



# 2006

# Annual Report

of the Secretariat of the  
Pacific Regional Environment  
Programme



Sustainable development  
in a changing  
Pacific environment



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## Sustainable development in a changing Pacific environment

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting cooperation, supporting protection and improvement of the Pacific islands environment, and ensuring its sustainable development.

The Secretariat runs two programmes. Island Ecosystems works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems, so they can support life and livelihoods. Pacific Futures works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems.

Staff are drawn from within the Pacific basin and operate in fields such as:

- Terrestrial island ecosystems;
- Coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Species of special interest;
- People and institutions;
- Multilateral agreements and regional mechanisms;
- Environment monitoring and reporting;
- Climate change and atmosphere;
- Pollution prevention and waste management;
- Knowledge management.



For a map and listing of SPREP Member countries and territories, refer inside back cover.



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*Asplenium ferns, Taveuni, Fiji.*

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# Foreword

## by New Caledonia

*Environment Ministers and Senior Officials  
from SPREP Member countries and  
territories present at the SPREP Meeting  
on 15 September 2006.*

Host and Chair of the 17th SPREP Meeting

In a world marked by increasing globalisation of trade and knowledge, it is essential for the countries and territories of our Pacific region to promote global awareness of environmental issues, to manage and value our resources and our environment for the benefit of future generations.

The quality of life of our peoples encompasses both their standard of living and their physical environment. And our natural environment contributes greatly to our physical environment. It is incumbent upon all of us to take care of it and to provide measures for its sustainable future.

We live in a region where environmental issues are of major significance, where we must take up the challenge of sustainable development. That challenge implies not only the responsible management of our natural resources and environment but also the development of human activities so that our people enjoy a reasonable and decent standard of living.

SPREP, as the regional organisation responsible for the environment, has an important role to play in advancing discussion and work on these issues, as sustainable development is reshaping the way we think about the quality of modern development.

On the one hand, our sensitivity to environmental problems has increased over time, as a result of our awareness of current dysfunctions and the impacts of various natural disasters. Among these are global warming, floods, forest fires, oil spills, earthquakes, landslides, storms and cyclones.

On the other hand, we can often feel overwhelmed by events whose scale, interconnection and challenges seem beyond our capacity to control.

It is through the SPREP programmes and reciprocal cooperation in a spirit of partnership, that Member countries and territories can face the challenge of environmental development; and try to find solutions to the environmental problems affecting the Pacific islands region now and in the future.

The International Waters Project, the activities on invasive species, the development of a programme on island biodiversity, the conservation of threatened marine species, the

development and strengthening of capacities, a closer collaboration among island members and between Pacific territories and SPREP: these are just a few examples of the programmes considered in this Annual Report and which represent major topics for the future of our region's environment.

New Caledonia, a French Pacific Territory, follows closely these programmes as well as the progress of the environmental debate. Its authorities resolutely support sustainable, responsible and balanced development and actively pursue the inscription of its coral reef, the second largest in the world after the Australian Great Barrier Reef, on the World Heritage List. A range of initiatives make it possible for New Caledonia to consider economic and social development that is respectful of its environment and local populations, in line with the guidelines of the Pacific Plan, the final declaration of the France-Oceania Summit, and the European Union strategy for cooperation with the Pacific.

As seen particularly in our mining sector, the right balance needs to be struck between economic activities beneficial to the community, and the preservation of the natural environment in which they take place. For it is just as unpleasant to live wretchedly in a magnificent environment as it is to live magnificently in a wretched environment.

Today more than ever, our Pacific countries and territories must work together to create partnerships and promote mutually beneficial cooperation, in order to successfully meet the challenges and find solutions to the environmental problems we face in our region. SPREP is an important tool for fulfilling these objectives, for providing services on a national and regional level, and for assisting Members in making sure that the voice of the Pacific is listened to on the world stage and that our environmental priorities and successes receive the attention they deserve.

It is with these objectives in mind that New Caledonia, as an active Member of SPREP, was proud to host and Chair the annual SPREP Meeting and the biennial conference of Environment Ministers. It also strongly supports the Secretariat's activities and achievements that are on display here in the present report.

M. Cameron Diver  
Chair

*“For it is just as unpleasant  
to live wretchedly in a magnificent  
environment as it is to live magnificently  
in a wretched environment.”*



New Caledonia issued a special stamp in honour of 17th SPREP meeting.





# Introduction

*Asterio Takesy planting a tree  
in the SPREP compound.*

I am pleased to present my report to Members on the achievements of SPREP during the 2006 calendar year. I am proud to highlight the incremental improvements that my staff have made to a complex environmental situation. This comprises aspects of actively improving the current environment of the Pacific, helping slow down its environmental degradation, and making international arrangements that will assist us in sustaining the Pacific way of life.

Ours is no easy task. The issues are vast, even on a global scale; people in the region are few and far between; and the problems are much bigger than can be solved with the resources that are entrusted us. This calls for priority setting. The SPREP Action Plan 2005–2009 and SPREP Strategic Programmes 2004–2013 have remained our guide in setting priorities throughout the period under review.

Have we achieved what we set out to do? I believe the answer can be affirmative, but much remains yet to be done. Nevertheless there is good progress to report in our two strategic programmes, Island Ecosystems and Pacific Futures, as well as in the Executive Management and Corporate Services area.

Our declaration of 2006 as the Pacific Year of the Sea Turtle (YOST) has provided an excellent focus for raising awareness in biodiversity. Sea turtles are only one group of many species that deserve our attention and protection. Fascinating and important to our ocean and culture, they provide relatively straightforward opportunities for protecting them. They symbolise our efforts, particularly in our education campaigns as the present report shows.

It was exciting to follow a satellite-tagged female sea turtle, Lady Vini, from her release site in Samoa through the waters of six neighbouring countries and territories in seven months. If ever an animal demonstrated that conservation and protection is best achieved only when Members work together, she was it.

Biodiversity was prominent on the agenda at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brazil, in March. The Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW) was adopted: it focussed international attention on our islands and their special challenges; and came with funding from the Global Environment Facility. The Secretariat supported participation of Member countries in the two-year process leading up to the IBPoW adoption, by helping prepare Members for the COP8 and supporting activities.

Other contributions by the Secretariat to international conventions are highlighted in this report. They include a new Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Of particular interest is the Memorandum of Understanding under the Convention of Migratory Species, which seven SPREP Member countries signed at a major side event to the 17th SPREP Meeting in Noumea in September.

Central to protecting native species lies our effort to eliminate introduced pest and nuisance species from our islands. During 2006, the Pacific Invasives Learning Network gained momentum. It has helped Member countries and territories to focus on learning from each other, thus being effective in translating words into action. Our efforts to combat marine pollution focussed on readying a Regional Strategy on Shipping-Related Introduced Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands which was also adopted at the 17th SPREP Meeting. Several other major events at the Secretariat have helped Members build capacity in key areas of interest, highlighting the value of networking, public awareness, and education.

In the Solid Waste area, the momentum of the 2005 Year of Action Against Waste was maintained—indeed it complemented our 2006 YOST activities. In Samoa we built a partnership with private enterprise and launched a re-usable shopping bag that featured the 2006 YOST logo. Sea turtles can mistake plastic for the jellyfish that they eat as food—hence the social marketing of saying no to plastic bags as a means of species protection. To this effect, the Secretariat even ventured into commissioning a rap song for radio and TV!

We also began implementing the regional Solid Waste Strategy and Action Plan that were adopted at the 16th SPREP Meeting. Our focus was on atolls and small islands, the method to get best results being waste minimisation.

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project, that brings together 11 Member countries, was a big step forward. The principal aim is to increase the resilience of Pacific islands to the impacts of climate change.

The Secretariat continues to be engaged with international consultation and agreements, to bring the Pacific perspective to the global forums with many international and national legal aspects.

The year 2006 also marked the successful conclusion of the Strategic Action Programme for the International Waters of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (the International Waters Project, IWP). This major cooperative effort has resulted in a good number of demonstration projects in Member countries that can act as catalysts for further development.

A productive publication programme has supported our activities in print and on our website. This includes the full range of reports on conferences and meetings associated with the 17th SPREP Meeting and the Ministerial segment, in Noumea from 7 to 15 September. These meetings were deemed to have been very successful. I thank Members, non-government organisations, observers, partners and stakeholders for their contributions.

Finally I wish to commend President Jacques Chirac for inviting us to the Second France-Oceania Summit in Paris, which focussed on development, security and environment issues in the Pacific region. I also compliment the European Union for recognising the global impact of the environmental issues in our region, and for featuring the Pacific and the Environment on the European agenda.

All in all, 2006 has proved a productive year for the Secretariat. I trust that the following pages give a clear impression of this.

Asterio Takesy  
Director



# Island Ecosystems

## Programme

*Hawksbill turtle coming up for air.*



### Introduction

The Island Ecosystems Programme has further enhanced the scope of services provided to SPREP Members in strengthening environmental management and promoting sustainable development in the region. This included the establishment of three new positions: Island Biodiversity Officer, Coral Reef Management Officer (supported through Government of France funding), and Invasive Species Officer.

The Secretariat's work, of course, would not be possible without the support and cooperation of national and territorial agencies and its numerous partners. Notable achievements this year included:

- The adoption of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW) at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the highly successful involvement of SPREP Members;
- The Year of the Sea Turtle (YOST) campaign and the engagement of the private sector;
- The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), supported by numerous partners, including The Nature Conservancy;
- Strengthened relations with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Several SPREP Members made outstanding commitments to environmental conservation in 2006, with the Micronesian countries committing to protect 30 percent of near-shore marine and 20 percent of terrestrial resources by 2020; and Kiribati announcing the creation of the largest marine protected area in the Pacific islands and the third largest in the world. These countries have set a valuable example for the region.

The Secretariat also collaborated with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme to produce a report on the role and impacts of Pacific island mangroves in relation to climate change and sea level rise. Such work highlights the critical inter-relationships between biodiversity, livelihoods and survival on Pacific islands in the face of rapid environmental change.



## Marine Species

### 2006 Year of the Sea Turtle Campaign

The SPREP Marine Turtle Action Plan 2003–2007 identifies priority actions for sea turtle conservation work in the Pacific region, including the need to have a second Year of the Sea Turtle campaign to highlight conservation of these important species. The 16th SPREP Meeting in September 2005 had accordingly endorsed the proposal for 2006 to be a Year of the Sea Turtle.

Despite an increase in sea turtle conservation initiatives in the Pacific and world-wide in recent years, sea turtles remain threatened. They continue to be on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, they are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and in Appendix I of the CMS.

The campaign was launched regionally on 1 March 2006 at SPREP; this coincided with the launch of the Year of the Turtle campaign under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA). The collaborative launch and other initiatives added value and effect to our effort and showed global unity in our concerns to conserve sea turtles.

The motto of the YOST 2006 campaign, "Sea Turtles—Protect Them, Protect our Heritage", centred on sea turtles being very much a part of the Pacific people's lives.

The 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle had been a general public awareness and educational campaign; the 2006 campaign built on that foundation with targeted actions for groups that impact on sea turtle populations.

Three main sectors were considered vital in sea turtle conservation work, as reflected in the YOST goals:

- Communities and fishing industry are better informed on sea turtle population status and factors affecting their survival, leading to the establishment of sea turtle conservation work involving communities and commercial fishers employing best practice;
- National legislators and policy makers are better informed on the need for improved legal framework for sea turtle conservation, leading to the development of effective and practical national legislation and policies on sea turtle conservation; and
- Partnerships are established and active amongst stakeholders and organisations in the region, and a collaborative strategy is developed for long-term sea turtle conservation work in the Pacific islands.

The YOST campaign was coordinated by a committee comprising representatives from organisations and Members currently engaged in marine turtle conservation work in the Pacific islands region, using the campaign plan to guide the activities to be undertaken.



The campaign partners include all SPREP Member countries and territories as well as inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations, and donors working or having an interest in sea turtle conservation work in the Pacific islands region.

## Satellite Tagging for YOST

One of three main activities recommended for the YOST campaign was the incorporation of a satellite-tagging programme, with tag releases by multiple Member countries and territories to emphasise the shared nature of turtle stocks.

The Secretariat launched the sea turtle satellite-tagging programme in Samoa in March, collaborating with the Marine Turtle Research Program of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Hawaii, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Samoa. A satellite-tagged green sub-adult, Miss Lina, and a hawksbill nester named Lady Vini were released. While Miss Lina stayed around Upolu Island, Samoa, Lady Vini traveled a distance of 4,743 km through the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of seven countries and territories, within 7 months. This voyage has clearly demonstrated that marine turtles are a shared resource in the region and that their conservation and management requires a regional approach.

In November, the Secretariat collaborated with NOAA's Marine Turtle Research Program, the French Polynesia Direction de L'Environnement and Le Meridien Bora Bora: four green turtles and one olive Ridley's turtle were satellite-tagged and then released in Bora Bora. Two of these tags continued to be active well into 2007 with movements being monitored.

## Regional MOUs under the CMS

The 16th SPREP Meeting had endorsed the joint SPREP/CMS process towards the development of a regional Memorandum of Understanding for cetaceans under the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; and had also directed the Secretariat to progress regional arrangements for dugongs and marine turtles.

*Lady Vini being released with a satellite tag in March 2006. She sent signals during her 7-months voyage through the EEZs of 7 Members.*



## Conservation of Cetaceans

SPREP has been collaborating with the CMS in developing the MOU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region since 2003. This included three regional meetings involving SPREP Members and partners and eventually resulted in a finalised MOU in 2006. The MOU was opened for signing during the 17th SPREP Meeting in Noumea, where 9 SPREP Member countries signed.

## Conservation of Dugongs

Dugongs only occur in six countries and territories in the SPREP region: Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. Hence a separate MOU for the entire Pacific islands region under the CMS is not warranted. The Secretariat has nevertheless been encouraging the full participation of SPREP Members within the range of dugong (known as "range States"), in the MOU on Dugong Conservation and Management in the Southeast Asian Region under the CMS.

The second intergovernmental meeting in relation to the MOU was held in Thailand in April. The Secretariat ensured the participation of all SPREP range States, was represented in this meeting, worked with SPREP Members, and together with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), circulated a joint briefing paper. An agreed draft MOU, and a Conservation and Management Plan was circulated towards the end of 2006 for consideration by range States. SPREP and IFAW again circulated a briefing paper which encouraged signing the MOU given the relevance to regional conservation efforts and, in particular, to the regional Dugong Action Plan 2003–2007.

## Conservation of Marine Turtles

The Secretariat continued to negotiate with the CMS Secretariat and the Oceania CMS lead country, Australia, in the initiation of the development and negotiations for an MOU for the conservation of marine turtles in the Pacific.

# Cetacean Research and Stranding Management Training

SPREP, in collaboration with the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) and partners, conducted two regional training workshops on cetaceans in Auckland, New Zealand, from 26 September to 6 October.

The training workshops addressed actions highlighted in the regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2003–2007:

- Capacity Building for Cetacean Research & Management (e.g., training in simple cetacean research techniques and develop in-country programmes);
- Managing Cetacean Stranding and Network Development (e.g., gain a better understanding of the number, species and geographic range of strandings of cetaceans);
- Train participants in responding to strandings of both live and dead cetaceans, in sampling techniques at stranding events, in dealing with animals taken as by-catch in fishing operations; and
- Providing a draft Standard Operating Procedure for strandings response.

*Cetacean stranding training in Samoa, by Project Jonah trainers from New Zealand.*



Eleven Member countries attended the training workshops, while partners included DOC, the Natural Heritage Trust through the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH); NOAA; NZ Pacific Development and Conservation Trust, through SPREP and the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium (SPWRC); World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA); IFAW; and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDACS).

## Technical Meeting on Cetaceans in the Region

At the 17th SPREP Meeting, Members agreed to review the Marine Species Programme Framework (MSPF) and its Action Plans, and directed the Secretariat to submit a revised MSPF at their next meeting. This would ensure that Members had updated technical information to inform their deliberation and development of a revised MSPF and Action Plans.

The technical meeting on cetaceans was held in August in Apia, Samoa, with the objectives: to assess the status of the implementation of the regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan (WDAP) 2003–2007; to review collected and available information on cetaceans in the Pacific islands region; and to develop components of a draft revised WDAP.

The Technical Meeting Report includes an assessment of the implementation of SPREP's current WDAP, updated available information on whale and dolphin species in the region, as well as recommended actions.



## Importance of Island Biodiversity Recognised

Islands' limited land area, many restricted species on land and in surrounding oceans, and unique cultures make them susceptible to increasing pressures facing them. These special characteristics, particular needs and threats and their importance to global biodiversity conservation, were recognised by the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brazil: in March it adopted the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work.

The Pacific along with other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was intensely involved with the development of IBPoW and lobbied hard at many important events to gain support for its adoption. SPREP was, and continues to be, an important partner in this process.



*A real Bryde's whale (Balaenoptera edeni) had stranded the day before a pre-planned training course in Auckland.*

Directed at island ecosystems collectively, the IBPoW places emphasis on oceanic islands and particularly on SIDS, because their systems are the most at risk.

The IBPoW has five goals, 18 global targets and associated priority actions, plus many supporting actions.

The five main goals are:

- Conservation of Island Biodiversity;
- Sustainable Use of Island Biodiversity;
- Address the Threats to Island Biodiversity;
- Access and Benefit-sharing of Island Genetic Resources; and
- Increasing Capacities and Financing for the Implementation of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity.

The Secretariat, with assistance from the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), finished an 18-months' activity to support Pacific island countries to develop a new IBPoW within the CBD: this culminated in the agreement. Participation of Pacific island representatives was supported by the Governments of New Zealand and France.

## Progressing the Biodiversity Agenda

At COP8, SPREP co-sponsored and helped organise a high level event, "Leadership for island and marine biodiversity and livelihoods: a Global Island Partnership" during which:

- The Micronesia Challenge was launched globally by the leaders of Micronesia—a commitment by the Governments of Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam to protect 30 percent of nearshore marine and 20 percent of terrestrial resources on islands by 2020;
- Kiribati announced the creation of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), the largest marine protected area in the Pacific islands and the third largest in the world. It will help safeguard more than 71,300 square miles (182,500 square kilometres) of nearly pristine marine wilderness;
- The Caribbean nation of Grenada, inspired by its Micronesian counterparts in the Pacific, pledged to put 25 percent of nearshore marine and 25 percent of terrestrial resources under effective conservation by 2020.

## The Global Island Partnership

The Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges: to protect and sustainably manage the invaluable natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world.

GLISPA was launched in March to build leadership and partnerships committed to actively support implementation of the new IBPoW under the CBD and other related global policies.

It helps link activities at the local, national, and international levels and builds on existing networks, institutions, and initiatives to:

- Identify and support island leaders championing conservation and sustainable livelihood initiatives;
- Utilise international events to recognise island leadership;
- Stimulate strategic partnerships between governments and civil society to implement these initiatives and strengthen long-term conservation capacity;
- Engage donors to improve access and provide significant new public and private financial resources for island conservation;
- Facilitate learning exchanges, networks, and information sharing across islands to address urgent needs;
- Establish a mechanism for better collaboration among island nations and nations with islands.

A second regional event supported by SPREP and GLISPA was at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in October. The high-level dinner was hosted by H.E. Joseph Urusemal (President of the Federated States of Micronesia), H.E. Kessai H. Note (President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands) and H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr (President of the Republic of Palau).

Its goal was to bring Pacific island leaders, donors and NGO partners together to celebrate recent major conservation commitments and progress to ensure sustainable livelihoods for island people.

It also aimed to highlight benefits of conservation to national and regional development, to encourage other Pacific island countries to make commitments, and to facilitate international support for conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

This highly successful event, attended by more than 100 Heads of Government, Ministers, Heads of Regional Agencies (including the SPREP Director, representing GLISPA also), NGOs and media, set the stage for unanimous support by all 16 Pacific Forum Heads of Government, including Australia and New Zealand.

## Community Taba Side Event

SPREP worked together with the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas Taskforce on Islands Conservation and Protected Areas, and the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Equator Initiative to host a one-day side event as part of a community space at the COP8 venue.

Called the "Island Life Dialogue" it gave island communities a voice into the meeting, particularly in expressing issues that are important to them as island people. The Pacific region was well represented by Willy Kostka of Federated States of Micronesia, Adalbert Eledui of Palau, Ratu

Aisea Katonivere of Fiji and other Pacific representatives supported by other organisations, including Conservation International (CI).

One of the aims of this day was to facilitate new and lasting networks and partnerships between islands at the community level, so that island communities can start to work together on common issues as outlined in the new IBPoW.

Participants identified that, to amplify success in addressing and implementing the IBPoW, there is a need to seek concrete partnerships and to have clear commitments. The partnership will be of local, regional and national governments, indigenous people and local communities, and relevant agencies. The network would foster and be based on mutual communication, trust, and respect.

A Community Taba statement from the side event was prepared and presented to COP8 during the final plenary session; the day closed with a Fijian kava ceremony.

## Roundtable Reflections on a Way Forward

The Roundtable for Nature Conservation held its 10th Meeting in Suva in October. The meeting focussed on a way forward based on a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 2003–2007.

The following points by the monitoring and evaluation consultant were adopted:

- That the Action Strategy should be retained, basically as is, but with links to completed National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), some refinement to reflect the IBPoW and to acknowledge the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);
- That the Action Strategy should still include goals related to Environment, Economy and Society;
- Replace targets in the Action Strategy with indicators;
- Provide the Action Strategy with an implementation framework;
- Provide reporting-back matrix based on the Roundtable's Online Inventory of Conservation Activities.

Discussion also took place on the need to formalise Roundtable procedures and to revert to its original purpose: to improve communication and coordination, partnerships, networking and a forum for interaction. The Roundtable role is to promote, facilitate and monitor progress but not to implement the Action Strategy.



*Pacific Youth are letting their leaders know what environment they would like to live in, through the "Postcards from the future" campaign.*

*Crown-of-thorns starfish in staghorn coral. Right.  
Butterfly fish with mushroom coral. Centre.  
Coral reefs are major fish nurseries. Far right.*

A funding base is required for Roundtable Secretarial support; outreach and communication; monitoring analyses; and travel support for national participants.

It was agreed that the Roundtable would comprise two concentric circles: an inner circle being the Management Group, mainly Working Group Chairs, fully committed with necessary endorsements, and accountable; plus an outer circle of Working Group members, participants and observers, not bound, with input to the extent possible.

## Roundtable and NBSAP Implementation post-2007

How could the Roundtable do a better job of supporting countries to implement their NBSAPs? The Roundtable could become a place for assistance to Pacific island governments with NBSAP implementation.

For example: Government A formulates a proposal for an intervention that will contribute to the achievement of a specific Action Strategy objective. The proposal is then formulated in the prescribed format, submitted to the Roundtable and referred to an appropriate Working Group (responsible for the objective).

The Working Group considers the proposal, may suggest improvements; then works with Government A to identify likely sponsors, expertise, etc. The Working Group finally provides further support and tracks progress with implementation through the use of indicators.

The IBPoW will assist biodiversity efforts already underway, particularly implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and helping secure funds to deal with island biodiversity priorities as well as technical and other assistance from other CBD Parties. New partnerships have already emerged as a result of the IBPoW, for example the GLISPA and the Micronesian Challenge.

*Sharks and other reef fish, Marovo Lagoon, Western Province, Solomon Islands.*

*Red-footed Booby, Sula sula, in Namenaia, Fiji.*

*Cloud Forest, Des Voeux Peak, Taveuni, Fiji.*





## Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management

Lessons learnt from the Pacific experience on locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) and sustainable livelihoods featured at the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in Mexico in October.

A symposium theme on coastal fisheries and aquaculture, co-convened by SPREP and the University of Washington included a session on the Pacific islands region with presentations by the LMMA network, the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and the Secretariat.

Resources managers, including local fishermen from Belise and Mexico, discussed the establishment and management of locally managed areas in Melanesia; recent development in community-government partnership in scaling up marine managed areas and integrated coastal management in Fiji; community based coral farming in Fiji; and recent studies on the financial viability of coral trade in Fiji and the Solomon Islands. Related sessions on fisheries and ocean governance, ecosystem-based management of marine resources and fisheries, enforcement and surveillance complemented the community-based approach of the Pacific region.

Recommendations from the workshop contributed to the ITMEMS statement endorsed by ICRI, and included: improving coastal and fisheries governance and participation of fishers; supporting rights-based and marine tenure approaches to close open access marine regimes; and promoting diversified skills for community-based income generating activities that provide alternatives and complement sustainable capture fishery management.

In addition, participants prepared a Pacific Island Region Caucus Statement, endorsed by ICRI, contributing to a recommendation to hold regional Marine Ecosystem Management symposia.

The Year of the Reef 2008 was endorsed by ICRI members: the SPREP campaign of 1997 was acknowledged as a good model to replicate and a Pacific regional campaign is being planned.

## Partnerships with NOAA

Following a successful application for funding to the US agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and SPREP convened a meeting of the Pacific Region socio-economic monitoring steering committee. Comprising the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), USP, LMMA, the French Development Agency (AFD), NOAA, and World Fish Centre, their aim is to develop and implement community-based socio economic monitoring guidelines in the Pacific region. The guidelines are based on the experience of the NOAA SocMon programme, the LMMA network and SPC ProcFish programme. They will be finalised and operational in 2007.

## Progress on CRISP

The Convention between the AFD and the United Nations Foundation (UNF) was signed in July, giving SPREP the green light to progress component 3A of the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP), which focussed on:

- Enhancing institutional capacity for integrated governance of coastal and marine resources;
- Engendering support by policy makers using, among others, economic valuation techniques;
- Disseminating and facilitating the adoption of CRISP and other regional programmes results by policy makers and coastal managers;
- Enhancing capacity of coastal managers to access to appropriate information, methodologies and technologies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

A Coral Reef Management Officer was recruited to the Secretariat to start in January 2007, whose main immediate task is to support implementation of the SPREP component of CRISP.

## Pacific Regional Framework for MMAs

The 17th SPREP Meeting and Ministerial Forum in Noumea directed the Secretariat to develop a regional framework for the establishment and management of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in collaboration with SPC and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity of coasts and oceans in the Region. A draft concept proposal has been developed.

## Regional Support for the Ramsar Convention

The Secretariat is continuing to support Pacific Island Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) with conservation and wise use of their wetland ecosystems. Wetlands as defined under the Ramsar Convention cover everything from freshwater lakes to mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs.

There are currently five Pacific Island Ramsar Parties to the Convention and six wetlands of international importance (called "Ramsar sites") listed. Fiji became the 152nd Ramsar Party in August. SPREP has also provided support to other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) that have shown an interest in joining the Convention and in progressing their moves towards accession.

*Edge of mangrove conservation area, Moata'a, Samoa.*



*Buttress tree roots in Inocarpus swamp, Taveuni, Fiji.*



Highlights of Ramsar activities include:

- The signing of a new Memorandum of Cooperation for 2006–2008 between SPREP and the Ramsar Secretariat Convention. The new MOC signifies the commitment of both parties to providing further opportunities and support, and to sustain the momentum of wetland conservation in the region.
- Coordination and support for World Wetlands Day 2006 celebrations in the region
- Collaboration with FSPI to plan priorities and needs for strengthening community-based coastal resource management over the next five years in the region. This has resulted in a partnership between the Secretariat and FSPI where a series of exchange attachments/visits are planned between coastal wetland practitioners from Pacific islands to learn from each other's experiences; the first such occurred between Tuvalu and Kiribati.
- Collaboration with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC), the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP, and the University of Tasmania. The aim is to complete and publish the results of a survey to assess the technical capacity of PICs to assess and manage mangrove responses to climate change and sea level rise. The survey report was launched by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in July.

The publication, *Pacific Island Mangroves in a Changing Climate and Rising Seas* is available online at <http://www.unep.org> and <http://www.wpcouncil.org>. A symposium on mangrove responses to relative sea level rise and other climate change effects was organised and conducted as part of the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) annual meeting in July. The Secretariat contributed a paper on opportunities for increasing the resilience of mangroves to climate change in the Pacific islands region. The proceedings are available online at <http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/geography/documents/promanch.pdf>;

- Collaboration with the Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), SPC, USP and the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (California State University) to plan for Marine and Coastal Habitat Mapping needs in the region, and for the Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping (GeoHab) conference in May 2007.

## PILN is Turning Words into Action

The Pacific Invasives Learning Network is a novel initiative in the Pacific region. The network was established in 2005 when The Nature Conservancy joined with SPREP, the Cooperative Island Initiative on Invasive Species, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, National Park of American Samoa, CI, the Palau Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, USP, US Forest Service, and SPC. A full-time coordinator was appointed and the network formally launched in May 2006 by the Honorable Elias Camsek Chin, Vice President of the Republic of Palau. He gave the network its unofficial motto in his concluding remarks at the opening ceremony: "Failure is not an option".

PILN is a network of multi-agency multi-sector country teams who agree to share skills and expertise in the management of invasive species, one of the greatest threats to sustainable development and biodiversity in the region. There are six initial founding teams: American Samoa, Guam, Niue, Palau, Pohnpei, and Samoa. Teams include members with a long-term commitment to conservation, strong cultural understanding, and the potential to act as innovators to increase invasive species management and prevention in their nations. Participating teams determine the specific invasive species issues that they will address using the network: PILN's activities and agenda are determined by the individual and shared needs of the participants.



An issue raised at the launch by participants was the need to turn words into action—to get out of the meeting room and get on with the job. This recognises that there is not enough implementation of action plans, and that the various national strategic plans tend to lack a “road map” to guide under-resourced and over-tasked agencies towards achieving their goals. Specific needs identified included capacity building in specific technical and social marketing skills, production of simple and realistic action plans for priority species, and opportunities to share practical skills. PILN was seen as offering a means of meeting these needs.

Since the launch, the network has gained great traction. Technical and planning advances are shared among the teams, raising interest and generating ideas.

Examples of projects being implemented by PILN teams are:

- Strategic action planning (Pohnpei, Palau);
- Regional control of Betel nut bud rot (Guam);
- Weed eradication or local control (American Samoa, Palau, Pohnpei, Niue);
- Rodent eradication (Guam, Pohnpei, Samoa);
- Tilapia eradication (Palau, Pohnpei);
- Eradication of feral birds (American Samoa, Pohnpei Samoa);
- Development of a prioritisation system as a tool for decision-making (Samoa).

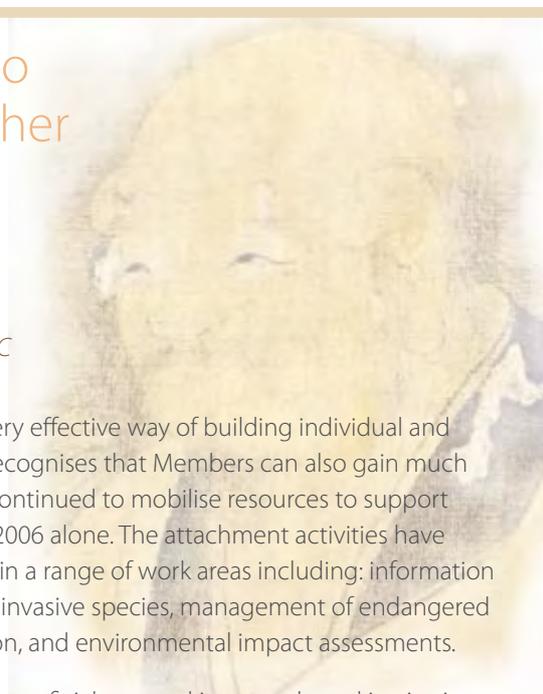
The activities and achievements are generating great interest in other Member countries and territories, and in 2007 the network will expand to incorporate further country teams: Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Kiribati, Kosrae State, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, and Yap State. In only seven months since its official launch, PILN has proved an effective means of building capacity and assisting invasive species workers to turn their words into action.

## Helping Members to Learn from Each Other

*If you tell me, I will listen.  
If you show me, I will see.  
But if you let me experience,  
I will learn.* Lao Tzu, 5th-century BC

Training attachments have proven a very effective way of building individual and institutional capacity. The Secretariat recognises that Members can also gain much by learning from each other, and has continued to mobilise resources to support this training approach: US\$140,000 in 2006 alone. The attachment activities have benefited 12 countries and 18 officers in a range of work areas including: information technology, prevention and control of invasive species, management of endangered species, community based conservation, and environmental impact assessments.

The attachments have been mutually beneficial to partaking people and institutions and have also contributed to strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration. They have been made possible through the generous support from the Government of Japan through the Forum Secretariat, and from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand through their programme funding for the Secretariat.





*A PILN break-out group is considering public awareness issues at the Palau meeting.*



*Mr Peter Hunnam, Global Manager of a Global Support Programme for the NCSA at UNDP-GEF in New York, facilitating the NCSA workshop.*

## Enhancing National Capacity Self-Assessments

The Secretariat stepped up its efforts to support Members that are Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to carry out capacity self-assessments under the GEF-National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) project.

In collaboration with the Global Support Unit of the GEF-NCSA a training workshop for officers from countries facilitated initiatives aimed at linking national issues with multi-lateral environmental objectives; and identified capacity needs to address these inter-linked issues as well as the requirements of MEAs. A total of 20 officers from 12 countries participated and benefited from this training. In-country support was provided to four Members in the implementation of NCSA inception and thematic assessment workshops.

The guidance provided by the Secretariat has helped national agencies and resulted in the strengthening of inter-agency collaboration and coordination. It has also raised awareness with government officers, and the public, of the Conventions and the environmental issues they are intended to address. By year's end three countries had begun to undertake the advanced stages of cross-cutting assessments and development of Action Plans, while another five were implementing their stock-taking and thematic assessments. These self-assessments will be critical in prioritising capacity development initiatives and programmes into the future.

## Environmental Communications Training

The Secretariat continues to strengthen its communications training programme to support Members in using education and communications as tools for promoting sustainable development. Throughout the year, its programme increased capacity of approximately 100 members of the media, government officers and NGO representatives including participants from American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The workshops aimed to illustrate the pivotal role of integrated communications in promoting environmental issues through highlighting the success stories and lessons learnt within the International Waters Project pilot communities.

The workshops applied a combination of communications and social change theory, and resulted in increased understanding, awareness and appreciation of the role of communications in promoting sustainable development in the Pacific. Participants departed with the basic skill set required to develop and implement a communications strategy and community campaign.

Through this initiative, the Secretariat is continuing to promote the concept of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) that seeks to equip people with the relevant skills and knowledge, to make decisions that have a positive impact on the future.

Throughout the workshops, participants worked towards the development of a social marketing campaign focused on a single issue within their communities. This was conducted through a series of activities resulted in a presentation or “pitch” of each campaign.

In Samoa, SPREP worked with MNRE to facilitate the Communicating Climate Change workshop that included representatives from Ministries of Health, Education and the energy sector. This workshop was one of the first facilitated in the region to highlight the role of communications in promoting a collaborative approach to communicating climate change issues to selected target audiences.

## Engaging Private Sector Regional Effort

One of the key priorities of the Year of the Sea Turtle was the reduction of threats to these charismatic animals. Globally it is estimated that 100,000 sea turtles die each year from consuming, or becoming caught in, plastic bags and other debris. Sea turtles can mistake plastic for jellyfish, a key food source for some species.

In an innovative partnership, the Secretariat and the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ Bank) in Samoa joined forces to reduce marine pollution, and to promote positive behaviours through the Turtle Bag campaign.

The Turtle Bags are reusable shopping bags that were made available in supermarkets and encourage shoppers to “say no to plastic bags”. The concept was based on the popular Green Bags found in supermarkets in Australia, providing a low-cost, attractive and viable alternative to plastic bags.

The Turtle Bag supported a ban on importing non-biodegradable plastic bags introduced by the Government of Samoa on 1 June: under this ban, only biodegradable bags would be sold there. Providing an alternative at point of sale (supermarkets) discourages people to use plastic bags, offering a reusable alternative that promotes their interest to save the sea turtles.

A key element of the Turtle Bag initiative was the establishment of the ANZ Save the Turtle Fund; from the sale of each Turtle Bag, ANZ donated 1 Tala towards the Fund that is supporting community based turtle conservation initiatives.

## Engaging Young People

Throughout the year, SPREP and UNEP continued to work in partnership to encourage the increased engagement of young people in environmental management in the region. One of the key activities was the development of the Pacific Future Environment Leaders Forum, a leadership and skills building programme to take place in early 2007.



Through participation at the Pacific Youth Festival in July 2006, SPREP was able to continue to build on relationships with key agencies such as SPC to promote the role of young people in environmental management in the region. As part of this renewed focus on the region's future leaders, the Secretariat facilitated the "Postcards from the Future" initiative, in which young people were encouraged to write messages on the backs of postcards about what they valued about the Pacific environment. These postcards were bundled up and handed out at high-level events throughout the year.

SPREP will continue to promote the role of young people in promoting environment for sustainable development in the future.



## IWP in its Final Year

After seven years of major activity in its participating island nations, the International Waters Project (IWP) substantively came to an end in December 2006. Through the agreement of UNDP, the Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project will officially close in February 2007 (the extension allowed project National Coordinators to complete work that started in 2006 and spend the funds provided for the last quarter of 2006). Called the "Strategic Action Programme for the International Waters of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States" in full, IWP has been a major cooperative effort. Funding of US\$12 million over the 7 years was received from GEF and UNDP.

There have been many successes both at the national level and community level. A good number of demonstration projects in various Pacific countries can act as catalysts for further development, and many lessons have been learnt that can be applied for future developments. The strength of the most successful IWP pilot projects was based on the level of community ownership, and indeed community leadership of the initiative. With strong participation of the community in the work, the pilots were not only successful in their own right but were also being replicated. This was the case in the pilot projects in Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu and to some extent in Tonga and Federates States of Micronesia as well.

The IWP Terminal Evaluation report noted that:

"The project made a lasting contribution in the region by helping to expand public understanding of environmental issues; more importantly, it served to empower community members to become directly involved in environmental protection efforts. The project successfully introduced and expanded the use of social and economic diagnostic tools, enabling participating countries to better understand the root causes of environmental degradation, and their social and economic consequences."

Inevitably with a project of this ambitious scope, dealing with 14 countries within a huge area of the Pacific, many lessons have been learnt at local, national and regional levels on how to implement such projects more effectively. The Secretariat has noted these lessons and will use them to improve the way that it implements projects in the future. SPREP thanks all participants and partners in the IWP over the past 7 years for their valuable engagement, contributions and assistance, especially the national agencies and coordinators, and the UNDP Multi-country office in Samoa for their consistent support.

IWP resources, in particular the IWP-Pacific Technical Report series, continue to be available through the IWP website on the SPREP server, <http://www.sprep.org/iwp>.



# Pacific Futures

## Programme



### Introduction

The Pacific Futures Programme targets the long-term future of the region's environment and its peoples. The core of the Programme is built around two major focus areas identified by Pacific Island Countries in their regional Action Plan for managing the environment: Climate Change and Pollution Prevention.

This year there has been a significant increase in global awareness of climate change issues, particularly the potential adverse effects and their economic costs. This has been matched in the Secretariat's work, with major initiatives in climate change adaptation, and support for renewable energy technologies.

In Pollution Prevention, efforts have continued on the critical issue of waste management through a wide range of activities, addressing the complete waste hierarchy, from waste minimisation through to disposal. Significant effort has also gone into improved management of hazardous waste and marine pollution.

Increasingly, the Secretariat's work is being guided by regional strategy documents developed in collaboration with our Pacific Island Member countries. These documents provide a strategic context for our work, and set a framework for assessing progress.

The Pacific Futures Programme takes the lead in regional participation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements. These international agreements (such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) continue to set the global agenda for many environmental issues.

Our role is to support Pacific island representatives to participate strongly in these international processes, and ensure that the unique interests and circumstances of the Pacific are recognised internationally.

SPREP's work is set in the context of sustainable development, promoting environmental issues alongside the social and economic goals of the region.

There are many cross-linkages among environmental issues, and also with broader social and economic interests (for example climate change with biodiversity, food security, and community resilience). We also recognise the need to work in partnership with Pacific island governments and communities, and with other agencies working to support the region.



## Climate Change

Climate change issues were at the forefront of global news during the year, spurred by the appearance of former United States Vice-President Al Gore's film "An inconvenient truth", and the release in the United Kingdom of a major report on the economic costs of climate change. The latter, the "Stern Report", highlighted the potential effects of climate change in terms of species extinctions, displacement of people due to sea level rise, effects on food production, and extreme weather patterns. The Stern Report suggested costs to the global economy of up to US\$7trillion if urgent action is not taken.

This global publicity gave further impetus to climate change work in the Pacific, where the vulnerability of communities to climate change and sea level rise is well recognised. PICs have set down their strategic priorities in the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), which was developed through the Secretariat and endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2005.

The Secretariat has a lead role in maintaining the Framework, and is developing a more practical Action Plan for its implementation. A roundtable process is also being proposed as a means for stakeholders to be involved in monitoring progress and coordinating climate change efforts across the region. This is expected to be implemented from 2007.

We have continued to pursue initiatives under the Framework on climate change, renewable energy and ozone depletion; and supported Member countries in international climate change negotiations.

## Support to COP12 of UNFCCC

The Secretariat has provided support to Pacific island delegations at COP12 of the UNFCCC held in November in Nairobi. A major outcome of that meeting was the adoption of a five-year work program on adaptation, now known as the "Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation".

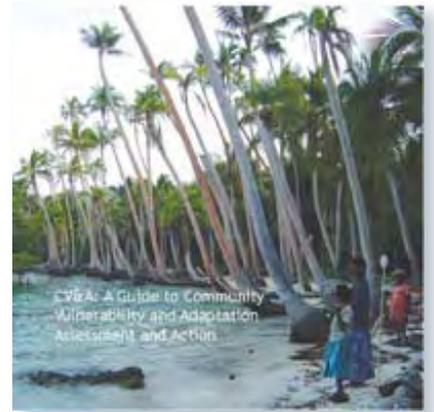
Another important outcome was agreement on the management of the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol. This draws on proceeds generated by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and is designed to support concrete adaptation activities in developing countries.

The CDM permits industrialised countries to offset their emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol. It does so by investing in sustainable development projects in developing countries that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and thereby generate tradable emission credits. Noting that very few African countries or Small Island Developing States are hosting CDM projects, the Conference also adopted the "Nairobi Framework" announced by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan; this will provide additional support for developing countries to successfully develop projects for the CDM.

In addition, progress was made on the convening of SIDS expert meetings on adaptation, which would also include the consideration of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

# Adapting to Climate Change

Building resilience through adaptation to climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events has been identified as a key priority for Pacific island countries and territories. The Secretariat has continued to build awareness of the vulnerability of the Pacific, and the need for adaptation measures.



## The New PACC Project

The Secretariat has continued to build on the work completed on adaptation under the Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries (CBDAMPIC), funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

During the year, the Global Environment Facility approved the Project Development Phase (PDF-B) for a new regional project focussing on adaptation: the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project. The PACC proposal is targeting resources from the special window on adaptation opened by the GEF recently, called the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

The PACC Full-Sized Proposal, once approved by the GEF, would inject US\$11.25 million GEF resources into the region for adaptation purposes. PACC is a joint initiative between SPREP and UNDP, and has been developed in response to calls by PICs through regional forums such as the annual SPREP Meetings for adaptation assistance.

The PACC will implement long-term adaptation measures to increase the resilience of key development sectors in the Pacific islands to the impacts of climate change. This objective would be achieved by focussing on long-term planned adaptation response strategies, policies and implementation measures to bring about this result.

The project will focus on the following key development sectors: water resources management; food production and food security; coastal zone and associated infrastructure (roads and breakwater). These focal sectors have been identified by the countries in their first national communication and other recent documents such as the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Eleven PICs are part of the PACC project. They are: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The Full-Sized Project Proposal was to be submitted to the GEF in early 2007 and a decision taken on approval in mid 2007.



*PACC Consultation with Environment Department Officials in the Solomon Islands.*



## 'Many Strong Voices': Climate Change in the Arctic and SIDS

This collaborative programme aims to ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of coastal communities in the Arctic and in Small Island Developing States; in the face of climate change. Even though natural and human environments in the two regions differ markedly, the societies of these countries are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in similar ways; indeed both have been identified as regions where impacts of climate change are already occurring.

"Many Strong Voices" brings the Arctic and SIDS together, to take collaborative and strategic actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Programme participants include SPREP and other international organisations, government agencies, non-government organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, research institutes, communities and individuals.

This collaboration aims to:

- Build capacity to strengthen the role of these vulnerable regions in negotiations on greenhouse gas mitigation and on climate change adaptation;
- Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions;
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions;
- Take action on adaptation.

"Many Strong Voices" fills a communication gap by supporting the exchange of knowledge and expertise on climate change between the two regions, and by assisting people in both the Arctic and SIDS to have their voices heard at local, regional, and international levels. See <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>.

## Energy and Climate Change: from PIREP to PIGGAREP

Pacific Island Countries and Territories have acknowledged that they need to play their part in reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

To this end, 2006 saw the conclusion of the GEF-funded Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Programme (PIREP), and the approval of a new initiative, the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP), also funded through the GEF.

## Completion of PIREP

The SPREP-managed PIREP began in 2003 and concluded in 2006. The main objective of this programme has been to produce a framework for a region-wide renewable energy project. This successor project, PIGGAREP, has secured funding from the GEF, the participating countries and other donors. In addition to the 11 countries participating in the Project (see below), Marshall Islands and Palau are developing their own medium-sized UNDP/GEF proposals (respectively called ADMIRE: Action for the Development of Marshall Islands Renewable Energies, and SEDREA: Sustainable Energy Development through Renewable Energy Applications) as spin-offs of the PIREP preparatory activities.

The PIREP produced a set of reports in 2005, which provide an excellent description of the baseline situation in PICs and are now being used widely in these countries. The complete series of PIREP reports (listed in SPREP's 2005 Annual Report) and a database of energy-related information are available on the SPREP website.

The Terminal Review for PIREP was completed during the year. The reviewer set out some challenges for its successor, PIGGAREP, and commended the project as well as the Secretariat's management of it by stating: "Managing a regional project in which no less than 15 countries participate and getting their as well as GEF's endorsement for the PIGGAREP is not a simple feat, but has been achieved within a reasonable timeframe."

## Removing Barriers to Renewable Energy

PIGGAREP received final approval through the GEF procedures this year. The GEF Council had given its approval in 2005, subject to some fine-tuning of the project design. The Project is now set for implementation from 2007.

PIGGAREP is a five-year project promoting the productive use of renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to do this through removing major barriers to the widespread and cost-effective use of commercially viable renewable energy technologies.

This will enable these technologies:

- To be used in education, tourism and health services;
- To provide income-generating activities to young people in cottage industries such as handicrafts;
- To improve local access to financing for renewable energy projects.

The project has six major components, each addressing a specific type of barrier. The specified sub-objectives related to the type of barrier addressed are:

- **Technical:** Increased number of successful commercial renewable energy applications for productive uses and income activities;
- **Market:** Expansion of the market for renewable energy technology applications for both energy and non-energy uses;
- **Institutional:** Enhanced institutional as well as systemic and individual capacity to design and implement renewable energy;
- **Financial:** Availability and accessibility of sufficient funding for existing and new renewable energy projects;
- **Policy and Regulatory:** Strengthened legal and regulatory structures in the energy and environmental sectors;
- **Information and awareness:** Improved awareness and knowledge among key stakeholders.

Eleven countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) participate in PIGGAREP.



*Crashing waves illustrate the awesome force of nature.*



*Climate services officers of the Tuvalu Meteorological Service installing and programming a PI-GCOS rain gauge in Funafuti.*

## PI-GCOS Links Climate with Climate Change

The Secretariat has continued to support the Pacific islands component of the Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS) in partnership with the Government of the United States. This programme provides an umbrella for a range of activities which contribute to coordination of climate observation in the region and more effective use of climate information.

A new initiative supporting historical data rescue and database management was undertaken in six PICs and implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). Meanwhile, new climate information initiatives such as the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Integrated Data and Environmental Applications (IDEA) Center developing the Pacific Climate Information System, have been designed to mesh with future activities on climate training and end-user information services for PICs.

Three additional PICs joined the PI-GCOS Instrument Project. This partnership with the University of Oklahoma assists national meteorological services with data collection by installing high-quality rain gauges. These high-resolution instruments are being placed strategically by meteorological services in areas where there is a need for better-quality data in sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and to assess the potential for hydropower generation.

The US NOAA and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) continued to provide Pacific Training Desk fellowships, for operational training in tropical weather forecasting. Four weather forecasters (one from Papua New Guinea, from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Tonga) were trained and went on to contributing to the forecasting services of their respective offices.

PI-GCOS organised the 11th Regional Meteorological Services Directors meeting hosted by the Government of New Caledonia and Meteo France. The meeting highlighted the continuing challenges of meteorological services in the region. The proceedings (on the SPREP website) record the agreement to widen its scope of concern to address emerging needs in relation to early warning for tsunamis, flash floods and other extreme climate events and climate change.

PI-GCOS is actively working with other regional initiatives such as the Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS), the Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS) and the Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project. The objective is to coordinate data/information on the ocean and climate to meet the future needs of PICs in planning for climate change.

## Ozone Update

SPREP plays a key role in phasing out ozone depleting substances in the region. The Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol involves a partnership between SPREP, UNEP and the Government of Australia. Its aim is to assist PICs in meeting their obligations under the Montreal Protocol, especially phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are mostly used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

The Secretariat conducted the last of three Regional Thematic Meetings under the Strategy in January and published its report. During the meeting it emerged that several countries in the region are yet to apply regulatory controls on CFCs, putting them at risk of being non-compliant with the Protocol and its amendments.

This potential non-compliance was highlighted at the 17th SPREP Meeting. As a result, the Secretariat focussed its efforts on legislative support and design of ozone regulations. We worked with UNEP and the Government of Australia to seek additional support in the form of ongoing SPREP assistance to PICs. The UNEP Multilateral Fund (MLF) approved resources to continue its activities through to late 2007. A special focus will be to assist PICs in attaining full compliance with their obligations under the Montreal Protocol, in particular through: the establishment of legislation banning CFC imports; introducing licensing systems for imports; and organising refrigeration and customs training workshops in all participating countries that have not yet done so.

Ongoing-targeted assistance was given to the three new countries (Cook Islands, Nauru and Niue joined the project in 2005) on the implementation of the Strategy, by transferring funds to carry out refrigeration training and develop regulations. By the end of 2006, all three countries had finalised their draft regulations for cabinet approval.



## Pollution and Waste

Preventing pollution and managing waste remain huge challenges for PICTs. Solid waste continues to be a problem, with its effects on the environment and people's health, as well as imposing economic costs. Hazardous wastes in particular can pollute soils, thereby affecting agriculture and food supplies, watercourses and coastal areas, fish and reef systems.

*Many hands make light work: students clearing up plastic bags and bottles after a parade.*



*School projects raise awareness; the message is then taken home, and out to the community.*



Much work in the region has gone into clean-up of pollutants and improved methods of disposal. More is needed in this area, as we work to assess the scope and extent of wastes, and the risks they pose.

At the same time, SPREP has been looking towards better management of products, materials and packaging to reduce the source of the problem. Prevention, management, disposal and establishing appropriate on-going revenue to pay for operations, all featured strongly in the Secretariat's work.

Because of its high visibility and public interest, SPREP continues to prioritise solid waste issues as the primary focus of its pollution prevention work. This addresses a key area of environmental risk, and shows how a systematic and coordinated approach can bring real environmental improvement that is obvious to the community.

## Hazardous Waste

The Secretariat continues to support Members in developing management plans for hazardous substances, as well as identifying handling and packaging of hazardous wastes.

Technical advice and support has been provided to Tuvalu and Federates States of Micronesia, in the development and finalisation of their respective National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention. These documents outline the action plans that the two countries are going to implement over the coming years in the management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), as covered under the Convention. In Tuvalu, the Secretariat provided technical assistance with developing their National Chemical Profile, an overarching chemical management policy document outlining the state of chemical management in the country.

The Secretariat also provided technical support in the clean-up of a stockpile of expired pharmaceutical waste in Kiribati. This involved the rehabilitation and repackaging of about 10 tons of material that had been collected and stored in a shipping container since the late 1980s. In addition, the Secretariat developed with Kiribati a programme for destruction by incineration. Providing technical support in the development of a National Health Care Waste Management Strategy is also planned there.

*Getting rid of hazardous waste in a safe way remains a priority.*



*Recycling in action in Kiribati.*



*Waste is a particular problem on atolls where space for landfill or burying waste is not available. Minimisation is the key.*



## Basel and Waigani Conventions Show Their Value

The very practical and successful project “POPs in PICs” was completed. This has seen the removal and destruction of over 140 tons of hazardous waste from our region over 3.5 years.

In addition to its practical benefits, the POPs in PICs project has highlighted the value of a strong regional control regime for trans-boundary movement of wastes. In the Pacific, this regime is provided by the global Basel and the regional Waigani Conventions. Both Conventions provide for legitimate transfer of hazardous substances by agreement between Parties.

For countries that are Party to these Conventions, the transport of waste pollutants could be arranged by exchange of the relevant paperwork, whereas for countries that are party to neither (Palau and Vanuatu), the wastes have been stabilised and packaged, but not yet shipped to Australia for destruction.

## Active Year for the Pacific Regional Centre

The first training workshop was conducted by the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the Pacific region. The Centre is a partnership between the Basel Convention Secretariat and SPREP as host to the Waigani Convention; its work is integrated in the Secretariat’s activities and supported by SPREP staff.

The objective of the workshop was two-fold:

- To assist and enhance the capacities of the participating countries in meeting their reporting obligations under the Basel, Stockholm, and Waigani Conventions;
- To provide training on the methods of developing national inventories and assessing the quantities of hazardous wastes in the Pacific region, in order to plan for an environmentally sound management strategy for hazardous wastes.

Represented at the workshop were: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

The Business Plan for the PRC was developed, outlining the activities the Centre plans to undertake in assisting the PICs in improving their management of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

These activities are based on the current needs and priorities in the region including:

- Better understanding of the Conventions and what the requirements are through awareness and education;
- Strengthening and improving individual, institutional and systemic capacities;
- Strengthening national legislations for the management of hazardous waste;
- Development of national waste definitions, inventories and reporting requirements;
- Training of implementation and enforcement personnel including customs, police, port officers, legal officers, and journalists.

## Solid Waste Management

This was a year of consolidation after the 2005 Year of Action Against Waste (YOAAW), as SPREP and its Members began implementing the Regional Solid Waste Strategy and Action Plan that was adopted by all PICTs in late 2005.

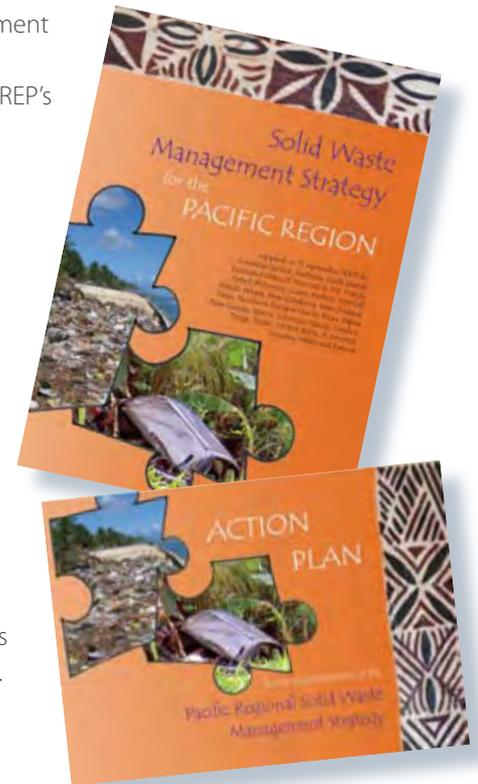
These ground-breaking documents set SPREP's solid waste management priorities for the next three years. They were published in French and English and distributed to all Members early in the year, as part of SPREP's ongoing communications and community engagement work.

## Waste Strategies

The Waste Action Plan identified that it is essential for Members to set their own priorities through a National Waste Strategy. This would not only achieve consistency between regional and national priorities, but would also enable the Secretariat, donors and other Members to identify issues of common benefit.

Tokelau received three visits by SPREP, UNDP and other CROP agencies to try and rejuvenate its waste strategy.

Tuvalu, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Nuie, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands all worked with visiting SPREP staff to advance the Regional Strategy.



## Waste on Atolls—Minimisation is the Key

Consistent with the Action Plan, the Secretariat with the assistance of NZAID, focussed on atolls and small islands. These sites have all the usual problems of more plastics and packaging but lack the option of landfills as a means of disposal. As there is no low-cost and environmentally safe disposal method for atolls, improved waste minimisation is the focus. Indeed this is relevant in all countries as a cost-effective strategy.

Waste management is an on-going cost. It has been a strategic priority to provide Members with information on how to use economic instruments such as refundable deposit schemes to increase waste minimisation and also provide a source of funds to help pay for the increasing costs of waste management.

Cost-effective waste minimisation also depends on strong community support hence a communications training course was made available to all atoll countries. Held in Kiribati in conjunction with IWP, the course proved very successful and enabled other atoll countries to see first-hand how successful Kiribati has been.

The Kiribati Environment Minister, Hon Martin Tofinga, was declared "Waste Champion of the Year" through the IWP, for his strong leadership in getting this system established and for the positive effect it has had on Kiribati.

There are environmental protection gains, economic savings and social benefits to the public health of growing more fruit by making compost in banana circles. Kiribati has led the way in practical, sustainable solutions on managing waste. Its refundable deposit schemes now cover aluminium cans, plastic bottles, and car batteries and sustainably employ over 10 people in the private sector.

*The Hon. Martin Tofinga was declared IWP'S Waste Champion of the Year.*



## Waste as a Resource

A “Waste is a Resource” Kit was commissioned to pass on the experiences that Kiribati, in particular, has gained. The project grew to a DVD and booklet of information on all aspects of waste minimisation and background material. It even has a wide range of information on policy and strategy development and landfill design, including the semi-aerobic method made famous in Japan and Samoa.

The Kit is a DVD-based library, avoiding the limitations of internet access that most Members experience regularly. It was created by Alice Leney, who played a strong hand in helping to establish the Kiribati system. A system of “hot links”, similar to web addresses, helps navigate this enormous DVD resource, which is accompanied by a printed handbook.

Staff developed further guidelines and other resources for the SPREP website to facilitate access by all to, for example “How to” guides on issues such as developing a national strategy, managing asbestos, minimising waste and other important aspects of waste management.

## Taking Action on Plastic

Consistent with the Waste Action Plan, the Secretariat has initiated a major focus on plastic bags. The Year of the Sea Turtle was a useful vehicle to highlight the impact on marine species from this ubiquitous and growing waste product. However, the negative impacts of discarded plastic bags go well beyond the marine environment: plastic bags cause significant public health costs through harbouring disease-carrying mosquitoes. They have also been implicated in urban flooding by blocking drains and, of course, deter tourism with their unsightliness as litter.

Samoa banned non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags in 2006; the Secretariat and the ANZ then combined efforts to provide a reusable blue shopping bag with the YOST logo. 5000 bags were sold and profits donated to sea turtle education. Given the project’s success, SPREP and ANZ are considering replicating the program across the Pacific.

## Future Projects

While day-to-day operational funding for waste management must be provided by the Members, the Secretariat and various donors have been discussing project funding for one-off or demonstration activities. The French Development Agency, in cooperation with UNEP, is seeking to develop a proposal for a three-year programme beginning in 2008. We hope other donors will follow the French example and use the Regional Strategy as the guide for targeting assistance.

*The DVD kit produced by SPREP is an extensive library of documents offering solutions for the major waste issues in the Pacific.*





*Fishing boats and freighters are major means by which invasive species move across boundaries.*

## Marine Pollution

Marine pollution comes in many forms: invasive species have now risen to one of the four most significant threats to the world's marine environment. The trans-boundary nature of shipping and oceans means that a coordinated response is essential to limit the damage from this invidious threat. As the Pacific is utterly reliant on the health and resilience of its marine ecosystems, SPREP, through its Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), has been working for several years to establish a regional strategy. Adopted unanimously at the 17th SPREP Meeting, all Members committed to its implementation. The training program has continued and countries were assisted with updates of oil spill response strategies and marine pollution legislation.

### Marine Invasive Strategy

There are 11 square kilometres of sea for every child, woman and man in the Pacific. The sea provides much of their food and national earnings, and underpins the cultures of the region. For most Pacific peoples, the sea is their most precious natural resource. The United Nations Environment Programme has identified biological invasions as the second greatest threat to biodiversity, after habitat loss. The Pacific is criss-crossed by major shipping routes and most of our Members receive the bulk of their imports by sea. Ballast water and ship hulls have proved to be a disastrous conduit for marine "hitch-hikers" in other parts of the world. Visiting yachts, fishing vessels and even ocean currents put our seas at serious risk from marine invasives.

Already, a species of barnacle (*Chthamalus proteus*), several macro-algae species, harmful planktonic algae, and the Black-striped Mussel (*Mytilopsis sallei*) have been found or have become established in our region. Because no country alone can address this threat, SPREP and the IMO have worked with Members to establish a Regional Strategy called: Shipping Related Introduced Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands (SRIMP-PAC). The Strategy was adopted unanimously by all Members at the 17th SPREP Meeting.

The Strategy uses a three-tiered approach to address risks and deal with actual invasions. Actions are targeted pre-border as a preventative system; at the border involving inspections and other systems; and finally, recognising that organisms will still occasionally get through, at eradicating invasives from PICTs.

The Strategy is costed at US\$3.9 million over five years and SPREP is seeking funding to assist Members with the implementation. The Strategy includes working with private shipping companies. Terrestrial and freshwater vectors are targeted by SPREP's Regional Invasives Species Programme whereas fisheries and aquaculture are to be addressed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Marine Resources Division. Thus, there is a comprehensive and holistic approach to the issue in the region.



# MEAs – the ‘E’ is for Environment

SPREP takes a leading role in supporting Members to participate in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). These are extremely important to the Pacific, as they set the direction for global efforts to address environmental issues, and in many instances provide a funding mechanism available to countries in the region.

MEAs address a wide range of environmental issues such as: biodiversity conservation and species protection, climate change, ozone depletion, land degradation, and management of chemicals.

All SPREP Members are Parties to a large and growing number of MEAs. While this promotes wide commitment to addressing global issues, it also creates new obligations for Members, and places additional demands on the limited resources available in the region—even the most well-staffed offices face difficulties meeting the requirements of these instruments.

The Secretariat provides support in a variety of ways including:

- Advice on how to ratify and become a Party to Conventions;
- Technical and policy advice on the relevant subject area;
- Assistance in preparing for Convention meetings, including preparatory meetings and briefing materials;
- Training in international negotiations;
- Advocacy through MEAs and their Secretariats;
- Back-stopping support during Convention meetings;
- Promoting initiatives (such as the IBPoW under CBD) that are of special importance to the Pacific region;
- Assistance in meeting reporting requirements, such as National Communications under UNFCCC;
- Advice and technical support for compliance with obligations (as under the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances);
- Assistance with design of projects and other initiatives to implement the convention objectives;
- Advice on legal aspects of implementation;
- Assistance in gaining access to MEA-related funding mechanisms such as the GEF (see following).



*The key to combating climate changes lies in global agreements drawn up at international conferences. Ironically, flying contributes to the atmospheric pollution that leads to climate change.*

## Targeted Assistance

The Secretariat supports countries with national legislation in respect to MEAs and environmental management.

Targeted assistance was provided in three areas:

- MEAs create a need for specialised legal assistance, as there are often specific legislative requirements for countries to comply with and implement Conventions. In Tonga, an attempt has been made to streamline the management and reporting burdens regarding four related chemical conventions: the global Basel (and its regional counterpart, Waigani), Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

A legislative review was undertaken and following consultations, a draft Act was completed which incorporated the salient requirements from each Convention. The draft law is awaiting consideration by the Tongan Parliament. The project was funded by UNEP.

- Negotiations training was provided for the Marshall Islands, Federates States of Micronesia, and Fiji. The workshops followed the format of previous training which had been held at the regional level and included the ever-popular negotiations simulation exercise.

Because the workshops were being held at the national level, many participants could engage in the training. They were taught generic skills needed for the Conference of the Parties and numerous intercessional meetings generated by these MEAs. UNEP again provided assistance for the workshops.

- A regional workshop was held regarding the filling out of the detailed reporting forms under the Basel and Waigani Conventions (which treaties regulate the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste). Basic matters such as national definitions of waste and the creation of systems for capturing data were covered.

More work needs to be done in providing support to Member countries, given the level of detail required under these reports. The workshop was part-sponsored by the Basel Convention Secretariat.

## Regional Conventions

There are three conventions for which SPREP is the Secretariat: the Apia, Noumea (or SPREP) and Waigani Conventions; these were all considered at their respective COPs in September.

- The Apia Convention was suspended by its Parties, as there has been little activity under this Convention for a number of years, and relevant work is handled globally through the CBD.
- The Noumea (SPREP) Convention had its two Protocols amended in order to bring them into line with their international equivalents. Draft amendments were also made to the Noumea Convention itself.
- The Waigani Convention continued strongly into its implementation phase. Being grounded in the Basel Convention, there are many activities that can be jointly implemented, even though funding remains problematic.

# Global Environment Facility Issues

The Global Environment Facility provides funding to support global environmental benefits, and remains important for addressing environmental issues in the region.

SPREP continued its coordinating role as in previous years in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). This included support to the Pacific SIDS; Pacific Island Ambassadors in New York; and the Pacific SIDS Representative on the GEF Council before and during the GEF Council meetings in June and December, and at the GEF Assembly.

Funding from the GEF to the 14 Pacific SIDS over the past 15 years has mainly enabled activities in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change, and POPs. According to various evaluation reports, progress in completing these enabling activities in the region has been slow compared to other SIDS.

The total funding that will be available to Pacific SIDS from the GEF4 replenishment agreed to during 2006 will be approximately US\$75 million, in addition to US\$24.5 million that is being disbursed using GEF3 resources. The average is a little over US\$6 million per country, not including individual allocations to Papua New Guinea and Fiji for biodiversity. This represents a significant increase as Pacific SIDS had received only US\$81 million in 15 years covering the periods for GEF1, 2 and 3.

A report on the performance of GEF in the Pacific during 2004 sponsored by NZAID found that PICs were experiencing difficulty gaining access to GEF funding compared to other SIDS. Strengthening GEF coordination had already been requested by PIC representatives at the 5th Pacific Environment Ministers Meeting in 2004, and endorsed in a Regional Workshop on the Overall Performance of the GEF in March 2005; in May 2006 the Pacific Island Forum Ambassadors Working Group in New York further endorsed the concept.

The need for regional support was reiterated by Pacific island representatives at the 17th SPREP Meeting. In August, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand agreed to a position of GEF Support Adviser to be created within SPREP, funded jointly by AusAID and NZAID. The objective of this post is to maximise PICs' access to GEF funding through improved design and understanding of GEF processes (including such things as co-financing requirements) and development of high-quality project proposals. The Adviser starts work in early 2007.

*Contrasts of lifestyles and resources, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.  
Addressing equity is a key issue in sustainable development.*



*A clean Pacific with romantic beaches has an enormous tourist potential, to be managed carefully.  
Right.*

*Combining the new with values of the old: outboard motor on traditional outrigger.  
Far right.*

## Promoting Sustainable Development

SPREP continues to take a leading role on sustainable development issues in the Pacific, assisting PICs in developing National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS), and providing advice on internationally agreed development goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The 14th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) was held in May and provided a focal point for evaluating progress in implementing Agenda 21; the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Specifically, CSD-14 focussed on identifying barriers and constraints, lessons learnt and best practices in implementation in the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change.

The Commission dedicated a day to discussion on SIDS issues, with a review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy organised under the headings of the CSD-14 thematic cluster.

To assist the PICs with this review process, a Pacific SIDS Matrix for Monitoring Implementation of Sustainable Development was jointly prepared by agencies in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP): it is updated annually in time for submission to each CSD and provides a platform to engaging partners in a coordinated fashion as well as monitoring progress. The Secretariat prepared with other CROP agencies a joint Pacific Regional Submission to the CSD-14 and assisted Pacific delegations with relevant briefing materials. SPREP along with SOPAC provided support to the PIFS during the latter's presentation on the Pacific Plan and partnership initiatives at a side event of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

## Environmental Management

Integrated policy, planning and delivery mechanisms are needed to implement sustainable development objectives by ensuring coordination at various levels of government, including integrated community planning. Integrated environmental law, environmental planning, and environmental impact assessment are priorities for the region. So is the development of state of the environment monitoring systems at the national level, to act as a prioritising tool to guide policy direction.

SPREP provides support for Members to improve environmental management. The Secretariat delivers this by providing technical support for environmental policy and planning, monitoring, and reporting. This includes providing legal advice on legislative proposals, technical advice to inform environmental policy across the full range of environmental issues, developing indicators for sustainable development, and bringing together information and data to support reporting on the state of the environment on the region.





# Executive and Corporate

## Services

*Director and staff pulling together at the retreat.*



## Introduction

The year 2006 was again exciting for the Executive and Corporate Services arm of the Secretariat. January saw the deposit of the Government of Vanuatu's Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement Establishing SPREP. After many years of dedicated collaboration between the Executive and Member states, this achieved the rare landmark of all countries and territories becoming full legal and participating Members of our Organisation.

A full staff retreat followed in April, to reflect on past achievements and failures, learn from the lessons of the past, and recommit to a better performance for the future. The retreat paved the way, not only for Programmes' achievements (some highlighted in the two previous sections of this report), but also for the successes of the 17th SPREP Meeting, the Environment Ministers' Meeting, and the Conferences of the Parties to the Apia, Noumea, and Waigani Conventions.

We are particularly proud to report the successful adoption and signing of one amended and two new Protocols to the Noumea Convention by its Conference of Plenipotentiaries. These protocols would not only bring the Pacific islands region into modern environmental protection best practices but also, and more importantly, result in a better Pacific islands environment for coming generations.

The year ended with the completion of an internal review of the Secretariat that further developed key issues from the staff retreat and identified additional areas for internal development and improvement, with the aim of optimising our Secretariat service to the Pacific Island Members and stakeholders. As a result of the review, NZAID has agreed to enter into a three-year funding arrangement with the Secretariat.

## Budget and Audit

The approved budget for 2006 was US\$8.04 million. Of this total, US\$1.86 million or approximately 23% was allocated to the Executive and Corporate Services which actually spent only US\$1.74 million. Total actual Secretariat expenditure for the year amounted to US\$7,465,973 against total income received and funds carried forward of US\$7,465,973, resulting in a balanced budget.

The Secretariat is also very pleased to report that once again the Auditors, Lesa ma Penn, gave an unqualified audit opinion on the Secretariat's 2006 financial operations.

## Human Resources

In 2006, SPREP had a total staff establishment of 65 positions, 58 of which were occupied at the end of the year with 7 vacancies under recruitment. Of the occupied positions, 31 were at the professional level and 27 were support staff.

A total of 10 new staff joined SPREP during the year whilst 9 left the organisation—mainly due to completion of employment contracts, with a few resigning for personal reasons such as taking up employment elsewhere.

Of the total occupied professional staff positions, 74% were held by Pacific islanders, the highest in any CROP agency, and 35% held by females. Of the total workforce (professional and support staff inclusive), 53% of positions were held by females.

SPREP continued to strengthen its workforce through the recruitment of qualified staff based on merit and competence, a comprehensive induction programme and settlement facilitation, and ongoing staff development with a particular focus on support staff.

## Information and Communications

Development and coordination of the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) again proved to be a challenging and rewarding focus for the SPREP Information Resource Centre (IRC). Hardware and software installations, database development, in-country workshops and training attachments featured prominently throughout the year. IRC staff supported many reference and research requests from a wide range of enquiries.

*Logistics of the 17th SPREP Meeting: the team that travelled to Noumea, comprising 2 Executives, 3 Senior Managers, 10 Programme Officers and 4 Support Staff to organise and contribute to the conferences during two weeks.*



The departure of Ms Satui Bentin as IRC Manager in December 2006, after 12 years of dedicated service to the region and the Secretariat, signaled an end of an era. When she left, the IRC & Library was in good health and with a strong vision for future growth and development.

During the year, the Information Technology (IT) team was able to contain most of the computer virus outbreaks and the increased influx of spam mail from the internet with the installation of appropriate protection systems. In close cooperation with the USP and the PEIN Project, SPREP was able to host the MOANA database of Pacific marine resources on its website.

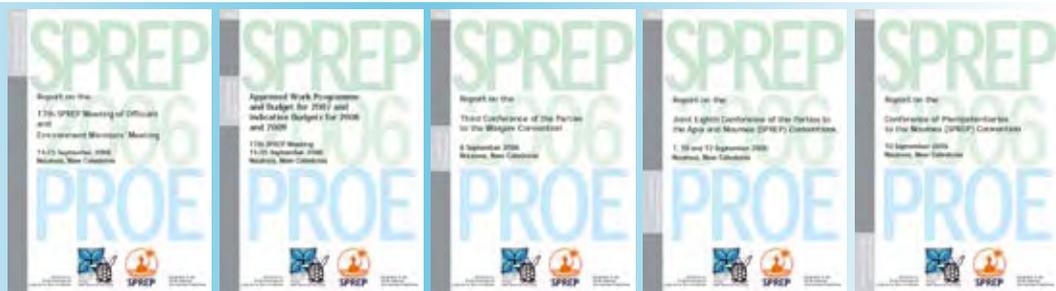
The successful recruitment of a specialist database officer led to stronger assistance with the financial systems and improved support for several problematic databases.

IT assistance was offered through the PEIN Project on the procurement and installation of equipment in island Member countries. IT also hosted 3-months' training attachments for recipients from Fiji, Tuvalu and FSM.

The inaugural round of SPREP/PINA Environmental Media Awards was presented for the best environmental news item on TV (Nanette Woonton), in print (Vasemaca Rarabici) and a student newspaper feature by Sakiasi Nawaikama. There were no radio entries in this, the first of three years of the awards. Organised by SPREP, and fully supported by the executive of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), the awards mean to encourage a high standard of environmental reporting in the Pacific news media.

The Annual Report was produced to a high standard as were the reports on the 17th SPREP Meeting and the associated Environment Ministers' Meeting, and Conferences of Parties and Plenipotentiaries to Conventions. An active publishing programme has seen dozens of IWP contractors' reports being released in print and on our website, formalised in the *IWP-Pacific Technical Report (International Waters Project)* series.

A range of formal and informal publications to support Biodiversity, Solid Waste Management, Climate Change and particularly the Year of the Sea Turtle campaign, were produced in print and mounted on the website. This included regular news releases and the quarterly newsletter SPREP-tok. The website was further developed, including a small section that is entirely in French, to make good the Secretariat's promise of 2004.





# Regional and International Collaboration

As a member of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, SPREP continued its active and close collaboration with sister agencies and international development institutions working in the region.

The Secretariat has made full use of the CROP mechanism through its annual meetings of Chief Executive Officers (hosted at SPREP this year), working groups and regional roundtables to enhance the delivery to the region of its environment-related services through better coordination, minimisation or elimination of overlaps and competition, and building synergies with partners. Through this process, SPREP has contributed to regional work and policy development that is related to sustainable development and environmental resources management in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and Commission on Sustainable Development, the GEF, oceans policy, climate change, and nature conservation to state a few.

Within the context of the region and CROP, SPREP is a key delivery vehicle and lead agency in a number of initiatives of the Pacific Plan, particularly those under the Sustainable Development sector of the Plan. SPREP is also a member of the Task Force on the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) study and of the Pacific Plan Action Committee.

Internationally, the Secretariat continued to maintain the high profile of the region in key international forums through both its own high-level participation, and representation. Particularly important was its policy and technical advisory support to Pacific delegations to the Conferences of the Parties and technical bodies of multilateral environment agreements that are priority to the region.

As a Secretariat that relies heavily on donor and international development support for its programmes for the Pacific islands region, SPREP maintained its active and positive engagement with a host of international development agencies, bilateral donors, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders to address priority needs of the Pacific island countries and territories, by combining SPREP's technical expertise and regional knowledge with international resources.

To formalise and facilitate this mutually beneficial relationship we have entered into, and renewed, agreements and memoranda of understanding with many of our partners; and aim to continue to improve relations with current partners while seeking to engage new ones.

SPREP has had, and maintains, a good reputation with donors, regional and international agencies. We are committed to build on and improve this reputation and relationship by improving communications with our partners and delivering SPREP's side of partnerships with excellence and competence.



*The "CROP-Heads" meeting comprising Chief Executive Officers of all Regional Organisations in the Pacific that make up the Council, was held at SPREP headquarters.*

# Finance 2006

## Donor Funds and Member Contributions (US\$)

|  | Balance at<br>1-Jan-06 | Income           | Expenses          | Other<br>Adjustments | Balance at<br>31-Dec-2006 |
|--|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Asian Development Bank   | -4,508                 |                  |                   |                      | -4,508                    |
| AusAID Extra Budget  | 275,677                | 844,740          | -852,721          |                      | 267,696                   |
| AusAID Extra Extra Budget  | 17,768                 | 1,680            | -6,131            |                      | 13,317                    |
| Canadian International Development Agency  | 24,633                 |                  | -22,133           | -2,500               | 0                         |
| Commonwealth Secretariat   | 8,932                  |                  |                   |                      | 8,932                     |
| Conservation International Development   |                        | 141,406          | -148,182          |                      | -6,776                    |
| Department of International Development  | 8,136                  |                  |                   |                      | 8,136                     |
| European Union   | 89,725                 | 196,499          | -253,108          |                      | 33,116                    |
| Government of France   | 180,284                | 124,263          | -59,678           |                      | 244,869                   |
| Government of Japan  | 61,850                 | 310              | -49,828           |                      | 12,332                    |
| Government of the United Kingdom   | 8,806                  |                  |                   |                      | 8,806                     |
| International Maritime Organization  | 46,209                 | 301              | -42,970           |                      | 3,540                     |
| John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation  | 20,378                 | 55,000           | -37,840           |                      | 37,538                    |
| Multiple Donors (Includes contributions received from parties<br>to 3 conventions: Apia, Noumea and Waigani) | 246,884                | 219,137          | -694,208          | 209,303              | -18,884                   |
| Netherlands Red Cross Society  | 7,746                  |                  |                   |                      | 7,746                     |
| NZAID Pacific Initiative for the Environment   | 27,920                 | 349              | -15,093           |                      | 13,176                    |
| NZAID Extra Budget   | 15,670                 | 605,334          | -498,335          |                      | 122,669                   |
| NZAID Extra Extra Budget   | 227,212                | 544,540          | -582,167          |                      | 189,585                   |
| Pacific Development & Conservation Trust   | 6,920                  |                  | -51               |                      | 6,869                     |
| People's Republic of China   | 160,000                |                  | -30,000           |                      | 130,000                   |
| Other Funds (includes core funds)  | 760,183                | 1,743,684        | -1,451,187        | -206,803             | 845,877                   |
| Ramsar Secretariat   | 4,832                  | 64,485           | -56,247           |                      | 13,070                    |
| The Nature Conservancy   | 26,366                 | 71,431           | -104,943          |                      | -7,146                    |
| UN Convention to Combat Desertification  | 1,592                  |                  |                   |                      | 1,592                     |
| UN Development Program   | 154,476                | 2,121,647        | -1,980,419        |                      | 295,704                   |
| UN Environment Program   | 180,124                | 155,155          | -262,503          |                      | 72,776                    |
| UN Tech Co-Op Activities (part of UNDESA)  | -20,668                |                  |                   |                      | -20,668                   |
| UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)   | 6,646                  |                  |                   |                      | 6,646                     |
| UN Office of Project Services  | 4,103                  | 96,077           | -94,089           |                      | 6,091                     |
| US Additional Member Contributions   | 2,577                  |                  |                   |                      | 2,577                     |
| US Department of Energy/Los Alamos University  | 4,801                  |                  |                   |                      | 4,801                     |
| US Fish & Wildlife Service   | 14,625                 |                  |                   |                      | 14,625                    |
| US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration   | 22,149                 | 129,656          | -124,172          |                      | 27,633                    |
| US Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council   | 20,065                 | 117,681          | -99,968           |                      | 37,778                    |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2,612,113</b>       | <b>7,233,375</b> | <b>-7,465,973</b> | <b>-</b>             | <b>2,379,515</b>          |

## Member Contributions (US\$)

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| American Samoa                 | 10,185         |
| Australia                      | 185,106        |
| Cook Islands                   | 10,184         |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 5,502          |
| Fiji                           | 11,146         |
| France                         | 134,202        |
| French Polynesia               | 20,360         |
| Guam                           | 20,360         |
| Kiribati                       | 10,185         |
| Marshall Islands               | 20,368         |
| Nauru                          | 0              |
| New Caledonia                  | 23,142         |
| New Zealand                    | 134,202        |
| Niue                           | 0              |
| Northern Marianas              | 0              |
| Palau                          | 20,369         |
| Papua New Guinea               | 0              |
| Samoa                          | 20,360         |
| Solomon Islands                | 0              |
| Tokelau                        | 10,185         |
| Tonga                          | 10,184         |
| Tuvalu                         | 10,337         |
| United States of America       | 188,000        |
| Vanuatu                        | 22,714         |
| Wallis and Futuna              | 11,215         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>878,306</b> |

## Parties Contributions (US\$)

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Parties to the Apia Convention</b>    |               |
| Australia                                | 6,582         |
| Samoa                                    | 2,813         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>9,395</b>  |
| <b>Parties to the Noumea Convention</b>  |               |
| Australia                                | 439           |
| Federated States of Micronesia           | 798           |
| Samoa                                    | 1,541         |
| United States of America                 | 7,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>9,778</b>  |
| <b>Parties to the Waigani Convention</b> |               |
| Australia                                | 36,400        |
| Federated States of Micronesia           | 2,035         |
| New Zealand                              | 36,375        |
| Solomon Islands                          | 2,035         |
| Tuvalu                                   | 960           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>77,805</b> |

## Income and Expenditure (US\$)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Actual 2006</b>                       |                  |
| <b>Income</b>                            |                  |
| Members Contributions                    | 878,306          |
| Program Management Charge                | 463,270          |
| Interest                                 | 294,564          |
| Other Income                             | 115,686          |
| Donor Funds                              | 5,481,549        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <b>7,233,375</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                       |                  |
| Programme Implementation                 | 5,598,054        |
| Executive Management & Corporate Support | 1,867,919        |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                 | <b>7,465,973</b> |

The income received shown above can be located in the Donor Funds and Members' Contributions schedule in the row titled 'Multiple Donors'.



# Auditors' Report



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## AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

### SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

We have audited the financial statements of SPREP as set out on pages 3 to 11, for the year ended 31 December 2006. The financial statements provide information on the financial performance of the organization, and its financial position as at 31 December 2006.

#### Management responsibilities

The management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that comply with generally accepted accounting practice, and that gives a true and fair view of the financial position of SPREP as at 31 December 2006, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

#### Auditors' responsibilities

It is our responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements presented by management, and to report our opinion to you.

#### Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts, and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes assessing:

- The significant estimates and judgements made by management in the preparation of the financial statements; and
- Whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the organization, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations, which we considered necessary to provide us with sufficient evidence, to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud and error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### Specific reporting requirements

In accordance with the specific audit reporting requirements of SPREP's Financial Regulation 52 (a) to (f), we report as follows:

- extent and character of examination is as explained in the section above under the heading, 'Basis of Opinion'
- matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts, refer to our report to management, which is attached, titled Management Report.
- the accuracy or otherwise of the supplies and equipment records as determined by stocktaking and examination of the records. The fixed assets register has been completed following the physical count of all SPREP assets carried out in December 2006.
- financial procedures of SPREP including internal controls and adherence to draft financial procedures are satisfactory. The Draft Financial Rules and Procedures Manual (DFRPM), Administration Manual and Desk Files are currently being finalised and should be completed when approved by the management in 2007.
- the adequacy of insurance cover for the buildings, stores, furniture, equipment and other property of SPREP. Insurance cover for buildings, furniture, equipment and other property is adequate.
- Other matters, the matters raised in our report to management have been addressed.

We also examined on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts of funds received by the Organisation from NZAID and USAID. We confirm that funds were spent in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the respective parties.

#### Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as of 31 December 2006, and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in accordance with the SPREP Financial Regulations.

Our audit was completed on 12 April 2007 and our opinion is expressed as at that date.

Apia, Samoa

Certified Public Accountants



# Staff List as at 31 December 2006

| NAME   | DESIGNATION   | COUNTRY                        | CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE |
|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Executive</b>   |   |                                |                      |
| Asterio TAKESY   | Director  | Federated States of Micronesia | 21 January 2009      |
| F. Vitolio LUI   | Deputy Director   | Samoa                          | 21 April 2008        |
| Ruta TUPUA-COUPER  | Personal Assistant to Director                                    | Samoa                          | 31 December 2007     |
| Apiseta ETI  | Personal Assistant Deputy Director                                | Samoa                          | 31 December 2009     |
| <b>Island Ecosystems Programme</b>                         |   |                                |                      |
| Stuart CHAPE   | Programme Manager, Island Ecosystems                              | Australia                      | 5 August 2008        |
| Makerita ATIGA   | Secretary to Programme Manager                                    | Samoa                          | 2 August 2008        |
| Dominique BENZAKEN   | Coastal Management Adviser  | Australia                      | 2 January 2008       |
| Kate BROWN-VITOLIO   | Action Strategy Adviser   | Australia                      | 30 November 2009     |
| Elizabeth DOVEY  | Avifauna Conservation & Invasive Species Officer                  | Australia                      | 24 March 2006        |
| Lui BELL   | Marine Species Officer  | Samoa                          | 22 October 2008      |
| Anne Patricia TREVOR                                       | Associate Turtles Database Officer                                | Samoa                          | 28 February 2007     |
| Megan KROLIK   | YOST Campaign Coordinator   | Australia                      | 24 March 2007        |
| Seiuli Vainuupo JUNGBLUT                                   | Associate RAMSAR Officer  | Samoa                          | 22 February 2009     |
| Frank WICKHAM  | Human Resource Dev./Training Officer                              | Solomon Islands                | 7 September 2007     |
| Tamara LOGAN   | Education & Social Communications Officer                         | Australia                      | 30 September 2007    |
| Dr Gillian KEY   | Coordinator, PILN   | United Kingdom                 | 31 May 2007          |
| <i>Vacant</i>  | <i>Coral Reef Management Officer</i>                              |                                |                      |
| <i>Vacant</i>  | <i>Invasive Species Officer</i>                                   |                                |                      |
| Anna TIRAA   | Islands Biodiversity Officer                                      | Cook Islands                   | 14 August 2009       |
| Sue LE MESURIER  | Community Assessment / Participation Specialist                   | New Zealand                    | 30 April 2006        |
| Steve MENZIES  | Community Communications Specialist                               | New Zealand                    | 26 May 2006          |
| Paula HOLLAND  | Natural Resource Economist  | Australia                      | 24 February 2006     |
| Muliagatele Joe RETI - Pacific Environment Consultancy Ltd | Project Manager, International Waters                             | Samoa                          | 31 January 2007      |
| Rama VAA   | Project Accountant, International Waters                          | Samoa                          | 31 December 2006     |
| <i>Vacant</i>  | <i>8th Pacific Nature Conference Coordinator</i>                  |                                |                      |
| Rosanna GALUVAO-AH CHING                                   | Programme Assistant, International Waters                         | Samoa                          | 8 September 2006     |
| Natasha PILIMAI-TAGALOA                                    | Programme Assistant, International Waters                         | Samoa                          | 31 January 2007      |
| Theresa FRUEAN   | Programme Assistant   | Samoa                          | 31 December 2006     |
| <b>Pacific Futures Programme</b>                           |   |                                |                      |
| Bruce CHAPMAN  | Programme Manager, Pacific Futures                                | New Zealand                    | 28 August 2008       |
| Phaedra MOORS  | Secretary to Programme Manager                                    | Samoa                          | 15 August 2008       |
| Dr Frank GRIFFIN   | Pollution Prevention & Waste Management Adviser                   | Papua New Guinea               | 22 March 2009        |
| Sefanaia NAWADRA   | Marine Pollution Adviser  | Fiji                           | 20 September 2008    |
| Takeo TASHIRO  | Project Officer - Solid Waste & Landfill Management               | Japan                          | 31 March 2006        |
| Hiromi HIRONAKA  | Project Officer - Solid Waste & Landfill Management               | Japan                          | June 2008            |
| Mark RICKETTS  | Solid Waste Officer   | Australia                      | 4 August 2008        |
| Espen RONNEBERG  | Climate Change Adviser  | Marshall Islands               | 30 October 2009      |
| Taito NAKALEVU   | Climate Change Adaptation Officer                                 | Fiji                           | 31 March 2008        |
| Solomone FIFITA  | Chief Technical Adviser – Pacific Islands Regional Energy Project | Tonga                          | 31 August 2006       |
| Dean SOLOFA  | Pacific Islands - Global Climate Observing System Officer         | Samoa                          | 16 October 2008      |



# Staff List as at 31 December 2006

| NAME  | DESIGNATION                                  | COUNTRY     | CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE |
|---|--|-------------|----------------------|
| <b>Pacific Futures Programme continued</b>          |  |             |                      |
| Clark PETERU  | Environmental Legal Adviser                  | Samoa       | 12 August 2009       |
| Nirupa RAM  | Associate Ozone Depleting Substances Officer | Fiji        | 31 December 2007     |
| <i>Vacant</i>                                       | <i>Environmental Officer</i>                 |             |                      |
| <i>Vacant</i>                                       | <i>Sustainable Development Adviser</i>       |             |                      |
| <i>Vacant</i>                                       | <i>GEF Support Adviser</i>                   |             |                      |
| Saunoa MATA'U                                       | Programme Assistant                          | Samoa       | 20 June 2009         |
| <b>Corporate Services</b>                           |  |             |                      |
| Taito John ROACHE                                   | Corporate Service Manager (CSM)              | Samoa       | 29 May 2008          |
| Rosanna GALUVAO                                     | Secretary to CSM                             | Samoa       | 14 September 2009    |
| Nifo Onesemo SIMAIKA                                | Secretary to CSM                             | Samoa       | 2 August 2006        |
| <b>Information, Communication &amp; Publication</b> |  |             |                      |
| Kapeni MATATIA                                      | IT Manager                                   | Samoa       | 11 September 2008    |
| Aliitasi UESELE-PETAIA                              | IT Network Officer                           | Samoa       | 7 January 2007       |
| Christian SLAVEN                                    | Database & Systems Administrator             | Samoa       | 9 April 2009         |
| Kemueli QOROYA                                      | Information Technology Officer               | Fiji        | 4 June 2007          |
| Hideaki FUJII                                       | JOCV IT Volunteer                            | Japan       | May 2008             |
| Satui BENTIN  | Information Resource Center Manager          | Samoa       | 31 December 2006     |
| Miraneta WILLIAMS                                   | Assistant Librarian                          | Samoa       | 31 December 2007     |
| Dr Jaap JASPERSE                                    | Editor and Publications Officer              | New Zealand | 13 August 2008       |
| Chris PETERU  | Assistant Media & Publications Officer       | Samoa       | 28 February 2006     |
| Mere TUQIRI   | Associate Media & Publications Officer       | Fiji        | 30 June 2009         |
| <b>Finance</b>                                      |  |             |                      |
| Alofa TU'UUAU                                       | Finance Manager                              | Samoa       | 23 July 2008         |
| Makereta MANUELI-KAURASI                            | Project Accountant                           | Fiji        | 14 April 2009        |
| Joanna MATTHES                                      | Assistant Accountant                         | Samoa       | 6 December 2008      |
| Angela AIOLUPOTEA-ENOSA                             | Finance Officer                              | Samoa       | 14 March 2007        |
| Seleisa AMERIKA                                     | Finance Officer                              | Samoa       | 19 September 2007    |
| Linda ALAPAE  | Finance Officer                              | Samoa       | 6 December 2008      |
| Pauline FRUEAN                                      | Conference/Travels Officer                   | Samoa       | 1 March 2007         |
| <b>Administration</b>                               |  |             |                      |
| <i>Vacant</i>                                       | <i>Senior Administration Officer</i>         |             |                      |
| <i>Vacant</i>                                       | <i>Personnel Officer</i>                     |             |                      |
| Malama MASINA-HADLEY                                | Administration Officer                       | Samoa       | 14 February 2007     |
| Joyce TULUA   | Temporary Administrative Assistant           | Samoa       | 1 May 2007           |
| Lupe SILULU   | Registry Supervisor                          | Samoa       | 31 December 2009     |
| Helen TUILAGI-AH KUOI                               | Registry Management Assistant                | Samoa       | 28 April 2009        |
| Filifilia TUULUA                                    | Records Clerk                                | Samoa       | 3 February 2010      |
| Monica TUPAI  | Receptionist/Fax Operator                    | Samoa       | 31 December 2009     |
| John SUFIE  | Property Services Officer                    | Samoa       | 9 July 2009          |
| Faamanu FONOTI                                      | Customs Clerk                                | Samoa       | 27 January 2006      |
| Faamanatu SITITI                                    | Driver/Clerk                                 | Samoa       | 5 December 2008      |
| Joseph LEIATAUA                                     | Driver/Clerk                                 | Samoa       | 28 May 2009          |
| Tologauvale LEAULA                                  | Cleaner/Teaperson/Clerical Assistant         | Samoa       | 31 December 2009     |
| Amosa TOOTOO  | Cleaner/Teaperson                            | Samoa       | 31 December 2007     |
| Elvis S. BROWN                                      | Maintenance Tradesman                        | Samoa       | 10 April 2008        |
| Silupe GAFA   | Gardener/Groundskeeper                       | Samoa       | 31 March 2008        |
| Sione LEVU  | Cleaner                                      | Samoa       | 6 April 2007         |



# SPREP Publications 2006

All publications are available as pdf files from the SPREP website, <http://www.sprep.org>. Most publications are also available in print form, while stocks last, from the Information Resource Centre: [irc@sprep.org](mailto:irc@sprep.org).

| PUBLICATION TITLE  | PAGES       | ISBN              |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| CV&A : A guide to Community Vulnerability and Adaptation assessment and action   | 48 p.       | 978-982-04-0317-8 |
| [Proceedings of] Regional Workshop on Community-Level Adaptation to Climate Change (2005 : Suva, Fiji)   | 34 p.       | 978-982-04-0316-1 |
| Report of the 3rd Regional Thematic Meeting For the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Pacific Island Countries, 24-27 January 2006, Suva, FIJI  | viii+42 p.  | 978-982-04-0326-0 |
| Island Life - Celebrating Pacific Island biodiversity: Case studies of island life   | 64 p.       | 978-982-04-0327-7 |
| Solid Waste Management Strategy for the Pacific Region   | 63 p.       | 978-982-04-0319-2 |
| Stratégie de gestion des déchets solides pour la région Pacifique  | 63 p.       | 978-982-04-0319-2 |
| Action Plan for the implementation of the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy   | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0321-5 |
| Plan d'Action pour la mise en oeuvre de la Stratégie régionale de gestion des déchets solides  | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0321-5 |
| Rubbish is a Resource! A Waste Resource Kit for the Pacific Islands  | 64 p. + DVD | 978-982-04-0324-6 |
| Report on the Third Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention, 8 September 2006  | 41 p.       | 978-982-04-0329-1 |
| Report on the Joint Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Apia and Noumea (SPREP) Conventions, 7, 10 and 13 September 2006   | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0330-7 |
| Rapport de la Huitième Conférence conjointe des Parties aux Conventions d'Apia et de Nouméa, 7, 10 et 13 septembre 2006  | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0334-5 |
| Report on the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to the Noumea (SPREP) Convention, 10 September 2006  | 56 p.       | 978-982-04-0331-4 |
| Rapport de la Conférence des plénipotentiaires de la Convention de Nouméa, 10 septembre 2006   | 56 p.       | 978-982-04-0335-2 |
| Report on the 17th SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Ministers' Meeting, 11–15 September 2006   | iv + 116 p. | 978-982-04-0332-1 |
| Rapport de la 17e Conférence des représentants officiels du PROE et de la Conférence des ministres de l'environnement, 11–15 septembre 2006  | iv + 116 p. | 978-982-04-0336-9 |
| Approved Work Programme and Budget for 2007 and Indicative Budgets for 2008 and 2009   | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0333-8 |
| Programme de travail et budget approuvés pour 2007 et Budgets prévisionnels pour 2008 et 2009  | 36 p.       | 978-982-04-0337-6 |
| <b>Series</b>  |             |                   |
| 2005 Annual Report of the SPREP: "Working to sustain and protect the Pacific islands environment"  | 44 p.       | ISSN 1562-675X    |
| 2005 Report annuel du Secrétariat du PROE: « Conserver et protéger l'environnement insulaire océanien »  | 44 p.       | ISSN 1990-3561    |
| <i>IWP-Pacific Technical Reports (International Waters Project), 2006</i><br>(Issues 1-17 were published in 2004 and 2005 in print and electronic form; issues 38-57 have a 2007 publication date) |             | ISSN 1818-5614    |
| 18. An economic valuation of watershed pollution in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands  | viii+41 p.  | 978-982-04-0338-3 |
| 19. Participatory project design and development in Vunisinu and Nalase villages, Fiji   | v+78 p.     | 978-982-04-0339-0 |
| 20. The governance of coastal resources in Fiji: an analysis of the strategic issues   | iv+19 p.    | 978-982-04-0340-6 |
| 21. Natural resources and the environment in Fiji: a review of existing and proposed legislation   | vi+50 p.    | 978-982-04-0341-3 |
| 22. The impact of the Greenbag on waste generation in South Tarawa, Kiribati   | vi+56 p.    | 978-982-04-0342-0 |
| 23. Using participatory planning processes and learning and action tools to address waste issues in Bikenibeu West, Kiribati   | iv+23 p.    | 978-982-04-0343-7 |
| 24. Reef and mangrove survey reports, Barakau village, Central Province, Papua New Guinea  | vi+23 p.    | 978-982-04-0344-4 |
| 25. Water use survey report, Barakau village, Central Province, Papua New Guinea   | v+19 p.     | 978-982-04-0345-1 |
| 26. Waste management survey report and waste management manual for Barakau village, Central Province, Papua New Guinea   | vi+30 p.    | 978-982-04-0346-8 |

| PUBLICATION TITLE  | PAGES      | ISBN              |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| 27. Chollei Hamlet watershed solid waste site, Ngarchelong, Palau: ecological baseline assessment and suggested priority actions | v+25 p.    | 978-982-04-0347-5 |
| 28. Economic cost scenarios for solid waste-related pollution in Palau   | vi+46 p.   | 978-982-04-0348-2 |
| 29. Coastal governance in Solomon Islands: an evaluation of the strategic governance issues relating to coastal management       | iv+21 p.   | 978-982-04-0349-9 |
| 30. Community engagement and participation in the Eastern Marovo Lagoon, Western Province, Solomon Islands                       | iv+23 p.   | 978-982-04-0350-5 |
| 31. Inventory of Tonga's environment-related laws  | viii+70 p. | 978-982-04-0351-2 |
| 32. Analysis of environment-related legislation in Tonga   | iv+25 p.   | 978-982-04-0352-9 |
| 33. Economic costs of waste in Tonga   | viii+57 p. | 978-982-04-0353-6 |
| 34. Amal/Crab Bay Tabu Eria review, Malekula Island, Vanuatu   | vi+25 p.   | 978-982-04-0354-3 |
| 35. Socioeconomic baseline study: Eastern Marovo lagoon, Solomon Islands   | vi+97 p.   | 978-982-04-0355-0 |
| 36. Economics of liquid waste management in Funafuti, Tuvalu   | vi+31 p.   | 978-982-04-0356-7 |
| 37. Evaluating the governance of coastal resources and environments in Vanuatu   | iv+19 p.   | 978-982-04-0357-4 |
| The Pacific Islands International Waters Project - Strengthening Community-Based Environmental Management in the Pacific Islands | 50 p.      | 978-982-04-0328-4 |

### Contributions to Journal and Conference Proceedings

Chape, S. (2006). Review of Environmental Issues in the Pacific Region and the Role of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Contribution to Workshop and symposium on Collaboration for sustainable development of the Pacific Islands: towards effective e-learning systems on environment, 27-28 February 2006, Okinawa, Japan (30 p.).

Wright, Andrew; Stacey, Natasha; Holland, Paula (2006): The cooperative framework for ocean and coastal management in the Pacific Islands : effectiveness, constraints and future direction. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 49: 739-763.

### Articles and newsletters

Director columns in Island Business and Pacific Magazine

Turtle talk: (1) May, 8 p.; (2) July, 4 p.; (3) September, 4 p.; (4) December, 4 p.

SPREP-tok: Quarterly newsletter from the Secretariat, including SPREP Highlights: (1) September 2006, 4+4 p.(2) December 2006, 5+1 p.

PROE-tok: bulletin trimestriel du Secrétariat, incluant La Chronique du PROE : (1) Septembre 2006, 4+4 p. (2) Décembre 2006, 5+1 p.

### Other publicity materials

Many items in local, regional and international news media.

Samoa's Tafaigata Landfill Rehabilitation Project in Action, factsheet 4p.

Going into the Mangroves (Field study booklet: 32 p. A5)

Going into the Mangroves (Colouring book in Samoan: 12 p. A4)

Going into the Mangroves (post card)

Sea turtles – a symbol of our culture and heritage (A2 poster)

Year of the Sea turtle 2006: say no to plastic bags (A2 poster)

Sea Turtles – RMTCP (2 x A3 poster)

100,000 reasons to NO! to plastic bags (A2, A3 poster)

ANZ Blue Turtle Bags (shopping bag)

Those nasty plastic bags: what you should know (booklet, 8 p.)

Protect them, Protect our heritage, 2006 Year of the Sea Turtle (postcard)

We don't want your rubbish, thanks – Plastic-free Pacific! (sticker)

Island Life: Our sea, our land, our way, our future (A3 poster)

Island Life postcards (set of 3) and Christmas cards (set of 3)

Some countries have oil, the Pacific has soil (A4 poster)

Pacific Land: sustaining our environment, economies, and way of life (A3 poster)

4Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

"Say No to plastic bags" (popsong 4 mins)

IWP video - 34 mins





# Acronyms Used

|                 |  |                  |  |
|-----------------|--|------------------|--|
| <b>ADMIRE</b>   | Action for the Development of Marshall Islands Renewable Energies                        | <b>NAPA</b>      | National Adaptation Programme of Action  |
| <b>AFD</b>      | French Development Agency  | <b>NBSAP</b>     | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan   |
| <b>ANZ</b>      | Australia and New Zealand Banking Group  | <b>NCSA</b>      | National Capacity Self-Assessment  |
| <b>AusAID</b>   | Australian Agency for International Development  | <b>NGO</b>       | Non-governmental organisation  |
| <b>BoM</b>      | Bureau of Meteorology, Australia   | <b>NOAA</b>      | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)  |
| <b>BPOA</b>     | Barbados Programme of Action   | <b>NSDS</b>      | National Sustainable Development Strategy  |
| <b>CBD</b>      | Convention on Biological Diversity   | <b>NZAID</b>     | New Zealand Agency for International Development   |
| <b>CBDAMPIC</b> | Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries | <b>PACC</b>      | Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change   |
| <b>CDM</b>      | Clean Development Mechanism  | <b>PACPOL</b>    | Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme   |
| <b>CFC</b>      | Chlorofluorocarbon   | <b>PDF-B</b>     | Project Development Facility - phase B   |
| <b>CI</b>       | Conservation International   | <b>PEIN</b>      | Pacific Environment Information Network  |
| <b>CIDA</b>     | Canadian International Development Agency  | <b>PICs</b>      | Pacific Island Countries   |
| <b>CITES</b>    | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species                                  | <b>PICTs</b>     | Pacific Island Countries and Territories   |
| <b>CMS</b>      | Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals  | <b>PIFACC</b>    | Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change   |
| <b>COP</b>      | Conference of the Parties  | <b>PIFS</b>      | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  |
| <b>CRISP</b>    | Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific  | <b>PI-GCOS</b>   | Pacific Islands-Global Climate Observing System  |
| <b>CROP</b>     | Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific   | <b>PIGGAREP</b>  | Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project  |
| <b>CSD</b>      | Commission on Sustainable Development  | <b>PI-GOOS</b>   | Pacific Islands - Global Ocean Observing System  |
| <b>DEH</b>      | Department of Environment and Heritage (Australia)                                       | <b>PILN</b>      | Pacific Invasives Learning Network   |
| <b>DOC</b>      | Department of Conservation (New Zealand)   | <b>PINA</b>      | Pacific Islands News Association   |
| <b>DVD</b>      | Digital Video Disk   | <b>PIPA</b>      | Phoenix Islands Protected Area   |
| <b>EEZ</b>      | Exclusive Economic Zone  | <b>PIREP</b>     | Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project   |
| <b>ESCAP</b>    | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific                                  | <b>POP</b>       | Persistent Organic Pollutant   |
| <b>ESD</b>      | Education for Sustainable Development  | <b>PRC</b>       | Pacific Regional Centre (for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions) |
| <b>ExCom</b>    | Executive Committee [of the Multilateral Fund]   | <b>Ramsar</b>    | Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat [not an acronym: Place in Iran]        |
| <b>FFA</b>      | Forum Fisheries Agency (South Pacific)   | <b>RIF</b>       | Regional Institutional Framework   |
| <b>FSPI</b>     | Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International                             | <b>SCCF</b>      | Special Climate Change Fund  |
| <b>GEF</b>      | Global Environment Facility  | <b>SEDREA</b>    | Sustainable Energy Development through Renewable Energy Applications (Palau)   |
| <b>GeoHab</b>   | Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping   | <b>SIDS</b>      | Small Island Developing States   |
| <b>GLISPA</b>   | Global Island Partnership  | <b>SOPAC</b>     | South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission  |
| <b>HYCOS</b>    | Hydrological Cycle Observing System  | <b>SPC</b>       | Secretariat of the Pacific Community   |
| <b>IBPoW</b>    | Island Biodiversity Programme of Work  | <b>SPREP</b>     | Pacific Regional Environment Programme; or: Secretariat of the ... [no longer: South ...]  |
| <b>ICRI</b>     | International Coral Reef Initiative  | <b>SPWRC</b>     | South Pacific Whale Research Consortium  |
| <b>IDEA</b>     | Integrated Data and Environmental Applications [Center]                                  | <b>SRIMP-PAC</b> | Shipping-Related Introduced Marine Pests in the Pacific Islands  |
| <b>IFAW</b>     | International Fund for Animal Welfare  | <b>SWS</b>       | Society of Wetland Scientists  |
| <b>IMO</b>      | International Maritime Organization  | <b>UNCBD</b>     | United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity  |
| <b>IOSEA</b>    | Indian Ocean and South-East Asia   | <b>UNCCD</b>     | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  |
| <b>IRC</b>      | Information Resource Centre (SPREP)  | <b>UNDP</b>      | United Nations Development Programme   |
| <b>IT</b>       | Information Technology   | <b>UNEP</b>      | United Nations Environment Programme   |
| <b>ITMEMS</b>   | International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium                            | <b>UNF</b>       | United Nations Foundation  |
| <b>IUCN</b>     | The World Conservation Union   | <b>UNFCCC</b>    | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  |
| <b>IWP</b>      | International Waters Project   | <b>USP</b>       | University of the South Pacific  |
| <b>LDCs</b>     | Least Developed Countries  | <b>WDAP</b>      | Whale and Dolphin Action Plan  |
| <b>LMMA</b>     | Locally Managed Marine Area  | <b>WDCS</b>      | Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society   |
| <b>MDG</b>      | Millennium Development Goal  | <b>WMO</b>       | World Meteorological Organization  |
| <b>MEA</b>      | Multilateral Environmental Agreement   | <b>WPRFMC</b>    | Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  |
| <b>MLF</b>      | Multilateral Fund  | <b>WSPA</b>      | World Society for the Protection of Animals  |
| <b>MMA</b>      | Marine Managed Area  | <b>YOAAW</b>     | Year of Action Against Waste (2005)  |
| <b>MNRE</b>     | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa)                                    | <b>YOST</b>      | Year of the Sea Turtle (2006)  |
| <b>MOU</b>      | Memorandum of Understanding  |                  |  |
| <b>MPA</b>      | Marine Protected Area  |                  |  |
| <b>MSPF</b>     | Marine Species Programme Framework   |                  |  |

An extensive list of Pacific Environmental Acronyms (PEAs) is on the SPREP website at <http://www.sprep.org/PEAs2007.pdf>.



# The Pacific islands region

SPREP Members comprise 21 Pacific island countries and territories, and four developed countries\* with direct interests in the region:

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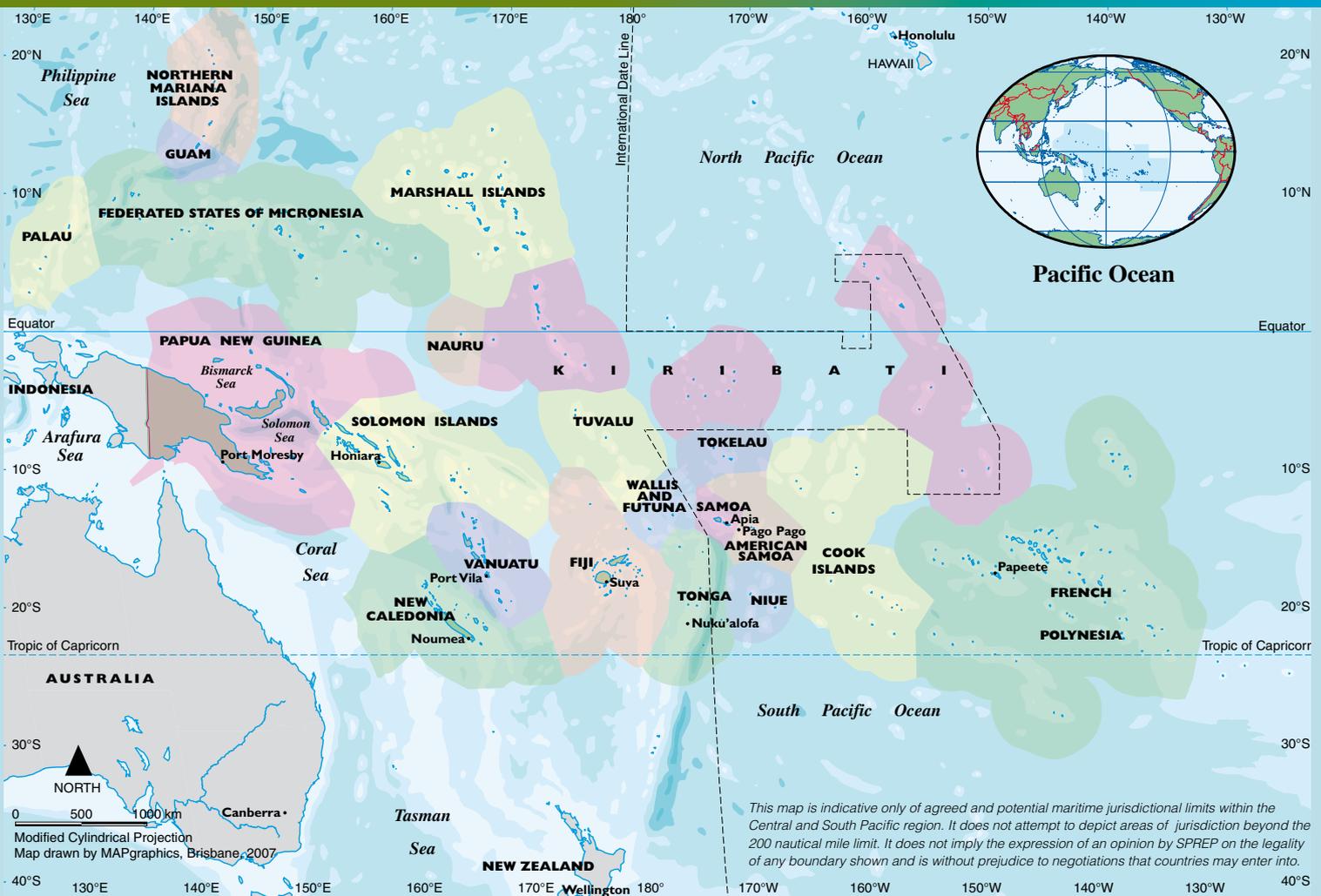


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Map on p.8 by Jo Aitken, using NOAA, Hawaii data.

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