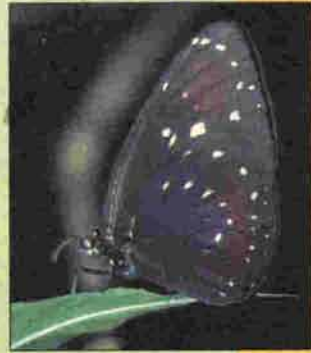


Annual Report 1994/95



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Published in July 1995 by:
**South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme**
P.O. Box 240
Apia, Western Samoa.



Printed by:
Commercial Printers Ltd
Apia, Western Samoa.

P 28/95 - 1.5M

Layout and front cover artwork
by Wesley Ward, SPREP.

Photography on front cover
by SPREP.

Edited by Wesley Ward.

Copyright ©
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, 1995

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
authorises the reproduction of this material, whole or
in part, in any form provided appropriate
acknowledgement is given.

Original text: English

ISBN: 982-04-0121-6

Printed on Origin paper - 70 % recycled paper, 30% waste paper.

A Note from the Director . . .

The *SPREP Meeting* - our annual gathering of member governments and administrations - sets policy for the organisation and determines its annual budget and work programme. It met for the seventh time last October in Tarawa, Kiribati.

This session concluded a process, begun in 1991, of finalising essential institutional and policy issues for SPREP's new status as an autonomous, intergovernmental, regional organisation. In a large agenda, the Meeting endorsed a basis for determining core staff positions, approved formal rules of procedure for its meetings and for appointing the Director and, perhaps most significantly, approved a *Corporate Plan*. More can be found on the *Seventh SPREP Meeting* on page 10.

The *Corporate Plan*, which was developed over four years, describes how SPREP intends to fulfill its mandate and its legal obligations to its members from 1994 to 1996. This plan:

- ◆ details SPREP's mission, objectives and guidelines in the context of major issues and events it faces, or is likely to face, in this period;
- ◆ re-defines SPREP's organisational structure, together with responsibilities, tasks and performance indicators; and,
- ◆ describes the process for developing and implementing its work programme.

In doing all this, the *Corporate Plan* provides the foundation for SPREP to embark on its future with confidence.

At the operational level, the Plan establishes four functional divisions directed and guided by a small management team. These divisions, effective from October 1994, ensure the effective development, management and co-ordination of projects within the scope of the programmes laid down in the *SPREP Action Plan*.

This Annual Report details the work carried out by the new divisions. Details on SPREP's new internal structure can be found on page 9.

The year under review, from June 1994 to May 1995, saw the ninth ratification by a member country of the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*, which was opened for signature in June 1993. Thirty days after the next ratification is received, the *Agreement* will enter into force. I am hopeful that this will happen in time for the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* in October 1995. This Agreement's entry into force is the last, historic step necessary for SPREP to gain full legal autonomy.



The Director,
Dr. Vili Fuavao.

Photo: SPREP

Some highlights in a busy year for our work programme were:

- ◆ the start of the *Capacity 21 Project*, a UNDP-funded initiative aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities of member countries in their efforts to work towards sustainable development;
- ◆ satisfying progress in the *South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme*; and,
- ◆ a major *public awareness campaign* aimed at highlighting the plight of the region's endangered *sea turtles*.

This last activity is the first ever regional campaign conducted by SPREP. It is already proving so successful that plans are underway for further campaigns on other issues in future years. Detailed information on these, and all other work programme activities, can be found later in this report.

During the year SPREP continued its emphasis on in-country training activities, with workshops on climate change and sea-level rise, environmental education and information, coastal management, population and environment, and environmental impact assessment. These workshops and other activities are listed on pages 28 - 35.

The temporary
SPREP Secretariat
headquarters, at
Vaitele, Apia,
Western Samoa.

Photo: SPREP



A new approach, aimed at strengthening our in-country presence, was the appointment of three full-time country co-ordinators for the *Capacity 21 Project*. These co-ordinators have been placed in Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia and Western Samoa.

In April this year, regional experts finalised the text of a draft convention aimed at preventing the import of hazardous wastes into the region and controlling its management and movements within the region. This document is expected to be opened for signature by regional heads of government at the next *South Pacific Forum* in Papua New Guinea in September 1995. SPREP has been designated the secretariat for this convention, so that SPREP now administers three regional environmental conventions. The Secretariat is now considering if a special convention unit is needed, with the costs possibly being shared between the Parties to each convention.

All these activities, and more, are administered from a headquarters facility which, at best, is barely adequate. During the last Christmas / New Year holidays, we took advantage of staff absences to convert a lean-to carport into offices. This was also done one year earlier to an adjoining carport. We have now effectively exhausted options for adding to the existing buildings. It also brings us to the hard reality of either spending scarce funds on erecting temporary buildings, or declining members' requests for additional activities until a new headquarters complex is available.

To address this space problem, SPREP organised a regional architectural design competition late in 1994, recommendations from which will be placed before the next SPREP Meeting.



Members of SPOCC at a recent meeting in Apia, Western Samoa.

Photo: SPREP



In the meantime, the Secretariat is pursuing funding options to finance the proposed new complex, which will be built on four hectares of prime land gifted by the Government of Western Samoa.

In May this year, I completed a one-year term as the Chair of SPOCC - the *South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee*. SPOCC comprises the heads of seven regional organisations, and was established to promote consultation among its members and prevent duplication of activities. During my term, SPOCC took a number of initiatives, undoubtedly the most significant being to commission a review of regional institutional arrangements in the marine resources sector. The report is now available, with its recommendations having far-reaching effects for some regional organisations. It is expected to be widely discussed in regional fora during 1995. More about SPOCC appears on page 37.

The driving force behind SPREP is the aspirations of its members. Without their whole-hearted support and encouragement, SPREP would not exist today as a viable regional organisation. Fueling this support is the active involvement of the donor community in all aspects of our work programme activities. In particular, UNDP, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility, UNFPA, UNESCO, CFTC, IMO, WMO, WWF, IUCN and the EU all assisted significantly during the year, as did the Governments of Canada and

Japan. Among SPREP members, Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America continue to provide substantial extra-budget resources over and above their contributions to operating costs. I extend my sincere thanks to you all. More details of funding sources can be found on page 38.

I also extend much appreciation to my hard-working staff, whose most notable virtues are co-ordination and teamwork. They are always an inspiration, particularly when the going gets tough.

Preparations are now well underway for the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* which will be hosted by the Secretariat in Apia in October. This will be preceded by meetings of the Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions, and by a new meeting to review regional mechanisms for implementing the outcomes of the *1994 Barbados Conference on Small Islands Developing States*. I look forward to seeing many old and new friends of SPREP in Apia for these important regional meetings.

Soifua,

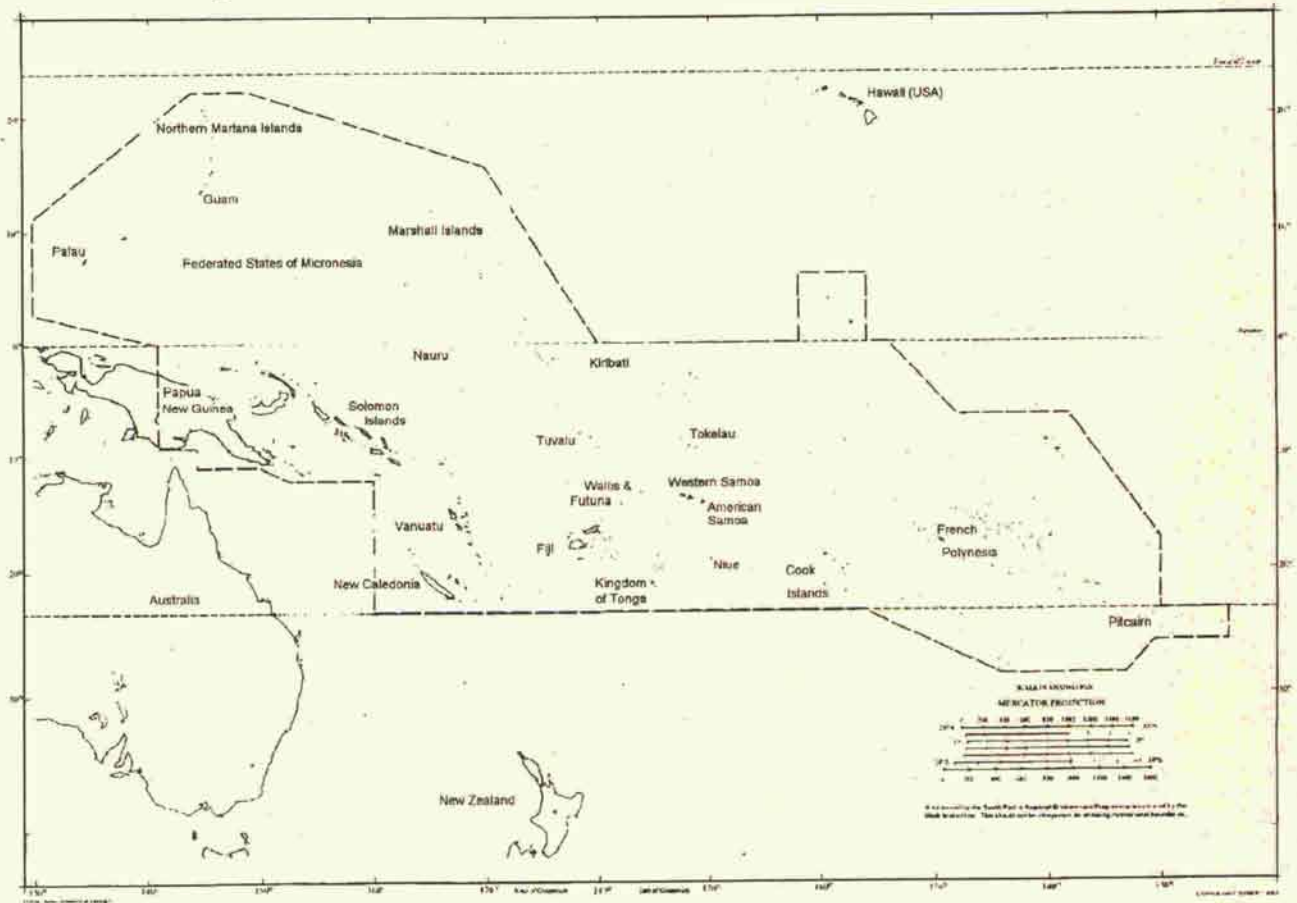
Vili A. Fuavao
Director

Contents

Page		Page	
1	A Note from the Director . . .	18	Divisional activities
4	Contents	18	Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
5	The SPREP Region	19	Environmental Assessment
5	SPREP Member Countries	19	Population and Sustainable Development Concerns
6	Introduction	20	Pollution Prevention and Waste Management
6	What is SPREP?	21	3. Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination
6	What are SPREP's aims?	21	Structure and goals
6	What are SPREP's objectives?	22	Objectives
7	What does SPREP do?	22	Divisional activities
7	A short history . . .	22	Environmental Policy/Strategy Co-ordination
9	How is SPREP structured?	23	Institutional Strengthening
9	The SPREP Agreement	23	Environmental Education and Training
9	The SPREP Action Plan	24	Information and Computer Technology
9	The Corporate Plan	26	4. Finance and Administration
10	The SPREP Meeting	26	Structure and goals
11	The Secretariat	26	Objectives and strategies
11	Common acronyms	26	Divisional activities
12	Divisional Programmes and Activities	27	Staff
12	1. Conservation of Natural Resources	28	5. In-country activities
12	Structure and goals	36	Relations with other organisations
13	Objectives and strategies	36	Donors
13	Divisional activities	37	Collaborating institutions and consultants
13	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)	38	Financial situation
14	Natural Resource Conservation Programme	38	Funding
16	Coastal Management and Planning Programme	39	Expenditure
17	2. Environmental Management and Planning	40	Looking to the future . . .
17	Goals		
17	Objectives		



The SPREP Region



SPREP Member Countries

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

Introduction

What is SPREP?

The **South Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP** - is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for environmental matters in the South Pacific region.

Its members are the governments of twenty-two Pacific Islands countries and territories - American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa - and four developed countries - Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America.

What are SPREP's aims?

SPREP was established to promote regional co-operation in environmental matters, to assist its members to protect and improve their shared environment, and to help them work towards sustainable development for present and future generations.

What are SPREP's objectives?

SPREP's objectives, set out in its *1994-96 Corporate Plan*, include:

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

What does SPREP do?

Under the *SPREP 1991-95 Action Plan*, which is the framework for a regional approach to environmental issues in the Pacific islands, SPREP is required to:

- ◆ monitor the status of the Pacific environment, and the effects of problems on human environments and natural ecosystems;
- ◆ improve national and regional capabilities, links and funding to carry out the *Action Plan*.
- ◆ provide integrated legal, planning and management methods to protect and use natural resources in an ecologically sound way;
- ◆ provide training, education and public awareness for improving the environment;
- ◆ encourage development that maintains or improves the environment;
- ◆ protect the land and sea ecosystems, and their natural inhabitants that need help;
- ◆ reduce pollution on land, in fresh and sea water, and in the air; and,
- ◆ encourage the use of Environmental Impact Assessment and other methods to stop or lessen the effects of humans on their environment.

To complete these activities, SPREP's annual work programme contains nine elements:

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity;
2. Global Climate Change and Sea Level Rise;
3. Environmental Planning and Management;
4. Coastal Management and Planning;
5. Managing Pollution;
6. Managing Pollution Emergencies;
7. Environmental Education and Training;

8. Environmental Information; and,
9. Regional Environmental Concerns.

Details of specific activities carried out in 1994/95 in each of these elements are found in the section on **Divisional Activities**.

A short history . . .

SPREP originated in 1969 when a *Regional Symposium on the Conservation of Nature* recommended the appointment of a regional ecological adviser to the South Pacific Commission (SPC), which eventuated in 1973. In 1978, SPC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (now the Forum Secretariat) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) then agreed on the need for a comprehensive environment programme for the region.

Proposals were submitted to the *South Pacific Forum* (the annual meeting of Heads of Government of Pacific countries) and the *South Pacific Conference* (the annual gathering of representatives of all the region's states and territories). These resulted in the formal establishment of SPREP as a joint initiative of the Forum and SPC in 1980, with funding from UNEP and ESCAP. SPREP reported to the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference, with an executive provided by a coordinating group with representatives from these four organisations, chaired by the Forum. This new programme was administered from SPC's headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.



Marine pollution in Pago Pago harbour, American Samoa - a common problem for Pacific island countries.

Photo: SPREP

In 1982, a *Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific*, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, decided to set up SPREP as a separate entity within SPC, and produced an *Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources of the South Pacific Region* ("the *Action Plan*") to guide its future activities. This document, revised in 1991 and to be revised again in 1996, remains the principle focus of SPREP's activities.

In 1986, the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* ("the *SPREP Convention*") was adopted at a SPREP meeting in Noumea and entered into force in 1990. The Convention aims to protect and manage the natural land and marine resources of the region, and contains two protocols - on waste dumping and on co-operation to combat pollution emergencies.

In 1986, to enable member countries to become more active in setting priorities for and managing SPREP, the first Intergovernmental Meeting (now known as the *SPREP Meeting*) was convened. At first, this was held every two years (in 1986, 1988 and 1990), and then annually from 1990. Also in 1986, the co-ordinating group was replaced by a steering committee of five member representatives: one from each of Polynesia, Melanesia and

Micronesia; one from France / UK / USA; and one from Australia / New Zealand. The group met at least once a year to assist and provide direction to the SPREP Secretariat in implementing its work programme.

In 1990, the steering committee was abolished when the *SPREP Meeting* became an annual event. At that time, member countries first considered according SPREP the full and formal legal status of an autonomous body, and asked SPC to devolve secretariat functions and administrative autonomy to SPREP. This move was strengthened when the South Pacific Forum established a committee to study and report on strengthening SPREP's capacity.

After considering the *Action Plan* and financial and legal implications, the 1991 SPREP Meeting - held at a ministerial level - agreed that SPREP should become autonomous. Ministers also accepted Western Samoa's offer to host the new regional organisation, and SPREP moved its headquarters from Noumea to Apia in 1992.

Negotiations on an agreement to give legal status to SPREP as an intergovernmental, regional organisation resulted in the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*, first signed on 16 June 1993. The *Agreement* will enter into force thirty days after the tenth ratification is received by the depositary, the Government of Western Samoa. At the time of publication (July 1995), nine members - Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Western Samoa - had ratified. Only one more ratification is needed to bring the *Agreement* into force.

Participants at the SPREP Meeting, the region's premier environmental meeting.

Photo: SPREP





Divisions: Conservation of Natural Resources
 Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination
 Environmental Management and Planning
 Finance and Administration

How is SPREP structured?

The SPREP Agreement

The *Agreement Establishing SPREP* will, when it enters into force, provide the legal basis for SPREP's existence as an autonomous regional organisation. It also defines the purposes of SPREP and the *SPREP Meeting*, and sets out the functions of the Secretariat.

The SPREP Action Plan

The current (1991-95) *Action Plan*, adopted by the 1991 SPREP Meeting, established nine programme areas, each with its own goals and objectives, and provides guidelines for implementing programmes.

The *Action Plan* will be revised for consideration and adoption in 1996 by the Ninth SPREP Meeting, which is expected to be a ministerial meeting.

The Corporate Plan

As outlined earlier, the *Corporate Plan*, adopted by the 1994 SPREP Meeting, describes how SPREP will fulfill its mandate and its legal obligations to its members in 1994-1996.

The Corporate Plan:

- ◆ details the mission, objectives and guidelines of SPREP according to the major issues and events it faces, or is likely to face, during that time;
- ◆ re-defines SPREP's organisational structure, and its responsibilities, tasks and performance indicators; and,
- ◆ describes the process followed for developing and implementing SPREP's work programme.

The organisation's objectives are based on the *Action Plan*.

The *Corporate Plan* establishes four functional divisions, which are directed and guided by a small management team. These divisions, effective from October 1994, are intended to ensure that projects are effectively developed, managed and co-ordinated within the scope of the *Action Plan*.

This *Annual Report* details the work carried out by the new divisions:

- ◆ *Conservation of Natural Resources;*
- ◆ *Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination;*
- ◆ *Environmental Management and Planning, and,*
- ◆ *Finance and Administration.*

The SPREP Meeting

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

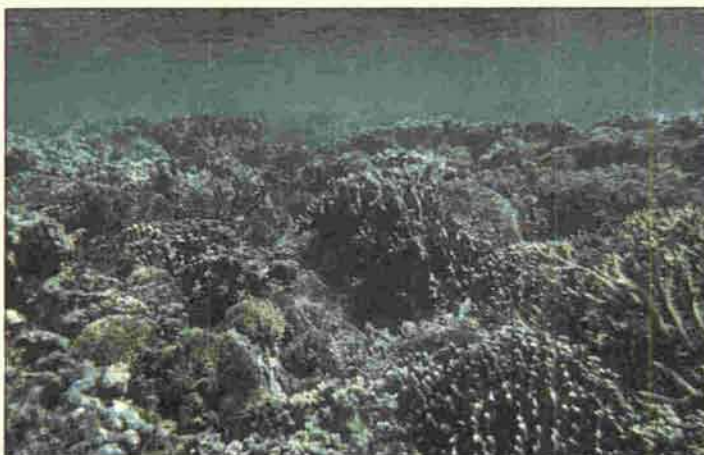
The *Seventh SPREP Meeting*, held in Tarawa, Kiribati, in October 1994, dealt with a wide range of issues. It:

- ◆ evaluated progress on the 1993 work programme activities;
- ◆ finalised a process for formulating the annual work programme;
- ◆ adopted a work programme and budget for 1995;
- ◆ received the Director's *Annual Report* and his overview of SPREP for 1994/95;
- ◆ adopted a corporate plan and rules of procedure for its meetings and for appointing the Director;
- ◆ agreed on criteria to categorise small island members;
- ◆ approved the *Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific, 1994-98*;
- ◆ noted the implications for managing the region's resources arising from decisions of world leaders at the *1994 Barbados Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, establishing a regional mechanism to implement outcomes from that conference;
- ◆ endorsed regional input to the proposed global programme of action for protecting the marine environment from land-based activities;
- ◆ noted SPREP's report to the *Yokohama World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction*, and asked SPREP to continue to work closely with other regional organisations in co-ordinating regional disaster management activities;
- ◆ gave strong support for SPREP's continued work in coastal management and planning, particularly integrated coastal management, and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue funding for this vital regional activity;
- ◆ authorised the Secretariat, together with SOPAC, to plan and implement an action plan on coastal protection needs in the region;
- ◆ noted progress by the Forum in negotiating a regional convention on hazardous wastes, for which SPREP is expected to act as secretariat;
- ◆ agreed that SPREP and its members should be active in the *International Coral Reef Initiative*, and asked SPREP to report on regional priorities for coral reef conservation and management; and,
- ◆ noted progress on the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

The full report of the *Seventh SPREP Meeting* is available from the Secretariat.

Coral reefs will be a major centre of attention in 1996 via the International Coral Reef Initiative.

Photo: SPREP



The *Eighth SPREP Meeting* will be held in Apia, Western Samoa, in October 1995. It will be preceded by meetings of the *Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions* and by a new meeting, called for by the last SPREP Meeting, to review progress on implementing the outcomes of the Barbados Conference.

The Secretariat

Under the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*, the Secretariat will:

- ◆ promote, undertake and co-ordinate implementation of the *Action Plan*;
- ◆ carry out research and studies related to the *Action Plan*;
- ◆ advise and assist members with activities in the *Action Plan*;
- ◆ provide a means of regular consultation among members;
- ◆ establish and co-ordinate working arrangements with national, regional and international organisations;
- ◆ gather and disseminate information for member countries and other interested parties;

- ◆ promote and develop training, public awareness and education on environmental issues;
- ◆ help member countries to acquire, interpret and evaluate scientific and technical data; and,
- ◆ seek financial and technical resources for member countries and SPREP.

The Secretariat is also responsible for co-ordinating and implementing functions related to the Apia and SPREP Conventions.

The Secretariat is managed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, aided by a team of professional staff recruited mainly from member countries, and support by administrative staff recruited in Western Samoa.

As outlined in the *Corporate Plan*, the Secretariat now has four functional divisions, directed and guided by the Director and Deputy Director. Each division is headed by a designated professional officer.

The work and staffing of each division over the past year is detailed in the next section.

Management Staff

Fuavao, Dr Vili

Director

Stewart, Donald

Deputy Director

Kamu, Dorothy S.

Personal
Assistant to the
Director

Sagaga, Faapio

Personal
Assistant to the
Deputy Director

Common acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategies
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	NGO	Non-government Organisation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	PEACESAT	Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite
CLICOM	Climate Computer Project	PNG	Papua New Guinea
CORA	Canadian Ocean Research Associates	SDN	Sustainable Development Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
EU	European Union	SPC	South Pacific Commission
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IUCN	World Conservation Union	USP	University of the South Pacific
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Divisional Programmes and Activities

1. Conservation of Natural Resources

Staff

Reti, Muliagatele
Iosefatu
Project Manager,
SPBCP and Head
of Division

Tilling, Dr Andrew
Biodiversity
Officer (Socio-
economics)

Miller, Suzanne
Biodiversity
Officer (Species)

Comforth, Roger
Biodiversity
Officer
(Conservation
Areas)

Smith, Dr Andrew
Coastal
Management
Officer

Palaki, Asipeli
Assistant Coastal
Management
Officer

Poihega, Faatupu
SPBCP Secretary

Tupua, Ruta
Office Assistant

Structure and goals

The *Division for the Conservation of Natural Resources* has three distinct but inter-related programmes:

1. South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)

The SPBCP is a five-year programme to identify, establish and initially manage a series of large, diverse conservation areas in which human activities are guided so as to protect important ecological features. At the same time, the concept allows for the sustainable use of these area's natural resources by local communities.

The SPBCP covers fourteen member countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. It is jointly funded by GEF and the government of Australia, administered by UNDP and executed by SPREP.

Excessive logging is a major threat to the region's biodiversity.

Photo: SPREP.

2. Natural Resource Conservation Programme

This programme covers a wide range of resource conservation issues not dealt with by the SPBCP. It is mainly concerned with implementing the *Action Strategy for the Conservation of Natural Resources in the South Pacific*. It also receives funding from the SPBCP and other sources, for projects to conserve some of the region's species.

3. Coastal Management and Planning Programme

The programme assists member countries to manage and plan for the multiple use, ecologically sustainable development and conservation of coastal areas and habitats.



Objectives and strategies

To achieve these goals, the Division has broad objectives that aim to:

- ♦ assist efforts by the local communities and governments to protect the biological diversity of the South Pacific, for the peoples of the region and the world, for now and the future;
- ♦ assist in establishing and initially managing conservation areas that will be managed by local communities, NGOs and government agencies;
- ♦ protect the rich natural heritage of the region by conserving and sustainably managing its natural resources and biodiversity;
- ♦ identify and address the most urgent threats to the region's biodiversity and protect the region's plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations;
- ♦ develop and advocate appropriate funding to support conservation and sustainable resource management activities;
- ♦ strengthen local expertise and technical ability in planning and carrying out conservation programmes;
- ♦ strengthen national capabilities to formulate and implement coastal management and planning programmes;
- ♦ co-ordinate coastal management and planning activities in the region, especially those dealing with projected sea level rise;
- ♦ develop and undertake coastal management and planning activities; and,
- ♦ assist member countries to take all appropriate measures to reduce and control pollution and coastal erosion in the area covered by the *SPREP Convention*.

Divisional activities

1. South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)

With five more conservation area proposals approved in August 1994, there are now fourteen projects in ten countries supported by the SPBCP, with one project proposed by an NGO. These conservation areas are located in Fiji, FSM (2), Kiribati (2), Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands (2), Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa (2).

Five projects have established a *Conservation Area Co-ordinating Committee* to manage each project. These committees have representatives from local communities and relevant government agencies and NGOs. The programme also funds *Conservation Area Officers* who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of each project.

The SPBCP assisted these projects by identifying suitable conservation areas and preparing Project Preparation Documents for each project. These documents, produced by the project, plan how the SPBCP will support the project. Consultants assisted in this task at times.

The SPBCP also assisted local communities to develop sustainable economic activities in or near the conservation areas. These activities in-

Russell Nari (from left), Vanuatu's Conservation Areas Co-ordinator, Joe Reti from SPREP, and Charles Vatu, CASO, display the new sign for the Vathe (Big Bay) Conservation Area.

Photo: SPREP



Western Samoa's Minister for the Environment, Faasootauloa Pati, tags a hawksbill turtle during the national launch of the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle.

Photo: SPREP



cluded eco-tourism, alley-cropping and agro-forestry trials. Investigations also continue for other potential activities, including harvesting and marketing "wild" nuts; catch-and-release sport fishing; and making and marketing local handicrafts.

Projects in Palau, Fiji, and to some extent Vanuatu and Western Samoa, have already benefited from eco-tourism activities. Other projects which have this potential will be developed during the programme.

The SPBCP recognises the need to build and improve the ability of local communities and governments to manage the projects under their control. The programme has conducted *Participatory Rural Appraisal* training for local communities and project personnel in several project areas. This training identifies community and project needs, and encourages communities to participate in the planning and execution of these projects.

In-country training was organised for many SPBCP projects, and project staff had opportunities to receive relevant training co-ordinated by other organisations. A regional training workshop on managing conservation areas was held in October 1994 for the conservation area officers managing SPBCP projects. A second

training session is planned for August 1995. This will also involve members of conservation area committees, who play vital roles in planning and implementing the projects.

Local awareness is vital for the initial success of the SPBCP. Meetings with village communities were funded to promote the projects and to obtain their support for conserving biodiversity. Information materials about the projects were developed for use in awareness programmes and school curriculums.

Articles on the SPBCP were published in many regional publications and reports provided to member countries. A quarterly newsletter for conservation officials - *CASOLink* - was initiated following a recommendation from the CASO workshop in October 1994. A video on the Big Bay project in Vanuatu was produced and distributed widely to promote the project within Vanuatu and elsewhere. A similar video is being produced for the Arnavon project in Solomon Islands.

In November 1994, Fijian landowners visited the Big Bay project in Vanuatu to share experiences and knowledge with their ni-Vanuatu counterparts. A return visit by the Vanuatu landowners was organised in May 1995. These study tours raised the landowners' awareness about biodiversity conservation in the two countries, and improved their support for their own projects.

2. Natural Resource Conservation Programme

This programme covered five basic areas:

◆ Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme

Conservation and monitoring work for marine turtles continued in Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Palau in 1994. A new project was also designed and funded for Kiribati, and turtle conservation work was assisted in Vanuatu.

Preparations for launching the *1995 Year of the Sea Turtle* began in 1994, with the campaign officially launched in Apia in March 1995. Over twenty countries from within and outside the region are part of the campaign. Worldwide media coverage has attracted much interest in the programme. Fiji has announced a one-year ban on the commercial harvest of sea turtles, and another government is considering a similar ban to support the campaign.

Many posters, stickers and other educational materials were produced and distributed widely to raise awareness about the campaign. The response to the campaign from member countries has been very encouraging. The campaign will be evaluated at a regional meeting early in 1996.

◆ *Regional Avifauna Conservation Programme*

Bird surveys and conservation activities in Pohnpei (FSM), Niue and Western Samoa were assisted in this programme in 1994. Efforts also continue to link bird conservation with SPBCP conservation areas. Requests for assistance in conserving birds are also being considered for Solomon Islands and Tonga.

◆ *Regional Marine Mammals Conservation Programme*

A draft baseline document describing marine mammals in the region was produced and will be published later in 1995. A field guide to help identify the region's whale species is being produced.

A new project was designed to assist with developing "whale watching" in Tonga, and is being considered by the Tongan government. With advice from the programme, the government of Tonga also decided to maintain a moratorium on whaling in its territorial waters, and rejected a

Fruit bats fly above the forest canopy of Vatthe (Big Bay) Conservation Area, the site for further species surveys.

Photo: SPREP



proposal from an outside interest to resume harvesting of this species.

◆ *Invasive Species*

A new initiative to control and eradicate invasive species in member countries was designed and approved for implementation in early 1995. The programme will assist member countries to develop legislation to control the introduction of invasive species and to use appropriate methods to eradicate these species.

◆ *Other Work*

Work began to implement the *1994-98 Action Strategy for the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific*. This included assistance for biodiversity conservation programmes in countries and territories not in the SPBCP. A survey on community deforestation was also completed in late 1994, which will be published in 1995.

Member countries were regularly advised and assisted with assessing, complying with and implementing their obligations to various regional and international conventions. In particular, support was provided to Parties to the *International Whaling Convention*, the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. A regional meeting on this last convention is planned for October 1995 before the next meeting of Parties to the Convention in November.

3. Coastal Management and Planning Programme

The programme provided assistance for:

- ◆ a survey and inventory of the *Palolo Deep Marine Reserve* in Western Samoa, with an information report published and a draft management plan prepared for the area;
- ◆ a *reef monitoring and survey project* in Cook Islands which provided baseline data on the status of fringing reefs in the islands and training for Pacific island participants in using standard survey methods; and,
- ◆ publishing *environmental guidelines for coral harvesting*.

The *Second Coastal Protection Meeting*, run jointly by SPREP and SOPAC early in 1995, recommended further assessment of coastal protection systems now in the region. Three sub-regional meetings were also held to identify the training needs of member countries in coastal management. Coastal management profiles are being prepared and a survey of member government agencies and NGOs, with responsibilities in coastal management, will be published later in 1995.

The programme supported member governments in preparing, reviewing and implementing coastal management plans, as well as carrying out feasibility assessments for integrated coastal management programmes. Two Pacific island nationals received on-the-job training through attachments to the SPREP Secretariat.



Conflicting uses for coastal areas: a mangrove forest is cleared for port development in Suva, Fiji. Careful planning is needed to protect mangroves from destruction.

Photo: SPREP

Planned activities for 1995-96 include projects to demonstrate the management of mangroves as renewable resources; the sustainable use of coastal resources; co-ordinating research, monitoring and management activities; and information exchange in the Pacific island region.

Ad hoc requests from member countries will be addressed by providing consultants, organising meetings and workshops, and providing up-to-date information. There will also be follow up activities to the *International Coral Reef Initiative*. This programme is also closely linked to other SPREP programmes, especially global climate change and biodiversity conservation.

An *integrated coastal management and planning programme* to promote the sustainable use of coastal areas and resources was endorsed by the last SPREP Meeting. It will provide:

- ◆ assistance for integrated coastal management in all member countries; and,
- ◆ three national projects demonstrating integrated coastal management practices.

This programme is now being assessed by funding sources.

2. Environmental Management and Planning

Goals

The *overall goal* of this Division is to ensure economic development activities are carried out in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner, particularly through strengthening the national and regional capacity to deal with the pressing issues of climate change, waste management and pollution prevention, population pressure and to assist countries with tools and techniques for improved environmental planning and management for sustainable development.

The *Environmental Management and Planning Division* comprises four distinct but inter-related programmes. These are:

1. Climate Change

The programme focuses on strengthening the understanding of climate change in the region through understanding the science, developing impacts and response options of climate change, improving the awareness of decision-makers and the public, assisting countries with international negotiations related to climate change and building the region's capacity to plan and adapt to climate and sea level change.

2. Environmental Assessment

This programme seeks to establish a sound basis for integrating Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) into national planning, to assess the geographic information system (GIS) needs and capabilities in the region to further build appropriate capacity, and to undertake case studies using a range of environmental assessment techniques, particularly GIS.

3. Population and Sustainable Development

This programme promotes sustainable development in the wake of the Rio and Barbados Conferences, and assists member countries to incorporate population and environmental considerations into their national planning.

4. Waste Management, Pollution Prevention and Emergencies

This programme assists countries in preventing, reducing and managing pollution and wastes, including the development and maintenance of national and regional pollution emergency response and planning capabilities, so that adverse impacts on the environment and health are avoided, minimised or mitigated.

Objectives

To achieve these goals, the efforts of the Division aim to:

- ♦ assist member countries to understand and avoid or mitigate the potentially adverse effects of global climate change;
- ♦ contribute to international efforts to limit human-induced climate change through appropriate measures at regional and national levels.
- ♦ provide the tools and techniques, including EIA, to assist countries further assess their national state of the environment and that of the region;

Staff

Miles, Gerald
Sustainable
Development Officer
and Head of
Division

Tongamo, Dr S.
Taiaoni
Population and
Environment Officer

Merto, Henry
Community
Development Officer

Kaluwin, Dr Chalapan
Climate Change
Officer

Koop, Neville
Meteorology/
Climatology Officer

Onorio, Komeri
Environment Impact
Assessment Officer

Crawley, Bismarck
GIS/Database
Officer

Ioane, Fiu Petelo
Assistant GIS/
Database Officer
(under recruitment)

Waste Management
and Pollution
Prevention Officer

Matau, Saunoa
Office Assistant

Patelesio, Sia
Office Assistant

- ♦ assess the impacts of human activities on the region's ecosystems and the effects of these impacts on the quality of the human environment;
- ♦ develop a comprehensive framework of action to manage wastes and prevent pollution in the region;
- ♦ carry out training activities related to waste management and pollution emergencies; and,
- ♦ prepare national waste management strategies and assess the size of the region's waste problem.

Divisional activities

1. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Duty travel to member countries was linked to climate and sea level change monitoring and training, vulnerability assessments, review of climate data management and the provision of technical assistance to member countries at international meetings.

A review and inventory of CLICOM system was undertaken in 1994 with the report due for publication and distribution early 1995. In addition, fact sheets, a report on a new weather receiving satellite system, and monthly data from the *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* were published.

Training needs for climate change and sea level rise, CLICOM and meteorological applications were assessed and training programmes developed for 14 countries. Training programmes on sea level and climate change were carried out, with participants from 14 countries. *Installation of sea level change monitoring stations* was completed in eleven countries, with data on sea level rise and weather distributed to member governments and international organisations.

The *Second Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services* was held in Nadi, Fiji in October, 1994. The meeting covered issues such as training, technical assistance, co-operation and collaboration between member governments, and encouraged member countries to join the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The meeting was co-ordinated by SPREP and WMO.

Sea level rise vulnerability assessments were completed in Western Samoa and Fiji, bringing the total number of assessments to five, since 1992. Climate impacts and response strategies were also developed for Fiji and Tuvalu.

Planned activities for the coming year include broadening the CLICOM activities in the region, including a regional workshop, in-country training in CLICOM and advanced computer skills, and workshops on the use of climate data for decision making. A regional meeting on climatology science is also planned for 1996 and in-country meetings on tropical cyclone awareness. Weather satellite receiving systems will also be installed in 13 countries.

The *Atmosphere Radiation Measurement Project* will also commence in 1995. Activities will include publishing pamphlets and posters and running national and sub-regional work-

This small island off Nukualofa, Tonga, will be threatened if the predicted effects of climate change occur.

Photo: SPREP



shops to explain the project to local people. SPREP will also negotiate with governments on behalf of the US Dept. of Energy for future sites for data-gathering equipment, and help Pacific scientists interpret and use the data for planning.

In activities dealing with changing sea levels, appropriate personnel from countries will be attached to the Flinders University National Tidal Facility in Australia, new sites will be assessed for suitability for sea level monitoring stations, appropriate educational materials will be developed for schools, and workshops will be held on climate change impacts, planning and adaptation. Data will also be accumulated on the actual sea level change, and published in newsletters and journals.

Many member countries have new responsibilities after ratifying the *Framework Convention on Climate Change*. In 1996, this programme will identify methods for compiling comprehensive national and regional inventories of carbon sources and sinks; train country teams responsible for implementing the Convention; and develop methods for climate change impact and adaptation studies.

2. Environmental Assessment

In 1994, duty travel was undertaken in several member countries to assess several EIA "expert systems", and to complete several EIAs. Two regional workshops were also held to define the role of EIA in national planning and to examine the use of expert systems in national EIA procedures.

Many EIAs have already been completed in this region, and staff have compiled records of these EIAs. Updating and maintaining these databases is an on-going activity.

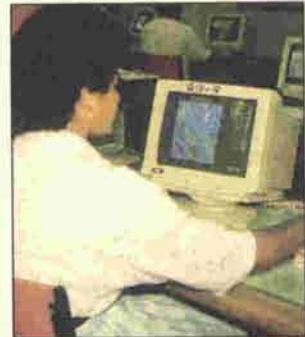
Sets of guidelines were also prepared, and will be published in 1995. These include:

- ◆ *Guidelines for the Assessment of Environmental Impacts from Tropical Coastal Mines;*
- ◆ *Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Fish Processing Plants; and,*
- ◆ *Environmental Guidelines for Dredging in Funafuti Lagoon, Tuvalu.*

Comprehensive basic training in EIA will commence in some countries next year. This will include an ongoing programme of senior officer seminars, workshops using general guidelines, in-country training with country-specific guidelines, and in-country training for EIA trainers. An extensive group of educational materials will also be developed for these workshops.

The *Pacific Environmental and Natural Resource Information Centre (PENRIC)* provides SPREP with GIS capabilities for environmental assessment. The Centre supported activities in conserving biodiversity and population issues, with projects in Fiji, FSM, Kiribati and Niue. A pilot national GIS unit was also established in Fiji's Environment Department.

Activities for the coming year include developing further national and local projects to support other SPREP programmes, completing a database of environmental consultants available to the region and the expertise that they can offer, and co-ordinating the 1995 regional *State of the Environment Report*. It is hoped that by 2000, PENRIC will have established a system for producing annual state of the environment reports for the region.



Geographic information systems can be very helpful for making better decisions about the environment.

Photo: SPREP

3. Population and Sustainable Development Concerns

As staff for the *UNFPA Population and Environment* project were not fully recruited until late in 1994, implementing this project was slower than planned. Integrated policy positions on environment and population were prepared for Tuvalu and Kiribati, preparing for the *Fourth International Conference on Population and Development*.

Population components were also integrated into sectoral planning in Kiribati, with more proposals being considered for Fiji, FSM and Western Samoa. Medium-term professional training commenced in 1994 for three national planners who attended an intensive course at the University of Queensland in Australia.

Population staff also provided technical assistance to other SPREP projects, including waste management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, environmental education and coastal management.

Upcoming activities include more national and regional workshops on community development and developing teaching resources; technical assistance to member countries on integrating population issues into environmental policies and plans; community awareness programmes on population and environmental linkages; and training in analysing demographic and environmental data.

Through the Sustainable Development Officer, member countries will also receive technical support for negotiations for the GEF and other international environment concerns; training courses to help countries finance national environmental investments; and identifying trade activities that also support the environment.

4. Pollution Prevention and Waste Management

In 1994, consultants conducted national and regional surveys of land-based sources of pollution. These surveys were published and used to prepare a new regional programme. This draft programme was reviewed and endorsed at a regional meeting held in Tonga in August 1994.

SPREP also provided scientific and technical support for negotiations of the upcoming regional convention on toxic wastes, as well as for various national requests. The division also co-ordinated and submitted input from member countries into the *Global Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*.

Training was carried out in contingency planning for oil spills, in conjunction with the International Maritime Organisation.

The *Regional Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Programme* will be implemented this year, as well as assistance for three countries in developing national waste strategies. These will be closely linked to demonstration projects in each country.

Funding will be sought for consultancies to identify appropriate ways to prevent pollution and minimise waste. These include the use of environmentally-sound technology; projects to show that solid waste, sewage and industrial and toxic waste can be significantly reduced using viable local methods; and the provision of public awareness and education activities around the region, especially where they apply to population growth and urban migration.

The division also plans to provide technical support in response to national requests for assistance with waste management, pollution prevention and pollution emergencies.

3. Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination

Structure and goals

The Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination Division has four separate though related sectors:

1. Environmental Policy/Strategy Co-ordination

The new *Capacity 21 Project* commenced in August 1994 as a follow-on project to implement the institutional strengthening activities identified in the recently completed *National Environmental Management Strategies*.

2. Institutional Strengthening

This includes legal activities and *Australian Volunteer Abroad (AVA)* attachments. Legal activities cover activities to support national environmental legislation and to assist with regional and international conventions. Legal activities are also integrated into the *Capacity 21 Project*.

SPREP works with the *Australian Overseas Service Bureau* to place AVAs in environment units around the region to strengthen the technical capabilities of these units.

National and sub-regional training workshops are common among SPREP projects - Solomon Islands.



Photo: SPREP

3. Environmental Education

This programme develops a wide range of formal and non-formal curriculum resources and provides training activities for teachers, NGOs, church leaders and the media, all aimed at raising environmental awareness.

4. Information and Computer Technology

This covers diverse activities:

- ♦ producing public information and educational material;
- ♦ promoting regional activities through SPREP's *Environment Newsletter*;
- ♦ publishing, distributing and disseminating scientific and technical information;
- ♦ promoting community awareness through various media; and,
- ♦ translating appropriate material into local languages.

This sector also includes developing SPREP's *Library/Information Centre* as a major source of environmental information for SPREP and for Pacific island countries, as well as training in library skills for environment units.

Computer Information Technology services are vital in providing technical support in computers for SPREP staff. The host for the *Sustainable Development Network (SDN)* in Western Samoa is also based in SPREP, providing electronic mail facilities for the organisation and other users in the country.

Staff

Wendt, Neva

*Project Manager,
Capacity 21 and
Head of Division*

Ward, Wesley

*Information and
Publications
Officer*

Salesa, Gisa Gaufa

*Environmental
Education Officer*

Moutou, Bernard

Legal Officer

Dosung, Lucas

*Library and
Information
Centre Co-
ordinator*

Bentin, Satui

*Senior Library
Assistant*

Williams, Alex

*Computer and
Technology Officer*

Ieremia, Wanda

*Sustainable
Development
Network Assistant
Officer*

Eti, Apiseta

Office Assistant

Valasi, Usugafono

Office Assistant

Objectives

The broad objectives of the Division include efforts to:

- ♦ strengthen the capacity of formal and informal institutions in member countries to achieve sustainable development in a form suited to the Pacific islands;
- ♦ strengthen national legislation affecting sustainable development;
- ♦ assist member governments to benefit from membership in regional and international conventions;
- ♦ increase awareness and understanding of the region's environment and cultural heritage to promote positive community attitudes towards environmental activities and decision-making in the region;
- ♦ provide specific environmental information in SPREP's mandated role as a regional information clearing house;
- ♦ provide computer information technology services to SPREP staff to ensure that the organisation's computing and telecommunications facilities keep pace with its needs; and,
- ♦ provide information to support sustainable development, especially through electronic mail and other communication systems.

Neva Wendt (2nd right), the Capacity 21 Project Manager, meets with new local Capacity 21 project officers.

Photo: SPREP



Divisional activities

1. Environmental Policy/Strategy Co-ordination

Capacity 21 is a new SPREP/UNDP project, with the full title of *A Programme of Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the South Pacific: Building on NEMS*. The Project aims to implement principles of *Agenda 21* which came from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The project aims to:

- ♦ create and strengthen national frameworks for sustainable development;
- ♦ assist sustainable development planning and financing;
- ♦ improve national extension and legal capabilities; and,
- ♦ increase capacity of local landholders to manage and monitor their land and sea resources.

The project targets six countries: Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (in Melanesia), Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati (Micronesia) and Cook Islands and Western Samoa (Polynesia). Other activities aim to strengthen other smaller environment units in the Pacific islands.

Work programmes are tailored to suit the specific needs of these countries, through discussions between governments, NGOs and SPREP. Initial activities in each country involve:

- ♦ reviews of policies and procedures of development banks and other lending institutions;
- ♦ reviews of extension services; and,
- ♦ preparations for training activities to ensure ecologically sustainable development.

A local officer has been employed in each region to work closely with the SPREP-based Project Manager in implementing the project's activities in their areas.

2. Institutional Strengthening

SPREP provides Secretariat services for two important regional conventions, the *Convention for the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention)* and the *Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (SPREP Convention)*, and two related protocols.

SPREP co-ordinates efforts for a number of international conventions, including the:

- ◆ *London Convention;*
- ◆ *Framework Convention on Climate Change;*
- ◆ *Convention on Biological Diversity;*
- ◆ *Montreal Protocol;*
- ◆ *Basel Convention;*
- ◆ *CITES;*
- ◆ *Ramsar Convention;* and,
- ◆ *World Heritage Convention.*

SPREP is now producing a series of educational pamphlets on these conventions and their significance to Pacific islands. These also provide information on the consequences and benefits of membership in these international conventions. SPREP has assisted in the completion of a draft regional convention to control movements of hazardous waste in the region, to be signed at the next Forum meeting in PNG.

The legal services sector has also worked with UNEP's *Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre* on training attachment for legal officers from the region, to enhance national skills in environmental law.

The Australian Overseas Service Bureau, SPREP and member governments have worked together to place a number of AVAs in countries to provide technical support for environment units. Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Western Samoa were assisted



Participants in the last Meetings of the Parties to the SPREP and Apia Conventions, in Suva, Fiji.

Photo: SPREP

during the past year, with very positive feedback from these governments. Negotiations are now under way for further AVA placements in Western Samoa and Kiribati.

3. Environmental Education and Training

A number of successful national workshops and seminars on *curriculum development, teacher training, multi-media training and public awareness* were run during the year, often in association with other SPREP programmes. Training workshops were also held in Western Samoa, Kiribati and Solomon Islands on effective learning and teaching strategies, to assist teachers and community leaders in educating the public. Discussions have been held with Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu to extend this series of workshops to these countries.

The *Environmental Education Teachers Manual* is now being revised and expanded. This manual aims to improve the quality of formal environmental education in the region, and the publication has already proven useful for NGOs and other trainers in communicating the environmental message. Teaching materials were also produced in local languages for teachers in Tonga and FSM.

4. Information and Computer Technology

The information and publications sector co-ordinated translation, publishing and communications for SPREP's core activities and programmes. These included editing reports, writing press releases on activities, developing campaigns, writing and editing extension materials, completing radio interviews, and writing and editing video scripts.

Other publishing activities included writing, editing and laying out the *Environment Newsletter*, technical reports, one bibliography, environmental guidelines, technical meeting reports, fact sheets, information brochures and videos. These were distributed widely in the region, and sold outside the region.

Radio is an important communications medium in the Pacific islands. The *One World Project*, with SPREP, Radio Australia and Public News Service, seeks to improve environmental radio reporting. The project produced audio tapes and transcripts of a weekly environment program, in English, French and Tok Pisin, for re-broadcasting by local radio stations and for use in newspapers.

The media play a vital role in getting out the environmental message - a Televisé Samoa film crew at the local release of a hawksbill turtle.

Photo: SPREP



The "One World" program now has a core network of national information sources for , who met monthly on the PEACESAT system to discuss regional environment issues. SPREP is also developing a project to broaden support for environmental communications and information processing through a *Pacific Environmental Information Network* project, in co-operation with UNESCO and SPC.

The media are vital for disseminating environmental information to the public. The annual *Pacific Island News Association (PINA) Conference* is an important opportunity for presenting environmental issues for newspaper, radio and television journalists. SPREP attended the PINA Conference in 1994 to assist with workshops on environmental reporting. SPREP also remained in regular contact with regional and international print, radio and television media to publicise SPREP activities and regional environmental concerns.

Many appropriate publications were translated into local languages. Fact sheets and posters were translated for the *1995 Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign. These translations were completed by local officers or NGOs.

The *SPREP Library/Information Centre* was formally established this year, with sorting and cataloguing the main initial activities. The collection was then computerised, with nearly 2,000 books and 150 journal titles entered and shelved. During this time, the Centre also received and processed around 25 information requests per week. The Centre has set up over 20 exchange agreements between SPREP and other libraries with environmental collections, to save acquisition costs.

The official launch of the Library/Information Centre was held in February 1995, which coincided with physically setting up the Centre. Centre staff were also involved with developing the *Pacific Environmental Information Network* project.

Computers are vital in the daily running of SPREP. On-going support was provided during this period to an increasing number of staff and computers to maintain an operational computing environment. The position of *Computer Information Technology Officer* was established as a core budget position, replacing a United Nations volunteer, and an officer recruited.

A budget for 1995 was defined and presented to AusAID, which included computer network. This will be installed in the later part of 1995. A new telephone system was defined, which will be installed in mid-1995. This should improve communications within and to SPREP.

In February 1995, the *Pacific SDN Project* established an electronic mail hub for Western Samoa, based at SPREP. Using the *Pactok* system, it has rapidly expanded from eight to 15 local sites.

The network allows rapid communication between academic institutions, government agencies, NGOs and private sector interests who promote and practice sustainable development. These organisations are linked to local, regional and global information sources such as UNEP databases, the USP library and Internet mailing lists.



Ken Fakamura, SDN Training Officer, demonstrates the Pactok electronic mail system at a workshop in Western Samoa. SPREP works closely with the SDN Project to encourage the use of e-mail for accessing information on sustainable development.

Photo: SPREP

The PEACESAT satellite communications system is also used by the network to transmit documents and conduct conferences. The local hub manager promotes the network to potential local users, installs and trains new on Pactok users, provides technical support, and conducts information searches for users on the Internet and Pactok. Division personnel co-ordinated and were trainers at a recent workshop on organising and repackaging information in Western Samoa.

Staff

Jones, Nuku

Finance Manager
and Head of
Division

Devoe, Daniel

Accountant

Seiuli, Enellko

Administration
Officer

Ah Tong, Salafai

Assistant
Accountant

Fauatea, Luapene

Accounts Clerk

Wendt Miriama

Accounts Clerk

Fereti, Asofa

Accounts Clerk

Silulu, Lupe

Registry Clerk

Reid, Quadovita

Registry Assistant

Matafeo, Faaafu T.

Office Assistant

Cavanagh, Maria

Conference
Assistant

Tupai, Monica

Receptionist

Taei, Faalepo

Handyman

Fonoti, Faamanu

Driver

Tuala, Talanoa

Driver

Leaula, Tologauvale

Teaperson

Leota, Iakopo

Cleaner

Tootoo, Amosa

Cleaner

Rusia, Esera

Gardener

Hunt, Elia

Night Watchman

4. Finance and Administration

Structure and goals

The Finance and Administration Division comprises two units.

1. Finance

This unit aims to monitor, control and implement SPREP's financial obligations and needs. These are in SPREP's *Financial Regulations* and *Staff Regulations*, the financial requirements of donor and member countries, and internationally accepted accounting principles.

2. Administration.

This unit is responsible for providing "core" administration services, and assisting management in monitoring and implementing obligations and requirements set out in SPREP's *Staff Regulations* and its internal policies and procedures.

Objectives and strategies

To achieve these goals, the division:

- ♦ provides financial and administrative support and advice to the management and staff, according to SPREP's regulations, local conditions and the SPREP work programme;
 - ♦ safeguards SPREP's financial resources by adopting sound financial and accounting principles and practices;
 - ♦ provides financial information to member countries and donor organisations on the funds provided to SPREP;
 - ♦ ensures that SPREP's *Staff Regulations* and internal policies are applied appropriately; and,
- ♦ provides adequate security and appropriate insurance cover for all SPREP assets and property.

Divisional activities

Systems have been established to meet these objectives. These systems were closely monitored and refined during the year, leading to some improvements which included:

- ♦ *closer integration* of the Finance section's databases with its accounting package. This has improved efficiency and access to financial information;
- ♦ a *new module for accounts payable* which was fully integrated with the main accounting package and reporting databases;
- ♦ modified systems to account for "committed but unspent" funds;
- ♦ extensive work to revise the format for the *SPREP Work Programme and Budget* according to recommendations from the last *SPREP Meeting*, to be presented to the *Eighth SPREP Meeting* in Apia later this year. This new format links the review of past activities, the work programme and activities for the coming year, and the budget estimates for the coming year;
- ♦ an *administration manual*, currently being reviewed by management. This manual will provide clear guidelines for most administration procedures;
- ♦ a *new telephone system* to improve internal and external communications. As SPREP's had outgrown the old system, a new system was installed which can also effectively monitor calls;

♦ *converting the garage into offices* in January 1995. This provided SPREP with a much needed conference room, and space for four more offices; and,

♦ *extending the Finance office block* to increase work space.

With the increasing workload in Finance, resources and staff have been stretched. It is planned to recruit an extra staff member to relieve this problem. Donors have been approached, and SPREP is awaiting their response.

The Division will continue to monitor its systems in the coming year, and will change these if necessary.

Staff

This year, twelve professional staff were recruited: Administration Officer, Biodiversity Officer (Conservation Areas), Computer Information Technology Officer, Sustainable Development Network Assistant Officer, Community Development Officer, Accounts Clerk, GIS/Database Officer, Assistant GIS/Database Officer, Assistant Coastal Management Officer, Divisional Assistant (Finance & Administration), Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director, Capacity 21 Officer (Polynesia) and Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Officer (pending).

SPREP also lost the valued services of some capable officers in this year. Laisiasa Tulega returned to Fiji, while Lucille Apis moved to Australia to pursue a Masters degree. Grace Tielu, Margaret Cung, Helen Petaia, Julia Brunt and Gary Spiller moved to positions overseas and in Western Samoa. SPREP wishes them well in their new careers.

SPREP now has 25 professional and 25 administrative staff.



SPREP Staff - 1995

(Photo: SPREP)

Back row (left to right): Bismarck Crawley, Andrew Smith, Bernard Moutou, Faapio Sagaga, Ruta Tupua, Maria Cavanagh, Asofa Fereti, Faamanu Fonoti, Faalepo Taeli, Amosa Tootoo, Iakopo Leota, Wanda Ieremia, Neville Koop, Petelo Ioane.

Middle row: Chalapan Kaluwin, Henry Merto, Alex Williams, Esera Rusia, Miriama Wendt, Fono Valasi, Tupu Pohega, Saunoo Matau, Dorothy Kamu, Salafai Ah Tong, satui Bentin, Apiseta Eti, Monica Tupai, Faaafu Matafeo, Vita Reid.

Front row: Tolo Leaula, Joe Reti, Neva Wendt, Don Stewart, Vili Fuavao, Nuku Jones, Eneliko Seiuli, Lupe Silulu.

Absent: Wesley Ward, Dan Devoe, Pene Fauatea, Talanoa Tuala, Elia Hunt, Gisa Salesa, Lucas Dosung, Gerald Miles, Taiamoni Tongamoa, Komeri Onorio, Sia Patelesio, Andrew Tilling, Sue Miller, Roger Cornforth, Asipeli Palaki.

5. In-country activities

During the year, from 1 June 1994 to 31 May 1995, SPREP implemented projects or activities in member countries that:

American Samoa

- ◇ provided capacity building through *country attachment* (Mr. Vai Aiavao from EPA) to SPREP Secretariat in *Capacity 21 Project*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from schools, NGOs and government.
- ◇ provided EIA assistance to South Pacific International Christian Church, and scoping meeting with Project Director and EPA.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.



Mr Vai Aiavao from American Samoa on country attachment to SPREP.

Photo: SPREP

Cook Islands

- ◇ developed *Capacity 21 Project* activities to increase Cook Islands management capacity over land and sea resources (Component 3) and to increase capacity of customary landowners to manage and monitor their land and sea resources (Component 4).
- ◇ developed two-year work plans for *Capacity 21 Project*.
- ◇ provided *Library Establishment Guidelines* to prepare Conservation Department staff for training in establishing an environmental library.
- ◇ responded to information and SPREP publication requests.
- ◇ started *CLICOM* support project to secure climate database, with review and recommendations also provided.

- ◇ participated in SPREP *Working Group on Climate*.
- ◇ started installation of *Weather Satellite Receiving System* and training for meteorological services.
- ◇ carried out 1-week training workshop for *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* in March 1995.
- ◇ convened second *Coastal Protection Meeting*, in collaboration with SOPAC and government.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ◇ funded government to the *9-INC Session of UNFCCC*.
- ◇ provided *GIS assessment* as requested in the First Coastal Protection Meeting in 1994.

Federated States of Micronesia

- ◇ provided capacity building through *country attachment* (Ms. Lucille Apis) to SPREP Secretariat in the *coastal management programme*.
- ◇ provided support from *Capacity 21 Project* to create and strengthen national frameworks for sustainable development (Component 1) and to assist sustainable development planning and financing (Component 2).
- ◇ developed a 2-year work plan and commenced activities under *Capacity 21 Project*.
- ◇ employed Mr. O'Kean Ehmes as *Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Micronesia)*.

- ◇ provided legal assistance for the *Pohnpei Watershed Management Project*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ reviewed EIA report on the proposed fisheries cannery in Chuuk.
- ◇ prepared response activity for the *relocation of the sewerage outfall* at Pohnpei for government.
- ◇ trained Mr. Zuzuki Akira and Heidi Primo for the *Sea Level Training Project*.
- ◇ published a report on the *impact of climate change and sea level rise* on FSM.
- ◇ developed a 5-year project for financial and technical support for the *Pohnpei Watershed Management Project*.
- ◇ carried out joint *GIS training* with ADB for the Pohnpei Watershed Management Project.
- ◇ supported development of a *biodiversity database* for Pohnpei.
- ◇ funded the *Conservation Area Support Officer* for the Pohnpei Watershed Management Project.
- ◇ funded the *Pohnpei Bird Survey*.
- ◇ assisted the development of the *Utwawalung (Kosrae) Conservation Area* concept proposal.
- ◇ funded conservation officers from Pohnpei and Kosrae to *CASO workshop*, in Nadi in 1994.
- ◇ supported *coastal management work* in Yap.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Part of the Pohnpei Water Catchment Project, Pohnpei State, FSM, which is partially funded by the SPBCP.

Photo: SPREP



Fiji

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ funded representative from Fiji Meteorological Service to visit two Pacific island countries for a *Tropical Cyclone Awareness* programme.
- ◇ started *CLICOM* support project to secure climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ participated in *SPREP Working Group on Climate*.
- ◇ held a sub-regional training workshop on *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* at Nadi.
- ◇ trained Alipate Waqaicelua, Jone Feresi and Tevita Vuiban on the *Sea Level and Climate Change Project*.
- ◇ carried out two *vulnerability assessments on climate change and sea level resilience* for Nadi and Suva, Fiji.
- ◇ conducted a *national community development workshop* for NGOs and government community development officers.
- ◇ provided financial and technical support for the *Koroyanita Conservation Area* project.
- ◇ supported participants to the *CASO Workshop* in Nadi in 1994.

Fiji (cont'd)

- ◇ supported an *archaeological survey* of Koroyanita Conservation Area.
- ◇ assisted with drafting the *Koroyanita Project Document*.
- ◇ supported a *study tour* by Fiji landowners from Abaca village to Big Bay, Vanuatu.
- ◇ provided financial support for the *turtle conservation* programme.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ◇ held a consultation meeting on *Environment Assessment Programme* to help prepare the *State of Environment Report*.

French Polynesia

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ Funded participation of Deputy Director, Météo-France, to French Polynesia for the *SPREP Working Group on Climate*.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Guam

- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.



1995 is the Year of the Sea Turtle - "Let our Turtle Family Live!"

Photo: SPREP

Kiribati

- ◇ provided *AVA placement* (Mr. Craig Wilson) as technical assistance to Environment Unit.
- ◇ held preliminary discussions for a 2-year work plan for *Capacity 21 Project* activities, to increase national management capacity of land and sea resources (Component 3) and to increase capacity of customary landholder groups to manage and monitor their land and sea resources (Component 4).
- ◇ funded a *national counterpart* for the ADB technical assistance on "Institutional Strengthening of the Environment Unit, Kiribati".
- ◇ supported *environmental education* workshops for teachers and community workers.
- ◇ supported *environment education curriculum development* workshops.
- ◇ responded to information and SPREP publication requests from the government and NGOs.
- ◇ provided *Guidelines for Library Establishment*, to prepare Environment Unit staff for training in establishing an environmental library.
- ◇ supported the *CLICOM* project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ held a sub-regional training workshop for *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project*, at Tarawa in March 1995.
- ◇ trained Irene Nikora and Tekena Teitiba for the *Climate Change and Sea Level Project*.
- ◇ funded the government to *10-INC and 11-INC Sessions of UNFCCC*.
- ◇ supported *Northern Tarawa and Cook Islet Conservation Area* projects.

- ◇ funded consultants to draft *Project Documents* for Northern Tarawa and Cook Islet projects.
- ◇ funded a *Conservation Area Support Officer*.
- ◇ supported *turtle conservation* work.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Marshall Islands

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ trained Mr. Paul Peter and Mr. Enwest Eleas in the *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project*.
- ◇ funded a participant to *CASO Workshop*, at Nadi in 1994.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Nauru

- ◇ funded an *Environment Officer* in the Department of Island Development and Industry.
- ◇ assisted the development of the *National Environmental Management Strategy*.
- ◇ supported the *NGO community forestry project*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ visited, with the US Department of Energy, to secure a site for *Atmospheric Radiation Monitoring* equipment, and carry out public awareness on the project.
- ◇ held a 1-week sub-regional training workshop for *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project*, in October 1994.
- ◇ trained Mr. Joseph Cain, Andrew Tilling and Wess Tsitsi on *Sea Level and Climate Change* issues.



Sea level monitoring gauge in Nauru.

Photo: SPREP

- ◇ funded the government to *9-INC session* for the *UNFCCC*.
- ◇ provided information package for *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

New Caledonia

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Niue

- ◇ assisted the *Aluminium Can Recycling Project*.
- ◇ funded the *environmental awareness campaign*, via village beautification competition, with Tourism Association.
- ◇ completed an *EIA* for *Hanan International Airport*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ held a *Tropical Cyclone Awareness* workshop.
- ◇ held a *Climate Change Awareness* workshop.
- ◇ trained Mr. Sionetasi Pulehetoa and Cedric Tutaki on *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Change Project*.
- ◇ supported the establishment of the *Huvalu Conservation Area*.
- ◇ prepared the *Project Document* for *Huvalu Conservation Area*.

- ◇ supported *Niue Bird Survey*.
- ◇ funded government official to the *CASO workshop*, in Nadi in 1994.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Northern Mariana Islands

- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ◇ provided SPREP publications to schools and government.
- ◇ assisted and advised on *coastal management and planning*.

Palau

- ◇ assisted in inaugurating the *Palau Conservation Society*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ funded development of the *Rock Islands and Ngeremdu Bay Conservation Area* proposals.
- ◇ funded participating Conservation Officer at the *CASO workshop* at Nadi in 1994.
- ◇ supported *turtle conservation work* by government and NGO.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Rock Islands and Ngeremdu Bay Conservation Area, Palau.

Photo: SPREP



Papua New Guinea

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ assisted the US Department of Energy locate a site for equipment for the *Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Project*.
- ◇ negotiated a contract through PNG National Weather Service for *Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Project*.
- ◇ commenced public education and awareness work for the *Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Project*.
- ◇ supported the *CLICOM* project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ co-sponsored WMO expert team to Port Moresby to assist in the *emergency rescue of the CLICOM system*, and to train users.
- ◇ held a 1-week sub-regional training workshop on the *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* in Port Moresby in 1995.
- ◇ trained Mr. Kevin Luana and Godfried Angi on the *Sea Level Monitoring Project*.
- ◇ negotiated and assisted in installing the *Sea Level Monitoring Station* in Manus Province.
- ◇ co-ordinated and assisted with the *OK Tedi Mining Impact* studies.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Solomon Islands

- ◇ provided an AVA as *technical assistance* to the Environment Unit (Ms. Sango Mahanty).



- ◇ planned *Capacity 21 Project* activities to increase Solomon Islands' management capacity of land and sea resources (Component 3) and to increase the capacity of customary landholders to manage and monitor their land and sea resources (Component 4).
- ◇ developed a 2-year work plan for *Capacity 21 Project*.
- ◇ completed *environmental education workshops* for teachers and community workers.
- ◇ completed *environmental education workshops* for curriculum development.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ provided *Guidelines on Library Establishment* to train Environment Unit staff to establish an environmental library.
- ◇ provided the *CLICOM* project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ participated in the *SPREP Working Group on Climate*.
- ◇ completed a 1-week sub-regional training workshop on the *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project* in Honiara in 1994.
- ◇ completed a 1-week *Climate Change Public Awareness Workshop* for senior government officials in 1994.
- ◇ trained Commins Vaike and Moses Biliki for two weeks, on the *Climate Change and Sea Level Project*.
- ◇ co-ordinated the installation of the *Sea Level Monitoring Station* at Honiara.
- ◇ held a *Population and Community Development Workshop* with NGOs and government.
- ◇ supported the establishment of the *Komarindi and Arnavon Conservation Areas*.

- ◇ funded an *Arnavon Conservation Area Officer*.
- ◇ funded two Conservation Area Officers to *CASO workshop* at Nadi in 1994.
- ◇ produced the *Arnavon Conservation Area video*.
- ◇ supported *turtle conservation work*.
- ◇ advised the delegation to the *International Whaling Commission*.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ◇ supported a *bird survey*.

Tokelau

- ◇ completed the *Natural Resource Survey*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests*.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Tonga

- ◇ supported *teacher training and curriculum development* in environmental education.
- ◇ provided capacity building for the Department of Natural Resources via *country attachment* (Mr. Asipeli Palaki) to the SPREP Secretariat through the *coastal management programme*.
- ◇ assisted a *public awareness programme* through an NGO.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ funded the *Tropical Cyclone Awareness* visit by Fiji Meteorological Service.
- ◇ provided the *CLICOM* project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.

Tonga (cont'd)

- ◇ held a 1-week sub-regional training workshop for the *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring* in 1994.
- ◇ trained Ms. Netatua Prescott and Paul Cheeseman on the *Climate Change and Sea Level Project*.
- ◇ commenced installing the *Weather Satellite Receiving System* at Meteorological Services.
- ◇ supported establishment of the *Haapai Conservation Area* project.
- ◇ supported the drafting of the *Project Document* for Haapai Conservation Area project.
- ◇ funded a *Conservation Area Officer*.
- ◇ assisted the development of the *Whale Watching Ecotourism* project.
- ◇ advised the government on a *whaling proposal*.
- ◇ supported a *Coastal Management* project, planting trees at Houme.
- ◇ supported a *bird survey*.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ◇ funded the publication of the *water conservation booklet* for schools, in Tongan and English.

Tuvalu

- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and community groups.
- ◇ provided the *CLICOM* support project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ trained Mr. Faatasi Malologa and Poni Faavae on the *Climate Change and Sea Level Monitoring* project.
- ◇ funded the government to *10-INC* session of UNFCCC.

- ◇ supported the *Funafuti Marine Conservation Area* project.
- ◇ provided consultants to draft the *Project Document* for the Funafuti Marine Conservation Area proposal.
- ◇ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Vanuatu

- ◇ commenced *Capacity 21 Project* support to create and strengthen a national framework for sustainable development (Component 1) and to assist sustainable development planning and financing (Component 2).
- ◇ developed a 2-year work plan for the *Capacity 21 Project* and initiated activities.
- ◇ employed Ms. Sarah Naupa as the *Capacity 21 Programme Officer (Melanesia)*.
- ◇ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ◇ provided *Guidelines on Library Establishment* to the Environment Unit to prepare for environmental library training.
- ◇ provided the *CLICOM* support project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ◇ held a *Climate Change Awareness Workshop*.
- ◇ held a sub-regional training workshop for *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Change Monitoring Project* in 1994.
- ◇ trained Mr. Ernest Bani and Wilson Vuti on the *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring* project.
- ◇ provided funds and technical support for establishing the *Big Bay Conservation Area*.
- ◇ funded a *Conservation Area Officer*.

- ❖ completed a *study tour* by Big Bay landowners to Fiji.
- ❖ funded the design and erection of *signs* at Big Bay project.
- ❖ funded an *eco-tourism feasibility study* at Big Bay.
- ❖ funded the Conservation Officer to the *CASO workshop* at Nadi in 1994.
- ❖ supported *turtle conservation work*.
- ❖ produced a *Big Bay video*.
- ❖ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

Wallis and Futuna

- ❖ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.

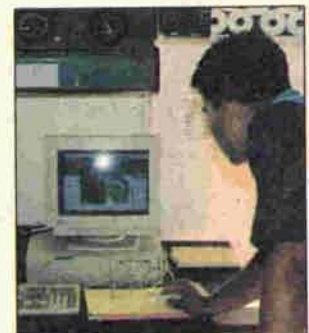
Western Samoa

- ❖ placed AVAs as technical support to the Division of Environment and Conservation (Dr. Tony Robinson and Ms. Julia Haska).
- ❖ initiated the *Capacity 21 Project* support to create and strengthen a national framework for sustainable development (Component 1) and to assist sustainable development planning and financing (Component 2).
- ❖ developed a 2-year work plan for the *Capacity 21 Project* and initiated activities.
- ❖ completed *environmental education workshops* for teachers and community workers.
- ❖ completed *environmental education workshops* for curriculum development.
- ❖ responded to *information and SPREP publication requests* from government and NGOs.
- ❖ provided *Guidelines for Library Establishment* to prepare for training the Division of Environ-

- ment and Conservation staff in establishing an environmental library.
- ❖ co-ordinated, with UNEP, the training attachment of a legal officer for relevant issues on environment and development.
- ❖ established and maintained a national *electronic mail system* using the Pactok system, and provided technical support to users.
- ❖ provided the *CLICOM* support project to secure the climate data base, with review and recommendations also provided.
- ❖ funded participants to *UNFCCC-Conference of Parties* and *10-INC session* in Geneva.
- ❖ held a 1-week sub-regional training workshop for the *Sea Level and Climate Change Monitoring Project* in 1994.
- ❖ trained Mr. Nikolau Tualevo and Lameko Talia on the *Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project*.
- ❖ assisted with the installation of the *Weather Satellite Receiving System*.
- ❖ supported the establishment of the *Saanapu/Sataoa* and *Uafato Conservation Areas*.
- ❖ funded a *Saanapu/Sataoa Conservation Area Officer*.
- ❖ funded two conservation officers to the *CASO workshop* in Nadi in 1994.
- ❖ funded *eco-tourism and agricultural seminars* at Conservation Area project sites.
- ❖ supported *turtle conservation*.
- ❖ provided information packages for the *Year of the Sea Turtle* campaign.
- ❖ supported work on *coastal and reef management*.
- ❖ completed two *vulnerability assessment studies* on climate change and sea level rise.

Western Samoa's new Weather Satellite Receiving System.

Photo: SPREP



Relations with other organisations

Donors

Contributions from international donor organisations are a significant part of SPREP's annual budget, as do contributions from member and non-member governments.

UNEP, one of SPREP's four co-founders, continued its support during the year, primarily through its *Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre*, the South Pacific region being one of UNEP's regional seas areas. Other UNEP Activity Centres continued to support SPREP in international law, biodiversity, geographic information systems, education and training, environmental planning and environmental impact assessment.

Another major contributor is UNDP, which substantially assisted with the institutional strengthening of SPREP in its first years in Apia, through the *Planning and Implementation of Pacific Regional Environment*

Programme. During the same period, UNDP provided similar support through SPREP to environment units of member governments, via the *National Environment Management Strategies Project*.

Continuing this tradition of support, the Administrator of UNDP and the Director of SPREP signed an agreement for SPREP to implement the *Capacity 21* project in Barbados in 1994. The project aims to follow up and implement decisions of the 1992 *Earth Summit*.

The **Global Environment Facility**, administered jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP, co-funds the *South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme* - SPREP's largest single project - with Australia.

UNFPA also assists SPREP with funding for a project aimed at *Integrating Population and Environment Issues*. A series of workshops and related activities are now being conducted throughout the region.

Australia, France, New Zealand and United States of America, as member governments, continued to contribute generously towards a wide range of programme activities, as well as making voluntary contributions towards the Secretariat's operating costs. Some of this extra-budgetary assistance funded vital programme staff positions.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr Jim Bolger (left), meets with SPREP management during his visit to Western Samoa.

Photo: SPREP



Canada and **Japan**, both non-member governments, continued to contribute towards projects in coastal management, marine turtle conservation and environmental education. In association with other regional organisations, discussions continued with Canada on the funding of a future regional programme. Discussions also continued between the Secretariat and the **European Union** on the details of a regional environment project to be funded under the Lomé IV agreement. Project funding was also promised by the **Republic of China (Taiwan)**.

Funding was also received during the year from the **Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation** and the **World Meteorological Organisation**.

SPREP gratefully acknowledges the generous and invaluable assistance provided by these donors.

Collaborating institutions and consultants

As well as these donor governments and organisations, many regional and international institutions assist SPREP by providing technical expertise, in-kind contributions or sub-contract and consultancy arrangements.

SPREP has received considerable assistance from regional institutes and technical agencies for a long time. These include the Universities of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Guam and Hawaii, the Community College of Micronesia, the East-West Center in Honolulu, the Laboratoire d'étude et du surveillance de l'environnement in Tahiti, and ORSTOM and the Université français du Pacifique Sud in Noumea.

Other institutions which support of SPREP include the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Wollongong and James Cook

University, in Australia, and the University of Auckland and Waikato University in New Zealand.

SPREP also works closely with other regional intergovernmental organisations in the *South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee*, including the South Pacific Commission in Noumea and the Forum Secretariat in Suva, as well as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in Suva, the Forum Fisheries Agency in Honiara and the Pacific Islands Development Program in Honolulu.

Through memoranda of understanding, SPREP undertakes joint projects with several international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including IUCN in Geneva, The Nature Conservancy in Honolulu, the Department of Conservation in New Zealand and the Australian National Conservation Agency.

Many individuals from the region undertake consultancy work for SPREP in specialist areas not readily available in the Secretariat. This useful practice is contributing to a growing expertise in environmental issues now available in the Pacific islands region.

SPREP thanks all its collaborating institutions and consultants for their efforts and assistance during the year.

Researchers monitoring a fragile coral reef.

Photo: SPREP



Financial Situation

Funding

Funding provided to SPREP during 1994 is tabled below. Funds received for 1994 totalled US\$ 5,936,357, comprising funds actually received during the year and funds carried over from previous years. See **Table 1** and **Diagram 1** for more details.

Table 1:
Total funding
from donors for
1994.

Donor	US\$	%
AusAID	1,749,795	30
UNDP	1,585,296	27
NZ	641,798	11
UNEP	519,720	9
Primary functions - members	324,784	5
Multiple donors	256,925	4
CORA	234,110	4
Primary functions - other	189,424	3
UNFPA	114,077	2
Other donors	320,429	5
Total funds	5,936,357	

Diagram 2: Proportion of funding for project implementation and management activities (left) and primary functions in 1994.

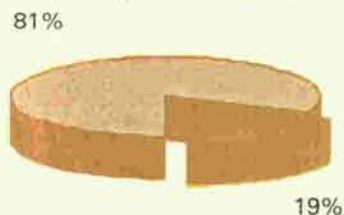
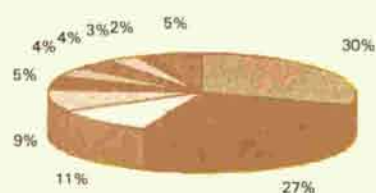


Table 2: Funding for project implementation and management activities and primary functions in 1994.

Function	USD	%
Project Implementation and Management	4,837,110	81
Primary functions	1,099,247	19
Total funds	5,936,357	

Diagram 1: Proportion of funding from donors for 1994.



Funding can be separated into:

◆ Project Implementation and Management activities

These are the extra-budgetary funding received from *donors* for implementing and managing projects. See **Table 2** and **Diagram 2** for details.

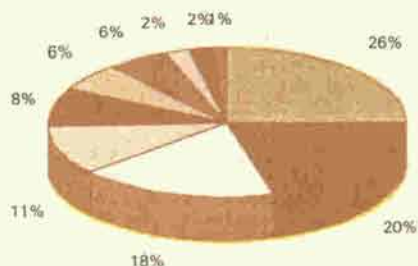
◆ Primary Function activities

These are the funds provided by member countries and from miscellaneous sources to SPREP for its "core" or primary activities.

Expenditure

The SPREP Secretariat spent US\$ 3,953,611 in 1994 on its work programme. **Table 3** and **Diagram 3** show expenditure by work programme area according to the SPREP Action Plan, while **Table 4** and **Diagram 4** show expenditure by Division.

Diagram 3: Proportion of expenditure in 1994, according to work programme area.



Some larger projects undertaken in SPREP's 1994 work programme included:

- ◆ South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (UNDP);
- ◆ National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS - UNDP);
- ◆ EIA in National Planning (AusAID); Funding of various SPREP staff positions (New Zealand);
- ◆ SPREP Primary functions (SPREP members);
- ◆ Waste Management Programme (AusAID);
- ◆ Environment Education Programme (AusAID); and,

Table 3: Expenditure in 1994, according to work programme area.

Work Programme area	US\$	%
Primary Function and Project Management	1,008,774	26
Conservation of Biological Diversity	804,030	20
Environmental Management and Planning	713,172	18
Regional Environmental Concerns	428,835	11
Coastal Management and Planning	327,292	8
Global Change	227,801	6
Environmental Information	225,791	6
Planning and Response to Pollution Emergencies	88,959	2
Environmental Education and Training	84,599	2
Prevention and Management of Pollution	44,358	1
Total expenses	3,953,611	

- ◆ Coastal Resource Management Programme (CORA).

These activities contributed to 63% of all expenditure in 1994.

There was an unspent balance for 1994. This surplus was carried forward and will be used in 1995 on activities for which the funds were originally provided.

Diagram 4: Proportion of expenditure in 1994, according to division.

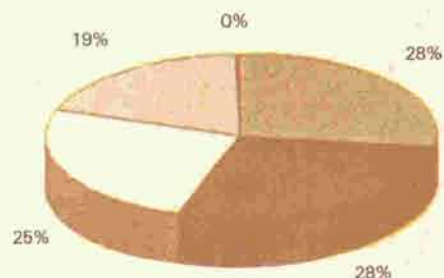


Table 4: Expenditure in 1994, according to division.

Division	US\$	%
Conservation of Natural Resources	1,094,214	28
Environmental Management and Planning	1,093,775	28
Management and others	999,452	25
Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination	758,162	19
Finance and Administration	8,008	<1
Total expenses	3,953,611	

Looking to the future . . .

Three years have passed since SPREP moved to Western Samoa as an independent agency. In this time, most of our institutional issues have been resolved: we have a corporate plan, a new work programme and budget process and our own systems for salaries and terms and conditions of employment. At the time of writing, only one more ratification was required to bring into force the *Agreement Establishing SPREP*.

However, our most significant achievement in this short time has been to build a core of talented and committed professional and administrative staff. Theirs is the burden and the challenge of carrying SPREP into the future.

That future lies in the Secretariat being free to concentrate its efforts towards more effectively addressing the environmental concerns of its members. This process will be assisted next year when the *SPREP Action Plan* is reviewed by the region's ministers.

The revised *Action Plan* will take us into the 21st century, and so it must clearly outline the region's main environmental problems and what to do about them. This means careful attention to priorities - to expect the Secretariat to be able to solve all environmental problems should be avoided.

Instead, priority areas should be identified, realistic goals established, and achievable and measurable objectives set. If this is not

done, we run the risk of spreading ever scarcer funds over too many projects. We should identify what we can do well within the likely available resources, and then plan accordingly.

Areas which might receive this priority could include:

- ◆ implementing national environment management strategies;
- ◆ conserving the region's biological diversity;
- ◆ better managing our coastal areas; instituting effective pollution prevention and waste management programmes;
- ◆ integrating environment, population and development issues;
- ◆ enforcing procedures for environmental impact assessments;
- ◆ monitoring climate change, variability and sea level rise; and,
- ◆ increasing environmental education, information and awareness activities.

To plan and implement effective strategies in these vital areas, we will need, in these times of so-called "donor fatigue", to demonstrate our effectiveness at all times. Again, the region should have a clear vision of its priorities and realistic ideas of what it can achieve.

Above all, SPREP needs the continued commitment and cooperation of all its member governments as it begins planning for beyond 2000. With this we can look forward to meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

Can Pacific islanders sustain their lifestyles and their environments? It is SPREP's aim to achieve this.

Photo: SPREP

