



The quarterly newsletter  
of the South Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme (SPREP)

# environment

NEWSLETTER

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What the environment of the South Pacific region will look like in the next century may depend on the outcomes of a meeting involving South Pacific Ministers in November of this year.

“The attendance of Ministers at the Ninth SPREP Meeting will make it the most significant such gathering in five years,”

said Mr Don Stewart, Acting Director of SPREP. “The meeting will review the SPREP Action Plan, appoint a new Director for the organisation and consider a range of other matters affecting the quality of the environment in the South Pacific region.”

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

### ... a SPREP Meeting

is the governing body of SPREP. The SPREP Meeting brings together representatives from all member countries and territories. This annual meeting reviews the previous year's activities, adopts a work programme and budget for the following year, and considers policy, institutional, administrative, financial, staffing and other matters affecting the organisation.

### ... the SPREP Action Plan

is the framework for a regional approach to environmental issues in the Pacific islands. The current (1991-95) Action Plan, adopted by the 1991 SPREP Ministerial Meeting, established nine programme areas, each with its own goals and objectives, and provided guidelines for implementing these programmes.

It is now being revised for consideration and adoption by the Ninth SPREP Meeting in November 1996, which will be at ministerial level.

### ... SPREP's objectives are

to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. The objectives include:

- coordinating regional activities that address the environment;
- monitoring and assessing the region's state of the environment, including the impacts of human activities on the region's ecosystems, and encouraging development that maintains or enhances environmental qualities;
- promoting and developing programmes, including research, to protect the atmosphere as well as terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species, while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of these resources;
- reducing pollution in air, land, freshwater and marine environments by prevention and management; and
- increasing and improving educational, training and public awareness activities. 🌱



## The changing climate at the Forum

*The following is an extract from a brief interview with SPREP's Climate Change Officer, Dr Chalapan Kaluwin, regarding his trip to the Forum Meeting held earlier this year in Majuro, Marshall Islands.*

**I**t was great. I'm very happy to have been there. In all the Forum meetings I've attended, this is the first time the Project [South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project] has had considerable success. Apart from that, it was also great to promote climate change issues to the leaders of the region and I feel we had great success."

The successful promotion of the Climate Change Project was attributed to a number of factors but the major ones were the cooperation and commitment of the Marshall Islands government, and the location and professional advice which attracted the leaders to the display, thereby promoting and educating people on the status of the project as well as on the global issues relating to climate change and its overall implications for the Pacific region.

"We scored a real promotional coup, we had the Presidents of the Marshall Islands and Kiribati; the Vice-President of FSM; the Prime Ministers of Tonga, PNG, Cook Islands and Tuvalu; and Ministers from Palau and Fiji as well as the Secretary-General of the Forum. They stopped by and we had what I would term very good dialogue," said Dr Kaluwin. "Apart from the dialogue, we also gained extensive media coverage."

Dr Kaluwin feels that the Forum is an important venue to promote projects and regional institutions to the leaders and outside community, as long as the Forum Secretariat is open to the idea. After conducting displays at three Forum meetings, "... the trend appears favourable and well received, which has made 1996 our most successful display to date". 🌱

*Dr Chalapan Kaluwin (far right) with colleague at the Forum in Majuro*



### Continued from page 1 SPREP Ninth Meeting

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) Action Plan is the framework for a regional approach to address environmental issues in the South Pacific region. The meeting, to be held in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga from 25 to 28 November, will provide the opportunity for each Pacific Island country to have its say in how environmental issues are to be addressed in the future. Also present will be observers from a number of international organisations and agencies. This will provide a broad range of opinions on a variety of issues likely to affect the region's environment.

"There have been enormous political, economic and environmental changes since the current Action Plan was adopted in 1991. We can be sure that changes will continue," said Mr Stewart. "The Ninth SPREP Meeting will examine how to deal with these changes in our region. The 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle is one example of a major response by member countries to protect our region's resources and uniqueness. In 1997, SPREP will coordinate the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef which will be another such attempt by member countries to protect our reefs. How well we do will determine what our environment will look like in the next century." 🌱



## from the Acting Director's desk

Since the departure of my good friend Vili Fuavao as Director of SPREP to take up a new position with FAO [see also pages 10-11 of this issue], it has been a hectic year of work programme implementation. In that respect, I must acknowledge the great support work that the Secretariat staff have given me over the past six or seven months.

Currently, the event which is the major focus of SPREP, and which has been since the beginning of this year, is the Ninth SPREP Meeting to be held from 25 to 28 November in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga. This meeting will bring forth important issues for consideration, and none more so than the SPREP Action Plan. This document is central to SPREP's work programmes and activities. Therefore the future role of the organisation, whether it shifts from an implementing capacity to a facilitating one, will be known at the meeting. At the time of writing, most of the participants have confirmed their attendance and we are confident that an exciting and focused

debate on these issues will yield excellent results for the region and SPREP.

Whatever the outcome of issues discussed at the Ninth SPREP Meeting we are assured that exciting times lie ahead for SPREP and the region as a whole. SPREP was founded by the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories in combination with Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA. The vision was for the protection and conservation of the Pacific regional environment for present and future generations. To date, this vision has slowly materialised, not as a result of one organisation, but through a collaborating framework involving other regional organisations and international bodies working in concert for the betterment of the environment. The same framework of cooperation seems assured when the new SPREP Action Plan comes into force.

Following on from the successful Year of the Sea Turtle campaign, SPREP is coordinating another regional campaign, this time called the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef. Reports thus far have given us a great deal of confidence that we are on

Mr Don Stewart,  
Acting  
Director of  
SPREP



target for yet another successful campaign. The success of the campaign will not be due to money or SPREP, rather it will be directly due to the commitment and hard work of the Pacific Island people in each country, with support from SPREP and the other organisations.

Personally, it has been an experience, taking over the helm in the past seven months or so, but it is one that I have enjoyed. I look forward to the upcoming SPREP Meeting with confidence that the outcomes will arm the Secretariat with the necessary tools to overcome the many challenges that lie ahead in this unique region of the globe. ☺

Don Stewart  
Acting Director

## Environmental Education Project progress report

The second phase of the AusAID-funded Regional Environmental Education Awareness Project (involving Vanuatu, Marshall Islands and Cook Islands) is near completion. Two workshops for Vanuatu were recently completed (detailed in this issue), leaving only two more workshops to be conducted (the Non-Government Organisation Workshop and the Resource Development Workshop, both to be held in October).



Mrs Uesele  
(centre with  
camera) with  
participants  
at the Media  
Production  
Training  
Workshop

## Media Production Training Workshop

This Media Production Training Workshop was conducted by SPREP's Environmental Education Officer Mrs Gisa Salesa-Uesele, while the technical training was conducted by Mr Yaminiasi Gaunavou of the SPC Media Unit. The workshop was held at the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association's (PIBA) training centre in Port Vila from 16 to 20 September.

The main aim of the workshop was to assist journalists and broadcasters to produce public information slots and programmes in the vernacular about the crucial environmental issues facing their countries.

The goals of the workshop for the participants were:

- to raise awareness of local environmental problems, their causes and long-term consequences;

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# Capacity 21: Regional Heads of Planning Meeting



*The Regional Heads of Planning Meeting on Sustainable Development was held from 19 to 21 June 1996 in Apia, Western Samoa. This followed on from a series of national workshops held in three of the six countries participating in the Capacity 21 Project. The meeting brought together 58 participants from 16 Pacific Island countries together with representatives from regional and international organisations including the Forum Secretariat, South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/Pacific Operation Centre (ESCAP/POC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), expert resource people and observers.*

As part of the SPREP-executed and UNDP-funded Capacity 21 Project, the meeting on sustainable development provided the participants from Pacific Island Planning Offices with a series of presentations and papers on topics including:

- Sustainable Development and Planning in the Pacific;
- Sustainable Development Concepts and Application;
- Sustainability—Challenges for Managing Pacific Island Economies;
- Economic Development, Environmental Degradation and Uncommon Economic Sense;
- Integrating Population Issues into Development Planning; and
- Cost-Benefit Analysis as an Analytical Tool for Sustainable Development.

The aim of the meeting was to develop within Pacific Island planners the concepts of sustainable development and how they can incorporate the concepts within their national planning frameworks. To do this a range of tools and techniques were presented by a series of resource people experienced in financial and economic aspects of resource management. Techniques discussed included Systems Analysis, Multi Criteria Analysis, Social Impact Assessment, and Participatory Rural Appraisal.

The three-day regional meeting was the culminating activity of the development planning component of Capacity 21. This component has been instrumental in raising the awareness of development planners that the management of natural resources is not only carried out by the relevant environment departments but is

also an integral part of broad-scale development planning. The links that are created between development planning and environment-specific planning will ensure that the concepts of sustainable development become an integral component within all aspects of the national planning process.

It is hoped that the Heads of Planning attending the meeting will return to their countries with a clearer picture of sustainable development and have with them some of the tools they can use to instigate the process of national planning for sustainable development.

The Capacity 21 Project has been instrumental in expanding the awareness of sustainable development within the mainstream of national economic and financial planning. It aims to ensure that the decision-making process is enhanced through the incorporation of sustainable development concepts. ☺

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*Participants and officials at the opening ceremony of the Regional Heads of Planning Meeting on Sustainable Development*



## SPBCP promotes community involvement in Conservation Areas

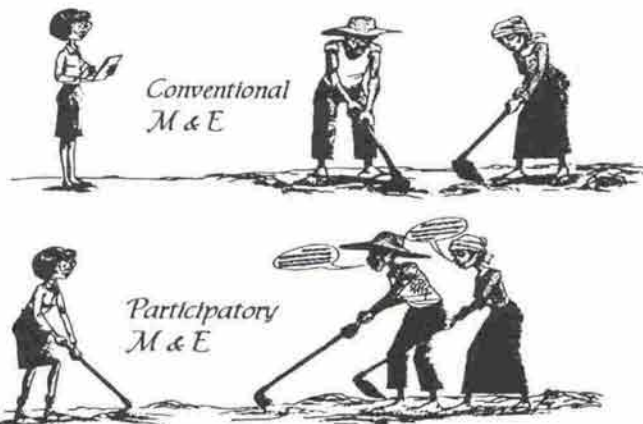
The South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) will be holding a technical workshop for Conservation Area Support Officers (CASOs) and Project Managers involved in Conservation Areas (CAs) from 2 to 5 December 1996 in Apia, Western Samoa. The workshop will cover the principles, processes and techniques involved in performing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in CAs, but will focus on M&E activities that can be performed by CA communities themselves rather than technical staff.

Monitoring and Evaluation is a key aspect of the project cycle. It allows progress towards project implementation to be charted and corrective action to be performed if implementation deficiencies are detected.

Participatory M&E, where CA communities, rather than outside technical staff, define and perform research activities

themselves, is a new approach to M&E. This is considered to be more appropriate to community-managed CAs than conventional M&E because it satisfies the information needs of communities, not outsiders. It has been shown in conservation projects throughout the world that project relevancy, efficiency and effectiveness can be significantly improved by fully involving local communities in M&E activities.

Workshop facilitators include specialists in resource management from Australia, New Zealand and Western Samoa. The workshop will be followed by the Third Annual Multipartite Review of the 14



South Pacific countries involved in the SPBCP, on Friday, 6 December. ②

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## Teaching Materials Production Regional Workshop

*Teaching the relationship between population and the environment is not easy. For a long time, school curricula in the region have addressed population and environmental issues as separate disciplines. However, increasing recognition of the interrelationship between population dynamics and environmental degradation has resulted in a more integrated approach to school curricula and teaching in the region.*

While school curricula in the region have to some extent been successful in addressing population and environmental linkages, it is generally felt that there is a lack of teaching materials/aides on the subjects and their related concepts to assist teachers in their classroom teaching. Responding to this challenge, SPREP initiated a regional workshop through its UNFPA-funded project Integrating Population into Environmental Management in Pacific Island Countries, to design and develop a teaching aide kit. The result was a teaching kit entitled "Tragedy of the Commons" consisting of six teaching packages addressing different population and environment linkages and topics. Each package contains a number of related activities including games, exercises, posters, stimulus materials etc. The

"commons", as identified in the workshop, are the forests, coastal environment, water, mangroves, fish resources and land use, in terms of creation and disposal of rubbish.

Over 30 participants consisting of curriculum developers and classroom teachers from 13 Pacific Island countries were involved in the workshop which was

*Continued on page 6*



*Participants of the Teaching Materials Production Regional Workshop*





*Participants at the Media Production Training Workshop in Vanuatu*

*Continued from page 3*

## Media Workshop

- to provide a better understanding of the role of radio in addressing these problems;
- to improve broadcasting skills; and
- to produce broadcasting materials to be used by Radio Vanuatu's environmental awareness campaign.

According to Mrs Uesele, "The workshop was a great success. We produced twenty-six items including radio spots, interviews and a skit, to name a few".

"What was encouraging for the participants also was the fact that the Director of Radio Vanuatu, Mr Joe Carlo, was there. He was so impressed with the materials produced that he had no hesitation in programming them to be aired as soon as they were ready."

## Church workshops

These workshops were conducted to raise awareness of church people regarding environmental issues and to prompt positive actions to curb further environmental degradation.

Owing to the geographical constraints of Vanuatu, two workshops were conducted to ensure the widest cross-section of the population was able to participate.

The first workshop (19-23 August) was held in Port Vila for the Central and Southern islands and the second (26-29 August) in Santo for the Northern and nearer islands of Central Vanuatu.

In both workshops, the first three days focused on information dissemination and the last two days on presentations by participants on how they can reinforce or

incorporate environmental education into their work. "The highlight of the workshop was the last session. This is when the participants reached a consensus on how to work together in promoting environmental education within their own denomination as well as amongst other churches," said Mrs Uesele. "It was really great to be part of something where people from different denominations agreed on a basic thread which binds them together. It is even better when that thread is enthusiasm about ways of protecting their environment from further degradation, that is, ways to stop the rot."

The most urgent matter identified was the need for resources in order to embark on awareness campaigns. Two such lists of resources were made:

1. Available resources and where they can be obtained; and
2. Specific resources needed.

These lists will form the basis of the Resource Development Workshop later this year. ☺

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## Teaching Materials Production Regional Workshop

held from 5 to 9 August 1996 in Tonga. The workshop was officially opened by the Secretary for Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Government of the Kingdom of Tonga, Mr Sione Tongilava. Mr Tongilava pointed out that human beings are the common factor in any discussion concerning either population or environment issues. He also recognised that realisation of this situation in the region requires public awareness and political will. He further endorsed the workshop as a move in the right direction to achieve this much desired public awareness and political will.

In the closing ceremony, the Director of Education Mr Paul Bloomfield spoke about the need to ensure that the basics in education are dealt with properly in any education curriculum. "These basics must include changes in the apparent behaviour of

children or learners in the immediate context so that teachers would know that the curriculum of teaching materials, as well as the teaching, had made a difference," he said. He also complimented SPREP on a successful workshop and thanked UNFPA and AusAID for their financial assistance.

The representative of the Australian Embassy in Tonga, Mr Trewatha, observed the participants at work and the group presentation of the materials developed. In addressing the workshop on behalf of the donors, he spoke at length about the great efforts and results of the workshop. He stated that such quality work must be used in the schools and that it will be instrumental in the success of any new curriculum materials to be introduced. He reiterated AusAID's commitment to the development of curriculum materials in the Pacific.

In response, SPREP's Population Development Officer Dr Tongamoa joined the Secretary for Lands, Survey and Natural Resources and the Director of Education in acknowledging the financial support from UNFPA and AusAID, which made the workshop possible, and also the host government for its support through the Ministry of Education, particularly the Institute of Education and the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources. ☺

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# V-FILES — ANTARCTICA: THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

*SPREP can sometimes be seen as a stop-over home in the South Pacific region for a great cross-section of people dealing with the environment. Whether it's a scientist, student or architect, SPREP draws its fair share of people from around the world. Therefore we will include in the newsletter an occasional section titled The V-Files (Visitors' Files). The first entry in the V-Files comes from a young Californian woman, Kelly Wyatt.*

**W**hile it may be the highest, driest and coldest place on Earth, Antarctica's inhospitable environment provides a rich view into some of today's most puzzling scientific questions. In addition, it possesses a unique beauty unlike any other place on the planet.

As a member of the Shackleton Glacier field camp crew, I spent four months near the South Pole in a "tent city" that was used as a base for several different research groups working in Antarctica. Their projects ranged from the collection of 220 million-year-old fossils to the study of global warming and ozone depletion.

In October, our initial crew of 15 flew in via C-130 cargo planes to begin the process of building a temporary facility that would eventually accommodate 45 staff and researchers from the US, UK and New Zealand. While this project was ten years in the making, the camp was put up and completely disassembled within a short four-month period. However, judging by the quality and quantity of specimens and evidence found during this period, researchers made the most of their brief time at this awe-inspiring site.

During the season, my main responsibilities focused on weather observations and radio communications for the C-130s that brought in our supplies, as well as for the two helicopters that were kept in camp to assist scientists with specimen collection. However, my job also entailed such disparate duties as making "mid-rats" (midnight meal) for our night-shift pilots, as well as sorting garbage in order to meet the strict waste disposal and recycling guidelines set forth by the main US Antarctic base, McMurdo Station.

During the season, we experienced 24 hours of constant daylight, but the rapid shifts in weather provided plenty of dramatic changes. High winds sometimes

led to "white-out" conditions, during which time it was practically impossible to see more than five feet ahead. The constantly changing shades of blue that could be seen on the ice-covered mountains provided a magnificent view nearly every day. Even the low temperatures of October (usually about  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) soon gave way to the relatively "balmy" days of December, during which time we could forego our "extreme cold weather gear" for jeans and light jackets.

Maintaining the pristine environment is one of the biggest challenges for any group that visits Antarctica, be it two people or two thousand, as is the case at large bases like McMurdo. As we disassembled the camp in February, our goal was to leave virtually no trace of our four-month

## SPREP—University of Oregon Micronesia and South Pacific Program

During June and July, SPREP and the University of Oregon Micronesia and South Pacific Technical Assistance Program (MSPP) had an opportunity to examine how the two organisations might interface with future projects in the Pacific.

Mrs Gisa Salesa-Uesele (SPREP Environmental Education Officer) and Kelly Wyatt (MSPP Technical Assistant) collaborated on the development of a proposal for a regional environmental education workshop tentatively scheduled for April 1997. The purpose of this workshop will be to review, assess and

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**While I don't miss the bone-chilling winds or wearing so many layers of clothing that one can barely walk, I often think of the extraordinary beauty and drama of this extreme continent**

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residency. This is no small task, but as one of the final three people left in the camp I was amazed as I walked around the now barren site that had been "home" to nearly fifty people just a few short weeks before.

While I don't miss the bone-chilling winds or wearing so many layers of clothing that one can barely walk, I often think of the extraordinary beauty and drama of this extreme continent. It is difficult to convey the sensation of an Antarctic wind storm, or the camaraderie that develops when living in such tight quarters, but it was truly the experience of a lifetime.

enhance current environmental education programmes and materials, many of which were generated during the first regional environmental education conference in 1988. In addition, they also participated in the Regional Climate Change Curriculum Writing Workshop, which was held in Apia in May and hosted by SPREP. ☺



# SPREP's Waste Programme

The SPREP South Pacific Regional Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimization and Management Programme commenced in October 1994. It is supported by AusAID, the Government of New Zealand, the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNEP. The main focus of the programme is to assist Pacific Island governments and communities with management of wastes and pollution. It clearly relates to other SPREP programmes including Capacity 21, Coastal Management, Environmental Impact Assessment, Biodiversity Conservation, Population and Environment, and Environmental Education.

**M**anagement of wastes and pollution has been a concern for many years in some Pacific countries. SPREP recognises this area as of critical importance to sustainable development in all Pacific Island countries and has raised the emphasis, resulting in extra funding for the Programme. The Programme acts as SPREP's umbrella for three associated activities:

1. SPREP/IMO Strategy and Workplan for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the South Pacific;
2. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities; and
3. The Waigani Convention.

## Strategy and Workplan for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the South Pacific

The Strategy was jointly developed by SPREP and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1994. A Marine Pollution Officer, funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat, will soon be

appointed to oversee the Programme. It is likely that funding will be complemented by the Government of Canada to undertake many of the activities identified in the Strategy.

The basic aim of the Strategy is to assist the process of technical, legal and scientific cooperation between Pacific Island countries in the field of the protection of the marine environment from pollution from ships and related activities, and the mitigation of the environmental impacts of such pollution. The Strategy identifies six key activities in the marine environment:

1. operational discharges from shipping;
2. coordinated marine pollution emergency response;
3. control of waste disposal at sea;
4. management of the port, estuarine and coastal environment;
5. acquisition of baseline data relating to marine environmental conditions to allow assessments to be made of the potential impact of pollution; and

6. legal and institutional aspects relating to shipping and marine pollution.

## Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities

The Global Programme of Action (GPA) was signed in December 1995 at the Washington global conference. It was initiated by UNEP in response to recognition that up to 70 per cent of marine pollution is derived from land-based sources. Implementation of the GPA will be coordinated through the UNEP Regional Seas Programme with significant involvement by many international organisations. SPREP will be a key player in implementation in the South Pacific region.

In recognition of the terrestrial source for much of marine pollution, the GPA concentrates on preventing pollution at its source rather than merely cleaning the

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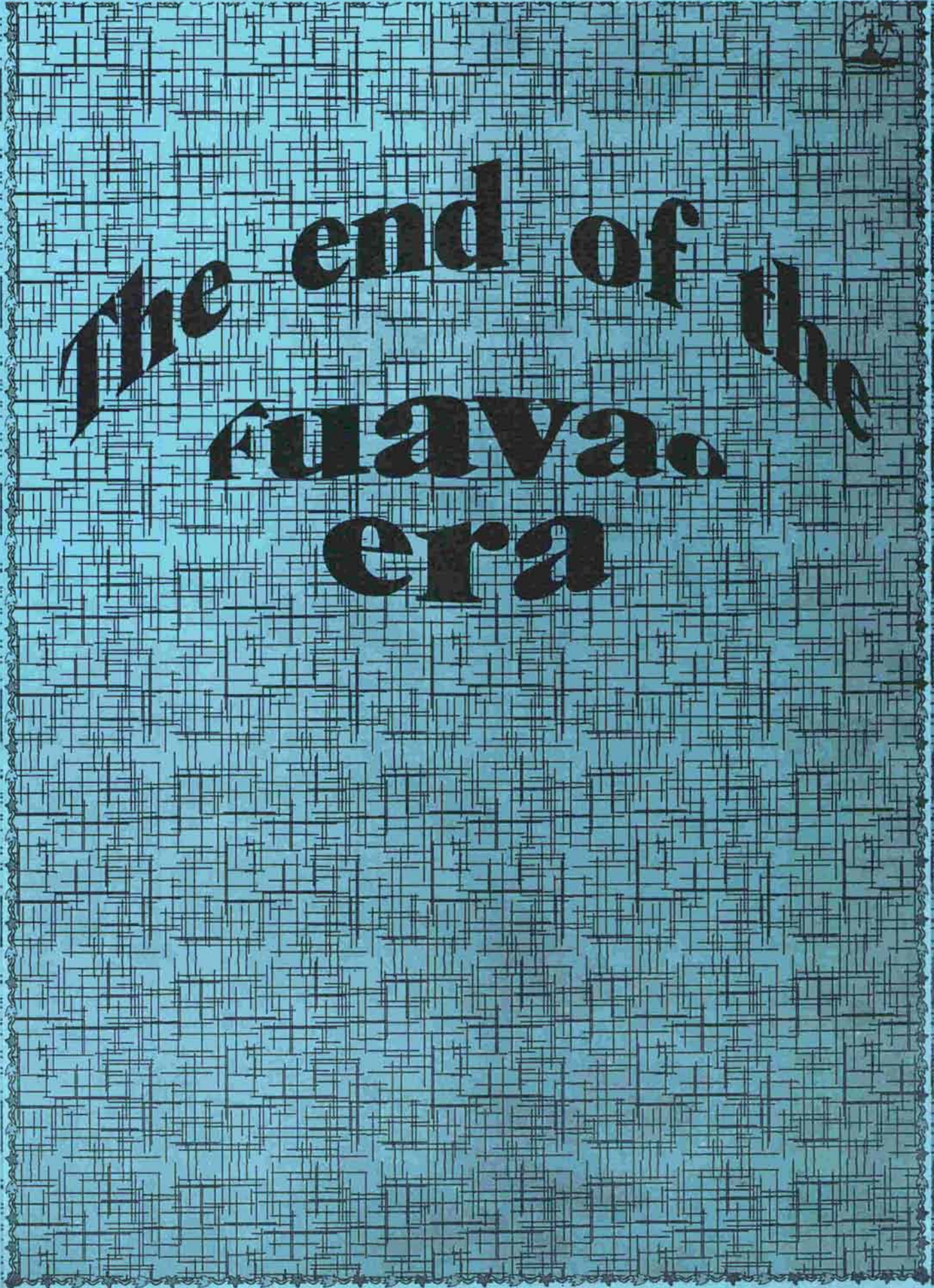
*Non-existent waste management in a Pacific Island country*





# The end of the Fuavao era





# The end of the Fuavao era



# Vili Fuavao—A salute

*There is a saying, "If you want to be a winner, you surround yourself with winners". I recognised this early in my career and got to where I am because I surrounded myself with professional staff who are winners in their own right.*

Dr Vili Fuavao

In his foreword to SPREP's 1995-1996 Annual Report, Mr Don Stewart noted that, "In a year that covered a wide spectrum of events for SPREP, two events stand out as perhaps the most significant—the entry into force of the SPREP Agreement and the end of the Fuavao era". The six-and-a-half year Fuavao era saw the transition of SPREP from a small programme located within the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia to its present independent status with headquarters in Western Samoa.

"Without his special combination of idealism and practicality, and his skills in leadership and diplomacy, it is doubtful if such early progress would have been

achieved with the establishment of the region's newest intergovernmental organisation," said Mr Stewart.

On the eve of his departure, Dr Vili Fuavao was interviewed by the new Information and Publications Officer (IPO). Some extracts from this interview are reproduced below, giving a brief insight to Vili and some of his plans for the future.

IPO: What are some of the factors involved in your decision?

Vili: The decision to move to FAO was very hard to make—timewise—but I had already made the decision late last year not to seek reelection as the Director of SPREP, even though some members of

SPREP urged me to make myself available again. One can argue that since SPREP became a legal entity in 1995, I am therefore eligible to stand for another term. However, I feel that the spirit of the six-year rule was more important than the letter of the regulation. Six and a half years was long enough to be at the head of SPREP and it was the right time for someone else to bring in new ideas which will hopefully benefit the organisation and the region.

IPO: What is your assessment of the organisation over the past six and a half years?

Vili: In the early days, we had to establish ourselves, to show the region, governments and donors that not only can we do it, but that we are really good at what we do. Examples of this include implementing the global initiatives to coordinate the Pacific input into the United Nations Conference on Environ-



*Dr Vili Fuavao addressing the assembly at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, 1992*



*The Secretariat's farewell to Vili at Williams Bay, Apia*



ment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; implementing the current South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme; the Climate Change programme; and Capacity 21, which has compiled the invaluable National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), amongst others.

I feel that SPREP has now consolidated its position to play a pivotal role in sustainable development issues for small island developing states. More importantly, I see that the international community has accepted SPREP as an organisation which can make a lot of impact in the environment movement. However, donor funding is slowly changing its focus away from the environment and SPREP should cater for this in the near future. Personally, I feel this is a positive element for SPREP as it will allow the assessment of the organisation's internal performance and priorities, which are of a very high standard, to be revealed. A good lesson on how to do more with less money.

IPO: What were the main characteristics that made Vili the Director successful?



*Deputy Director Don Stewart speaking at the formal SPREP farewell function attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps and other dignitaries at the SPREP fale*

Vili: He is prepared to take responsibility for the decisions he made. He is very possessive of his staff and he is sometimes very stubborn.

IPO: What is in store for Vili the person in the future?

Vili: Vili the person in the future is dictated by his children. I will see out my term at FAO and will assess it from there. However, I belong to the South Pacific region and I will live and work here in whatever capacity—that will not be compromised. I see myself and family returning to my homeland in Tonga [adding with a wry smile], ... I am comfortable being a farmer.

The last word in this salute to Vili appropriately belongs to his long-time professional associate and close friend Mr Don Stewart.

"Vili is now Sub-regional Representative for the Pacific Islands for FAO and he is in the process of establishing yet another regional headquarters in Apia.

"We convey to him our thanks for a job extraordinarily well done in SPREP and send our very best wishes to him and to his wife Sonia and children, Peter, Joe and Taisa for the future." 🙏

*How far that little candle  
throws his beams!  
So shines a good deed in a  
naughty world.*

William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, V:1



*Vili and Neva Wendi, two of the longest serving members of SPREP*



*Joint SPREP/WHO  
pesticides clean-up  
project*



*Continued from page 8*

## SPREP's Waste Programme

mess afterwards. Seven key areas are targeted and assistance will be provided to Pacific Island countries with all of these:

- persistent organic pollutants including pesticides;
- sewage;
- heavy metals;
- radioactive substances;
- excessive nutrients from organic sources, and sediment mobilisation;
- oils (hydrocarbons) and solid wastes including plastics, litter etc.; and
- physical disturbances including habitat modification and destruction.

Implementation of the GPA is now commencing. Several donor organisations and the Global Environment Facility will be contributing to the Programme.

### The Waigani Convention

The Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Member Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific (Waigani Convention) was signed in Port Moresby in September 1995. It will come into force upon ratification by 10 of the 14 Forum member countries. The Convention was drafted in

recognition of the need to prevent the Pacific from becoming a dumping ground for wastes produced by industrialised countries. It relates heavily to the Basel Convention which controls the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes throughout the world. Upon its coming into force, SPREP will act as Secretariat to the Convention. To assist this process a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between SPREP and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, with whom SPREP will be in close contact seeking technical advice.

The requirements of the Convention include:

- Categorisation of hazardous waste;
- Assistance with the identification of appropriate disposal or reuse methods for each category of waste;
- Obligating Pacific Island Developing Parties (PIDPs) to ban the importation of hazardous wastes from outside the Convention Area;
- Requiring parties to consider becoming parties to the London Dumping Convention, the SPREP Convention and the Basel Convention;
- Obligating parties to adopt waste minimisation practices;

- Obligating parties where possible to dispose of their own wastes in an acceptable manner; and
- Encouraging parties to minimise to the extent possible the production of hazardous wastes. ♻️

For more information contact:

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SPREP  
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# Pacific Year of the Coral Reef: Why?

*Major concerns about increasing threats to coral reefs have prompted Pacific Island governments to declare 1997 as the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef.*

This decision is based on a recommendation by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Strategy. Research reveals that 10 per cent of the world's coral reefs are degraded beyond recovery while an even greater percentage is threatened. If this trend continues, most of the earth's reef resources will be lost in the next century. This trend affects the Pacific region more than any other, given the Pacific Island people's high dependence on the sea for their daily subsistence requirements.

The Planning Meeting for the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef Campaign, held from 2 to 8 July 1996 in Nadi, Fiji, produced a regional campaign plan and national campaign plans (to be finalised in-country). Some of the key outputs from the meeting were: a slogan (Coral Reefs: Their Health, Our Future!); key messages (such as Dynamiting kills coral reefs and blows up our families' future!); and key audiences (for example, resource users and owners).

Also the participants were briefed on how to interact and work with the media.

According to the regional coordinator of the campaign, SPREP's Wetlands and

conservation and wise use through the use of a range of communication tools".

The campaign will be launched simultaneously across the Pacific region in February 1997, focusing on how communities can become involved in the protection of the reefs.

Mrs Apis-Overhoff also mentioned the collaborating assistance from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), through Mr David Lloyd, which produced draft awareness and resource materials for the campaign as well as a training workshop on media skills.

"The campaign dynamics have been mobilised and momentum is gathering daily from the reports we have had from the countries. These include events such as artwork, music, poetry, storytelling etc., using the coral reef themes and key messages. Also, the winner of the regional artwork competition currently in progress, will be announced early in December," said Mrs Apis-Overhoff. "I am confident the campaign will be a success based on the enthusiastic support received from the countries through our focal points, the experience gained from the successful Year of the Sea Turtle Campaign through Ms Sue Miller, together with support from SPREP, its member countries and other organisations such as GBRMPA. I hope that as the campaign kicks off, the media and other organisations will reinforce the good work that has already begun."

For more information contact:  
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Mangroves Officer Mrs Lucille Apis-Overhoff, "The Pacific Year of the Coral Reef Campaign aims to increase understanding, appreciation, support and immediate action for coral reef con-

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**The Pacific Year of the Coral Reef Campaign aims to increase understanding, appreciation, support and immediate action for coral reef conservation and wise use through the use of a range of communication tools**

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## Vacancy: Computer Information Technology Officer

Applications are invited for the position of Computer Information Technology Officer with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

### Post Description

The **Computer Information Technology Officer** is responsible to the Director through the Head of the Environmental Education, Information and Coordination Division. Duties involve:

- administering the computing budget to maximise the effectiveness of computing services within SPREP;
- purchasing suitable hardware and software within budget parameters with management approval;
- maintaining and repairing (where possible) the equipment purchased by SPREP;
- providing training (either personally or with external consultants) on the use of the software and applications being used within SPREP;
- liaising with other regional organisations as and when needed to coordinate computer standards, purchases, etc.;
- maintaining up-to-date awareness of developments in the information technology field;
- advising management of possible future requirements;
- working with and advising staff their computing requirements;
- planning the implementation of new technology as it becomes available and when appropriate to SPREP's needs;
- participating in the planning of the move to the new SPREP requirements;
- ensuring that telecommunication requirements of SPREP are continually satisfied within the constraints imposed by the national telecommunication's carrier; and
- other duties within the general scope of these duties as may be assigned from time to time.

### Required Qualifications and Experience

Candidates must have appropriate tertiary qualifications (preferably with postgraduate qualifications in a relevant field) from a recognised institution and at least 5 years work experience, preferably within the Pacific islands region, in a field related to this position. Other essential requirements are: proven project management experience; ability to manage the work of consultants; proven ability to work as a part of an interdisciplinary and/or multi-cultural team; ability to meet project deadlines (often under difficult circumstances); proven ability to prepare proposals and reports; proven ability to live and work within Pacific Island communities. Applicants with demonstrated interest and involvement in environmental, economic and social issues affecting the region particularly through computer network and other up-to-date technology, will be highly regarded.

### Conditions

Appointment will be at the Project Officer Level of SPREP's authorised salary scales for contract staff, depending on the successful applicants' qualifications and experience. The package will include annual return airfares for appointee and dependents, a housing subsidy and other benefits. SPREP remuneration may be tax-free depending upon circumstances. The appointment will be for 3 years depending on the officer's performance during the first term.

### Applications

Applications should be accompanied by three copies of curriculum vitae containing full personal details, information on qualifications and experience for the position, previous appointments, current position and salary, names, addresses and telephone and/or fax contact numbers of three persons associated with the applicant professionally and who would be prepared to provide testimonials. An indication of how soon the applicants would be available should be indicated.

**Closing Date: 31 January 1997.**

Applicants should be addressed to:

The Director  
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)  
PO Box 240  
APIA  
Western Samoa

Telephone: (685) 21929  
Fax: (685) 20231  
E-mail: SPREP@talofa.net

Further information including a full post description and details of remuneration and terms and conditions, are available from the SPREP Administration Officer. Telephone (685) 21929, extension 237.



# Meeting on International Conventions

*The Meeting on International Conventions relating to Marine Pollution Activities of Importance to SPREP Member Countries and Territories will be held from 2 to 6 December 1996, in Apia, Western Samoa. It will provide summaries and analyses of the importance and interrelationships between marine-related Conventions of interest to Pacific Island countries. The meeting follows on from the signing of the Waigani Convention in October 1995 in Papua New Guinea. SPREP will act as Secretariat to the Waigani Convention when it enters into force and the staging of this meeting is intended to elaborate on its details to Pacific Island countries.*

Also to be discussed at the meeting will be several other international conventions of relevance including:

- The Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols (SPREP Convention);
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Dumping Convention);
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and
- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78).

"The main aim of the meeting will be to examine the details and interrelationships of these conventions, and how they may be of assistance in overcoming problems

perceived by Pacific Island countries," said Mr Andrew Munro, SPREP's Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Officer. "This will provide a good opportunity for countries to clarify any questions regarding their commitments or shortcomings in their legislation framework under these conventions. To assist the Pacific Island delegates, representatives from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, Australia, New Zealand, the United Nations Environment Programme and Greenpeace have been invited to attend."

The agenda items will include:

- Promotion of the benefits to countries of Waigani and related Conventions;
- Summary of each Convention;
- Status of ratifications in the Pacific;
- Identification of interactions between Conventions at both national and regional levels;

- Identification of steps in the ratification process;
- Identification of country priorities for ratification;
- Definition in more detail of the links between Waigani and Basel;
- Identification of obligations following ratification;
- Identification of assistance to signatory countries provided by Convention Secretariats following ratification; and
- Recommendations by participants for follow-up activities. ☺

Further information may be obtained from:

**Mr Andrew Munro or Mr Bernard Moutou**  
SPREP  
PO Box 240  
Apia, Western Samoa  
E-mail: sprep@pactok.peg.apc.org

## SPREP staff update

*There have been considerable staff movements in the Secretariat over the last six months. Some familiar names over the past years have gone and been replaced by new ones.*

### SPREP newcomers

Mrs Susana Kilepoa joins the Environmental Education, Information and Coordination Division as Divisional Assistant.

Mr Craig Wilson, who joined SPREP in May 1996, will be familiar to all NEMS readers, as he was involved in the preparation of the Kiribati NEMS and wrote the Kiribati SOE.

Mr Fatu Tauafiafi takes over from the familiar Wes Ward as Information and Publications Officer.

Mr Michael McGrath is the new Programme Officer (Socio-economics) for

SPBCP. Before joining SPREP, Michael worked as Agriculture and Natural Resources Adviser for an NGO, CARE International, in Vietnam.

Mr James Aston is the new Coastal Management Officer, taking over from Dr Andrew Smith. James brings to the position a wealth of experience and enthusiasm.

Mrs Leigh Pu'epu'ema'i is the new Accounts Clerk in the Finance Division.

Mr Aso Sione initially worked on a three-month assignment. With the departure of Handyman Mr Faalepo T'aei, Mr Sione

was the successful applicant for the position.

Mrs Tumema Fuimaono and Mrs Olivia Patsch are the successful applicants taking over the positions of Divisional Assistants for the Environmental Management Planning Division. They replace Ms Lagi Leapai and Ms Sia Patelesio who have both left for New Zealand.

Mr Mapusone Peseta is now SPREP's Cleaner after the departure of Mr Iakopo Leota.



## STOP PRESS

On the time of going to press (December 1996):

- The new Director of SPREP is **Mr Tamarii Pierre Tutangata** of the Cook Islands. He will take up his new post on 17 January 1997.
- SPREP's *South Pacific Regional Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimization and Management Programme* has just been granted 600,000 ECU (USD 700,000 approximately) by the European Union. The funds will be used by SPREP programme to run an awareness campaign and will be called the Pacific Regional Waste Awareness and Education Programme. This component will involve the the Pacific ACP (African, Caribbean and the Pacific) member countries.

Two recent vacant positions have just been filled:

### **Climatologist/Meteorologist Officer**

This position became vacant when Mr Neville Koop left SPREP to work for the Fiji Meteorological Services as Project Coordinator.

The successful applicant is Mr Penehuro Lefale. He is a Samoan from the village of Utualii. Mr Lefale, who takes up his post with SPREP in early December, has recently been working as an independent consultant based in Canada. He has also worked with Greenpeace and the Western Samoa Observatory. Mr Lefale will provide support to the Meteorological Services in the region and will be involved in Climate Change negotiations.

### **Assistant Computer Information and Technology Officer**

Owing to the demands placed on the Computer Information and Technology Officer (CITO) as a result of the growth in this area of the Secretariat, it has been necessary to create the position of Assistant CITO. The successful applicant is Ms Wanda Ieremia. Ms Ieremia has been employed as the Sustainable Development Network Assistant. Prior to this post she was at the University of Waikato in New Zealand studying Resource Management/Environment Planning and Law. She graduated in August 1995.

### **SPREP farewells**

Dr Vili Fuavao left SPREP in late April 1996 to take up the position of Head of the FAO Sub-regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Vili had been the Director of SPREP for six and a half years.

Mr Roger Cornforth left in August 1996 to take up a position with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he will be responsible for providing specialist environmental advice on the New Zealand overseas aid programme.

Mr Neville Koop left in September 1996 to take up a position with the Fiji Meteorological Services.

Mr Faalepo Taei, who changed the physical environment of SPREP, has left to take up the position of Lecturer in Carpentry at the Western Samoa Polytechnic.

Mr Iakopo Leota left SPREP in late April to pursue other career aspirations.

Ms Sia Patelesio, who had been with SPREP for three years, has left for New Zealand with little Thomas for a break.

Dr Andrew Tilling is back in New Zealand after the completion of his contract. He was the SPBCP's Programme Officer (Socio-economics).

Mr Tala Tuala left to be the Driver at the United Nations Development Programme.

Mrs Salafai Ah Tong is now the Financial Controller at the Western Samoa Visitors Bureau, having been with SPREP for three years.

Mrs Faatupu Poihega, who was the SPBCP's Secretary, has left SPREP for family reasons. ☹

## IN THE NEXT ISSUE ...

### **SPREP to set up a Web site**

We will have a full report from Mr Alex Williams, our Computer Information and Technology Officer, on the logistics of setting up a SPREP web site.

What is involved, when will it be available, how will it be accessed, who is eligible ... all your questions will be answered. We know one thing—if you are currently surfing the internet, we will certainly save some postage money as you will be able to surf right in and pick up a copy of your environment newsletter.

### **Report from the Ninth SPREP Meeting**

There should be up-to-date news on the outcomes of the Ninth SPREP Meeting (if you are not sure what this meeting is, see pages 1 and 2 for details).

### **The Waigani Convention**

Mr Bernard Moutou, our Legal Officer, will spell out the intricate details of this Convention.

### **Art produced from a Vanuatu workshop**

Mrs Gisa Salesa-Uesele, our Environmental Education Officer, recently conducted a workshop which produced some amazing art. A sample is displayed below. Details of the workshop and more artwork samples will be included in the next issue.





## The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Strategy

The ICRI Pacific Regional Strategy was developed and agreed to by participants of the ICRI Regional Workshop held in Suva, Fiji from 27 November to 1 December 1995. This Strategy is built upon aims to assist in the implementation of the ICRI call for action, with emphasis on:

- The global problem of serious decline of coral reefs, especially those near shallow shelves and dense populations.
- The threats to coastal ecosystems by human activity as the primary agent of coral reef degradation.
- The significance of coral reef ecosystems in sustaining innumerable coastal communities worldwide. As competition among multiple users of reef resources increases, so too will their significance to human populations that depend on them.
- Reducing the threats from human-related impacts through improved and sustained management practices; increasing national and local capacities for coral reef ecosystem management; increasing political support for managing coral reef ecosystems; and sharing of existing important new information related to maintaining these ecosystems.
- Integrating coastal management into local, national and regional coastal development plans and projects; and supporting their long-term implementation and developing coral reef initiatives to encourage local participation.
- Capacity building, in terms of establishing regional networks to share information, develop and support educational and information programmes aimed at reducing the adverse impacts of human activities.
- Developing research and monitoring networks to achieve better coordination using regional networks among national research programmes; promoting linkages between global research and monitoring programmes, projects and activities identified as essential to managing reef ecosystems for the benefit of humankind; and promoting the development and maintenance of a global coral reef monitoring network.
- Periodically reviewing the extent and success of the implementation of actions identified in the initiative.

The strategy in this report has been developed for the specific issues and priorities of the Pacific region for conservation, management and sustainable development of coral reefs and ecosystems. Detailed actions to address many relevant issues are identified in a range of other sources including a number of regional and international treaties and agreements. However, this report is not intended to reproduce such high-level detail but rather to highlight the strategy that will be implemented in light of these instruments and in using other relevant tools. The objectives and actions in this report broadly identify how this strategy should be carried out in a manner which is appropriate to the Pacific region. (1)

*International Coral Reef Initiative Pacific Regional Strategy, paper prepared for ICRI Workshop held in Suva, Fiji, 27 November to 1 December 1995.* Apia: SPREP, 1996. vi+30pp. ISBN: 982-04-0141-0. Copies of this report are available from SPREP.



*International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Strategy* (ISBN: 982-04-0141-0)

*Pacific Regional Report on the Issues and Activities Associated with Coral Reefs and Related Ecosystems* (ISBN: 982-04-0146-1)

*International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Regional Workshop* (ISBN: 982-04-0147-X)

*Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Mine Development and Tailings Disposal at Tropical Coastal Mines* (ISBN: 982-04-0150-X)

*Development of Boat Harbours at Anibare and Gabab, Nauru*

*Coral Reef Survey, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga* (ISBN: 982-04-0151-8)

*Neiafu Master Plan, Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga* (ISBN: 982-04-0157-7)

*SPREP Training Course on Coral Reef Survey and Monitoring Techniques* (ISBN: 982-04-0160-7) (1)



# Meetings 1996

DATES	MEETING	VENUE	ORGANISATION
<b>September</b>			
9-4 (Oct.)	In-country Library Training	Port Vila, Tarawa, Majuro, Suva	SPREP
23-27	Small Island States, Climate Change and Environment	Brussels	ACP-EU
23-27	1996 Heads of Forestry Meeting	Port Vila	South Pacific Forestry Development Programme
26-9 (Oct.)	SPREP-Australian Coastal Vulnerability Initiative for Atoll States on Climate Change	Funafuti, Tarawa, Suva, Majuro, Pohnpei	Department of Environment, Sports and Territories (DEST), Australia/SPREP
27-29	Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Marine Conservation Resources Working Group Meeting	Phuket, Bangkok	APEC
<b>October</b>			
2-9	25 <sup>th</sup> South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) Annual Session	Rarotonga	SOPAC
8-10	GEF Council	Washington	GEF Secretariat
13-23	The World Conservation Congress	Montreal	IUCN
22-26	Environmental Management Seminar 1996	Canberra	UNEP
28-30	25 <sup>th</sup> Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA)	Saipan	SPC
31-1 (Nov.)	36 <sup>th</sup> South Pacific Conference	Saipan	SPC
<b>November</b>			
4-15	Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Buenos Aires	UNEP
13-17	World Food Summit	Rome	FAO
25-28	Ninth SPREP Meeting	Nuku'alofa	SPREP
<b>December</b>			
2-3	Forum Officials Committee 1996 Work Programme and Budget Session	Suva	Forum Secretariat
2-5	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop	Apia	SPREP
2-6	Meeting on International Conventions	Apia	SPREP
5-6	Meeting of International Advisory Committee (IAC) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Suva	Forum Secretariat
6	Third Annual SPBCP Multipartite Review	Apia	SPREP



## The last word

If you are a regular reader of the *Environment Newsletter* I thank you for your patience in putting up with the irregular timing of our publication thus far. However, I hope you found this issue interesting. If you are a new reader, welcome to the SPREP newsletter.

As most of you in the region are aware, the major issues facing your environment organisation at present are the revision of its Action Plan and the appointment of its new Director. Both will be important agenda items at the Ninth SPREP Meeting to be held in Nuku'alofa from 25 to 28 November 1996. These agenda items will be of major interest to the region and the environment movement as a whole.

You may ask, "Why is the SPREP Action Plan such a big issue?" Well, let's consider the following passage.

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, our ancestors stood on a high mountain where they could see the whole of the Pacific region. In their minds they drew pictures of their dreams for the best gift

they could hand to future generations. The pictures they drew were limited only by their experiences, inspirations, and how far their eyes could see. Nowadays, our dreams involve handing over to future generations an environment which is preserved in its natural state. So, to help make our dreams come true there is the SPREP Action Plan. In essence, it is the South Pacific region's environment drawing tool. Used properly, it can turn our dreams for our future environment into reality.

This is why the decision on the SPREP Action Plan at the Ninth SPREP Meeting is of major importance to our environment. Our leaders will have available modern-day technology, as well as the wisdom and experience of our unique Pacific cultures, to weave and mould together the necessary fabric of the SPREP Action Plan. Together they will provide the necessary sculpting tool to preserve and sustain the most pristine environment within the largest geographical feature on earth (the Pacific Ocean) and one which we can proudly gift to future generations.

In the next newsletter we will discuss some of these issues as well as other SPREP activities within our region.

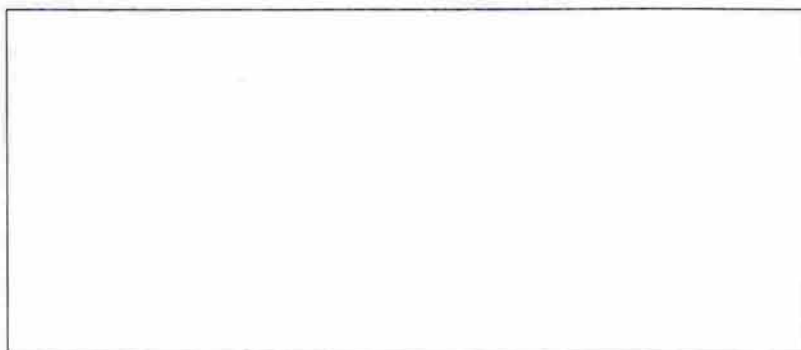
You may have noticed a new section called the "V-Files" (page 7). As I have mentioned in that section, SPREP plays host to a wide cross-section of visitors and some of them have experiences and knowledge which are unavailable to many of us. So, to be part of that experience is the purpose of the V-Files. I hope you will find it useful and perhaps an addition to your personal network.

Two other new features are: "In the next issue" (page 17), which provides a hint of what's contained in the upcoming issue, and the "Did you know that" column (page 2), which gives brief facts and figures about SPREP. This latter section may prompt some question you may have about SPREP. If it does, drop us a line and we will send you the information. If it's a really good topic, we'll publish it in the column. ☺

Fatu Tauafi, Editor  
with Suzanne Grano

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# Air Mail



Printed Matter

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