Melanesian culture and the importance placed on the extended family.

Visitors are also expected to be responsible for their actions and appearance, observing village custom law and traditions. The village has set aside a beach for tourists to swim, and in return villagers request modest dress from visitors around the village. This has been a learning process for both visitors and villagers.

Joseph Joel, a ni-Vanuatu who liaises between the community and Port Vila, also noted the initial difficulties of how the community communicated with the visiting Europeans. "We Melanesian people had a different type of tradition toward the European", said Mr Joel in a recent interview with Radio Australia, "and (it was) quite hard for the local people to communicate with the Europeans (at first). We have been operating for about two years now, and the people are slowly getting used to the visitors and they are friendly to them."

### Protecting the Environment

Mr Sharland noted that this project has benefited the environment. He said that the villagers "have set their own plan of how they wish to protect their environment in the future and they will in fact ask people who come that they respect the environment." He noted that "they passed a decree (in 1990) that no shells will be taken from the reef, and now the reef is well protected, and is growing very well."

Triton shell was once taken from the reef and sold to visitors: "this is now tabu, you know you are not

allowed to take it, and, of course, it lives off the crown of thorns. So now the reef is growing strong," said Sharland.

Sharland is enthusiastic about these benefits. "Here you have a community who are actually interested in preserving their environment, not only for themselves, but for their visitors who come and see where they live, and (these) visitors also have an opportunity to see the real Pacific".

### Government Support

The Port Resolution Peoples Project was a pilot project for the Vanuatu government, with Mr Sharland employed to assist this and other similar projects. The yacht club and cabins were opened by Vanuatu's President, Jean-Marie Leye, accompanied by the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand, and several government ministers.

Other ni-Vanuatu resorts include two on Ambrym island, one on Rah Island in the Banks Islands, and another at Walla Island off Malakula. And these are all inspired by ni-Vanuatu people, who can see that in the future they want to share their life with visitors.

Community control of the project is seen as vital. "I think it is best that we have control of looking after them, because our local people are getting used to the number of tourists coming in", said Mr Joel. "At the moment the rate that we are receiving them is suitable for us to handle."

**Ed.:** Thanks go to Carolyn Court and the *One World* radio program (4 May 1995) for this article.

The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of SPREP, the Director or the Editor.



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The Law of the Sea has many implications for the managing the Pacific's living and non-living ocean resources, given the vast EEZs and international waters within the region, and the seabed resources already found here.

IMS Newsletter no. 74.

### New Pacific Members for WMO

Cook Islands, Niue and Tonga were recently accepted into the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), a global UN agency. The current 178 member nations of WMO welcomed the new Pacific island members at the recent WMO general meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

These countries will now be eligible for technical assistance, training, education and resources from WMO. Improved meteorological services have immediate benefits for many sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, tourism, disaster preparedness and health, as well as in strategic planning for climate and sea level changes.

WMO press release, 2/6/95.

### New Palms Found in Fiji

Two new species of palms have been found in Fiji. The first was found in mountain areas above Navua by forestry workers, while the second was discovered by a botanical survey team near the Monosavu dam.

Mr Dylan Fuller, an MSc research student, recently described the new species and a new subspecies as part of a larger project to learn more of the ecology, biology and current status of all the unique palm species in Fiji.

USP Bulletin, 28:11, 5/5/95.

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## Teachers get Population and Environment in Education

Pacific island administrators and planners are realising that population issues are linked to many important problem areas in the region, including environment. With its short- and long-term effects on economic development in the region, it is vital that formal education include population issues in school curricula.

A national teacher's workshop in July began the process in Tonga. Thirty eight participants, including government and non-government school teachers and student teachers, discussed how population issues affect the environment, with assistance from SPREP.

The workshop aimed to:

- ➔ raise awareness of the relation between population and environment among teachers;
- ➔ target young graduates to understand the interrelation between population, environment and sustainable development; and,
- ➔ develop follow-up activities on teaching environment and development issues.

At first, teachers found it difficult to understand the links between population and environment; though this had changed by the end of the workshop. The workshop succeeded in conveying these links, using regional, national and local examples.

Teachers and students in this practical workshop developed aids for teaching students about population issues. These included lesson plans, teaching aids, simulation games such as role-plays and drama, board games and group presentations.

The workshop also saw the launch of a new local book on environmental education: *Environmental Education for Primary Schools in Tonga: A Teachers Resource Book*, by Karen Ricks. Copies of this are available from the Tonga Education Department and SPREP.

Participants recommended a follow-up workshop in January 1996 to develop more resource materials for use in classrooms. The workshop was funded by UNFPA and AusAID.

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Teachers enjoying the role playing exercises during the Population and Education Workshop in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Photo: SPREP



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## Landowners Protest at Logging on Pavuvu

Local landowners on Pavuvu Island have shown concern for the loss of their forests by protesting against the Malaysian logging company, Maving Brothers.

The Solomon Islands government had consented to a proposal to log one million cubic metres from Pavuvu, clearing the land for a large agricultural project to replace the forest. Logging has begun, with the first shipment at the end of May.

Two protesters were initially arrested and questioned by government authorities.

*One World, 20/5/95.*

## South Polar Melt Supports Global Warming

Norwegian scientists have found long-sought evidence showing that the sea ice around Antarctica is melting. Other scientists have a similar finding around the Arctic. The evidence is still open for other explanations, but it does indicate that global warming was the likely cause.

The evidence comes from satellite data gathered since 1979. The scientists noted that continued monitoring is needed to confirm any long-term warming trend.

*The Australian, 11/8/95.*

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## Funding

### Sasakawa Pacific Islands Nations Fund

#### Who for?

1. Educational and research institutions,
2. NGOs,
3. private, non-profit foundations.

#### Aims:

1. promote mutual understanding between Pacific island nations and Japan; and,
2. support activities initiated by Pacific island nations that enhance intra-regional

and international cooperation and understanding.

#### Priority activities:

1. exchanges and cooperative projects;
2. cooperative human resource development and education projects; and,
3. projects to build and use information and communication networks.

#### Funding periods:

up to 3 years, renewable annually.

#### For more information, contact:

Liaison Office  
Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund  
Sasakawa Peace Foundation  
3-12-12 Mita, Minato-ku  
Tokyo, Japan 108.  
Tel.: (81-3) 3769 6359  
Fax: (81-3) 3769 2090  
Email: spinf@spf.or.jp

\*\*\*

## Simple messages, better impact

There is a lot of information available that can be used by Pacific islanders to improve the quality of their lives and to encourage sustainable development. But it is often not in a form that is easily understood by the people who need it most - the people in the villages.

A two-week workshop was run on 24 April to 5 May in Apia to address this problem, and to offer some solutions.

At the workshop opening, the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr Anthony Patten, stated that the participants were a key group in attaining sustainable development through the "repackaging of sustainable development information into an appropriate form and language that is readily understandable by local people".

All people in Western Samoa "should have equal rights to take advantage of the information that is available worldwide, and it is the participants' responsibility to make this information available in the most useful and easily understandable form possible", said Mr Patten.

This workshop was the first of three national training exercises for Western Samoa, Vanuatu and Fiji. This workshop was a joint effort between SPC's Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme - or PSDNP - and Regional

Media Centre, both based in Suva, Fiji, and SPREP's "Capacity 21" Project, with the venue at the UNESCO office in Apia.

Mr Samuelu Sesega, co-ordinator of PSDNP, had high hopes for the workshop's thirteen participants, who hailed from government agencies, non-government organisations and private business. "By the end of the workshop, we should have people who can get information out to the village people and the schools in the rural areas, especially through translating information into Samoan and presenting this in a useful and easily understandable form for all people."

The Capacity 21 Project provided a trainer and some funds for the workshop. At the opening, Ms Neva Wendt, this project's Manager, stressed the importance of skills training in improving the quality of messages that encourage sustainable development. Mr Ian Rolls, the Graphic Art Specialist from the Regional Media Centre, led the workshop, assisted by SPREP's Information and Publications Officer, Mr Wes Ward.

By the end of the workshop, participants had developed or improved their skills in designing, translating, writing, layout and effective communications. They used the latest computer software to produce posters, pamphlets and booklets



Individual training is a feature of the SDN workshops - SPC's Ian Rolls demonstrating computer skills during the Vanuatu workshop.

Photo: SPREP

which they could use immediately in their own work.

The PSDNP aims to improve the quantity and quality of information that reaches people in the villages by using a combination of appropriate computer technology and training. Through this training, participants are better equipped with skills to produce more effective printed communications.

The workshop was funded by UNDP, through PSDNP and the Capacity 21 Project.

Similar workshops were also held in Port Vila, Vanuatu (on 18 August - 1 September), and in Suva, Fiji (on 17 - 30 September), funded by PSDNP, Capacity 21, and SPREP.

\*\*\*

### New Environment Officers Nauru

Nauru has joined the group of small Pacific island countries who have appointed Environment Officers in the past few years.

Mr Pene Agadio joined Nauru's Department of Island Development and Industry as its new Environment Officer on 11 May. He has been very active in national associations dealing with fishers, reef protection, youth and the church, and brings much commitment to his job.

His position is funded by UNDP, through SPREP's Capacity 21 Project.

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Workshop participants in Apia display their work on the last day.

Photo: SPC

## Pacific islands identify priorities for environment and development

Pacific island governments, regional institutions and non-government organisations recently identified priorities for managing the environment to benefit the Pacific islands and the world.

Over 80 participants met to discuss these issues for the first time since the Small Islands Conference last year in Barbados. During the July meeting in Nadi, Fiji, they also learned how the Global Environment Facility - or GEF - can assist the region in its efforts towards sustainable development.

"This meeting provided an unique opportunity, which was called for by South Pacific Forum and SPREP member countries, for us to learn more about the GEF, to develop a regional strategy to protect the global environment and to obtain fi-

nancial support", said Vili Fuavao, the Director of SPREP.

The GEF is a US\$2 billion fund set up to help protect the world's environment. SPREP will take the priority areas identified by the July meeting to the GEF, seeking funds for future projects in the Pacific islands region.

The GEF is managed by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. It was established to assist countries to protect the global environment, particularly in addressing climate change, biodiversity conservation, international waters and ozone depletion.

The meeting was convened and hosted by SPREP, with funding from UNDP and the Australian government.



Mr Vai Aiavao  
Capacity 21 Officer - Polynesia

Photo: SPREP

## New SPREP Staff

AFTER many years in environmental protection in American Samoa, Mr Vaialalua Aiavao joined SPREP for 10 months under the its country attachment scheme, as the Capacity 21 Officer (Polynesia), covering Cook Islands and Western Samoa. He started in April 1995, based at SPREP Headquarters.

As a boy scout in Samoa, Vai particularly enjoyed the outdoors, and over the years has come to particularly appreciate the unique Pacific island environment. He has also seen the destruction and degradation of this environment in many places, including American and Western Samoa.

The experience has driven his dedication to protecting and preserving the environment. This was particularly so in his role as Chief Enforcement Officer for American Samoa's Environmental Protection Agency.

Here, his work included surveillance, detection and enforcement of local and US laws on water pollution and various wastes, site visits and environmental assessments for land planning, education programmes, and cleaning up wetlands.

Vai's vast practical experience will be of great value to the Capacity 21 project and the countries he serves. *Welcome to the SPREP family, Vai!*

Ed.: The last issue of the *Environment Newsletter* (no. 40) described the **Capacity 21 Project**. For more information, contact Ms Neva Wendt, SPREP's Project Manager (Capacity 21). ☺☺☺

## Local people key to saving Pacific's plants and animals

Landowners, government officials and non-government agencies met in August for the first time to find ways to better manage conservation areas in the Pacific islands, and so help the region's native birds and animals survive amidst exploitative economic development.

At the opening of the workshop in Nadi, Fiji, representatives heard Mr Tevita Rabuli, from Fiji's Native Land Trust Board, emphasise the role of local communities in a new era of conservation, especially in working together to cope with changing lifestyles and modern pressures.

"Unless we manage this change, and ensure that our communities are ready to meet the challenges of development, our environment will continue to be threatened," said Mr Rabuli.

The workshop's convener, Mr Joe Reti from SPREP, said "the meeting will examine progress in local

people's active involvement in establishing and managing conservation areas in the South Pacific, and look at ways to increase their participation." SPREP hosted the workshop as part of the work of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme, funded by the GEF, UNDP and AusAID.

Thirty seven participants from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa represented ten conservation areas in the region. These include such diverse places as Vathe Conservation Area, which was established to stop logging in the largest lowland forest left intact in Vanuatu, and the Ha'apai Marine Conservation Area in Tonga, which focuses on conserving and sustainably using the resources of fifty islands in the Ha'apai group.

A similar workshop is planned for Palau, Marshall Islands and FSM, in October 1995. ☺☺☺

## International co-operation needed to save Coral Reefs

In December 1994, a number of states announced a new international activity to address a growing international problem: the destruction of coral reefs.

The *International Coral Reef Initiative* (ICRI) addresses this problem, and aims to increase the capacity of countries and regional agencies to:

effectively use existing reef resources; and,

manage coral reefs and their ecosystems over the long term.

Global co-operation is vital for the success of this initiative. ICRI is a partnership of developed and developing nations, regional and international organisations, NGOs, scientists and business, based on existing national, regional and global programmes.

The ICRI seeks to:

- ➔ develop global efforts to effectively manage coral reef ecosystems;

- ➔ encourage local, national and regional coral reef initiatives;
- ➔ prioritise future regional and international actions on coral reefs;
- ➔ seek regional views to ensure all interested countries can contribute ideas;
- ➔ channel work during 1995 to a number of meetings, including the 1996 Coral Reef Symposium in Panama, and upcoming conferences of CITES, the Biodiversity Convention and the CSD;
- ➔ co-ordinate the actions of relevant UN and regional bodies;
- ➔ support the IUCN Marine Management Network of protected marine areas;
- ➔ establish a global coral reef monitoring network;
- ➔ expand international coral reef research; and,
- ➔ promote coral reef education and outreach programmes.

An international workshop was run at Dumaguete City, Philippines, on 29 May - 2 June to further develop the ICRI *Framework of Action*. Representatives from many small island countries attended, as well as GEF, UNEP, UNDP and SPREP.

The message from this workshop was that there would be no new funds available, but that there should be better use of existing resources to meet the goals of the *Framework*.

A regional meeting, to explore how the ICRI *Framework* melds with other activities in the Pacific islands, will be held in Nadi, Fiji, on 24-26 November 1995.

**Ed.:** For more information, contact Dr Andrew Smith, SPREP's Coastal Management Officer. Thanks to the US Department of State for providing this information on ICRI.



## Training Courses and Workshops

### Management and Development of Coastal Fisheries.

*Where?* Suva, Fiji.

*When?* 23/10 - 14/11/1995.

*Who?* fishers, teachers and trainers, and policy makers and middle-level managers in government, NGOs and private sector.

*Aims:* The participants will be able to:

1. analyse factors influencing coastal fisheries;
2. examine the complex physical and cultural aspects of coastal environments;
3. assess alternatives for managing and developing sustainable coastal fisheries; and,
4. identify the roles of special interest groups in promoting self-reliant fisheries.

**Contact:**

Seremaia Tuqiri  
Co-ordinator, IOI-South Pacific  
USP Marine Studies Programme  
PO Box 1168  
SUVA, Fiji.  
Tel.: (679) 305 446  
Fax: (679) 305 559  
E-mail: tuqiri\_s@usp.ac.fj

### Practical Taxonomy and Identification of Tropical Indo-Pacific Non-geniculate Coralline Algae.

*Where?* Suva, Fiji.

*When?* 24-29/11/1995.

*Who?* Biologists, marine biologists, phylogenists, ecologists, and environmental impact personnel from Pacific island countries.

*Aims:* The participants will be able to:

1. identify non-geniculate coralline algae to levels of family, sub-family and genus; and,
2. understand the importance of these algae in coral reef ecology.

**Contact:**

Seremaia Tuqiri  
Co-ordinator, IOI-South Pacific  
USP Marine Studies Programme  
PO Box 1168  
SUVA, Fiji.  
Tel.: (679) 305 446  
Fax: (679) 305 559  
E-mail: tuqiri\_s@usp.ac.fj

### International Seminar on Environmental Assessment and Management.

*Where?* Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

*When?* 4-8/12/1995.

*Who?* Government planners, environment managers, and middle-level managers in government, academics and NGOs.

*Objectives:*

The participants will be provided with a comprehensive introduction to the aims, scope and objectives of environmental assessment, including procedures, legal issues, methods, technical assessment, public participation, mitigation, monitoring and review.

**Contact:**

Augustine Koh or Vimala Sundram  
Capital Communications  
22 A Persiaran, Zaaba  
Taman Tun Dr Ismail  
6000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
Tel.: (603) 719 3779  
Fax: (603) 719 2090



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

## Ecotourism

*Conservation Issues*, published regularly by WWF, is a series that focuses on topical issues in conserving nature. "Ecotourism" is one issue of growing importance because it is used to justify the establishment of many new conservation areas.

June 1995 (vol. 2 no. 3) concentrates on ecotourism, investigating its positive uses and possible environmental threats. It also gives examples from around the world.

For more information, contact:  
Publications Section  
World Wide Fund for Nature  
1250 Twenty-Fourth St, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC. 20037.  
United States of America

## Development and the Environment in PNG

A new issue in the *Point* series, *Development and the Environment in PNG: An Overview*, (no. 18, 1994) gives an interesting perspective to economic development - from the churches' viewpoint.

Published by the Melanesian Institute, it covers a wide range of development issues and projects that have also affected the environment, such as mining, logging, fishing and regional and global initiatives. There are also a number of useful case studies from PNG.

For more information, contact:  
The Melanesian Institute  
POINT  
PO Box 571  
GOROKA, EHP  
PNG.  
Tel.: (675) 72 1777  
Fax: (675) 72 1214

## Traditional Conservation in Palau

Many traditional conservation practices have been lost in the Pacific islands. However, some dedicated individuals and organisations are recording practices still used and those not yet forgotten.

One excellent example is seen in *Conservation Ethics and Practices of Palau*, compiled by Maura Gordon of the Palau Resource Institute. This 32-page booklet explains the values and practices taught locally through oral instruction, legends and proverbs. These are written in Palauan and English so young and old Palauans will understand the stories and practices.

With ample coloured photos and illustrations, it is an attractive and well-presented book, most suitable for teachers and students. This book was published with funds from UNDP, through SPREP's support to NGOs in the NEMS Project.

For more information, contact:  
The Director  
Palau Resource Institute  
PO Box 1087  
KOROR, Palau.  
Fax: (680) 488 1725

## Caring for the Sea

*Caring for the Sea: Fisheries and the Marine Environment*, by Leon Zann, is well-written for secondary school students. It is full of black-and-white photos and drawings, case studies, activities, projects and student questions.

It outlines traditional and modern methods for commercial and subsistence fisheries in the Pacific islands, as well as the issues and threats facing these fisheries. It also outlines how to care for this fragile marine environment.

This is the sixth book published under UNESCO's project on Marine Science Curriculum Materials for South Pacific Schools.

For more information on this and other books in the series, contact:  
Science Advisor  
UNESCO Office for Pacific Islands  
Private Mail Bag  
Apia, Western Samoa  
Tel.: (685) 24 276  
Fax: (685) 22 253

## New SPREP Publications

Meeting reports are a major source of current information on various environmental and related problems in the region. *The Report on the Sub-regional Meetings to Identify Coastal Management Training Needs* (1994) details the problems and recommends actions for SPREP and related agencies in developing relevant training opportunities for Pacific islanders in integrated coastal management.

Other new meeting reports include the *Report of the Second SPREP Meeting of Regional Meteorological Service Directors*, the *Fourth Meeting Report of the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme*, and the *Report of the Plenipotentiary Meeting on the Agreement Establishing SPREP*.

Teachers in Tonga will be pleased to see a new teaching resource book titled *Environmental Education for Primary Schools in Tonga: A Teachers Resource Book*. It provides a series of lesson plans and teaching ideas for a number of environmental and related topics, using minimal specialist materials. Many of these ideas could also be adapted by teachers elsewhere in the region.

In June, SPREP published its latest publications lists for technical and educational publications and other materials, including posters and videos. Please note that SPREP publications are sold to agencies and individuals outside of the SPREP Pacific islands region, unless there is a formal exchange agreement with an institution or company. Write to SPREP for more details on exchanges and sales.

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

Let our turtle family live!  
1995 year of the sea turtle

# Meetings '94/95

Date	Meeting	Venue	Officer/Org.
<b>September</b>			
10 - 15	27th South Pacific Forum Meeting	Madang, PNG	Forum Sec.
17 - 18	Post-Forum Country Dialogue	Port Moresby	Forum Sec.
18 - 22	Third Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	Madrid, Spain	UNEP
18 - 29	National Workshop on Repackaging Information for Sustainable Development	Suva	SPC
<b>October</b>			
5	3rd Meeting of the Parties to the Apia Convention	Apia	SPREP
6	3rd Meeting of the Parties to the SPREP Convention	Apia	SPREP
8-14	International Conference on Wetlands and Development	Selangor, Malaysia	AWB
10	1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Barbados Conference Outcomes	Apia	SPREP
11 - 13	Eighth SPREP Meeting	Apia	SPREP
16 - 20	IPCC Meeting	Geneva	UNEP
16 Oct.-3 Nov.	Conference of the Parties to the FCCC	Bonn, Germany	SPREP
23 - 27	Ocean and Atmosphere Pacific	Adelaide, Australia	C. Kaluwin
23 - 27	Meeting of the Marine Resource Conservation Working Group	Honolulu, USA	APEC
23 Oct.-3 Nov.	Meeting on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	Washington, USA	
23 Oct.-14 Nov.	Management and Development of Coastal Fisheries	Suva	IOI-USP
<b>November</b>			
6 - 17	2nd Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention	Jakarta, Indonesia	UNEP
11 - 13	3rd Regional SPREP Meeting of Meteorological Service Directors	Apia	N. Koop
24 - 26	Regional Meeting on the International Coral Reef Initiative	Nadi, Fiji	A. Smith
<b>December</b>			
4 - 7	7th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol	Vienna, Austria	UNEP
<b>1996</b>			
<b>June</b>			
17 - 22	7th Pacific Conference on Marine Science and Technology	Honolulu	PACON Int.
24 - 29	International Coral Reef Symposium	Panama	

**Notes:** *tba - to be advised.*

*Meetings in italics are still to be finalised.*

*Contact the organising agency or relevant SPREP officer for more details.*

## Training Courses and Workshops page 13

### Geographic Information Systems for Resource Decisions.

*Where?* Canberra, Australia.

*When?* 29/1 - 23/2/1996.

*Who?* resource planners and environmental managers from government agencies and NGOs.

**Aims:** The participants will be able to:

1. understand the principles and potential of geographic information systems (GIS) as a tool for managing resource;
2. develop practical skills in developing and using GIS for storing, retrieving and analysing complex environmental and resource data; and,
3. apply GIS for decisions in real-life case studies involving resource management and planning.

**Contact:**

Mr David Brett  
Course Co-ordinator  
ANUTECH Pty Ltd  
CANNBERRA, ACT. 0200  
Australia.

Tel.: (616) 249 5881

Fax: (616) 249 5875

E-mail: David.Brett@aplemail.anu.edu.au

### Rural Projects: Design, Monitoring and Evaluation.

*Where?* Canberra, Australia.

*When?* 22/4 - 24/5/1996.

*Who?* middle- to senior-level rural planners and managers from government agencies and NGOs.

**Aims:** The participants will:

1. examine techniques for identifying, designing, appraising, implementing, managing, monitoring and evaluating rural projects;
2. incorporate considerations of environmental and social effects of projects;
3. consider the central role of computers in modern planning and management; and,
4. critically examine case studies from the Asia-Pacific region.

**Contact:**

Dr Robert Crittenden  
Course Co-ordinator  
ANUTECH Pty Ltd  
CANNBERRA, ACT. 0200  
Australia.

Tel.: (616) 249 0617

Fax: (616) 249 5875

E-mail: Rob.Crittenden@aplemail.anu.edu.au

### Training Course in Participatory Management of Protected Areas.

*Where?* Bangkok, Thailand.

*When?* 4 - 22/12/1995.

*Who?* Officers presently managing a protected areas programme. Must have university degree or equivalent experience.

**Aims:** The participants will develop skills for:

1. team-building, problem solving and stakeholder analysis;
2. planning and implementing field projects; and
3. participatory planning and building partnerships.

**Closing Date:** 31/10/95

**Contact:**

Dr Somsak Sukwong, Director  
Regional Community Forestry Training Centre

Kasetsart University

PO Box 1111

BANGKOK 10903, Thailand.

Tel.: (662) 579 0108, 561 4881

Fax: (662) 561 4880



## The Last Word ...

Negotiations on the international Climate Change have now reached a new stage - what will the global community do about greenhouse gases after 2000? A report on upcoming meetings to negotiate an important Protocol to the Convention, which will address this concern after 2000, leads this issue of the *Environment Newsletter*.

SPREP is now busy preparing to host the *Eighth annual SPREP Meeting*, to be held in Apia in mid-October. It is also SPREP's first as an officially autonomous regional organisation, with the *Agreement Establishing SPREP* now in force. There are also a number of associated meetings, which will address the *SPREP and Apia Conventions* and follow-up to the *Barbados Conference*. Read more on page 1 and 3.

There are also a number of reports on recent meetings and activities around the region, and a look at

an eco-tourism project in Vanuatu. *Environmental Book Review*, training opportunities and the remaining meetings for 1995 are also included in this issue.

Finally, and sadly, This is my last issue as editor of the *Environment Newsletter*. After almost four years with SPREP, I am leaving to take up other job opportunities. My family and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time in Samoa again, as I have enjoyed serving the peoples of the Pacific and their truly unique environment.

I have also learnt never to say "farewell" in the Pacific, as those that have stayed a while always seem to return.

So, until next time,



Wesley Ward  
Editor.

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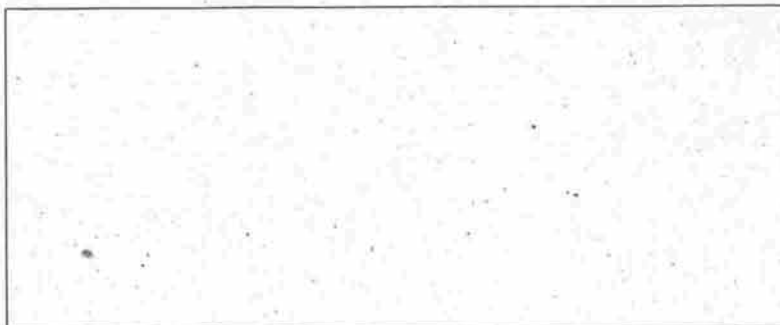
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P.O. Box 240, APIA, Western Samoa  
Telephone: (+685) 21 929  
Fax: (+685) 20 231  
E-mail: sprep@pactok.peg.apc.org