



2005 Annual Report

of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment
Programme

Working to sustain and protect
the Pacific islands environment





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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| American Samoa | Niue |
| Australia* | Northern Mariana Islands |
| Cook Islands | Palau |
| Federated States of Micronesia | Papua New Guinea |
| Fiji | Samoa |
| France* | Solomon Islands |
| French Polynesia | Tokelau |
| Guam | Tonga |
| Kiribati | Tuvalu |
| Marshall Islands | United States of America* |
| Nauru | Vanuatu |
| New Caledonia | Wallis and Futuna |
| New Zealand* | |

2005

Annual Report

of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Working to sustain and protect the Pacific islands 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.







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Foreword

by France

Chair of the 16th SPREP Meeting

The Pacific is at the crossroads of all the environmental and sustainable development issues. It is one of the richest areas of the world in terms of the diversity and natural abundance of its environment. However, it is also one of the most fragile. This vulnerability encourages us to consider the need for full harmony between economic development and nature.

It is for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as an intergovernmental organization of 21 Pacific island Members plus four “metropolitan” Members, to deal with these problems in a constructive way.

The guiding SPREP Meeting is held in September each year, and France had the honour of chairing it. The Meeting provided an opportunity for Members to monitor progress and to set objectives for the subsequent year of the SPREP Secretariat; the achievements of the 2005 calendar year are set out in this Annual Report.

When leafing through these pages, once again I am struck by the extremely broad spectrum and extraordinary complexity of the problems to be dealt with. I will only mention some of them:

- Island biodiversity - We can no longer ignore the irreparable evidence of the decline in living things throughout the world. There are nearly 16,000 endangered species in the world today, many of these in the Pacific;
- International waters and regional ocean policy - The Pacific Ocean is the common heritage of all the States and territories and the only truly shared resource - it is up to us to conserve it;
- A better understanding of climate change - various events in 2005 remind us of the urgent need to raise awareness of how nature can unleash its forces, and how we should be prepared to respond;



*Delegates to the 16th SPREP Meeting, in Apia, September 2005
PhotoCentre, Apia, photo*

- The nagging issue of waste management - This poses a major problem for all island communities and constitutes a critical element in the sustainable development. We reflected on this especially in 2005, which SPREP had declared “The Pacific Year of Action Against Waste”.

The problems are so large that none of our Pacific States or territories can respond to them alone. Regional cooperation, mutual aid between States, joint reflection, the pooling of energies and ideas must be the guiding principles directing the SPREP activities, of which more evidence is found in this Annual Report.

The difficulties of the region must be overcome by contributing to its rational development, in such a way that the aspirations of the communities are fully taken into account. To attain this, we must strike the difficult balance that, in environmental terms, allows us to reconcile the legitimate quest for human and economic progress with awareness of our duties to nature and our responsibilities to future generations. This report hopes to indicate we are making progress in our quest to get there.

Bruno Gain
Ambassador



Introduction

Asterio Takesy

Photo: SPREP

It is once again my duty and pleasure to present to you my Annual Report. The 2005 report reviews our progress in assisting Member countries and territories to achieve our shared vision and our goals for the Pacific environment expressed through the region's Action Plan and the Secretariat's Strategic Programmes. We hope leaders in each country and territory, as well as our donors and partners, will find something of interest in the report.

The report aims to stimulate discussion about how the Secretariat contributes to environmental sustainability in the region. In essence we try to help people make good decisions about using their resources and environments for today and tomorrow. Although we report on outputs, it is outcomes we like to focus on, and we provide information in a usable form for decision-makers.

While individual leadership brings vision and waves the flag, it is a collective team effort that is the key to any success that is achieved, as there are too many interconnected responsibilities that one person cannot hope to change alone. In this regard, I can report that our SPREP team has come together very well in 2005.

This has been a year of implementing major changes to the structure of SPREP, as was agreed to at the 15th SPREP Meeting in Tahiti in 2004. Since funding was secured in January 2005 we have transformed our former 5 Key Result Areas (KRAs) into two major programmes of work: Pacific Futures and Island Ecosystems. To this end, SPREP has brought in new managers to lead both operational programmes as well as corporate services, to support the Secretariat and its Members.

This year's report focuses on how the new programmes functioned, and tie in with the region's 2005-2009 Action Plan. The Action Plan sets the Members' overall priorities on environmental and sustainability issues, which the programmes implement.

Of course it is also essential to have the flexibility to anticipate and respond to new developments, challenges and opportunities not already recognised. The region's Action Plan and the Secretariat's Strategic Programmes were always intended as living, forward-looking documents: not set in stone but to guide a rational, methodical approach. Members set out priorities; the Secretariat provides constructive advice, implements as best possible with available resources, and reports back to Members.

In this Annual Report we focus on how well SPREP is delivering to Members and show in an honest way what difference or otherwise we are making with the funding at our disposal.

We highlight our education and extension activities - after all we cannot on our own, solve the environmental problems in the Pacific: we need to encourage others to take action and provide them with the necessary skills. Communities always play a pivotal role in this process. The community is the nucleus in the Pacific, in many ways the key to achieving environmentally sustainable development. This is where we must progress our agenda of sustainability.

Within the CROP system, SPREP is the region's environmental agency. However, I believe SPREP needs to be effective in providing the best technical advice to Members without being perceived to be impinging on the primary leadership role of the governments it serves. We provide guidance in a constructive and appropriate way to achieve such balance. Members own SPREP, they must be seen to be part of the programme system and provide a measure of the impact we have at national and regional level.

To this end the report summarises how the two main programmes, Island Ecosystems and Pacific Futures, with corporate support, are helping Members deal with the environmental issues they face.

I wish to reiterate that 2005 is the first year in which the dual programme structure took effect. Implementation was delayed because the newly created managers' positions could not be advertised until this year 2005, when the funding became available.

Trying to progress things in 2005 without the new managers on board was a major challenge; and of course it takes time for people to find their roles and navigate their way in a new organisation as well as work and social environment. Hence progress has been slower than we would have preferred - but certain.

Inevitably, associated with such a major structural change is a degree of staff turnover that not only leads to loss of momentum but of institutional knowledge as well. On the other hand this also brings in fresh blood, new ideas and enthusiasm.

Many of our activities take place in association with our partners, such as our fellow-agencies in the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific, the relevant United Nations specialised agencies, donor and international development agencies and non-governmental organisations. We highlight international relations in this report, and cover some of our 2005 contributions to international negotiations throughout the world.

SPREP declared 2005 to be the Year of Action Against Waste, and the outcomes are discussed in this Annual Report. It was satisfying to conclude the year with the opening of the Tafaigata waste dump in Samoa after its transformation to an environment-friendly mechanism for managing waste and reducing its detrimental impact.

We gratefully acknowledge the work of our major sponsor Japan International Cooperation Agency in achieving this outcome.

We also indulge a little in the attention SPREP received in the news media, as a result of its active outreach mechanism to Pacific Islanders in general - not just to SPREP members or officials and regional decision-makers.

There is also continuity to report: personally I have found myself fortunate enough to have my term extended for another three years as you had decided during the 16th SPREP Meeting. I intend to serve the Members to the best of my ability, and lead the Secretariat accordingly. I trust you will find this reflected in the following pages.

Asterio Takesy
Director



Island Ecosystems

Programme

Photo: Stuart Chapman

Programme Overview

The primary purpose of the Island Ecosystems Programme (IEP) is to help Pacific island countries and territories implement the 2005–2009 Action Plan within the focus area of “natural resources management”. This has the following specific proposed outcomes:

- Improvement of the sustainable management and conservation of terrestrial, marine and coastal resources, ecosystems and species;
- Significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- Effective implementation of the ecosystem approach to natural resource conservation.

It is appropriate that SPREP and its membership have agreed on a programme that focuses on island ecosystem issues, since ecological services underpin virtually all aspects of Pacific island development. The importance of sustainable use and management of natural resources is not new. Indeed, across the Pacific, several island societies in historic times failed to manage their island homes on a sustainable basis and/or faced external environmental pressures and change; these societies subsequently collapsed or moved to new islands. Many others succeeded in establishing a harmonised relationship with the terrestrial and marine environments in which they lived. Yet success for humans often meant significant change to ecosystems (for example, conversion of forest to grassland) and extinction of numerous fauna species.

Currently we face unprecedented rates of environmental, social and economic change. The Millennium Ecosystem report released in 2005 noted that over the past 50 years, people have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period in human history. Pacific island societies need to heed the past lessons of survival, and the consequences of ignoring basic ecological principles. Successful sustainable use and management of island terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems is essential for future survival of Pacific island societies. The ecosystem services of freshwater, timber, agriculture and arable land, coastal and pelagic fisheries, shoreline protection, and tourism that support livelihoods and national development, are critically dependent on the maintenance of essential ecosystem functions.

Degradation of water catchments; loss of forests and their biodiversity; overfishing and damage to coral reefs; the impact of alien invasive species; removal of mangroves; over-population and resource depletion; and pollution and inadequate waste disposal – these are major issues that are not only preventing Pacific islands from achieving sustainable development, but also increase

their vulnerability to externally-driven impacts. Most prominent among these external impacts are the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with climate change. But trade and energy issues also have important implications for ecologically sustainable development. For example, short-term economic gains from logging, driven by high timber demands in other countries, has led to deforestation on some islands and increasing vulnerability to the impacts of watershed degradation, loss of freshwater and sedimentation of reefs and lagoons.

The IEP works with SPREP Member countries and territories, in conjunction with partners and donors, to assist them in addressing these critical ecological issues. Direct advice and building human resource capacity enables governments to undertake their own environmental planning, management and policy development. The IEP sub-programmes currently deal with nature conservation and island biodiversity, coastal and marine issues including marine species, alien invasive species and capacity development. Members at the 16th SPREP Meeting in 2005 highlighted the need for SPREP to strengthen its capacity to deal with biodiversity and invasive species issues. Consequently the Secretariat took action to establish two new positions: Invasive Species Officer and Island Biodiversity Officer, further strengthened by the appointment of a Marine Species Officer.

Fundamental to the delivery of sound programmatic outcomes for SPREP Members is not only working collaboratively with external partners but also within SPREP itself. There is already synergy in the objectives and work areas of the programmes. Cross-programme delivery of Action Plan objectives already occurs, but needs to be further integrated and coordinated in the coming year. Together, the two programmes will be reviewing how to make our work more effective, both within SPREP and by working more closely with Member countries and partners, including other CROP agencies. There needs to be a cohesive approach to achieving environmentally sustainable development among all the CROP agencies, with each contributing their particular skills in a collaborative effort for the benefit of Pacific island countries and territories.



All Pacific island countries and territories urgently need to implement effective environmental management and sustainable development strategies.
Photo: Stuart Chape

Island Biodiversity: Global Recognition of its Significance

Island biodiversity fundamentally underpins our lives, lifestyles and livelihoods in the Pacific. This has now been recognised at the global level, which is expected to mean greater resources devoted to the range of issues that come with managing this island biodiversity.

The Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice, in February 2005, recommended a draft Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity to be presented to the 2006 Conference of the Parties in Brazil. The February meeting recommended recognition of the fact that the issues related to island biodiversity are both important and need urgent attention.

Much energy from the Pacific region was devoted to the range of meetings to do with island biodiversity, including the technical expert meeting that developed the initial draft, and a specific working group set up by the Roundtable for Nature Conservation to ensure that feedback and input was maintained.

The Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity:

- Was identified as a priority in the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Is one of the most significant new sources of financial and technical support for the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- Deals with island biodiversity in an integrated way and avoids duplication with existing thematic work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Is a platform for a stronger island voice within the CBD and related international negotiations;
- Strengthens the political and ecological connectivity and partnerships between governments and civil society and between small islands and countries with islands.

The Island Biodiversity Programme of Work recognizes the special and unique attributes of island ecosystems, from high islands to atolls.

Photo: Stuart Chape



Key challenges arising in the development of the programme of work included:

- What are the urgent actions that need to be taken to address critical and ongoing biodiversity loss?
- How do we improve resource allocation to national level activities to prevent this?

These are questions that will continue to concern this region.

SPREP is grateful for the support provided by the New Zealand Government for much of the preparatory work on island biodiversity by the Pacific.



Regional Support for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Wetlands are interlinked by surface and groundwater flows and through the movement of species. They are very productive environments and are important features of Pacific island landscapes. Wetlands and their resources, whether terrestrial or marine, form the basis of most Pacific Island economies and provide for daily livelihoods. However, these ecosystems are increasingly under threat in our region from a variety of pressures. In giving due regard to the importance of Pacific wetlands, SPREP recently joined forces with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Together with the Convention's partner organizations in the region, the Secretariat assisted the Pacific island countries and territories to sustainably utilize, conserve and restore their appropriate wetlands. Critical wetlands of the region include mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds.

Geographic isolation has resulted in the evolution of unique Pacific species, requiring effective conservation measures to ensure their survival.
Photo: Stuart Chape

Freshwater Lake Lanoto'o is Samoa's first Ramsar Site.
Photo: SPREP



Promotion of Wetlands Wise Use

Some progress has been made in the development of the National Wetland Policies and inventories in the Oceania region. The current Pacific Island Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa) are slowly embarking on these within their capacity constraints. Through its Associate Ramsar Officer, SPREP is continuing to provide advice and assistance to these Contracting Parties; and encourages the consideration of wetland policy development and establishment arrangements for National Ramsar Committees (NRCs), where such committees do not exist. New contacts were made and links were maintained with the Pacific Island Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in the region during 2005.

SPREP actively engaged and provided input into various initiatives and forums related to the wise use of wetlands in the Oceania region, such as:

- Coordination of World Wetlands Day 2005 celebrations for the region (February 2);
- Organization of the Third Oceania Regional Meeting in preparation for (September 2005), and participation in (November 2005), the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- Participation and contribution to the UNEP Regional Seas, WPRFMC survey (2005) to assess PIC technical capacity to assess and manage mangrove responses to sea level rise;
- Representation on the Samoa Coastal Ecosystem Recovery Project Committee (CERP) for 2005-2006.

Designation of Wetlands of International Importance in the Region

Plans for designating additional Ramsar sites were announced during 2005 by two States Parties, the Marshall Islands and Samoa, with designations to occur in 2006. SPREP is currently assisting with planning of consultations and preparation of documentation for these site nominations. SPREP also provided assistance to Fiji, Cook Islands and Tonga to complete their accession processes. Fiji's National Wetlands Taskforce (their NRC) has compiled a database of 20 potential sites for future Ramsar designation. Assistance has also been offered to non-parties Niue, Nauru and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to commence initial planning and considerations for national activities.

Collaboration with Regional Partners on Wetlands Conservation

Linkages have been maintained with the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in the four Pacific States Parties and also with potential administrative authorities in the other SPREP Member countries that work closely with the Ramsar Partner Organizations active in the region, particularly Wetlands International Oceania and WWF-SPP.

SPREP has been involved in the following cooperative activities:

- Collaboration with the University of the South Pacific (USP), the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL), and the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) to organize and deliver the bi-annual Pacific Island Community-Based Conservation Course in April 2005;
- Joint collaboration with Wetlands International Oceania to organize and implement the Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Wetlands Wise Use in September 2005, in Fiji. The workshop provided a timely opportunity to revisit PICT priorities and needs for wetland conservation;
- Organization and execution of the Third Oceania Regional Meeting for Ramsar COP9 in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Heritage (Australia);
- Close collaboration with Mainstream Consulting (Dr Bill Phillips) based in Australia to complement ongoing work to effectively promote and extend the Convention's work in Pacific island countries and territories;
- Participation in a survey to assess the technical capacity of PICs to assess and manage mangrove responses to sea level rise, in cooperation with the University of Tasmania, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.



Further Strategic and Cooperative Issues

Enabling Pacific territories to be more integrated into the work of SPREP and of other SPREP Member countries

The first regional Pacific territories meeting held in Apia in July 2005 identified ways in which the Secretariat could enable territories and countries to share experiences, lessons learned and work together on implementing projects and activities.

Chaired by New Caledonia's Isabel Ohlen, participants believed that the meeting laid a solid foundation for future collaboration and worked toward improving the understanding of the work both at the Territorial and Secretariat level, in light of the implementation of the Action Plan and 10-year Strategic Programme. Key issues were identified as was a set of initial areas on which to focus (see boxed text overleaf).

One thing the Secretariat is trying to improve through this meeting is the identification and mobilization of expertise available in territories to assist other Pacific island Members; it was identified that there is not a strong dialogue between country and territory members on substantive issues. Language barriers, and a feeling that territories were not recognized as full SPREP Members, were also areas of concern.

Territories in attendance included New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Tokelau, Guam and American Samoa; there was also a representative of the Government of France.

Potential areas for increased collaboration between territories and Pacific island nations include:

- Invasive species management;
- Marine water quality mapping;
- Experience and lessons learned in enforcement in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Pacific;
- Exchange of best practices in relation to bird conservation;
- French Polynesia's experience in involving the business sector in coral reef management;
- Sharing of lessons learned on community based models for co-management of coral reefs;
- Sharing outcomes of research on climate change impacts;
- Working with French Polynesia and New Caledonia to look at their experiences in relation to solar and wind power and sharing it with Member countries;
- Showcasing success stories in solid waste management;
- Country attachments and training opportunities;
- New Caledonia experience in forestry resource information and bushfire impact management and fire hazard assessment and planning processes;
- Involvement of territories in developing environmental assessment and planning toolkits;
- Exchange of best practices on use of economic instruments and resource valuation;
- Promote use of territory expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Progressing the Roundtable for Nature Conservation

The Roundtable for Nature Conservation exists to monitor and report on progress, develop activities, and improve collaboration and coordination with regard to the region's Action

Establishing and managing protected areas are important for conserving representative ecosystems in the Pacific, such as Fiji's Ravilevu Nature Reserve.
Photo: Stuart Chape



Community-conserved and managed Marine Protected Area established by Chea village, the IWP Solomon Islands project site.
Photo: Stuart Chape



Strategy for Nature Conservation. As a forum of the main funders and implementers of regional nature conservation initiatives, the Roundtable is unique since it can adopt objectives and strategic approaches which are region-wide but which can be operationalized at country level.

Two significant Roundtable activities took place in 2005. Firstly, national biodiversity strategy and action plan coordinators from Pacific island countries took part in Roundtable 9 in Alotau, Papua New Guinea. They identified that the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and similar national biodiversity strategies, are critical frameworks for addressing priority biodiversity issues in Pacific island countries and territories. As such they need support for implementation from Roundtable members. They also highlighted the need for mainstreaming and high-level political support to develop and implement these strategies and action plans.

With funding support from the New Zealand Government, NBSAP coordinators have formed a network to help each other progress and exchange ideas and are able to meet each year on the margins of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation meeting.

Secondly, the Roundtable initiated a monitoring and evaluation consultancy to provide information on what progress had been achieved in implementing the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation. The results will be presented at the 2007 Nature Conservation Conference to all SPREP Member countries. This consultancy will inform the region about the impact of the Action Strategy on biodiversity in the region and what steps need to be taken to address these.

Continuing Collaboration with the World Council of Churches

Following on from its support for two regional meetings - one focused on climate change and the other on conservation - the relationship between SPREP and the World Council of Churches (WCC) has gone from strength to strength. An MOU outlining a series of activities between the two organizations has been developed and a high-level WCC-SPREP meeting was held at SPREP headquarters. This August 2005 meeting involved the new Pacific church leaders who were preparing for the World Council of Churches Congress to be held in Brazil later that year. It is expected that the church and church congregations, as a key audience of SPREP, will work together with us to progress environmental initiatives.

The theme of the meeting in Apia was "Protecting the integrity of God's creation" and was focused on sharing ideas and experiences around that theme. It recognized that working on environmental issues in the Pacific region has to be about working with people and communities; and that churches, with their role in Pacific societies, are a key way to do this.

Within the MOU, ongoing work includes:

- Developing education materials;
- Theological education on environmental themes;
- Some type of guideline for developing sermons and communicating environment issues;
- Working together on the Roundtable for Nature Conservation;
- Developing presentations on environment for WCC conferences to help discuss environment issues.

A key outcome of this meeting was by the climate change sub-programme of SPREP's Pacific Futures Programme and the World Council of Churches: this has already submitted a proposal for a project in Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati to work with church communities in these countries on climate change adaptation activities.

Regional MOU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat and SPREP convened a regional meeting of a drafting group, with the support of Australia and New Zealand, to finalise a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prepared by a working group of 12 countries convened by Samoa. SPREP members endorsed the MOU process and a draft was circulated for comments. The draft is in its last stages of finalization before opening for signatures.

The CMS MOU builds on the regional commitment made by the Whales and Dolphin Action Plan (WDAP) and is an international recognition of the region's conservation efforts. The MOU is an important mechanism to channel into the region much-needed technical and financial support for national implementation of the WDAP.

Collaboration on Migratory Species: MOC Signed with the CMS

A Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC) between SPREP and the CMS Secretariat was signed in November 2005. The MOC was signed by the CMS Executive Secretary during the CMS COP8 in Nairobi, Kenya, and subsequently signed by the SPREP Director at the SPREP Headquarters in Apia.

The MOC recognises that both organizations pursue common goals in the conservation of ecosystems and the protection of migrating species, which can only be successfully met by enhanced and concerted actions on different levels and between all sectors. Many of SPREP's activities concern migratory species and issues that also are covered by CMS or Agreements concluded under its auspices.

The MOC highlights agreement in the following areas:

- Policy compatibility;
- Institutional cooperation;
- Exchange of experience and information;
- Coordination of programmes of work;
- Joint conservation action;
- Consultation, reporting, and further guidance on new areas of cooperation and action.

The MOC will focus in the first instance on progressing the implementation of the MOU on cetaceans and the review of the Whales and Dolphin Action Plan, and the development of regional arrangements for Marine Turtles under the CMS.

Supporting Turtle Conservation in the Region

The upgrade and regular update of the SPREP Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) is an important component of the Marine Turtle Action Plan 2003-2007. The development of TREDS as a region-wide tagging database was a preliminary and critical step in understanding and managing the populations of marine turtles in the Pacific Islands and Asia-Pacific. TREDS is a collaborative initiative by SPREP, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries, Queensland Government's Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

The development of TREDs is to be completed by mid 2006, upon which TREDs will be distributed to Member countries and territories for the compilation and management of data collected from turtle monitoring. Data received from countries as well as historical data at SPREP are entered into TREDs.

As a collaborative activity, a workshop was conducted in Malaysia to introduce TREDs to the SEAFDEC region and to test the suitability of the TREDs for use in this region. Participants in the workshop were turtle researchers from the SEAFDEC region and their feedback was most useful in the further development of TREDs.

In 2005 SPREP continued to support new and ongoing turtle monitoring and data collection initiatives in its Member countries through the distribution of titanium flipper tags and applicators. In total, 5100 tags have been distributed to Guam, Papua New Guinea, Yap (in Federated States of Micronesia), Commonwealth of the Marianas Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, and Fiji for turtle monitoring. The information collected from these tagging activities will allow the SPREP Members to understand turtle migration patterns in the Pacific.

To gain information on turtle nesting populations in the Pacific, support was given to Papua New Guinea for a turtle research and monitoring survey of the Huon Coast Leatherback Turtle Conservation Network (on Buang-Buassi Nesting Beach in Morobe Province) and in Samoa for the Nesting Hawksbill Turtle Survey on the Aleipata Islands (both for the 2005/06 nesting season). To facilitate knowledge and experience sharing of ongoing turtle monitoring work in Vanuatu, SPREP supported a video production by Wan Smolbag Theatre. Vanua Tai Monitors Video Documentary was launched and gained recognition both at the international and regional level.

The Turtle Action Plan 2003-2007 identified 2006 as the Year of the Sea Turtle (YOST) as a key strategy to raise awareness and support for turtle conservation. In order to plan for YOST 2006, SPREP established a steering committee including countries and territory representatives, and CROP agencies. A YOST concept was developed with the central theme "protect sea turtles: protect our heritage", focusing on community support, government action and partnerships for conservation. Resources were secured from New Zealand to fund an internship for a Pacific Islander to assist in the coordination of the Campaign in 2006.



*SPREP worked with partners in 2005 to help conserve turtle species, including the endangered Hawksbill Turtle.
Photo: Jaap Jasperse*

Regional Cooperation with CROP Agencies

In 2005, the CROP agencies Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) worked on progressing the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROP-ISA), including options for securing funding for national implementation. The PIROP-ISA, which was endorsed by the Pacific Island Forum, sets out the road map for the protection and sustainable use of oceans.

Despite a recognition of the importance of regional collaboration on this project, little progress has been made this year. This is in part due to changes in representation on the MSWG, but also because dedicated resources are not available for effective coordination. Progress on implementation by CROP agencies has been reported to respective governing councils including the SPREP Meeting. Unfortunately, little progress has been made to foster national implementation — in particular the incorporation of PIROP-ISA into National Sustainable Development Strategies. These issues need to be seriously addressed in 2006.



Project Planning Completed for Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific

At the SPREP meeting in Tahiti in 2004, France launched a Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) worth €10 million over 3 years, involving 15 Pacific Island Countries and 3 French Territories. CRISP is a complex partnership of government and non-government organisations and research institutions, organized under three main thematic areas:

- Marine protected areas and watershed management;
- Coral reef ecosystem functions, rehabilitation, and use;
- Institutional capacity, communication, and adoption.

Many coastal communities in the Pacific, such as here in the Solomon Islands, are dependent on resources obtained from healthy coral reefs.

Photo: Stuart Chape



SPREP is responsible for implementing the third thematic area, and during 2005 project planning was completed for SPREP's input. Unfortunately, the complexity of this large project, with its multi-partnership arrangements, extensive technical scope and joint funding arrangements, has delayed the start-up of the SPREP component of CRISP considerably. At the end of 2005, SPREP was still awaiting finalisation of contractual arrangements.

From a SPREP point of view, CRISP provides the opportunity to take on board some of the lessons learned to date, and to adopt a more programmatic and strategic approach to programme delivery. It is an opportunity to refocus activities consistent with regional policies such as the Forum Pacific Island Region Oceans Policy, and the Action Strategy on Nature Conservation; and to take advantage of ongoing national processes, such as the development of national sustainable development strategies and National Capacity Self Assessments (NCSA) for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The SPREP component, now due to start in July 2006 and to last for 3 years, addresses the root causes of loss of marine and coastal biodiversity. It builds on the lessons learned from the SPREP-ICRAN coastal programme and the UNDP GEF International Waters Project. It focuses on four activities:

- 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' result to policy makers and coastal managers;
- Enhancing capacity of coastal managers to access to appropriate information, methodologies and technologies for the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.



Invasives to Become Focus of Regional Efforts

Invasive species are considered the most serious of the three key threats identified to biodiversity and sustainable development in the Pacific region. Pacific island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable due to their high levels of unique rare, endangered and threatened species. Members at the 16th SPREP Meeting highlighted the importance of dealing with this issue. Accordingly, SPREP and other partners have developed a unique new activity to help Pacific island countries and territories better deal with the prevention, management and eradication of invasive species where possible.

The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN), launched in November, is a peer-learning network for promoting information exchange, best practice and capacity building regarding improved invasive species management in the Pacific. It recognizes that often people in countries working on invasive species issues are isolated and don't have access to support, information or training. Partners include The Nature Conservancy, the Cooperative Island Initiative on Invasive Species, IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, National Park of American Samoa, Conservation International, the Palau Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, University of the South Pacific, USDA Forest Service, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Start-up of PILN is being supported by the US Department of State.



*Stripping bark to kill the invasive tree species tamaligi in American Samoa.
NPS photo: Tavita Togia*



*Participants of the Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course 2005 during a field trip to the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park, Fiji.
Photo: Melchior Mataka*

National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA)

SPREP in partnership with the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) of the Government of Australia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations University (UNU) established a Pacific Regional Support Mechanism (PRSM) to assist countries implement the NCSA. SPREP's Human Resource Development / Training Officer coordinated this initiative. Three sub-regional workshops were implemented to help countries with the inception of the NCSA; they used the self-assessment methodology with advice and training provided during two in-country national workshops, as well as through e-mail communications. This initiative has helped countries embark on the rather complex task of self-assessing capacities to deal with national environment issues that are also in line with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). A total of 105 country participants benefited from this training.

Implementation of SPREP Training Activities

Assistance was provided in the design, planning, and implementation of a number of training and consultation activities linked to various programme outputs.

In collaboration with the University of the South Pacific (USP) a 7-week Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course (PICCC) was implemented in two phases. Twelve participants from eight countries successfully completed the course and are all currently involved with conservation work in their respective countries. Here they are supporting communities and governments in planning and implementing community-based conservation, as well as other national protected area initiatives. Funding for six of the participants was generously provided by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Bali Strategic Plan funding, Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and USP. This is the third time the course has been jointly offered by SPREP and USP.

With funding from United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UNDP Governance in the Pacific (GovPac) Project, a regional training workshop was planned and implemented in Suva, Fiji to assist 14 countries that are parties to the UNCCD, in designing and implementing medium-sized projects on Sustainable Land Management funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Of these countries, 12 were also provided assistance with the main steps involved in developing National Action Programmes (NAP), required by the UNCCD.

These officers are now guiding and implementing the development of project proposals that will secure resources for strengthening capacity to address land degradation. Many of them are also now actively involved in developing UNCCD National Action Programmes for their countries. Following this workshop, SPREP has started assisting these countries in planning for and developing their NAPs.

Assistance was also provided throughout two of the three sub-regional consultation exercises, to develop the Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy, development of training activities for community-based turtle monitoring, and consultations for the review of adaptation projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Funding proposals were developed and funds secured to support up to 12 country-to-country attachments in 2006 (Government of Japan), capacity building for environmental reporting work in Tonga in 2006, and volunteer placement in Tuvalu to strengthen capacity of national counterpart and staff of the Environment Department (NZAid). With funding from AusAID, support was provided for the placement of a volunteer in the Kiribati Environment Department to assist with awareness raising and communication initiatives; and provision of equipment to the Environment Department in Solomon Islands that has raised the ability of the department to conduct training and awareness raising activities.



Embracing Education for Sustainable Development

“If you’re planning for a lifetime, teach people...”

Pacific island governments, along with other world leaders and civil society, have pledged their commitment to take action to change and move society towards sustainable development. Along with this commitment is the recognition that a sustainable future is dependent upon a considerable shift in attitudes, value, lifestyles and behaviour.

The year 2005 marked the start of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a global initiative to showcase, promote and encourage the critical role of education and communication as a basis for a more sustainable society.

In August 2005, SPREP with the University of the South Pacific in Suva, co-ordinated the first regional cross-sectoral discussion that focussed on reorienting environmental education towards ESD. “Education for a Sustainable Pacific” brought together representatives from the media, environmental NGOs, governments and the private sector, to facilitate dialogue about ESD in the Pacific.

This was followed by a two-day workshop that finalised the “Guiding Framework for a Sustainable Pacific”, SPREP’s leading document on education and communication in the Pacific. Focussing on three key areas (Formal Education, Communication and Building partnerships and networks), the Framework provides realistic, achievable and measurable actions for supporting the integration of ESD principles into national action plans, and existing environment for sustainable development programmes.

SPREP recognises the vast differences of its Member countries and territories, so the Framework aims to provide a foundation to progress education and communication as powerful tools for achieving sustainable development in the Pacific, and support the integration of ESD principles

into existing strategies. As a change agent, SPREP hopes to empower its network of national contacts in SPREP Members to stimulate and promote attitudinal changes through innovative, interesting and fun initiatives.

SPREP is working to develop models that promote the integration of behaviour change principles into broader strategic planning. This comes from a global recognition that information alone is not the answer. Raising awareness does not necessarily translate to behaviour change. Education lays the foundation for initiating and promoting changes in attitudes and behaviours, and can reinforce learning and awareness. However, there are many intrinsic and extrinsic factors to consider when aiming to change individual and collective behaviour. This marks a call for a greater commitment to integrate communications into strategic development.

Encouraging innovative ideas for a big regional issue



2nd

“What’s your waste wise idea?”

As part of the Year of Action Against Waste, SPREP facilitated a regional poster competition throughout the region that attracted hundreds of posters.

The competition encouraged creative young minds to propose innovative solutions to a waste issue in their community. The winning

entry was created by Jayleen Worek from Rowhani School, in Santo, Vanuatu. Producing her entry on recycled paper, Jayleen and her classmates produced a range of ideas on how to reuse every-day items.

Empowering young people to become involved in an important issue in their community created a sense of responsibility and purpose, and SPREP hopes to continue to build on the energy and enthusiasm of young people to create future leaders for the Pacific.



1st



International Waters Project

Initially, 2005 had considerable momentum on several important economic studies in waste management and watersheds in several countries. The Sixth National Coordinators Meeting and the Fourth Multipartite Review were held in August in Apia to assess project progress. Project Manager, Mr Andrew Wright, left in August. After some delay, the management of the International Waters Project (IWP) was taken over by Pacific Environment Consultants Ltd (PECL) in order to steer the Project through the remaining 12 months of its seven-year life. An important component of the project at this stage is collating, analysing and understanding lessons learned. As part of this process, a workshop for seven National Coordinators from Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, and Tuvalu was held in Samoa in November.

The increasing acceptance by IWP countries of the use of economic tools for analyses, and to inform policy making, is a significant achievement for IWP as it seeks to link local pilot-demonstration initiatives to higher-level national planning and policy making. The success in Cook Islands' watershed economic valuation provided the stimulant that has since sparked similar interests in economic studies in other countries including Palau, Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu. A review of environment-related legislation, with a focus on waste, was completed for Tonga.

Communication activities were maintained at a high level, with the implementation of national communication strategies progressing extremely well. High-profile national and regional meetings engaging government leaders, policies makers, planners and implementers complemented awareness raising and educational activities at local levels. On 9 August a Special Information and Video Evening was held to mark IWP's involvement in the Year of Action Against Waste; and to highlight project activities in Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa and the Cook Islands. Guests included the Samoan Prime Minister and other dignitaries. The use of the electronic media and videos complemented and added to local level demonstration activities. Fiji, Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu started Phase 2 implementation on social marketing. Other countries are progressing with implementation of Phase 1 of their respective communications strategies. Several feature articles on IWP activities were published in regional media, highlighting work in Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

Momentum was maintained at a high level in the implementation of project activities:

- Contributions to preparation of a Regional Master Plan for Solid Waste Management;
- Consultations for the Cook Islands pilot project Watershed Management Plan;
- Recycling activities in many IWP host communities (Tonga, Fiji, Marshall Islands);
- Opening of a project office at the Jenrok community site in Marshall Islands;
- Consultations on the establishment of a recycling centre in Majuro;
- Waste recycling centres and waste collection programmes increased momentum in Kiribati, Tonga, and Fiji;
- Progress on national level institutional issues (e.g. national waste management strategy in Fiji, coastal resource management in Yap, solid waste management authority considerations in Tonga);
- On-going socio-economic surveys in Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands;
- Finalisation of a marine ecological baseline survey report by the Niue Project;
- Finalisation of the ecological baseline survey report for Yap, Federated States of Micronesia;
- Completion of a village fishery management plan for the Makefu community in Niue;
- Impact monitoring activities well underway - including ecological surveys and water quality monitoring in Marshall Islands, PNG, Niue, Tonga and Vanuatu.



Pacific Futures

Programme

Photo: Frank Griffin



Programme Overview

The Pacific Futures Programme works to support Pacific island countries and territories in several areas that are critical to the region's environment and the well-being of Pacific peoples. The purpose of the Programme is to deliver on two major focal areas in the Action Plan for Managing the Environment of the Pacific Islands Region 2005-2009: Pollution Prevention and Climate Change. The Programme also has primary responsibility for cross-cutting themes relating to environmental management (policy, planning, monitoring and reporting) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Pollution/waste management and climate change have again been key issues for SPREP and the region. In both of these areas, 2005 has been a year of real significance.

SPREP Members declared 2005 to be the Year of Action Against Waste, as a way of highlighting the importance of this major issue. As described in the following pages, the Year of Action has launched a coordinated effort across the region to address waste management. This has been implemented through public awareness and education, case studies and trial projects to demonstrate different policy tools, improved disposal, and - most crucially - waste minimization. SPREP is also a focal point for regional management of hazardous wastes and marine pollution.

In the area of Climate Change, SPREP supported a diverse range of activities for the region: international negotiations, regulatory design, climate observation and on-the-ground projects. Climate change work in the Pacific has been given renewed direction through the development of a revised Regional Framework on Climate Change 2006-2015 adopted by Pacific Leaders during the year. The Framework highlights the need for adaptation measures across the region.

The Pacific Futures Programme supports improved environmental governance through promoting the use of appropriate environmental management tools (such as Environmental Impact Assessments), integrated decision making processes (including environmental considerations in national sustainable development strategies), and the use of sound basic data on the state of the environment.

SPREP puts considerable effort into supporting countries and territories in meeting their obligations under the many MEAs that countries and territories in the region are now party to. Participation and compliance with such agreements may require to gain access to international funding (e.g. through the Global Environment Facility).

SPREP is also host to three regional legal agreements that address issues specific to the Pacific.

The Pacific Futures Programme's work covers everything from exploring new concepts in environmental management, right through to delivery of practical change in Pacific island countries and territories.

The year 2005 has seen significant progress, including regional strategies for work in climate change and waste management.



Pollution and Waste

Preventing pollution and managing waste remain a significant challenge for all SPREP Members. Volumes, types and impacts of waste continue to increase, thereby damaging the health, polluting the environment and harming the economy of Pacific island countries. Increased incidence of diseases and illnesses that can be caused by improper waste management are costly to individuals and the public purse alike. Litter and pollution are also costing the Pacific much-needed tourism dollars. A recent SPREP economic study with the Cook Islands put the wider costs of inadequate waste management at US\$4.8 million, or 3.12% of that Member country's Gross Domestic Product.

2005 – A Year of Action Against Waste

2005 was marked by the Year of Action Against Waste: a regional campaign that encouraged new and existing national and community initiatives, and showcased regional best practices to support governments in their planning process for solid waste management. The Year of Action utilized both NZAID and SPREP resources in supporting SPREP Members to develop campaigns based on their national solid waste priorities.

To acknowledge the various cultural and geographical differences between SPREP Members, the Year of Action was structured to support the range of needs of countries. This involved varying activities across the region including: the "Cash for Trash" recycling initiative in Fiji; waste collection improvements in the Solomon Islands; and assisting with a move towards banning plastic bags in Samoa.

The Year of Action also promoted the integration of strategic communications into national solid waste management plans, and promoted the need for ongoing initiatives beyond 2005 to sustain the initiatives put into place.

Year of Action Highlights

Niue – “Don’t litter our roadside, bush tracks and sea tracks”

- Clean-up project of roadside dumping with social marketing campaign of billboards and TV to prevent a reoccurrence.

Fiji – “Get Cash for Trash”

- Partnership with recycling companies and an awareness raising campaign to assist the public in presenting material for maximum financial return.

Kiribati – School-based awareness campaign in South Tarawa

- Capitalized on successful “green bag” user-pays waste minimization and collection with sponsored bins and lessons in schools leading to a Tidy Schools competition.

Solomon Islands – “Be smart – reduce your rubbish”

- Regular waste collection in Honiara was assisted by an awareness campaign in Honiara with a clean-up campaign, speech and arts competitions, and numerous community and professional workshops.

Samoa – “Ban plastic bags”

- Announced ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags as part of World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June;
- Regulations to require 50% corn starch to allow breakdown in 6 months;
- An awareness campaign aimed to reduce plastic bag usage in supermarkets, and provide information on available alternatives.

Tuvalu – “Wet & dry batteries! Get them out of Tuvalu”

- Conduct quantitative surveys on wet and dry batteries plus other hazardous waste, if any, at households and business levels;
- Increase public awareness of the dangers posed by these substances;
- Set up a plan or program of implementation on the island.

Vanuatu – General waste awareness

- Promote waste minimization initiatives through community awareness;
- Reduce volume of wastes entering the landfill by 30% by 2009;
- Visibly reduce the amount of litter in public areas by 50% by 2009;
- Decrease by 80% the practice of open burning of wastes by 2009.

Left
Solid waste provides many problems that will not just go away by themselves.
Photo: SPREP

Right
Biodegradable plastic Greenbags helped the Kiribati IWP pilot community of Bikenibeu West achieve a 50% reduction in waste volumes.
Photo: Sarah Hunter



Regional Waste Strategy Launched

A major regional milestone for the Pacific was the preparation and the unanimous adoption of the Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy at the 16th SPREP Meeting in 2005. This followed many regional and sub-regional workshops, generously supported financially by NZAID and JICA, to ensure that the strategy provided strong directional leadership - yet had sufficient flexibility and scope to cover the specific circumstances for each SPREP Member. With financial assistance from JICA, SPREP then hosted a seminar for senior waste managers who developed an Action Plan to implement the Strategy. This mapped out a series of vital projects including:

- Appointing a lead agency to co-ordinate the National Strategies;
- Sustainable financing with advance recycling fees, minimizing costs by composting and efficient collection;
- Cost-effective disposal, for example through semi-aerobic landfilling.

SPREP has begun implementing the Action Plan and is in discussions with potential donor partners.

Landfill Breakthrough

The extraordinary successful Fukuoka method demonstration landfill at Tafaigata in Samoa is a joint initiative between JICA, SPREP and Samoa. In December 2005, the hand-over to the Samoan Government was completed: a modern sanitary landfill is now in operation.

The landfill had been transformed from a polluting open dump to a clean modern landfill with great decreases in greenhouse and toxic gases, odour and water pollution. The landfill cost approximately a tenth of similar projects elsewhere and will be cheap to operate as well, with no expensive overseas equipment or energy costs. The landfill only requires a bulldozer or grader to level the waste, to compact it, and to cover it with soil.



There is no shortage of smoldering dumps in need of upgrades in the Pacific, so we hope the break-through catches on elsewhere, with the following benefits:

- Significant decreases in greenhouse and toxic gases, and water pollution;
- Less impact on neighbours: no odour or burning;
- 5x cheaper than normal upgrades;
- Low operating costs using local materials;
- Rapid stabilization and re-use potential.

Photos: SPREP

Removing Persistent Pollutants from the Pacific: the POPs in PICs project

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), in the early to mid-90s, recognised the need for improvement of waste management, both in the personnel and infra-structural areas throughout the Pacific region. They consequently undertook a pre-feasibility study of potential waste management projects in the Region in April 1997. Thirteen areas of work were recommended by this study to be in immediate need for assistance, with the management of hazardous waste chemicals rating as the top priority.

Hazardous and persistent chemicals, including those currently listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, were identified as needing special attention, as they are unable to be treated in-country. They include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which are mainly found in transformer oils, and several pesticides that are very persistent and toxic to the environment.

The Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries (POPs in PICs) project was developed to address the management of stockpiled intractable pesticides and PCBs, collectively known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The project is one of the first of its kind to be implemented under international agreements for managing persistent organic pollutants and trans-boundary movement of these types of waste; and has contributed to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention to minimize the harm caused by POPs, and phase out their use.

The eradication of POPs and intractable pesticides is important for both local communities and for the Pacific region's health and environment. This project is aimed at eradicating POPs and intractable pesticides currently stockpiled in the thirteen PICs. Pacific island countries participating in the POPs in PICs project are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The project has realized significant environmental and health benefits through the removal of harmful chemicals from susceptible Pacific island environments and communities. An added benefit is in the solid waste area, as the project is also removing all the metal casings of the transformers that have been identified to contain PCB-contaminated oils.

The work undertaken in 2005 built on the great work that had been done in 2003–2004 when detailed inventories of the stockpiles of waste and obsolete chemicals, as well as contaminated sites, in the 13 PICs were prepared. The project has:

- Managed regional communication and logistical issues in identifying, packaging, and shipping the waste as well as dealing with contaminated sites;
- Maintained compliance with international agreements for movement of hazardous waste (e.g. Basel and Waigani Conventions, International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code: IMDG);
- Met all environmental regulations in Australia and in Pacific countries (Federal, State, Local);
- Employed state-of-the-art POPs destruction technology utilizing non-incineration base catalysed dechlorination (BCD) and plasma arc processes which leave no toxic by-products.

In 2005, the project identified and packaged more than 130,000 kg of POPs chemical waste including approximately 60,000 kg of transformers in the 13 PICs. The waste of four countries has already been transported to Australia for destruction and plans are in place to transport the remaining chemicals by the end of 2006. A third-party monitoring program has also been established at BCD Technologies to confirm that conditions under environmental licences are being met by the project.

Table 1: Approximate volumes of POPs collected in 2005.

Country	Estimated Field Quantity of Chemical (kg)	Estimated Field Quantity of Chemical Containers (kg)	Estimated Combined Casing Weight (kg)	Estimated Combined PCB Oil Volume (kg)	Total (kg)
Cook Islands	4,236	1,386	0	0	5,622
FSM	4,118	1,347	10,500	5,165	21,131
Fiji	28,203	9,228	0	0	37,430
Marshall Islands	0	0	15,000	720	15,720
Nauru	0	0	500	179	679
Niue	2,992	979	0	0	3,971
Samoa	3,301	1,080	6,000	1,234	11,615
Tonga	443	145	5,000	1,345	6,933
Tuvalu	0	0	500	324	824
Vanuatu	3,080	1,008	20,000	4,529	28,617
Totals	46,373	15,173	57,500	13,496	132,542

Preventing Marine Pollution

In 2005, a number of significant milestones were reached for addressing shipping-related marine pollution issues across the Region. These are part of a long-term partnership between SPREP and Members to improve the environmental management of ports and shipping in the region.

The Dumping and Pollution Emergencies Protocols to the SPREP (Noumea) Convention were reviewed, in order to bring them in line with their equivalent global legal instruments. In September 2005, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to the SPREP Convention endorsed an amended Dumping Protocol and two new Protocols on Cooperation and Response to Oil Spills and Hazardous Noxious Substances Spills.

Regional arrangements for spill response entered a new phase, with significant oil spill equipment purchases for the Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. SPREP continued to provide training in oil spill response to Pacific island countries. Five of the six designated regional ships' waste reception centres for international shipping are now fully operational in Guam, Papeete, Noumea, Suva and Lautoka.

SPREP also began drafting a new regional initiative to address the threat of shipping-related invasive marine species from ballast water and hull fouling.



Training courses organized by SPREP in 2005 help Member countries deal with a marine spill.
Photo: SPREP



Climate Change - Focus on the Future

Climate change and its effects continue to be a major focus for the Pacific region, and for SPREP. In 2005, a new Framework was adopted to guide Climate Change work in the region over the next ten years.

SPREP continued to work on climate, atmosphere, energy and ozone depletion, as well as supporting Member countries in international climate change negotiations.

A New Regional Framework: The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC)

In 2003, the annual Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting established an Ad-Hoc Working Group on Climate Change with a mandate to review the existing PIFACC and make a revised Framework available for consideration by the SPREP and Forum Leaders Meetings.

A regional meeting of PICT officials in Madang on 12 June 2005 finalized the PIFACC 2006–2015. The SPREP Council meeting and Forum Leaders Meeting endorsed the PIFACC in August and October 2005. The PIFACC is a strategic document identifying the key climate change priorities of the Pacific region and activities for action at the national and regional level over the next 10 years. This strategic document is intended to help target, catalyze action, and strengthen partnerships at all levels to enable the Pacific island region to better understand and respond to climate change and climate variability.

Adapting to Climate Change - the CBDAMPIC Project

Adaptation to future climate change has been identified as an urgent issue for the region. SPREP plays a strong role in managing pilot adaptation projects, and providing expert advice for the region.

Page 30
*Adapting to coastal erosion in
Saoluafata village.*
Photo: SPREP

Page 31 - Left
*The capacity to address current and
future water-related risks is increased for
vulnerable families.*
Photo: SPREP

Page 31 - Right
*Relocation in Tegua – Minister opens
the new Lateu village site.* Photo: SPREP



The CIDA-funded and SPREP-executed Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries (CBDAMPIC) project commenced regionally in 2002. Its pilot projects in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu officially ended in September 2005.

Tangible adaptation measures have been implemented in all four pilot countries: these have increased the resilience of communities to current and future risks associated with climate change.

A small community living in the Pacific island chain of Vanuatu has become one of, if not the first, to be formally moved out of harm's way as a result of sea level change and geological processes. The community has been relocated higher into the interior of Tegua, after their coastal homes were repeatedly swamped by storm surges and aggressive waves linked with climate change.

In Aitutaki, Cook Islands, the adaptation options that were implemented to address salty, poor-quality and insufficient drinking water vulnerabilities were:

- Rainwater Harvesting: Distribution of 200–2000-litre water household tanks and enabling maintenance of community tanks and catchment surfaces, and promotion of traditional practices;
- Management of Infiltration Galleries and Water Mains: locate and map (using Geographic Information Systems, GIS) the water infrastructure, provide meters for monitoring through an MOW subcontract, analysis with SOPAC, facilitate training and repairs;
- Improvement of Water Quality: Water testing and monitoring with various agencies;
- Demand Management: Awareness, conservation, plans and policies working with Island Council and private sector.

In Samoa, the community of Saoluafata was provided with coastal protection support from the Project. Extensive coastal erosion had threatened to destroy the traditional grounds (malae) of the Saoluafata community and had forced several households to relocate inland. This initiative shows a collaborative effort between the CBDAMPIC project and the communities themselves. The cost of the coastal protection was reduced by 50 percent when the community provided raw materials such as amour rocks and soils for back-filling and labour.

The community of Tilivalevu village in the hinterlands of Fiji has also been supported by the CBDAMPIC project through the increase in its water tank holding capacity. This will go a long way in increasing the community of Tilivalevu's coping capacity to droughts, and maintaining a quality supply of water for consumption purposes.





Left
High-quality rainfall measuring instruments are installed to improve data collection.
Photo: SPREP

Right
Current and future water needs are addressed in this practical way.
Photo: SPREP

This project is notable for its substantive consideration of (longer-term) climate change risks into development and resource management planning; and in efforts to improve adaptive capacities and enhance livelihoods. The trump card for CBDAMPIC is translating assessments into tangible action on the ground.

Energy and Climate Change - Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

SPREP's energy work is focused on reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from burning of fossil fuels through promoting use of renewable energy.

During 2005, SPREP released a series of reports on renewable energy assessment studies conducted in 15 Pacific island countries.

In addition to the 15 National Reports, a Regional Synthesis and three other reports were produced, covering the business angle of renewable energy service delivery, a financing mechanism for renewable energy, and a technical support programme for renewable energy, respectively. These reports contain the latest data and information about the energy sector of Pacific island countries, as well as the potential in the energy sector for reducing greenhouse gas emission.

In June, the GEF Council approved the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project. PIGGAREP is aimed at reducing the growth of Greenhouse Gas emissions from fossil fuel use in the Pacific. Eleven Pacific island countries will participate in the project.

Climate Observation in the Pacific - Contributing to Global Climate Understanding

SPREP continued to support meteorological capacity building efforts through its Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System (PI-GCOS) programme.

The PI-GCOS Instrument Project, funded under a US Global Climate Observation System grant and implemented in partnership with the University of Oklahoma, enabled the distribution of high-quality rainfall measuring instruments to several Member countries. A successful trial of these gauges was conducted in Samoa, Niue, Tonga, and Vanuatu in late 2004 and early 2005. Based on the positive feedback from the national meteorological services involved in trials, a total of 43 such high-quality rain gauges were sourced by the University for further distribution to all other Members.

PI-GCOS also continued to facilitate the coordination of the joint US NOAA-WMO funded fellowships for hands-on and theory training attachments to the Weather Forecasting Pacific Desk Training (hosted by the NOAA National Weather Service National Forecast Center in Honolulu). Four weather forecasters from Samoa, Tonga, Niue and Fiji were trained in 2005.

PI-GCOS projects under its Action Plan were undertaken successfully by their various implementing partners in participating member countries. The AusAID-funded Enhanced Applications of Climate Predictions (EACP) project, implemented by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, successfully conducted training workshops for climate service staff in nine SPREP Member countries, and extended its assistance to one other non-project Member.

PI-GCOS organized the 10th Regional Meteorological Services Director Meeting, hosted by the Government of Niue. Holding the meeting in Niue was significant in its intention to acknowledge and draw attention to the need for improved meteorological services in the region, following the severe destruction of infrastructure, and the unfortunate loss of two lives in Niue during the Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Heta of 2004. This meeting concluded with the production of the 'Alofi Statement' for which support was given in the 16th SPREP Meeting in September, for submission to the Forum Leaders meeting in October.

Protecting the Ozone Layer - Phasing Out Ozone-Depleting Substances

Throughout 2005, SPREP continued to manage the Regional Strategy to implement the Montreal Protocol to phase out Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS).

During the year, SPREP worked with ODS officers across the region to assist with policy development for ODS regulations, training for the refrigeration sector and customs officers, national support and regional cooperation. Palau successfully established Ozone Layer Protection Regulations 2005 under its Environmental Quality Protection Act. In addition, the first ever customs training under the Regional Strategy project was undertaken in the Marshall Islands.

The Cook Islands, Nauru and Niue have joined the Regional Strategy project, bringing the number of participating countries to eleven.



Supporting the Region in International Negotiations

SPREP provides support to countries participating in international negotiations under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Chemicals Management and many other issues. This is done through preparing briefing papers, coordinating regional positions, and providing legal and technical advice during negotiations.

When Pacific countries become Party to MEAs they take on obligations to develop national plans and report progress in implementing them. In partnership with donor agencies (such as the GEF, UNDP and UNEP), SPREP provides support across the region for countries to meet these obligations. Some examples are: National Communications under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), and National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention.

As part of an ongoing programme of capacity building in the region, SPREP ran a regional workshop to improve negotiation skills in preparation for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties in November 2005.

At a regional level, SPREP supports Roundtable discussions on key issues such as Nature Conservation and Climate Change. These forums bring together people from governments, non-government organizations, and the private sector, as well as donors and researchers to promote exchange of information and coordination across the region.

SPREP – Supporting the Pacific at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Pacific Island countries have become more involved in UNCCD as its focus has expanded to address all forms of land degradation, and funding has become available through the Global Environment Facility to support work in this area.

SPREP assisted Member countries to participate at the seventh Conference of Parties (COP 7) to UNCCD held in Nairobi in October 2005. Two Pacific island Ministers, the Hon. Bill Vakaafi Motufoou (Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Niue) and the Hon. Martin Puta Tofinga (Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati), presented statements at the Ministerial Section of the Conference.

SPREP has supported countries in developing National Action Programmes (NAPs) which are required under the UNCCD. With funding from the UNDP Governance in the Pacific (GovPac) Project, SPREP ran a regional workshop on land degradation issues, focusing on National Action Plans, in August 2005. SPREP offers continuing support through developing guides and promotional materials, providing technical support to Pacific countries and addressing regional aspects of land degradation.



*Pacific delegates at UNCCD Conference of Parties, Nairobi, October 2005.
Photo: UNCCD*

Working with the GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a major funder of environmental projects in the world, including the Pacific.

For this reason, SPREP has taken an active role in supporting Member countries at GEF Council and Constituency meetings. SPREP staff have drafted briefings to GEF Council delegates - providing the regional knowledge and technical back-up to advocate strongly for the Pacific when the GEF Council makes its funding decisions. SPREP has also promoted additional support from the GEF Secretariat for the Pacific region.

Promoting Sustainable Development

SPREP has taken a leading role on sustainable development issues in the Pacific, assisting Pacific island countries develop National Sustainable Development Strategies and providing advice on the Millennium Development Goals (particularly Goal 7: Ensuring environmental sustainability).

The Mauritius International Meeting was held in January 2005 and provided a focal point for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Meeting conducted the 10-year review of the Barbados Plan of Action to develop a revitalized Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States, and the Mauritius Declaration. In October, in partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, SPREP hosted a Pacific regional follow-up meeting to review the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

The Pacific Plan was adopted by Leaders during 2005. SPREP worked with other CROP agencies to ensure that the Pacific Plan included environmental objectives within a framework of sustainable development for the region. The Plan acknowledges key objectives in climate change, pollution and waste, and improved management of natural resources.

Environmental Management

SPREP provides support for Members to improve environmental management. SPREP delivers this by providing technical support for environmental policy and planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Sound information is needed for making good management decisions about the environment. SPREP works with other CROP agencies to develop State of the Environment Reporting in the region, as well as promoting specific environmental management tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment, and Strategic Environmental Assessments. SPREP also provides legal advice on legislative proposals, and technical advice to inform environmental policy.

Mr Timothy Harley, the US Charge d'Affaires to Samoa, hands over the original copy of the instrument of ratification signed by US President George W. Bush, to Acting SPREP Director Vitolio Lui.

Photo: SPREP





Photo: SPREP

Executive and Corporate Services

Overview

For the Executive and Corporate Services, 2005 was an exciting year with many new developments, changes, challenges, improvements, accomplishments, and progress.

We are very pleased to report that the persistent efforts of the Executive over past years finally bore fruit in 2005, when both the governments of the United States of America and Palau ratified and acceded to the Agreement Establishing the SPREP. Vanuatu, the last remaining state yet to ratify, will lodge its Instrument of Ratification in January 2006, thereby completing this process, which is of great significance to the Organization and the Secretariat.

2005 also saw the implementation of the decisions of the 2004 Joint Review Task Force that clarified Core and Work Programme budget functions of the Secretariat, and shifted the Organization into its new 'programmatic' structure. This comprises two Programmes - Pacific Futures and Island Ecosystems - supported by the Corporate Services Division (formerly known as the Business Support Services Section).

Budget

The total budget for 2005 was USD 7,836,435. Approximately 21% of this was the share allocated to the Executive and Corporate Services Division. SPREP's total actual expenditure for the year amounted to USD 7,224,369 against total income of USD 7,332,545, resulting in an overall surplus of USD 108,176 at 31 December 2005, to be carried forward to the Work Programme and Budget of 2006.

The statement of Donor Funds (refer page 38) shows balances totaling USD 2,503,937 brought forward from 2004, and USD 7,332,545 received during the year. Of these funds, totaling some USD 9.8 million, the actual expenditure for the year came to a little over USD 7.2 million, thereby leaving a balance of USD 2,612,113 at 31 December 2005, to be carried forward to 2006.

Audit

The Auditors, Lesa ma Penn, again gave SPREP a clean bill in their audit of the 2005 accounts. In their Report, the Auditors expressed an unqualified opinion that the Financial Statements gave

a true and fair view of both the financial position and operations of the organization for the year ended 31 December 2005. The Audit Report with the accompanying Donor Funds and Member Contributions Statement follow.

Human Resources

During 2005, SPREP had a total staff establishment of 67 positions, divided almost equally between professional and support staff. At year end, 59 of these positions were filled and 8 were vacant and under recruitment. During the year 14 new staff joined whilst 16 left the Secretariat, largely upon completion of their terms, with a few resigning for personal reasons or to take up other employment. Of the total occupied professional staff positions, 62% were held by Pacific Islanders and 38% by staff from other Member countries; 32% by females and 68% by males. Of the total workforce (professional and support staff inclusive), 52% were females and 48% males.

SPREP continued to intensify its efforts during the year in updating and improving its human resource management and development systems in the Corporate Services area. The recruitment of the Corporate Services Manager and the establishment of other crucial positions allow this work to be carried forward.



Regional and International Collaboration

As a member of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), SPREP continued its active and close cooperation with sister CROP agencies and international development institutions working in the Pacific.

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

Also as a Secretariat that relies heavily on donor and international development agencies to support its programmes for the Pacific islands region, SPREP continued to engage in collaborative work with a host of international development agencies, bilateral donors, non-governmental organization, 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 formalize and facilitate this mutually beneficial relationship we have entered into, and renewed, agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with a host of partners; and aim to continue to improve our relations with current partners while seeking to engage additional 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 engaging in effective joint programmes and activities.

Donor Funds and Member Contributions (US\$)

	Balance at 1-Jan-05	Income	Expenses	Other Adjustments	Balance at 31-Dec-2005
Asian Development Bank	-13,153	8,645	0	0	-4,508
AusAID Extra Budget	255,209	865,181	-851,093	6,380	275,677
AusAID Extra Extra Budget	29,362	34,898	-51,721	5,229	17,768
BioNet	10,016	0	-10,016	0	0
Canadian International Development Agency	478,755	25,282	-479,404	0	24,633
Commonwealth Secretariat	8,932	0	0	0	8,932
Department of International Development	10,166	0	-2,083	53	8,136
European Union	0	139,491	-49,766	0	89,725
Government of Denmark	2,227	0	0	-2,227	0
Government of France	247,623	0	-67,339	0	180,284
Government of Japan	2,455	189,376	-126,431	-3,550	61,850
Government of the United Kingdom	8,806	0	0	0	8,806
International Maritime Organisation	87,015	72,243	-113,049	0	46,209
John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	20,387	0	-9	0	20,378
Multiple Donors (Includes contributions received from parties to 3 conventions: Apia, Noumea and Waigani)	428,952	550,411	-702,011	-30,468	246,884
Netherlands Red Cross Society	7,746	0	0	0	7,746
NZ Aid Pie	105,577	5,078	-81,327	-1,408	27,920
NZ Aid Extra Budget	49,206	628,833	-663,302	933	15,670
NZ Aid Extra Extra Budget	11,053	684,180	-475,029	7,008	227,212
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust	7,704	0	-784	0	6,920
People's Republic of China	0	160,000	0	0	160,000
Other Funds (includes core funds)	432,617	1,500,828	-1,185,917	12,655	760,183
Ramsar Secretariat	11,503	33,805	-40,476	0	4,832
The Nature Conservancy	0	45,122	-18,756	0	26,366
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1,592	0	0	0	1,592
United Nations Development Program	131,689	1,661,326	-1,638,539	0	154,476
United Nations Environment Program	73,574	535,939	-425,117	-4,272	180,124
United Nations Tech Co-Op Activities (part of UNDESA)	-6,540	0	-14,128	0	-20,668
UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)	3,146	0	0	3,500	6,646
UN Office of Project Services	0	49,689	-45,586	0	4,103
US Additional Member Contributions	3,482	0	0	-905	2,577
US Department of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,801	0	0	0	4,801
US Fish & Wildlife Service	14,943	0	-318	0	14,625
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	64,455	102,654	-116,947	-28,013	22,149
US Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council	10,637	74,649	-65,221	0	20,065
Total	2,503,937	7,367,630	-7,224,369	-35,085	2,612,113

Member Contributions (US\$)

American Samoa	10,184
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,184
Federated States of Micronesia	10,320
Fiji	20,360
France	134,202
French Polynesia	29,623
Guam	20,360
Kiribati	10,184
Marshall Islands	0
Nauru	0
New Caledonia	15,634
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	10,103
Northern Marianas	0
Palau	10,183
Papua New Guinea	20,011
Samoa	20,360
Solomon Islands	40,650
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	10,184
Tuvalu	10,835
United States of America	188,000
Vanuatu	28,977
Wallis and Futuna	0
Total	929,846

Parties Contributions (US\$)

Parties to the Apia Convention	
Fiji	1,097
Total	1,097
Parties to the Noumea Convention	
Australia	5,957
Fiji	798
United States of America	7,000
Total	13,755
Parties to the Waigani Convention	
Fiji	960
Total	960

Note:

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

Income and Expenditure (US\$)

	Actual 2005
Income	
Members Contributions	929,846
Program Management Charge	386,946
Interest	290,873
Gain on sale of fixed assets	1,863
Other Income	50,627
Donor Funds	5,672,390
Total Income	7,332,545
Expenditure	
Programme Implementation	5,578,305
Executive Management & Corporate Support	1,646,064
Total Expenditure	7,224,369

Auditor's Report



Lesā ma Penn

Certified Public Accountants

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Fugalei
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Apia, Samoa

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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 2005. The financial statements provide information on the financial performance of the organisation, and its financial position as at 31 December 2005.

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 2005, 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 organisation, 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 32 (a) to (f), we report as follows:



- (a) extent and character of examination is as explained in the section above under the heading "Basis of Opinion"
- (b) matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts, refer to our report to management, which is attached, titled Management report.
- (c) 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 August 2005.
- (d) 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 revised by the organization and should be completed by the end of 2006.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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 Organization from NZAID and AUSAID. 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 2005, 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 as amended.

Our audit was completed on 26 April 2006 and our opinion is expressed as at that date.

Apia, Samoa

Certified Public Accountants

Staff List as at 31 December 2005

NAME	DESIGNATION	NATIONALITY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
Executive			
TAKESY, Asterio	Director	Micronesian	21 January 2006
LUI, F. Vitolio	Deputy-Director	Samoan	21 April 2008
TUPUA-COUPER, Ruta	Personal Assistant to Director	Samoan	31 December 2007
ETI, Apiseta	Personal Assistant to Deputy-Director	Samoan	31 December 2006
Island Ecosystems Programme			
CHAPE, Stuart	Programme Manager, Island Ecosystems	Australian	5 August 2008
ATIGA-PATU, Makerita	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoan	2 August 2008
BENZAKEN, Dominique	Coastal Management Adviser	Australian/French	2 January 2008
BROWN, Kate	Action Strategy Adviser	Australian/New Zealander	30 November 2006
DOVEY, Elizabeth (Liz)	Avifauna Conservation & Invasive Species Officer	Australian	30 August 2007
BELL, Lui	Marine Species Officer	Samoan	22 October 2008
TREVOR, Anne Patricia	Associate Turtles Database Officer	Samoan	28 February 2006
JUNGBLUT, Seiuli Vainuupo	Associate Ramsar Officer	Samoan	22 February 2006
WICKHAM, Frank	Human Resource Development/ Training Officer	Solomon Islander	7 September 2007
LOGAN, Tamara	Education and Social Communications Officer	Australian	30 September 2007
KEY, Gillian	Coordinator, PILN	British	Funded by TNC
Vacant	Project Manager, International Waters	-	-
Vacant	Coral Reef Management Officer	-	-
Vacant	Islands Biodiversity Officer	-	-
LE MESURIER, Sue	Community Assessment/ Participation Specialist	New Zealander	5 August 2008
MENZIES, Steve	Community Communications Specialist	New Zealander	31 December 2006
HOLLAND, Paula	Natural Resource Economist	Australian	31 December 2006
VA'A, Rama	Project Account, International Waters	Samoan	31 December 2006
GALUVAO, Rosanna	Programme Assistant, International Waters	Samoan	23 August 2006
FRUEAN, Theresa	Programme Assistant	Samoan	13 April 2006
Pacific Futures Programme			
CHAPMAN, Bruce	Programme Manager, Pacific Futures	New Zealander	28 August 2008
MOORS, Phaedra	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoan	15 August 2008
GRIFFIN, Frank	Coordinator, Pollution Prevention	Papua New Guinean	22 March 2006
NAWADRA, Sefanaia	Marine Pollution Adviser	Fijian	20 September 2008
TASHIRO, Takeo	Project Officer - Solid Waste & Landfill Management	Japanese	Funded by JICA
RICKETTS, Mark	Solid Waste Officer	Australian	4 August 2008
Vacant	Climate Change Adviser	-	-
NAKALEVU, Taito	Climate Change Adaptation Officer	Fijian	31 March 2008
FIFITA, Solomone	Chief Technical Adviser – Pacific Islands Regional Energy Project	Tongan	31 December 2005
SOLOFA, Dean	Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System Officer	Samoan	16 October 2008
Vacant	Associate Ozone Depleting Substances Officer	-	-
PETERU, Clark	Environmental Legal Adviser	Samoan	12 August 2006

Vacant	Environmental Assessment & Reporting Adviser	-	-
MOUGEOT, Jacques	Environmental Legal Adviser	French	31 December 2005
MATA'U, Saunoa	Programme Assistant	Samoan	20 June 2006
Corporate Services			
ROACHE, Taito John	Corporate Service Manager (CSM)	Samoan	29 May 2008
ONESEMO-SIMAIIKA, Nifo	Secretary to CSM	Samoan	30 April 2008
Information, Communication & Publication			
MATATIA, Kapeni	Information Technology Manager	Samoan	11 September 2008
UESELE-PETAIA, Aliitasi	Information Technology Network Officer/ Acting IT Manager	Samoan	7 January 2007
QOROYA, Kemueli	Information Technology Officer	Fijian	4 June 2007
BENTIN, Satui	Information Resource Centre Manager	Samoan	17 August 2006
WILLIAMS, Miraneta	Assistant Librarian	Samoan	31 December 2007
JASPERSE, Jaap	Editor & Publications Officer	Dutch/New Zealander	13 August 2008
PETERU, Chris	Assistant Media & Publications Officer	Samoan	28 February 2006
Vacant	Database & Business Systems Administrator	-	-
Finance			
TU'UAU, Alofa	Finance Manager	Samoan	23 July 2008
BRUNT, Alexander	Project Accountant	Australian	8 March 2008
MATTHES, Joanna	Assistant Accountant	Samoan	6 December 2008
AIOLUPEA-ENOSA, Angela	Finance Officer	Samoan	14 March 2007
AMERIKA, Seleisa	Finance Officer	Samoan	19 September 2007
ALAPAE, Linda	Finance Officer	Samoan	6 December 2008
FRUEAN, Pauline	Conference/ Travels Officer	Samoan	1 March 2007
Administration			
MASINA-HADLEY, Malama	Administration Officer	Samoan	2 November 2006
Vacant	Administrative Assistant	-	-
SILULU, Lupe	Registry Supervisor	Samoan	31 December 2006
TUILAGI-AH KUOI, Helen	Registry Management Assistant	Samoan	28 April 2006
TUULUA, Filifilia	Records Clerk	Samoan	3 January 2007
TUPAI, Monica	Receptionist	Samoan	31 December 2006
FONOTI, Faamanu	Customs Clerk	Samoan	31 December 2006
SITITI, Faamanatu	Driver/Clerk	Samoan	5 December 2008
LEAULA, Tologauvale	Cleaner/Teaperson/Clerical Assistant	Samoan	31 December 2006
TOOTOO, Amosa	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoan	31 December 2007
BROWN, Elvis S.	Maintenance Tradesman	Samoan	10 April 2008
GAFA, Silupe	Gardener/Groundskeeper	Samoan	31 March 2008
LEVU, Sione	Cleaner	Samoan	6 April 2007

SPREP's major publishing effort in 2005 was a collection of 19 reports on regional energy issues. These are here deposited in SPREP's Information Resource Centre, from where they can be requested. SPREP Publications are also mounted on the website: www.sprep.org.

Photo: SPREP



SPREP Publications 2005

PUBLICATION TITLE	ISBN
Demonstration projects to showcase the business angle of renewable energy service delivery in the Pacific Islands.	982-04-0303-0
Financing mechanisms for renewable energy development in the Pacific Islands.	982-04-0304-9
Renewable energy technology support programme for the Pacific Islands.	982-04-0305-7
Pacific Regional Energy Assessment 2004: an assessment of the key energy issues, barriers to the development of renewable energy to mitigate climate change, capacity development needs to removing the barriers:	
• Regional Overview Report.	982-04-0295-6
• Cook Islands National Report.	982-04-0294-8
• Federated States of Micronesia National Report.	982-04-0290-5
• Fiji National Report.	982-04-0291-3
• Kiribati National Report.	982-04-0289-1
• Marshall Islands National Report.	982-04-0302-2
• Nauru National Report.	982-04-0284-5
• Niue National Report.	982-04-0288-3
• Palau National Report.	982-04-0292-1
• Papua New Guinea National Report.	982-04-0296-4
• Samoa National Report.	982-04-0297-2
• Solomon Islands National Report.	982-04-0298-0
• Tokelau National Report.	982-04-0293-X
• Tonga National Report.	982-04-0299-9
• Tuvalu National Report.	982-04-0300-6
• Vanuatu National Report.	982-04-0301-4
Report of the Joint meeting of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention) and Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (SPREP Convention) - (Joint Meeting of the Apia, SPREP Conventions), Papeete, French Polynesia, 10 September 2004.	982-04-0280-8
Rapport de la Conférence conjointe de la Septième conférence ordinaire des Parties contractantes à la Convention sur la conservation de la nature dans le Pacifique sud (Convention d'Apia) et Septième conférence ordinaire des Parties contractantes à la Convention pour la protection des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement de la région du Pacifique sud et Protocoles y relatifs (Convention de Nouméa), Rapport de la Conférence, 10 septembre 2004, Papeete, Polynésie française.	[982-04-0280-8]
Report of the fifteenth SPREP Meeting of Officials and Report of the Fifth Environment Ministers' Forum, 13-17 September 2004, Papeete, French Polynesia.	982-04-0279-4
Rapport de la Quinzième Conférence des représentants officiels du PROE et Rapport de la Cinquième Conférence des ministres de l'environnement, 13-17 septembre 2004, Papeete, Polynésie française.	[982-04-0279-4]
SPREP action plan for managing the environment of the Pacific Islands Region: 2005-2009.	982-04-0284-0
Plan d'action pour la gestion de l'environnement dans la région Pacifique : 2005-2009.	[982-04-0284-0]
SPREP strategic programmes: 2004-2013.	982-04-0285-9
Programmes stratégiques du PROE : 2004-2013.	[982-04-0285-9]
Report of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the SPREP (Noumea) Convention, 12 September 2005, Apia, Samoa.	978-982-04-0308-6
Rapport de la Conférence des plénipotentiaires de la Convention de Nouméa, 12 septembre 2005, Apia, Samoa.	978-982-04-0311-6
Report of the 16th SPREP Meeting, 13-16 September 2005, Apia, Samoa.	978-982-04-0309-3
Rapport de la 16e Conférence du PROE, 13-16 septembre 2005, Apia, Samoa.	978-982-04-0310-9

SPREP Reports

TITLE	SERIES	ISSN
International meeting for the ten-year review of the Barbados programme of action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 10-14 January 2005, Mauritius : information & negotiation brief for Pacific SIDS delegations.		
Report of the train-the-trainers workshop for customs officers, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, 28-29 April 2005.		
Designing monitoring plans in the Pacific Islands International Waters Project: meeting of the Pacific National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan Coordinators (NBSAP) and Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Management Group - Papua New Guinea, July 20-29, 2005.		
Economic valuation of watershed pollution in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands (published by Cook Islands Environment Services / IWP / SPREP).		
Education and Communication for a Sustainable Pacific: guiding framework 2005-2007.		
Final report on the making of the documentary : Vanua-Taiu of land and sea.		
Pacific Islands action plan on climate change 2006-2015.		
Pacific Islands framework for action on climate change 2006-2015.		
Working papers, Conference of Plenipotentiaries for SPREP (Noumea) Convention, 12 September 2005.		
Documents de travail, Conférence des plénipotentiaires de la Convention de Nouméa, 12 septembre 2005.		
Working papers, 16th SPREP Meeting, Apia Samoa, 13-16 September 2005.		
Documents de travail, 16e Conférence du PROE, Apia, Samoa, 13-16 septembre 2005.		
The 2004 Annual Report of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme: Working with Pacific communities for our environment.		1562-675X
Rapport annuel du Programme régional océanien de l'environnement: Préserver l'environnement avec les communautés océaniques.		[1562-675X]

A selection of the Director's monthly columns in Islands Business and Pacific Magazine. Throughout the year, a stream of releases for Pacific news media are also produced: these are at the same time placed on the home page of the SPREP website, which has thus had a "fresh" look on average about once a fortnight.
 Photo: SPREP



Acronyms used and their meaning

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
BCD	Base catalysed dechlorination	PECL	Pacific Environment Consultants Ltd
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action [for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States]	PICCC	Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	PICs	Pacific Island Countries
CBDAMPIC	Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries	PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
CERP	Coastal Ecosystem Recovery Project	PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	PI-GCOS	Pacific Islands - Global Climate Observing System
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)	PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
COP	Conference of the Parties	PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network
CRISP	Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific	PIROP-ISA	Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and framework for Integrated Strategic Action
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific	POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development	PRSM	Pacific Regional Support Mechanism
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage (of the Government of Australia)	RT	Roundtable for Nature Conservation
EACP	Enhanced Applications of Climate Predictions	SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
EAI	Environmental Impact Assessment	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International	SPREP	Pacific Regional Environment Programme, or: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	TO	Training Officer
GovPac	Governance in the Pacific (UNDP)	TREDS	Regional Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System
HRD	Human Resource Development	UN	United Nations
ICPL	International Centre for Protected Landscapes	UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
IEP	Island Ecosystems Programme	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMDG	International Maritime Dangerous Goods	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IWP	International Waters Project	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement	UNU-IAS	United Nations University – Institute for Advanced Studies
MOC	Memorandum of Cooperation	US	United States [of America]
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
MOW	Ministry of Works	USP	University of the South Pacific
MPA	Marine Protected Area	WCC	World Council of Churches
MSWG	Marine Sector Working Group (CROP)	WDAP	Whales and Dolphin Action Plan
NAP	National Action Programme	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	WPRFMC	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment (for Global Environmental Management)	WWF-SPP	World Wide Fund for Nature - South Pacific Program [previously: World Wildlife Fund]
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)		
NRC	National Ramsar Committee		
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development		
ODS	Ozone-Depleting Substances		

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