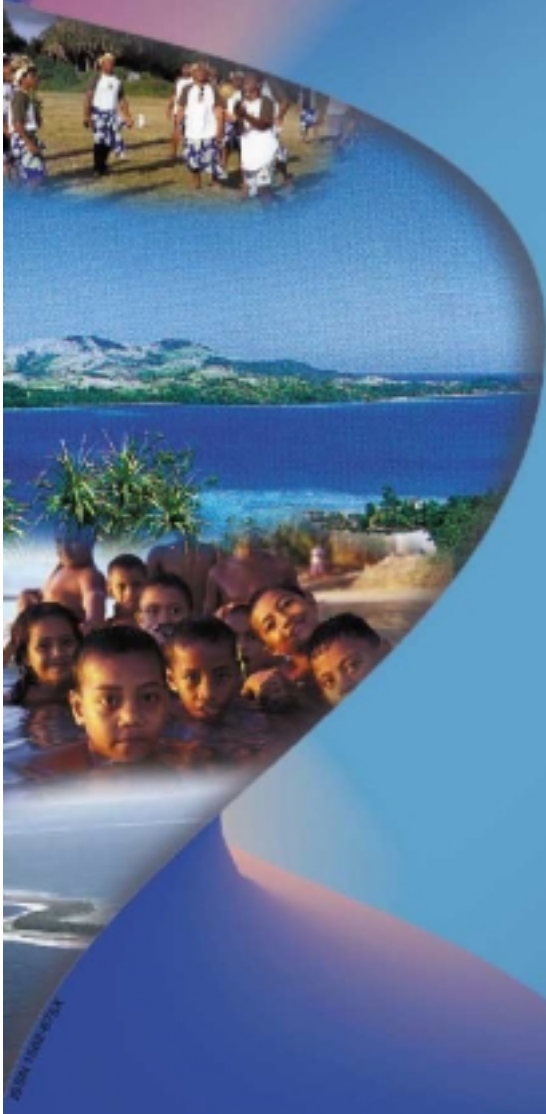




South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
Annual Report 1998



SPREP member countries

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

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FOREWORD

“Do we really have anything worthwhile to celebrate as we leave behind the old and usher in the new millennium...if all we can expect is the ever-increasing pace of environmental degradation that is in evidence today...if the Northern Group of the Cook Islands or the islands of Kiribati, Tokelau and Tuvalu are to disappear beneath the ocean? What is there for us to celebrate in the new millenium if the very biodiversity that we all need to sustain our very lives were to completely disappear from the face of our planet?” Tamari'i Tutangata, excerpt of speech at 10th SPREP Meeting.



Foreword

It is good news for the Pacific environment that there was a discernible increase in focus by member countries, donor agencies, and development partners on matters environmental. Within SPREP itself, this trend was reflected in its expanded workload in 1998.

With SPREP coordination, a wide variety of Governments and organisations agreed on two action strategies that will yield long-term benefits for the Pacific environment—the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region 1999–2002, and the Action Strategy for Environmental Education and Training in the Pacific Region 1999–2003.

Coordination and collaboration are the keys to successful activities to protect and improve the Pacific's fragile environment. No one organisation or country alone can achieve this important and massive task, and virtually all SPREP's programme work incorporates this fact, involving close collaboration with partner agencies and member countries.

Some new SPREP projects gathered momentum during 1998, beginning a broad range of intensive activities in the fields of bird conservation, invasive species, marine pollution, solid waste and toxic chemicals pollution, and capacity-building for environmental management in the Pacific.

These projects build on existing SPREP project activities in the fields of nature and biological diversity conservation, responses to climate change, integrated coastal management, minimisation of pollution, sustainable development planning and strengthening of the region's environmental education, training and information systems.

SPREP responds to requests from its member countries, who direct the Secretariat on its work programme and priorities. Therefore, the most important event in 1998—the Tenth SPREP Meeting—held in Apia, Samoa from 15–18 September, provided valuable guidance, direction and feedback on SPREP activities. Member countries considered and approved some new SPREP project proposals.

Member countries made a number of considered and detailed comments on SPREP's programme work. These included a request that SPREP should follow up with members the desirability of early ratification of the Waigani Convention, which deals with transport and disposal of hazardous wastes. Members commended a broad range of SPREP programme activities, including in particular the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme with its focus on conserving natural resources while at the same time assisting communities to derive economic gain from them.

A number of member countries requested more assistance and greater emphasis on waste management and pollution.

Tamari'i Tutangata
Director

Dorothy Kamu
Personal Assistant to Director

Apiseta Eti
Personal Assistant to Deputy
Director

Members also commended the SPREP Library/Information Centre's activities. They recommended that SPREP should continue its Small Grants Scheme, Country Attachment and Internship programmes, and said that Environmental Education should be internally coordinated across all SPREP's work programme areas.

In an important new initiative, SPREP staff began working to an output-based budgeting system, allied to a system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of SPREP project implementation activities. This new budget system will provide SPREP with a more transparent and defined budget, with outputs and performance indicators that reflect the attainment of goals and strategic objectives as defined in the SPREP Action Plan 1997 – 2000. It will improve the way information and knowledge is managed, and should give clearer guidance to member countries of the benefits and support they could expect to receive during 1999.

Critical to the successful implementation of a performance based budget design is a robust system for monitoring and evaluation, which will enable SPREP to assess whether the pre-determined performance indicators and goals have been achieved. An assessment of SPREP interventions through the monitoring and evaluation process will influence further sector assistance as well as improve future project design and the allocation of resources. The system will give member countries and donors better means to evaluate SPREP activities in meeting the strategic objectives.

One other pleasing development during 1998 was the further steps taken towards establishment of a new SPREP Centre in Apia. SPREP staff have coped without complaint in increasingly cramped temporary accommodation, but space restrictions now mean we have had to defer internships and country attachments until our new premises are built, simply because there is not the physical space to locate any extra workers.

I would like therefore to extend sincere thanks for the generosity of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, which undertook to contribute more than three-quarters of the funding for the new Centre. SPREP continues to be very grateful to the Government of Samoa which formally assigned a prime 10-acre site on the slopes above Apia, in 1995 for the SPREP Centre. Thanks also are due to other SPREP member Governments who provided the balance of contributions namely France, Papua New Guinea and the United States. The People's Republic of China also generously made a contribution.

We can now look forward to the SPREP Centre construction commencing in 1999 and for SPREP staff to be in occupation in 2000.

1998 has not been without its difficulties. There is an obvious need for better coordination of in-country activities along with those of other regional and international agencies. It is also clear that while most members have increased the resources that they allocate to environmental management, a few have not been able to do so.

Tamari'i Tutangata

Director

INTRODUCTION

In the Pacific, communities own some 80 per cent of all natural resources. Projects which aim to conserve, protect and improve these resources will only succeed in the long term if the community understands and supports the initiative, and is involved in the decision-making and management processes from the outset.

OBJECTIVES

1. To protect natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. To understand and respond to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management.
3. To minimise pollution and wastes, and improve preparedness for pollution emergencies.
4. To plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.
5. To strengthen environmental education, training and information systems.

Introduction

What is SPREP?

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme is the intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting cooperation and supporting protection and improvement of the Pacific environment and ensuring its sustainable development.

Its members are the Governments and Administrations of 22 Pacific island countries and four developed countries with direct interests in the Pacific islands region.

SPREP's activities are guided by its Action Plan, which is agreed by SPREP member countries. Their vision is that SPREP should work towards achieving a community of Pacific island countries and territories with the capacity and commitment to implement programmes for environmental management and conservation.

What approach does SPREP take?

SPREP's activities focus strongly on building the capacity of Pacific island countries to sustainably manage their environment and natural resources.

Upskilling and training of Government officials and non-governmental organisation (NGO) workers is also considered essential, to ensure that they will continue the implementation of environmental management and protection programmes in the long term. Overseas experts contribute invaluable knowledge and experience to SPREP projects, but if these projects are to become embedded in a country's policy and planning procedures in the long term, they must be accepted as essential and practicable by officials and other environmental workers in that country.

Who funds SPREP's programmes?

Major donors include the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Canada – South Pacific Ocean Development Program (C-SPOD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), New Zealand Official Development Assistance (NZODA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Other funding comes from member Government contributions, with other donor funds for specific activities from various Governments and from international and regional organisations.

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CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

To protect natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity



Photo by Paddy Ryan

Conservation Areas; Species Conservation and Sustainable Use;
Regional Invasive Species; Conventions and Agreements;
Coastal Management and Planning.

IOSEFATU RETI, HEAD OF DIVISION AND PROGRAMME MANAGER, SPBCP

Samuelu Sesega, Resource Management Officer; Francois Martel, Socioeconomic Officer; Sue Miller, Biodiversity Officer;
Greg Sherley, Invasive Species Officer; James Aston, Coastal Management Officer; Lucille Apis-Overhoff, Wetlands
Management Officer, Selesitina Pule'aga, Executive Officer; Ruta Couper, Secretary; Sarona Stanley, Divisional Assistant.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Conservation of Natural Resources division focuses on implementing Objective 1 of the 1997–2000 SPREP Action Plan: to protect natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Division is guided in its overall programming by the 1999–2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region. This strategy is the only regional planning document for nature conservation and essentially provides one voice for conservation priorities. It represents the views of governmental and non-governmental agencies active in nature conservation work at the national, regional and international levels, and was designed through a highly participatory process which was facilitated by SPREP. It has been endorsed by all SPREP member countries.

The Conservation of Natural Resources Division currently has five main programme initiatives:

- ▣ Conservation Areas
- ▣ Species conservation and sustainable use
- ▣ Regional invasive species
- ▣ Conventions and agreements
- ▣ Coastal management and planning



The Division also uses other specific strategic tools for individual programme priorities and actions. These are designed largely by networks in the region who actively work on programme issues such as the Regional Wetlands Action Plan, the Regional Avifauna Conservation Strategy and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Pacific Region Strategy.

The Coastal Management and Planning Programme, which is integrated into other Conservation of Natural Resources activities, also contributes to Objective 2 of the 1997–2000 SPREP Action Plan: to understand and respond to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management.

The guiding document for nature conservation work in the Pacific.

Conservation Area Programme

The Pacific has more rare, endangered and endemic plants and animals per unit of land area than anywhere else on earth. Increasingly, this wealth of biodiversity is under threat. Rapid population growth, destruction of irreplaceable natural resources by logging, mining and agricultural activities, overharvesting of fish, wildlife and plants, and the pressures of economic development all contribute to an accelerating degradation of a formerly pristine environment.

The South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) was established five years ago in an attempt to reverse this degradation. This programme identifies, establishes and manages community-based conservation areas. It is funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Community involvement is critical for successful conservation work in the Pacific. Communities are the owners and custodians of some 80 percent of the region's natural resources. They rely on these resources for food, water and shelter, and have a long-term interest in protecting and conserving them for future generations. The SPBCP approach has been to work with communities, in partnership with Government ministries, non-governmental organisations and other regional organisations, to establish a series of large, diverse Conservation Area Projects (CAPs).

Management models are being developed which achieve concrete outputs and which can be replicated in other parts of the region. The SPBCP supports ancillary activities linked to specific CAPs, such as information management and dissemination, training attachments, species protection and action-oriented conservation policy analysis.

The CAPs have attempted to achieve a balance between the conservation of natural resources on the one hand and their sustainable use on the other. Generation of monetary and other benefits from sustainable use of the CAP resources provides for the cash and subsistence needs of the resident communities, thus reinforcing their support and commitment to the long-term conservation of their natural resources.

Establishment of Conservation Area Projects

Three new CAPs—Jaluit Atoll, Marshall Islands; Rock Islands, Palau; and Cook Islet, Kiribati—were approved in 1998. The SPBCP now supports 17 Conservation Area Projects in 12 Pacific island countries. Only two of the 14 eligible countries have yet to establish CAPs under the programme.

In 1998 the SPBCP and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) jointly organised a sub-regional training workshop for Conservation Area Support Officers (CASOs) and other conservation officials in the Melanesia sub-region, focusing on community-based resource management. The workshop, held in Gizo, Solomon Islands, covered a multitude of conservation topics including participatory planning, conservation, development, administration and other aspects of CAP establishment and management.

Many CAPs have also developed and implemented their own training programmes using locally produced training materials. SPREP, USP and the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL) are currently investigating establishment of a Protected Area Training Centre for the Pacific.

Three CAPs have developed integrated management plans for their areas. A further five will complete their management plans by the end of 1999. The remaining CAPs are still in the



The SPBCP approach has been to work with communities, in partnership with Government ministries, non-governmental organisations and other regional organisations, to establish a series of large, diverse Conservation Area Projects (CAPs).

process of collecting baseline information on their resources—an essential first step in development of an integrated management plan.

Existing GEF funding for the SPBCP is expected to end in 2001. A draft ‘transition strategy’ for the SPBCP has been produced to show how the programme will prepare CAPs for this event. In 1999 individual CAPs will be assisted to prepare similar strategies for their respective projects.

During 1998 work began on developing success indicators to measure and monitor the performance of the SPBCP and of individual projects. This work will be completed in June 1999. The indicators will be trialled in three CAPs before they are adopted and applied more widely.

Publicity for the SPBCP and the CAPs continued to form an important part of the work carried out in 1998. Results and lessons learned have been documented and disseminated through case studies, reports, news articles and videos.

Species Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme

Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme

Turtles live long lives and are slow to breed, and in the Pacific region, all six species of turtle are now endangered species. Turtles are also a shared migratory resource, often feeding and breeding in different countries. Therefore, to be successful, conservation and wise management measures must involve the whole region as well as individual countries. This cooperation is facilitated by the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme (RMTCP), which SPREP coordinates. The RMTCP network is composed of governmental and non-governmental representatives who are active in turtle conservation management in the region.

In 1998 RMTCP activities concentrated on responding to country and NGO requests for funding and technical assistance for turtle survey and monitoring, and public awareness activities. RMTCP also continued to provide funding, database, policy and technical support to help in implementation of the RMTCP Strategic Plan, which was drawn up by the RMTCP Network and is facilitated by SPREP. Ongoing turtle conservation projects in Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu continued well in 1998. Further support for these initiatives and for new initiatives in Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and other countries is being sought in 1999.

A new programme of support was designed as part of the second phase of the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program (CSPODP-II). This new programme will be implemented during 1999–2001. It concentrates on developing a series of comprehensive in-country programmes including Country Attachments at SPREP for turtle project managers. These Country Attachments will develop targeted turtle conservation projects for their respective countries, undertake training in turtle management and gain experience in regional programme management.

Regional Marine Mammals Conservation Programme

Marine mammals were formerly an important part of the Pacific Ocean's biodiversity. Many species have been devastated by commercial whaling operations or by overharvesting of particular species, such as the dugong. SPREP's Regional Marine Mammals Conservation Programme helps Pacific island countries conserve and wisely manage their marine mammal biodiversity, including migratory species that visit the region to breed and raise their young.

In 1998 the programme continued to focus on supporting countries' work in sustainably developing whale watching tourism. This work included helping with the implementation of Tonga's Vision 2000 for Whale Watching Tourism. SPREP provided advice on licensing issues, partially funded ongoing research into the distribution and abundance of humpback whales in Tonga, provided further training of guides and operators and carried out whale watching education and awareness activities. This work was undertaken in partnership with the NGO "Whales Alive" and researchers from the South Pacific Humpback Whale Project.

SPREP staff continued to supply member countries with policy advice and technical assistance, including information and advice on whaling issues. In 1998 briefings and policy advice were developed for the South Pacific Forum's consideration of a South Pacific Whale Sanctuary, which would complement the existing Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary created by the International Whaling Commission. The Forum subsequently endorsed development of the proposal for a South Pacific Whale Sanctuary. SPREP provided a briefing and an advisor to Pacific island countries and territories attending the October 1998 meetings on the sanctuary and has followed up with suggestions for a proposal development process in 1999 to maximise opportunities for a sanctuary to support capacity building and other needs for marine mammal conservation and management in Pacific island countries.

Regional Avifauna Conservation Programme

A high proportion of birds on Pacific islands are native to that particular ecosystem, and many are now threatened by introduced predators, loss of habitat and in some cases harvesting. The Regional Avifauna Conservation Programme helps Pacific island countries conserve this important part of their biodiversity, through a strategy for regional cooperation, and by meeting country requests for funding and technical advice to support national avifauna projects. This support included assistance with surveys and education and awareness programmes.

The Field Guide to Niue's Birds is now being distributed.

Lack of funding and limited staff capacity continued to limit the RACP's ability to support national activities in 1998. However, in the second half of 1998 additional staff and project resources were secured from New Zealand Official Development Assistance (NZODA). Dr Greg Sherley, recruited from the Department of Conservation in New Zealand, is now coordinating the RACP. His initial work in 1998 started the review of the RACP strategy and developed a partnership with Birdlife International for sub-regional avifauna capacity building workshops which will start in Polynesia in the first half of 1999. A draft report on the conservation status of Polynesian birds has been completed as part of resource preparation for this meeting.



A member of the "Turtle Monitors Network" stands ready to release another turtle to the sea.



The brown tree snake has all but silenced the bird songs of Guam.

Regional Invasive Species Programme

Invasive species are typically aggressive exotic species which out-compete or displace native species, or change the whole physical nature of existing communities making them unsuitable for native species. The threats from invasive species are increasing for Pacific island countries, which are particularly vulnerable due to the lack of adequate border controls and fragile native communities.

Two of the highest-profile invasive species are the brown tree snake which has virtually eliminated Guam's native birds; and the Miconia tree which has destroyed up to 70 percent of Tahiti's native forests. However, there is more danger to native communities from less conspicuous species such as the tramp ant and rodents.

In 1998 funding from the Governments of New Zealand and Australia provided a needed injection of resources and expertise to SPREP's Regional Invasive Species Programme, which aims to address the problem of invasive species as they affect biodiversity and conservation values in the Pacific islands region. Initial stages of the programme involved:

- ▣ working with the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to finalise the format of a technical review identifying types and locations of invasive species which threaten Pacific biodiversity and potential options for action;
- ▣ formation of an expert taskforce; and
- ▣ development of a working relationship with United States and territorial agencies which have active programmes targeting eradication and control of invasive species.

The technical review will be used as the basis for developing a regional invasive species strategy at a workshop to be held in 1999.

Biodiversity Conventions and Agreements Programme

Biodiversity-related Conventions

SPREP continued to provide technical assistance, information and advice to member countries to enable them to assess, comply with and/or implement their obligations to regional and international biodiversity-related conventions. In 1998 work focused on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention (dealing with protection of wetlands).

In partnership with the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) and the World Wide Fund For Nature – South Pacific (WWF-SP), SPREP convened a workshop in 1998 which focused on Pacific island countries and their CBD implementation needs and concerns. This workshop provided draft training information packages on issues such as access to genetic resources, traditional knowledge, national coordination, biosafety and intellectual property rights. It also provided a mechanism for PICs to develop agreed policy and a strategy for the CBD's Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4, May 1998).

The resulting *Nadi Statement* embodied Pacific island countries' regional priorities for CBD issues and COP4 actions. Pacific island delegates successfully followed through their strategy for action at COP4, with assistance from SPREP.

Regional priorities are being developed into a series of funding proposals to assist Pacific island countries to implement this Convention.

The Kingdom of Tonga and the Government of Palau have now acceded to the CBD, raising to 13 the number of Pacific island countries which are now Parties to the CBD.

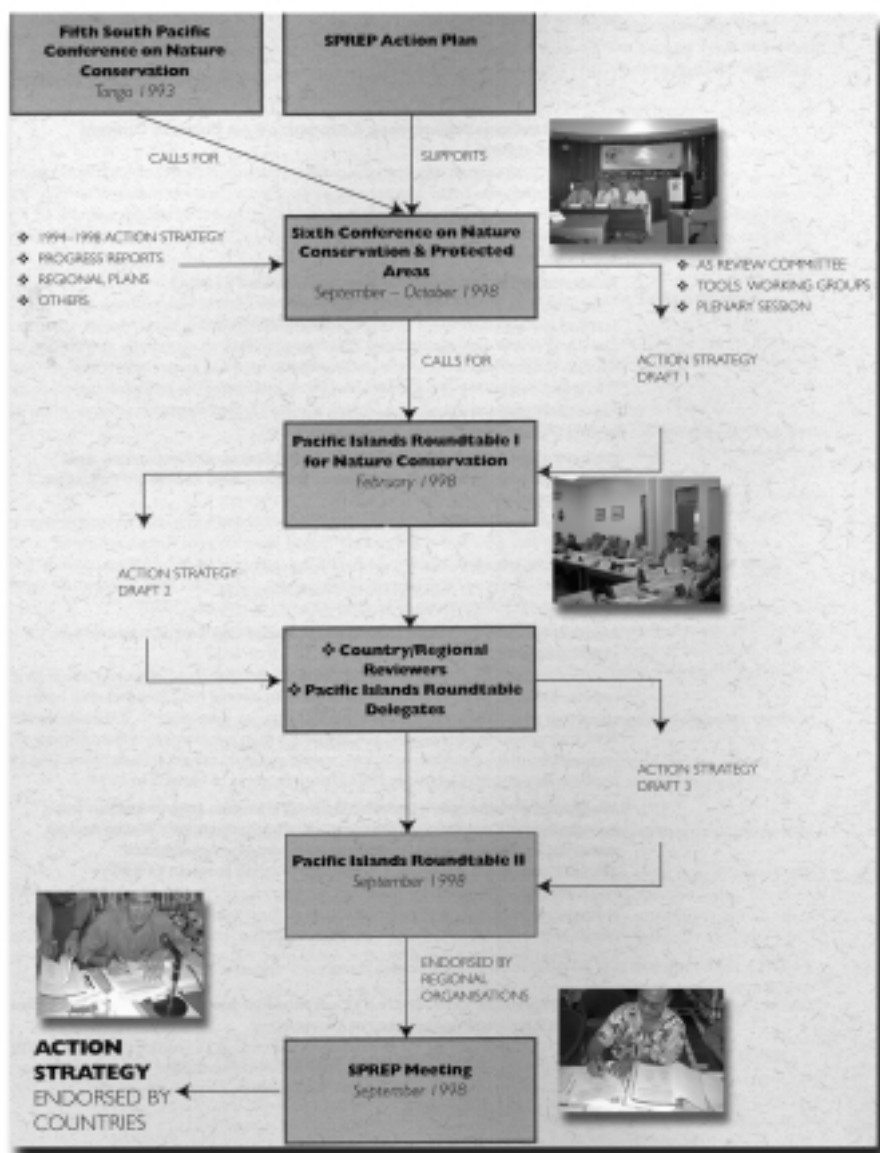
SPREP also assisted with planning and implementation of the first-ever Oceania Regional Meeting on the Ramsar Convention (December 1998, New Zealand). This meeting focused on supporting Pacific island countries as they developed recommendations and actions to improve wetland management in the region.

The review process and final endorsement by Pacific island nations of the "Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Region. 1999–2002".

1999—2002 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region

Revision of the 1994–1998 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation began during the Sixth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, held in Pohnpei, Fed-

erated States of Micronesia in September 1997. The strategy has now been circulated widely and has received input from a broad range of individuals and organisations working on conservation in the region. All SPREP members endorsed the strategy in September 1998 and it will be launched in 1999.



Nature Conservation Roundtable

For the first time, regional and international agencies which work actively in nature conservation work in the Pacific have met to refine and improve conservation action as part of the development and implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands Region. These meetings were requested by the Pohnpei conference and organised by SPREP in February and September 1998. Further meetings are planned for 1999. The Nature Conservation Roundtable was also directed by the Pohnpei conference to develop ways of effectively monitoring progress on the Action Strategy, including identifying key indicators. The Roundtable initiative is proving a useful and effective forum for regional and international agencies to work together and share information on conservation initiatives.



Coastal Management and Planning Programme

Virtually all islands in the Pacific region are entirely coastal in character: all parts of the islands influence, or are influenced by, processes and activities occurring on coastal lands and near-shore waters. The vast majority of people in the Pacific live in coastal areas, which are the focus of subsistence and commercial agricultural and fisheries activities and the target of most economic development on islands. Increasingly, this combination of factors is resulting in destruction and degradation of coastal habitats and the biological diversity which they support.

The Coastal Management and Planning Programme aims to build the capacity of relevant government agencies and local communities to effectively plan, manage and use coastal areas and coastal resources on a sustainable basis. Its projects aim to initiate a targeted and uniquely Pacific approach to integrated coastal management and planning. In 1998 the programme:

- ▣ evaluated the 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef Campaign
- ▣ provided training in coastal management issues, marine habitat survey and monitoring techniques
- ▣ coordinated and conducted individual coastal management activities
- ▣ established pilot projects to demonstrate tools such as Integrated Coastal Management for the effective management of coastal ecosystems and as a response to climate change

International Coral Reef Pacific Strategy Implementation

The 1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef campaign—part of ICRI—was evaluated at a regional meeting held in Nadi, Fiji in April 1998. The evaluation revealed a large number of success stories such as the reintroduction of traditional management methods, development of codes of conduct for conserving coral reefs, innovative awareness raising methods including dancing and music competitions, and beach and reef clean ups. Limiting factors related to finance, time, lack of commitment by some committee members, staff departures, weak linkages to the private sector, difficulty in enforcing legislation and language barriers.

At the evaluation meeting, 15 countries also identified and prioritised coral reef issues and concerns that arose out of the campaign and developed an *Activity Plan for the Conservation of Coral Reefs in the Pacific Islands Region* to address these issues and maintain the momentum of the 1997 campaign. This *Activity Plan* puts forward national and regional actions identified by working groups within the areas of: Education and Awareness; Monitoring, Assessment and Research; Capacity Building; Legislation; and Networking/linkages.

A further follow-up to the 1997 campaign was the “train-the-trainers” community ecotourism workshop held in Vanuatu in November 1998 for the Melanesia sub-region. This workshop aimed to provide communities with user-friendly alternatives of earning an income from their coral reef resources, through ecotourism activities tailored to community conditions.



Surveying and Monitoring Coastal Habitats Programme

The most effective way to manage coral reef resources and reduce the damaging impacts of human activities is through the direct involvement of people. This can only occur if people are aware of the health or otherwise of reefs, their economic and cultural values and the damage being done to reefs and probable causes.

The key therefore is to provide communities with the capacity to assess their own resources, within a global network, and to spread the word on the importance of reefs and trends in their state of health. SPREP is the Pacific coordinator for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and for Reef Check, an associated network established specifically for the Pacific. Regional, sub-regional and national training courses in coral reef monitoring methods were held during 1998 in a range of Pacific island countries.

Two sub-regional ‘train the trainer’ workshops on coral reef survey and monitoring techniques were held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and in Fiji. The goal was to train participants from the middle levels of government to a level where they could conduct national training programmes in their home countries.

SPREP also organised a ‘train the trainer’ course in advanced coral reef monitoring techniques at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Orpheus Island Research Station, Australia in March 1998. The training enhanced teaching skills in the manta tow and line intercept techniques and improved participants’ knowledge of monitoring coral reef communities. It also covered coral reef troubleshooting.

During 1998, the feasibility of a village-level coral reef monitoring programme was tested as part of a pilot study in six villages on the island of Upolu, Samoa. The project, designed and implemented in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific and the Government of Samoa Fisheries Division, provides a basis for a village-level coral reef monitoring programme that is cost-effective, directly involves the stake holders and minimises involvement of government or other scientific personnel.

Pacific countries meet to evaluate the 1997 Pacific Coral Reef campaign and to plan future activities to ensure the survival of the Pacific’s coral reefs and related ecosystems.

Integrated Coastal Management and Planning

This project aims to improve the capacity of Pacific island countries to respond to changes and threats to coastal areas and resources by building the skills, confidence and capacity of local governments and people to manage coastal areas and resources on a sustainable basis. Activities carried out in 1998 include:

- ▣ Formation of Coastal Advisory groups in three countries—or establishment of linkages with existing groups—to build strategic alliances amongst a range of stakeholders including representatives of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Public Works, Tourism and Environment Departments; small business operators and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These Coastal Advisory groups were introduced to the concept of Integrated Coastal Management and have been encouraged to develop and trial the principles and practices of integrated coastal management.
- ▣ A seminar on Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Coastal Uses in the Pacific was held in Nadi, Fiji during May 1998 in partnership with the World Bank Economic Development Institute. All Pacific island countries were represented, along with participants from New Zealand and Australia. The seminar was designed to promote awareness and



understanding of key ecological, economic, and social issues, including legal and institutional issues, which affect marine biodiversity.

- ▣ Funding support was provided for project consultancies on Assessment of Coral Reef Stresses using Satellite Imagery (Fiji) and a Social/Economic Study of Dredging Activities within Pohnpei (FSM).
- ▣ Staff from the Coastal Management Programme attended several regional and international meetings, workshops and conferences to better coordinate efforts to conserve and manage coastal resources within the Pacific region.
- ▣ A two-phase Pilot Information Management Workshop for Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) coordinators was conducted in Apia, Samoa and Port Vila, Vanuatu, in partnership with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Sustainable Management of Wetlands, Mangroves and Seagrasses Programme

This programme encourages the management of mangroves as a renewable resource through community-based projects including the coordination and facilitation of mangrove area research, monitoring and management activities. Due to staff and funding limitations, activities relating to wetlands conservation could only be conducted under the auspices of the ongoing activities of the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef campaign, and through general capacity building initiatives under the Coastal Planning and Management Programme.

NOTE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION



It is probably unfair to say that 1998 was a more successful year than the previous one. Unfair because circumstances have neither been the same throughout the year for member countries to allow for a fair comparison, nor have all the SPREP-supported conservation projects started from an even footing, especially when compared with 1993 when a major injection of funds through the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) was made to a number of Pacific island countries for the conservation of biological diversity.

What is fairer to say is that 1998 had its special milestones that made it a successful year for the Division. The following are but a few of the more important achievements of the year.

Three new Conservation Area Projects (CAPs) were approved for SPBCP support bringing to 17 the number of CAPs supported by the Programme. This is exactly 50 per cent of the total number of CAPs established in the Pacific region over the past ten years and two projects more than the anticipated target for the SPBCP set in 1993.

With advice from the Technical and Management Advisory Group (TMAG) of the SPBCP, the Multipartite Review Meeting recommended that the Programme should aim to adequately prepare the CAPs for their transition from SPBCP support to self-reliance by the year 2001. This is to be achieved through a participatory and consultative process involving conservation officials, relevant government agencies and NGOs, local communities and other partners in

Community involvement is critical for successful conservation work in the Pacific.



the CAPs. This will be a key task for SPBCP staff in 1999. The finalisation and application of success indicators for the SPBCP and the CAPs will greatly assist us in this work.

With funding support from the governments of New Zealand and Australia and with technical assistance from a number of US agencies, a new project was launched to help develop the capacity of Pacific island countries to control, monitor and eradicate invasive species which are emerging as a major concern for a number of countries in the region. By necessity, this project will also aim to develop closer cooperation between a number of government agencies such as customs, immigration and environment and conservation to control the introduction of invasive species into Pacific island countries.

The signing of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation by eight different regional and international organisations, and by the Chair of the SPREP Meeting on behalf of all Pacific island countries, signalled a new era in the history of natural resource conservation in the Pacific. Their endorsement of the Strategy as the blueprint for conservation in the Pacific and their commitment to participating in the Action Strategy Roundtable process at their own costs can point to a common approach for the effective management of the resources of the islands and to closer cooperation between governments, donors and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity in the Pacific region.

With funding support from UNDP, a number of PICs are developing Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans which are expected to be the key planning documents for biodiversity conservation in the countries concerned. Divisional staff have provided invaluable support and advice to Pacific island countries during this process, capitalising on the experiences and lessons learned by the SPBCP over the past six years.

Last but not least, there has been remarkable and growing interest in marine resource conservation as a result of training and awareness raising initiatives undertaken within the broad scope of the Coastal Management and Planning Programme. All three new Conservation Area Projects under the SPBCP are marine areas and we hear of other similar initiatives being proposed for other programmes outside SPREP. Together, these initiatives should achieve a better balance between the conservation of land and sea resources.

The success or otherwise of activities undertaken by the Division is best measured at the country/project site where these activities are actually performed. It is only appropriate therefore that I acknowledge here the invaluable support and contribution of conservation officials, community and NGO representatives in our member countries whose forbearance and perseverance with the many demands of the task of managing natural resources under very trying circumstances speak volumes for their commitment and dedication to the wise management of our natural resources. To all of you and to the hard working staff of the CNR Division, thank you for another great and productive year.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

**To plan, manage and regulate development in
a manner that is environmentally sustainable**

**To strengthen environmental education,
training and information systems**



**Information and Publications; Library/Information Resource Centre;
Information and Computer Technology; Environmental Education;
Building for Environmental Management; Institutional
Strengthening and Support to Conventions.**

NEVA WENDT, HEAD OF DIVISION

Fatu Tauafi, Information and Publications Officer; Jan Sinclair, Editorial/Publications Officer; Satui Bentin, Information Resource Centre Manager; Merimeto Keil/Tologau Uatison, Library Assistants; Herve Dropsy, IT Manager; Matilda Meredith-Tapuso, Assistant Computer IT Officer; Seema Deo, Environmental Education Officer; Tiare Turang-Holm, Palau country attachment to SPREP; Craig Wilson, Project Manager, CBEMP; Bernard Moutou/Clare Cory/Andreas Volentras, Legal Officers; Susana Kilepoa, Divisional Assistant, Quandovita Reid-Tuala, Divisional Assistant.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The work of the Environmental Education, Information and Capacity Building division cuts across all areas of the SPREP Action Plan. This division's activities specifically address two Action Plan objectives:

- * To plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable; and
- * To strengthen environmental education, training and information systems

However, this division supplies comprehensive support for all other SPREP activities, providing professional services that enhance the full range of SPREP project work. These services encompass publications, public relations, information clearinghouse, information technology, education, awareness-raising, legislative and international Convention support. They also include arrangement of volunteers, interns and country attachments, administration of a small grants scheme, institutional strengthening and capacity building, which again cut across all programme areas.

The early 1999 addition of a Training Officer to provide professional advice and expertise for both in-house and external training activities further strengthens the cross-cutting nature of this division's activities.



Some of the people and events in 1998.

Information and Publications section

All of SPREP's project activities hinge on timely and targeted information. SPREP's information and publications section has three important roles:

- ❁ **Timely publication of quality reports on SPREP programme activities**
- ❁ **Dissemination of information about SPREP programme activities to member countries, regional and international agencies, non-governmental organisations and the media**
- ❁ **Development of strategies to raise awareness of environmental issues of concern to the region, and to improve understanding of all SPREP programme activities.**

In 1998 SPREP's publications and information section was strengthened by a Commonwealth Secretariat posting of an Editorial and Publications Officer. This doubled the section's staffing and made possible a greater emphasis on media and general information work, as well as improving the section's ability to deliver quality reports in a timely manner.

During 1998 the Information and Publications section:

- ❁ Cleared a backlog of publications that had built up due to insufficient staff numbers
- ❁ Redesigned and standardised the style of SPREP publications including the Environment newsletter and the 1996–97 SPREP Annual Report
- ❁ Began identifying consultants to enable outsourcing of editorial, layout and design of the growing number of SPREP publications, to prevent build-up of another backlog as new projects and programme officers come on board
- ❁ Substantially increased the flow of media releases about SPREP programme activity, from nine (9) in 1997 to 56 in 1998
- ❁ Achieved a significant increase in media coverage of SPREP programme activities within the Pacific islands region, and in radio and print coverage in New Zealand and Australia
- ❁ Provided training in media liaison and interviews, for Pacific island delegates to the Fourth Conference of Parties to the Climate Convention, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 1998, and achieved international coverage of Pacific island concerns, including coverage by CNN, BBC World TV and Reuters TV
- ❁ Provided specialised media support for the regional evaluation of the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef campaign, and for the Environmental Education and Training conference held in Suva, Fiji in mid-1998
- ❁ Developed, with the assistance of a consultant, a marketing strategy to better inform donors of the work carried out by SPREP
- ❁ Organised a range of presentations of SPREP programme activities, for groups ranging from school children to high-level diplomatic delegations

Funding for the work and services carried out by this section of SPREP comes mainly from NZODA and AusAID, with the Commonwealth Secretariat funding the Editorial/Publications Officer position.

Library/Information Resource Centre

Information is fundamentally important in the development of national policies and, more specifically, regional environmental projects. In the early stages of project development, a thorough search of the available literature will reveal what has already been done, thus avoiding duplication of effort. Given the vast potential amount of information now available, selection and organisation of that information are the keys to ensuring that relevant documents are available at the right time to the right person.

In 1998, demand for environmental information from both the Secretariat and from member countries has continued to grow. The launching of the SPREP website in 1998 added a new

**SPREP's library/
information centre
has been
developed as the
nucleus of an
environmental
information
network, with
connections to
specialised
environmental
information centres
in the Pacific, and
to international
networks.**

dimension to SPREP's role of acting as an environmental information clearinghouse, with a substantial increase in the number of requests for information coming in from the outside world, compared with 1997.

Supplying the information needs of the full range of SPREP projects continues to take up 70 percent of the Information Centre's personnel time, while the remaining 30 percent is spent servicing requests for information from member countries.

In February 1998, the first 'Environmental Information Clearinghouse Sub-regional Workshop' was held in Apia, with funding assistance from AusAID. It was attended by environmental officials from the six countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu) involved in the Environmental Information Network which was first established in 1995. Palau and FSM attended as observers. The workshop offered advanced training in using the information management software packages InMagic Plus and DB Text, and served also as a forum for participants to share problems and solutions in managing an expanding flow of information.

In 1998 the Library/Information Resource Centre provided Pacific island countries with photocopiers, funded by AusAID, to assist environmental departments in the re-packaging and dissemination of information to the community at large.

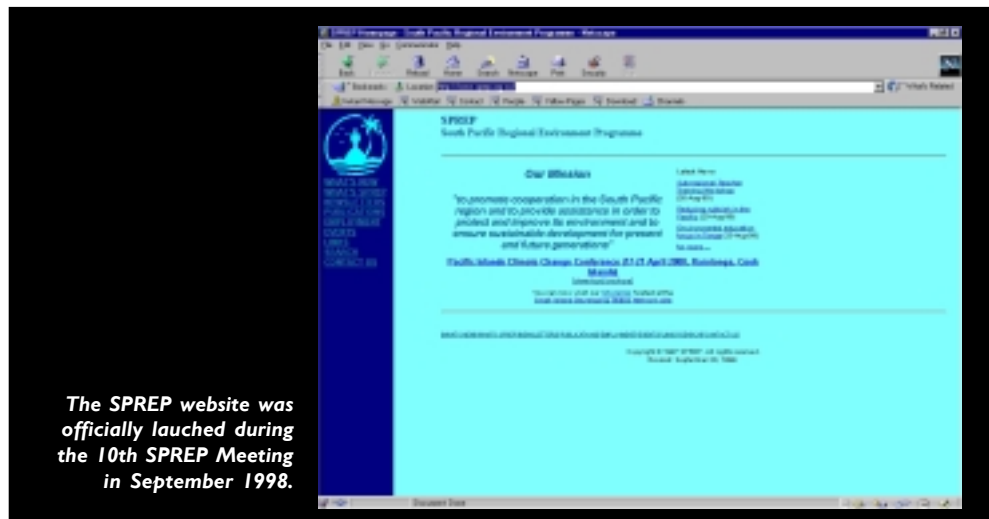
Information and computer technology

SPREP's Information Technology (IT) section had a year of transition in 1997 because of a complete turnover of staff. Consequently, in 1998 staff focused on strengthening SPREP's information technology infrastructure, including, in particular, extending the availability of Internet facilities within SPREP. There is a growing emphasis on coordinating the information technology needs and capacities of all SPREP activities and in 1999 it is planned to address more directly the information technology needs of SPREP member countries. A continual increase in IT workload, and in project activities, means information technology staff must also address the need to keep IT resources, both human and infrastructural, at adequate levels.

SPREP website

The SPREP website—<http://www.sprep.org.ws/>—was established as part of SPREP's commitment to produce and distribute environmental information about the Pacific through a variety of means, in line with SPREP's mandate to act as a clearinghouse for environmental information in the Pacific. It went online in July 1998, and was officially launched during the 10th SPREP Meeting in September 1998. This website provides Internet users with a wide range of technical, scientific and educational information about the Pacific environment, including the latest news of SPREP's project activities. Three separate newsletters are available on the website: the general Environment newsletter, covering all aspects of SPREP activities; the CASOLink newsletter, which deals with developments in the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) Conservation Areas; and the newsletter from SPREP's climate change and sea-level rise monitoring project.

New SPREP reports and publications are also available, and it is planned in future to extend the information to reports, conferences, workshops and project activities. During 1998 the website was upgraded with a Search Engine capability.



Internet connection

Digital communication and access to data within SPREP has been improved and strengthened. After a difficult year in 1997 due to the uncertain Internet connectivity at national level, this year saw the establishment of a reliable Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Samoa. SPREP's Information Technology (IT) staff worked closely with this new provider and as a result SPREP was the first institution in Samoa to regain full online access, in March 1998.

Corporate services

SPREP's corporate database, which was developed under a consultancy agreement by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), became functional during the first quarter of 1998, and has already proven to be a useful tool, providing faster and easier access to corporate information. This database will be reviewed and upgraded in 1999 to align it with the additional needs arising from the new performance and output-based work programme.

In 1998 the Information Technology section also studied ways of streamlining and enhancing SPREP's internal processes using the various potential applications of information technology to allow SPREP to manage its information more effectively and therefore more efficiently deliver programmes to member countries. This continual search for more effective and easier processes which integrate information technology is essential, given the growing workload for SPREP programme activities in general, and for the Information Technology section in particular.

Y2K Strategy

As the new millennium rapidly approaches, it has become apparent that there is considerable uncertainty about the potential effects of the "Millennium Bug" – otherwise known as the Y2K bug. This problem arises because many computers as now configured cannot recognise the year 2000. If not fixed, many computers will read "00" as 1900. That could cause many computers to crash or malfunction, possibly irreparably, after 1 January 2000. During 1998 SPREP established an active Y2K task force to assess and if necessary fix possible Y2K problems that might arise and disturb normal SPREP functions. During the 10th SPREP Meeting, a presentation to member countries emphasised the urgent need to assess and address this challenge. SPREP's Information Technology staff have been involved in discussions concerning the Y2K bug, with various regional and international organisations including the World Bank and AusAID. They also provided technical advice to the Fifth Meeting of Regional Meteorological Service Directors, held in Honolulu, Hawai'i in April 1998.

Information technology support

Apart from the specific activities mentioned above, the main thrust of the Information Technology unit's work in 1998 was to ensure that all IT-related facilities at the Secretariat ran properly, and that the more than 50 IT users on SPREP's staff were conversant with the va-

As part of the cooperative partnerships which SPREP has developed with other agencies, the SPREP website is mirrored in the United States, on UNDP's SIDSnet site — the website for small island developing states: www.sidsnet.org

riety of software applications available within SPREP. Information Technology staff were also involved in several more specific tasks such as the upgrade of the computerised financial system ACCPAC, the IT logistics and requirements of the 10th SPREP Meeting, and provision of IT and other technical advice for the internal taskforce involved in planning SPREP's new headquarters building.

Regional information technology coordination

Information Technology staff represented SPREP at relevant meetings including: ECOASIA-Net in Tokyo, Japan; IT PACNET 98 in Suva, Fiji (IT Managers' Regional Meeting); Regional Workshop on Y2K problems, for Pacific islands Directors of Meteorology Services, Honolulu, Hawai'i; World Bank Knowledge Assessment National Workshop in Fiji (July) and Samoa (August); In-country visit in American Samoa (1 day) to provide technical support on Geographical Information System (GIS) equipment.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important component in most environmental projects. SPREP's Environmental Education programme cooperates with a variety of SPREP member countries to develop effective mechanisms for raising levels of public understanding and awareness of Pacific environmental issues.

The major focus of environmental education work for 1998 was organisation of the region's largest-ever environmental education and training conference, held in Suva, Fiji from 29 June to 3 July. This conference was coordinated by an environmental education officer attached to SPREP from the Government of Palau. The conference reviewed the status of environmental education and training in the Pacific islands region, and developed a strategy to provide guidance for future national activities in these areas. A conference report and action strategy have now been published.

In 1998, a new environmental education officer was not recruited until May. However, other environmental education activities carried out this year included:

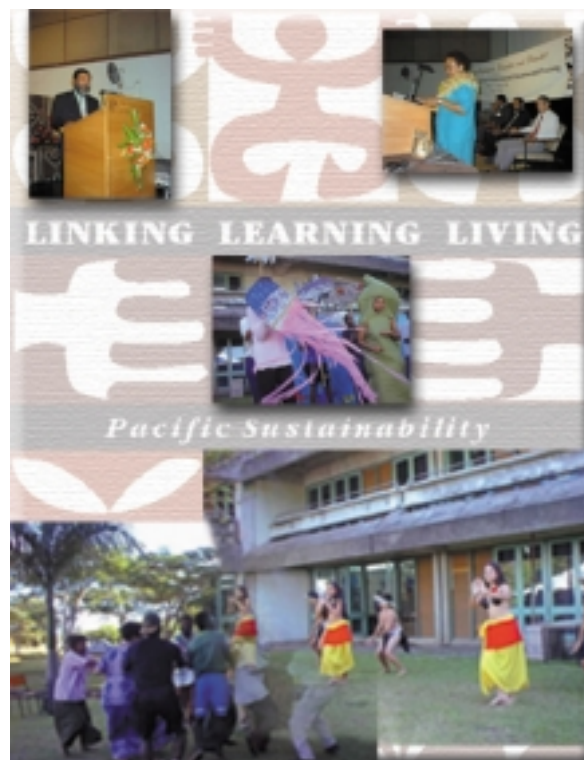
- * Development of a teachers' manual for environmental education for the Marshall Islands
- * Strengthening of ties between SPREP and UNEP through the Network for Environmental Training at the Tertiary Level for Asia and the Pacific (NETTLAP)
- * Establishment of collaborative relationships with other regional and international organisations such as the Commission on Education of IUCN, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Wide Fund for Nature – South Pacific (WWF-SP)

Pacific Regional Conference for Environmental Education and Training

Approximately 170 participants from 21 SPREP member countries and regional and international institutions and organisations attended this five-day conference. They reviewed the status of environmental education in the Pacific islands region and developed a draft Action Strategy, to provide guidance at the national level for development of effective and efficient environmental education and training programmes.

The first draft of the Action Strategy for Environmental Education and Training in the Pacific Region, 1999 – 2003 was endorsed in principle at the 10th SPREP Meeting in Samoa in September 1998. The second draft was sent out for comment in October and the final version was made ready for printing in December.

The Environmental Education and Training Conference in Suva produced a five year Action Strategy for Environmental Education and Training. The strategy was endorsed by SPREP member countries during the 10th SPREP Meeting in September 1998.



The extensive participation at the conference made possible establishment of a network of environmental educators and trainers from throughout the Pacific islands region. This network will permit better use of existing educational materials and will enable educators and trainers, who often work in isolation, to share knowledge and experience. The network's initial task was to review the draft action strategy and it is expected that in 1999 members of the network will lead implementation of the strategy in their own countries.

Building for Environmental Management

Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific

The Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) project was established to help 12 Pacific island countries increase their capacity to manage their natural resources and environment. The project, which has been funded initially by UNDP, is based on the principle that by building national capacity to develop more effective environmental management systems, jobs can be created by encouraging communities to develop innovative methods of using their resources in a way that does not deplete or destroy them.

Its main objective is to encourage the 12 participating countries—Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu—to examine and document traditional practices which sustainably managed natural resources, and to integrate these with non-traditional environmental management systems. The CBEMP Project will focus on a range of training activities that will help participating countries identify and record traditional practices and methods that could usefully be integrated into national environmental management systems.

The project's preparatory phase, which ran from December 1997 to September 1998, involved establishing national coordinating committees which identified priority activities to build national capacity to address environmental issues. While only a few of these priorities can be addressed immediately, the extensive nature of the priority lists drawn up by the coordinating committees shows countries are acutely aware of specific environmental needs, and are in many cases thinking innovatively about possible solutions. The CBEMP project commenced implementation in October 1998 and will run for a 30-month period.

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CBEMP activities have now been grouped under the categories of:

- * Sustainable tourism
- * Marine resources
- * Forests and trees

Activities include:

- * Assistance and training in the review, collection and documentation of information on traditional and non-traditional resource management practices;
- * Review of database needs and implementation of training programmes in database establishment for the collation of information on traditional and non-traditional knowledge and practices;
- * Research into communities' use of natural resources and development of community-based training programmes to integrate traditional practices into present-day resource use;
- * Use of information collected to develop educational resource materials, assist in the formulation of environmental legislation and undertake awareness raising activities for decision-makers at government and non-governmental level; and
- * Identification of potential demonstration projects that would highlight beneficial traditional practices and encourage job creation.

CBEMP project activities are designed to complement activities being carried out by other projects and organisations. Consequently

they are being linked with existing projects being funded or implemented by SPREP, SPOCC, UNDP and other UN organisations.



Photo by Paddy Ryan

Gathering kumala leaves to be used in cooking a variety of traditional Fijian food.

Institutional strengthening and support to conventions

National legislation and international convention support

SPREP's legal services section provides technical advice to Pacific island countries to strengthen their capacity to develop national environmental legislation, and to fully participate in regional and international environmental conventions which may affect them.

Staffing of the legal section was doubled during 1998 when an additional legal officer, previously attached to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, was attached to SPREP for six months. Funding for the salary of this additional officer was provided by NZODA. This made possible production of a compilation of environmental treaties and legal instruments affecting Pacific island countries: the South Pacific Handbook of Treaties and Other Legal Instruments in the Field of International Law.

Towards the end of 1998 the legal officer whose position was funded by the Government of France completed his six-year term at SPREP. NZODA funding made possible a replacement, recruited from the Attorney-General's Department of the Government of Samoa.

In 1998 SPREP's legal officers continued to develop draft Environment Bills for the Governments of Niue, Kiribati and Samoa, with funding from UNEP.

Legal officers supplied countries with legal advice on a variety of issues concerning regional and international conventions. A regional workshop organised jointly by WWF and SPREP, held in Nadi, Fiji in March 1998, discussed national implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Topics covered included access to genetic resources, intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge and biosafety issues. In May another regional workshop, co-sponsored by SPREP and the Commonwealth Secretariat, covered details of implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The possibility of using criminal prosecutions when the environment is damaged or destroyed was addressed in June when some of the Pacific's top legal officers gathered for a regional workshop on criminal law and its administration in international environmental conventions. The workshop, organised by SPREP, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), explored different approaches of using criminal law, emphasising prosecution of environmentally harmful acts and developments. Participants went on to develop strategies for international and regional cooperation when prosecution was required.

SPREP's legal section was also instrumental in drafting obligations to simplify national reporting procedures under the SPREP and Apia Conventions, and in finalising the Legal chapter for the Second Global Environment Outlook (GEO2) which will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1999.

Country Attachment Scheme

SPREP's Country Attachment Scheme aims to strengthen the skills of environmental officials working in Pacific island countries, by attaching them for a set period of time to the SPREP Secretariat and thus exposing them to environmental management and protection work at the regional level. The NZODA-funded scheme has been operating since 1993 and in that time



Top: Hon. Simon Upton endorsing the South Pacific Handbook of Treaties and Other Legal Instruments in the Field of Environmental Law.



Bottom: The legal minds of the Pacific gathered in Apia for the workshop on Criminal Law and its Administration in International Conventions.

has seen SPREP attachments from American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Tonga.

The most recent attachment was the 1997 and 1998 attachment of Ms Tiare Turang Holm, who was seconded from Palau where she worked in the Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) as an Environment Officer. At SPREP she worked firstly as Environmental Education (Curriculum Development) Officer and then as the coordinator of the Pacific Regional Conference for Environmental Education and Training, a major regional undertaking convened in Suva in June/July 1998.

Negotiations were also held during the year with the Government of Fiji concerning a proposed 1999 country attachment from the Fiji Government's Department of Environment, who will work in SPREP's Information Technology/Computing Sector.

At the 10th SPREP Meeting (September 1998), member countries called upon SPREP to further develop the selection criteria for the Country Attachment Scheme to ensure that all member countries could benefit from this valuable capacity building opportunity.

Volunteer Attachments

This ongoing collaborative arrangement between SPREP and the Australian Overseas Service Bureau (OSB) was formalised in December 1997 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both organisations. This MOU recognises that SPREP and Australia's OSB share a common objective of assisting the development of Pacific island countries through providing qualified personnel who can help build countries' capacity to undertake various environmental management tasks.

Over the past 20 years more than 20 AVAs have been placed in Pacific island countries under this arrangement.



The 1998 SPREP Meeting, a biennial event, is the governing body of SPREP. Outgoing Chair, Dr Savae Latu from Tonga (standing) with Samoa's then Deputy PM Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi (far left), Tamari'i Tutangata and Rev. Nu'uausala Siutaia (far right).

Micronesian countries have been the recent focus for attachment of volunteers involved specifically in environmental management technical assistance, with volunteers supporting work in the SPBCP Conservation Areas attached to other parts of the region. With AusAID funding assistance, a three-way partnership between the Australian OSB, the host government for the respective volunteers and SPREP has been developed to permit attachment of AVAs to several environmental agencies. These include:

- * Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (Ms Nerida Green, Environmental Education and Awareness Officer)
- * Kosrae Development Review Commission (Mr Justin Rose, Environmental Lawyer)
- * Yap Environmental Protection Agency (Mr Glenn Whittaker followed by Ms Rhona McPhee, Water Quality Specialists)
- * Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority (Mr Stephen Eke, environment officer)

Internships

Internships bring benefits for both the intern and for SPREP. The interns, who are generally recent graduates from universities within and outside the region, gain regional experience in environmental management, while SPREP benefits from the fresh perspective and newly acquired skills and techniques of these young professionals.

SPREP receives a constant stream of inquiries about internships, which generally are of two – three months' duration. Unfortunately, space constraints at SPREP's temporary accommodation at Vaitele have meant that the many requests for SPREP internships received during 1998 had to be turned down. One exception was an intern from the University of Oregon, who was placed instead with the Government of Samoa's Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Over recent years, SPREP has received valuable technical assistance through the University of Oregon's Micronesia/South Pacific Program, specifically with interns who have worked with SPREP's Environmental Education officers. When SPREP has moved into its new premises, it is expected that internships will again become part of skills transfer and capacity building for the region.

Small Grants Scheme

This scheme caters for environmental management activities which are given high priority by member countries and territories, but for which there is no readily identifiable source of other project funding. Under the Small Grants Scheme, it is possible for countries to apply for one-off financial assistance of US\$1000 – US\$10,000 for a range of activities, many of which involve national capacity building and awareness raising. In 1998 this scheme provided member countries and territories with financial assistance for a variety of activities at the national level, many relating to National Environment Day/Week celebrations. These included:

- * World Biodiversity Day Commemoration in Samoa (SA\$1,880);
- * Environment Week Activities, Tuvalu (A\$3,000);
- * Study on Community Utilisation of Mangroves, Fiji (A\$3,460);
- * Environmental Education Video, Yap 'Tinag's Story' (US\$5000);
- * Niue Constitution Day Celebration—Environment Exhibition (NZ\$1,000).

NOTE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION



1998 was a year of consolidation, coordination and planning for the Division, especially in light of its role as a service provider across the entire organisation and given the advent of the new performance-based output budgeting process. Coordination and planning have been given priority by the Division to ensure that we provide effective assistance to all other SPREP Work Programme areas thus enabling them in turn to be supportive to member countries and fully accountable to our member constituents and donors.

Commonwealth Secretariat financial support has proved invaluable in strengthening our Public Relations and Publications sector through the addition of the Editorial Publications Officer, Ms Jan Sinclair. Through the combined skills of Jan and our Information Publications Officer, Mr Fatu Tauafiafi, we have been able to streamline publication production processes and to develop a public relations strategy to increase community awareness of the variety of environmental issues addressed by SPREP and to also keep our donor community well informed of our work. The vast amount of publication production, including video and radio work, press liaison and training activities undertaken by these two staff keeps Pacific environmental issues constantly in the public eye.

Environmental Education and Awareness Raising were important features of the Division during the year through the convening of a major Pacific Regional Conference for Environmental Education and Training, jointly organised by the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Resources for Environment and Learning (PREL) and SPREP in Fiji during June. This was coordinated by SPREP's country attachee from Palau, Ms Tiare Holm, with support from a number of international and regional bodies. It was attended by 170 participants from Education Departments, Environment Departments and NGOs/Community Groups. The outcome of this conference is a Strategy which gives direction for Environmental Education activities over the coming years. 1998 also saw the addition of a new Environmental Education Officer, Ms Seema Deo, formerly from the Environment Department of the Government of Fiji. She brings to SPREP very strong skills in environmental education and awareness raising. Her role, commencing in 1999, is to assist member countries to strengthen environment education through teacher training, curriculum development and to enhance community awareness of environmental issues. With the return to Palau of Tiare, Seema becomes the sole Environmental Education Sector staff member. Financial support through AusAID during 1999, however, will enable her to work closely with a network of environmental educators in member countries, whose skills SPREP also hopes to increase. Seema is also developing a close working relationship with the USP's Institute of Education (IOE) and UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific through its Network for Environmental Training at Tertiary Level in Asia and the Pacific (NETTLAP).

1998 also saw the departure from the Division of the French Government seconded Legal Officer, Mr Bernard Moutou after six years with SPREP in Samoa. Bernard left with SPREP a strong basis in national environmental legislation development and support to member countries with international convention commitments. He has provided a good grounding for his successor, Mr Andrea Volentras, recruited to SPREP during November with funding from the Government of New Zealand, from his former position with the Attorney-General's Department of the Government of Samoa. The Legal Sector of the Division is one which is continuing to provide assistance to the increasing range of international convention activities under several SPREP work programme areas.

Development of the newest UNDP/SPREP collaborative partnership was undertaken through an extensive process of national consultation by the Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) Programme through the Project Manager, Mr Craig Wilson. The new area of work involves a strong emphasis on documentation of traditional environmental resource management techniques and draws upon the best of these in a consolidated approach with modern environmental management practices. For six months during 1998 this project was developed by SPREP with intensive member country input and as its implementation phase commences in 1999, it brings together a new partnership through SPREP working closely with Peace Corps for additional technical assistance to member countries through a national counterpart scheme.

Information Technology is a growing area for the two IT staff of the Division (Information Technology Manager, Mr Herve Dropsy and Assistant Information Technology Officer, Ms Matilda Tapusoa). As SPREP and its assistance to member countries grows, so too do the demands placed upon this understaffed area of SPREP. Significant advances have been made during the year with internal networking, email strengthening, computer training, database development and website establishment. At the 10th SPREP Meeting (September 1998) the new SPREP Website was formally launched as part of SPREP's outreach. The Information Technology Sector continued to maintain close collaboration with other CROP agencies to ensure a coordinated approach within the region to Information Technology and the growing demands placed upon it.

The Information Resource Sector was staffed by SPREP Librarian/Information Resource Manager, Ms Satui Bentin and her Library Assistant, Mrs Tologau Uatisone (and earlier in the year Mrs Merimeto Keil). Their work, especially the in-country training activities received strong acknowledgement in 1998 from member countries at the 10th SPREP Meeting. This type of national capacity-building, increasing member country abilities to undertake environmental awareness clearinghouse functions has proved most welcome. The computerised Library network system, linking the environment units of our member countries to SPREP and, in turn, to other regional and international organisations is providing a major area of national support. The two staff in this sector of the Division have continued to keep abreast of the increasingly heavy demands of information clearinghouse activities through an innovative approach towards training a range of other information clearinghouse staff.

More general Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening activities continued through the Division's work in identifying Country Attachment/ Volunteer Attachment/ and Internship arrangements. Small Grants Scheme assistance which is coordinated by the Division, also provided additional, but small financial grants to member countries for national awareness raising and institutional strengthening activities. The Division during 1998 was assisted by two Secretarial/Divisional Administrative staff, Mrs Susana Kilepoa and Mrs Quandovita Reid-Tuala, who form the backbone of the Division.

The recruitment process commenced during 1998 for an additional cross-sectoral position within SPREP—that of Training Officer. This position, funded by the Government of New Zealand, will have an important role of coordinating the variety of training activities undertaken by SPREP, identifying member country training needs and assessing institutional capabilities for such training in the ensuing years.

The EEIC Division was mostly financed during 1998 by funds from the Governments of Australia, France and New Zealand, the United Nations Development Programme, the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC), with additional support from UNESCO, the Danish Government, and PREL. The important steps taken during 1998 to internally coordinate and plan activities augurs well for increased efficiency in delivery of project activities during the coming year.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

**To understand and respond to climate change,
particularly through integrated coastal management**

**To minimise pollution and wastes, and improve
preparedness for pollution emergencies**

**To plan, manage and regulate development in a
manner that is environmentally sustainable**



Photo by Peter Bennett

Climate Change and Sea-level Rise; International Negotiations; Regional and International Meteorological Cooperation; Pollution Prevention and Waste Management; Environmental Impact Assessment and Reporting.

GERALD MILES, HEAD OF DIVISION

Chalapan Kaluwin, Climate Change Officer; Wayne King, PICCAP Project Manager; Graham Sem, PICCAP Scientific Adviser; Penehuro Lefale, Climatologist/Meteorology Officer; Mahendra Kumar, International Negotiations Officer; Andrew Munro, Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Officer; Suresh Raj, Waste Awareness Coordinator; Steve Raaymakers, Marine Pollution Adviser; Fiu Petelo Ioane, GIS/Database Assistant Officer; Olivia Partsch, Secretary; Tumema Fuimaono/Sina To'a, Divisional Assistant.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

The division's climate change activities help countries to develop technical skills in responding to the effects of climate and sea-level change; and to meet their obligations under the Climate Convention. SPREP provides technical support and scientific advice for Pacific island countries attending Climate Convention negotiations. It also works to strengthen the technical expertise of national meteorological services. SPREP's pollution and waste management activities include waste minimisation, chemicals management, waste water management and land use planning, waste management awareness, planning for pollution emergencies and marine pollution. Other activities focus on strengthening countries' capacity to sustainably manage their natural environment, and to report on the state of their environment. These activities include advising on environmental impact assessment and reporting, assisting in the compilation of environmental data for environmental management and reporting, advising on countries' input to international sustainable development initiatives, and liaising with other Pacific regional organisations working on environment-related issues.

The Environmental Management and Planning division's activities address aspects of three Action Plan objectives:

- ❁ To understand and respond to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management;
- ❁ To minimise pollution and wastes, and improve preparedness for pollution emergencies;
- ❁ To plan, manage and regulate development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.

Pacific island countries will be among the first to experience the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise. SPREP provides technical advice and assistance to Pacific island countries and territories enabling them to assess their vulnerability and adaptation options and to highlight their concerns during Climate Convention negotiations.



Climate change and sea-level rise

Climate change and sea-level rise are of particular concern to Pacific island countries, many of which are little more than a metre above sea level. A rise in sea-level of only a few centimetres, or a change in the frequency or severity of storms, will have significant impacts on people living in the Pacific.



South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project

This initiative of the South Pacific Forum helps Pacific island countries monitor changing sea levels and climate, understand likely impacts and to develop appropriate policy-making. The project began in 1991, funded by AUSAID, and will continue until June 2000. To date, the project has installed 11 high-resolution sea-level monitoring stations known as SEAFRAME (Sea Level Fine Resolution Acoustic

Photo by Peter Bennett

Measuring Equipment) in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, with a further SEAFRAME due to be set up in the Federated States of Micronesia in 1999.

In addition to the monitoring programme, national and regional personnel are trained in the use of oceanographic, atmospheric and climate data in decision-making. The training for Pacific island countries is conducted twice annually at the National Tidal Facility, Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia. A quarterly newsletter disseminates information for policy makers and schools.

Implementing the Climate Convention

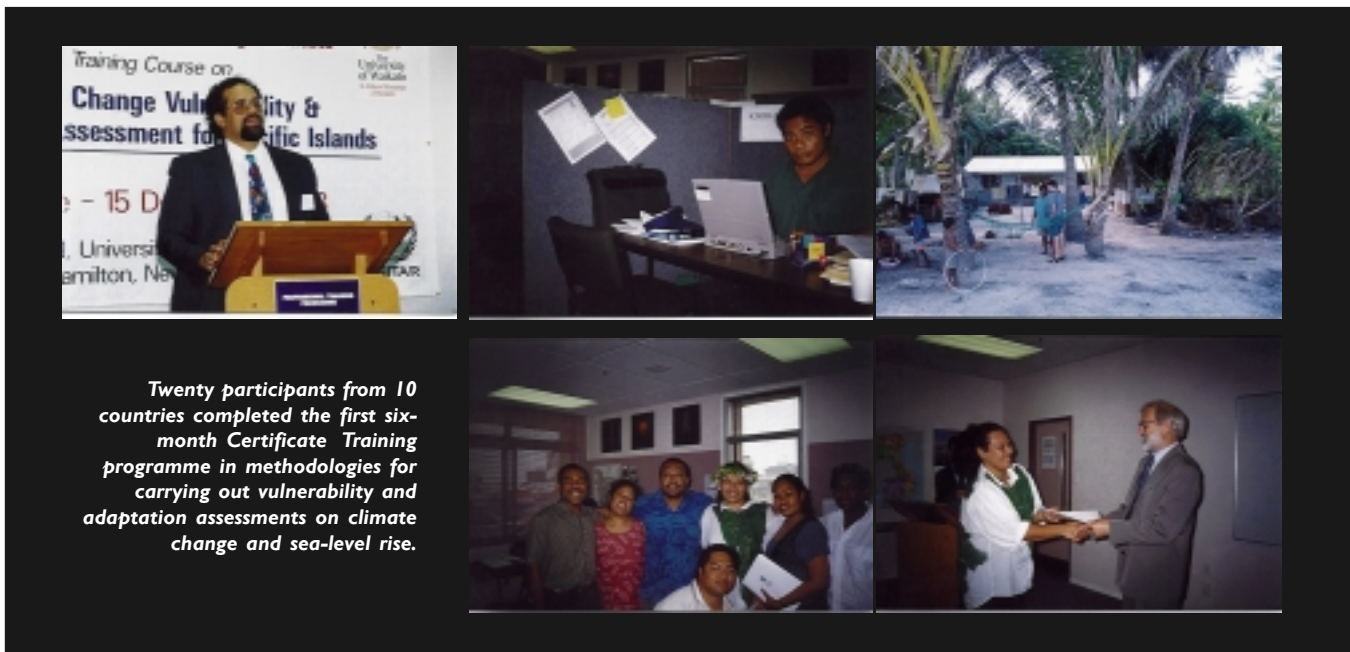
Thirteen Pacific island countries—Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu—have ratified the UNFCCC and are thus obliged to report to the Convention's Secretariat on their national circumstances.

These reports include:

- * Inventories showing each country's greenhouse gas emissions;
- * Assessment of how to reduce those emissions;
- * Assessment of each country's likely vulnerability to climate change and sea-level rise;
- * Evaluation of adaptation options available to each country.

The Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) was established at SPREP to assist countries in fulfilling their reporting obligations, with financial and technical support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Each country has established Country Teams and appointed National Coordinators to implement the PICCAP programme in their respective countries. Countries under the PICCAP programme include Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea and Niue climate change activities are funded separately by GEF through UNDP and UNEP, but both countries participate in the PICCAP programme.



Twenty participants from 10 countries completed the first six-month Certificate Training programme in methodologies for carrying out vulnerability and adaptation assessments on climate change and sea-level rise.

In January 1998, a regional orientation and planning workshop for national coordinators considered how countries could best carry out their obligations under the UNFCCC. The workshop discussed developing a regional work plan, training and awareness needs and the best ways of using available budgets.

During 1998, PICCAP organised seven national workshops on the UNFCCC and its requirements, and on compiling greenhouse gas inventories. By the end of 1998, all Pacific island countries which have ratified the UNFCCC had developed and completed their national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions.

In April, a regional meeting trained two participants from each PICCAP country in compiling an inventory of their country's greenhouse gas emissions. In May a regional meeting for PICCAP coordinators considered the outcomes of the UNFCCC Third Conference of Parties, which resulted in the Kyoto Protocol. Coordinators decided that PICCAP's main emphasis should be on the vulnerability of Pacific island countries to climate change and sea-level rise, and development of plans to help countries adapt to likely changes. They also called for a regional study of ways Pacific island countries could reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

An innovative six-month Certificate Training programme was developed by the University of Waikato, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and PICCAP. This course was co-financed by the New Zealand Government. It began in June at the University of Waikato's International Global Change Institute, with two participants each from 10 Pacific island countries. The course covered training in methodologies for carrying out vulnerability and adaptation assessments; in-country studies where participants gathered data on likely vulnerability to climate change and sea-level rise; and a further period of study at Waikato University to draft their preliminary assessments of vulnerability and possible adaptation options. These assessments are expected to be finalised in mid-1999.

The entire Certificate Training Course is to be transferred to the University of the South Pacific in Fiji in 1999.

International Negotiations

In 1998, to support Pacific island countries in international climate change negotiations, the Government of Denmark funded a new position of International Negotiations Officer. Dr Mahendra Kumar, who took up the position in October, is expected to provide useful scientific and technical advice not only to Pacific island countries, but also to all island states which are members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Previously, while there was substantial donor assistance for scientific monitoring, data gathering and research related to climate change, there was only partial assistance to Pacific island countries becoming involved in the international political negotiations on climate change.

An integral part of the International Negotiations Officer's work is education and awareness activities, to ensure that Pacific island politicians, officials and public are well informed on this critical issue. The programme's overall development objective is to enhance and strengthen the knowledge and capacity of Pacific island governments and regional organisations to facilitate and develop appropriate policies to mitigate climate change.

Atmospheric Radiation Measurement programme (ARM)

Improved climate predictions will help the region mitigate the impacts of climate change. The United States Department of Energy (US DoE), the University of California, Los Alamos, and SPREP have developed the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Programme (ARM) to study how clouds absorb and reflect heat. This is critical for improving global climate computer model predictions of likely future global climate change. Two measuring stations have already been installed in Manus, Papua New Guinea, and in Nauru. A further three are planned for the tropical western Pacific by 2002.

The ARM programme includes an education enrichment programme, implemented in partnership with SPREP's South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project. This enrichment programme includes the Schools of the Pacific Rainfall Climate Experiment (SPaRCE), development of Pacific Curriculum Modules, and teacher training. Teacher training in schools has been carried out in Niue, Papua New Guinea; and Nauru. Further training is planned for teachers and schools in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, for 1999 and 2000.



The array of instruments which measure surface radiation balance on Manus, Papua New Guinea.

Regional and international meteorological cooperation

SPREP works with the major Australian, New Zealand and United States meteorological organisations, and with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to actively support the region's national weather services, including development of joint activities which improve their service to the public.

Additional assistance in improving weather forecasting in the region comes from SPREP's collaboration with the European Union-funded Cyclone Warning Upgrade System Project which is implemented by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). This project is coupled to development of another emergency warning system, the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN). This network provides a useful tool for Pacific island weather services which need to locate and track severe storms. It also improves the accuracy of day-to-day forecasts throughout the region, and can retrieve essential forecasting information during times of severe weather disturbances when most commercial links to the outside world are closed down or damaged.

In 1998, the European Union and United States provided at least 20 EMWIN systems to Pacific island countries, weather services and disaster offices. This funding also permitted installation and upgrade of satellite equipment (Qfax) in 13 Pacific island countries, upgrade of telecommunications links between the region's weather services, and establishment of regional telecommunication hubs (RTHs) in Melbourne, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand, to improve collection, dissemination and processing of meteorological data collected by Pacific islands weather services.

SPREP jointly hosted in 1998 a number of regional meetings and technical conferences. SPREP collaborated with the US National Weather Service to organise a Year 2000 (Y2K) workshop aimed at meteorological services. The Fifth Meeting of Regional Meteorological Service Directors, held in Honolulu, Hawai'i, also organised by SPREP and the US National Weather Service, was held concurrently with the Y2K workshop. SPREP and WMO co-hosted two technical conferences on management of national meteorological services. These conferences were held in Fiji in April and December 1998. SPREP also provided financial and technical assistance to Pacific weather services to enable their participation in the Fifth WMO Executive Council Meeting held in June 1998 and the WMO Regional Association V meeting held in Indonesia. SPREP will host the WMO sub-regional office for the South West Pacific. The office is expected to be operational in April 1999.

Atmospheric Radiation and Cloud Station on Manus, Papua New Guinea.





A mountain of solid waste swamps formerly pristine coastlines.

Photos by Michael Phillips, British Volunteer

Pollution Prevention and Waste Management

Pollution and wastes pose particular problems for small Pacific island countries, which often lack the expertise or even simply the space to deal with them. SPREP's pollution prevention and waste management programmes help countries to prevent, reduce and manage pollution and wastes. These programmes include assistance in developing and maintaining national and regional pollution emergency response plans.

SPREP's Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) targets international marine conventions and countries' ability to deal with marine pollution. The Commonwealth Secretariat has funded the position of Marine Pollution Adviser, and programme funding assistance comes from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program Phase Two (C-SPODP II). The original strategy, developed with assistance from IMO, underwent a major revision and updating in 1998 and is now being implemented as a stand-alone programme—PACPOL

Solid Waste Management

The EU Pacific Regional Waste Awareness and Education Programme (WASTE) began in July 1998, with the aim of minimising waste production and disposal by improving the behaviour of significant target groups. These groups vary depending on which country is involved but include the general public, the private sector, NGOs, school children, media organisations, government officials and municipal authority officials.



This programme is being implemented in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The programme began with wide consultation with a broad range of stakeholders to determine their priorities for dealing with solid waste. The implementation phase, to begin early in 1999, will be based on these identified priorities.

In association with UNEP, the document 'Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning in Small Island Developing States in the Pacific Region' was finalised. The document, advocating a multi-sectoral approach, will assist Pacific island countries with planning details for solid waste management.

Providing a starting point is this publication to help Pacific island countries plan their solid waste management programmes.

In addition, implementation and development of solid waste management demonstration activities which can be replicated in other countries continued. These activities include composting and recycling at community and national levels, in partnership with municipal authorities and others.



Discarded bituman drums rot away, spilling their contents to the environment. The top photo shows how close the spilled contents are to the community.



Chemicals management

Pacific island countries are often ill-equipped to deal safely with a range of toxic chemicals used for agricultural and industrial purposes. Many countries lack adequate chemicals management plans, or adequate knowledge of the appropriate ways of storing and handling potentially dangerous chemicals. This poses both health and environmental risks. In addition, the Pacific faces the problems of sometimes substantial stores of old or obsolete toxic chemicals, and of chemicals-contaminated sites.

SPREP programmes are assisting countries deal with these problems on several fronts. To help countries become better equipped to undertake the complex tasks associated with environmentally appropriate chemicals management, SPREP's chemicals management programme keeps the region informed of and involved in several activities developed from Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, and by UNEP Chemicals. These include:

- ✿ Implementation of the National Chemicals Profiles project which is supported by UNITAR and by Environment Australia. This project assesses countries' national infrastructure and their ability to manage chemicals. Profiles have been completed for Kiribati and Vanuatu and a draft has been completed for Papua New Guinea;
- ✿ The Rotterdam or Prior Informed Consent Convention which assists developing countries to ensure that they are fully informed of the properties and potential hazards of chemicals before they are imported into their countries;



A wide variety of toxic chemicals pile up in the Pacific, threatening the health of people and their environment.

- * The International Negotiating Committee process for the proposed Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Convention. It is anticipated that when it comes into force this Convention will lead to the elimination of production and use of what are considered to be the twelve most dangerous POPs in use worldwide.

Another SPREP project in 1998 involved inspection and cataloguing of stockpiles of waste and obsolete chemicals in 13 Pacific island countries, and preliminary inspection of chemicals contaminated sites. These inspections, undertaken by external consultants, involved counterparts from a variety of Government departments including Agriculture, Environment, Health and Labour. In a number of cases a local consultant was also engaged. This project—the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries project, funded by AusAID—has the long-term aims of ridding the region of stocks of unwanted and waste chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and of cleaning up or safely containing chemicals contaminated sites.

Hazardous wastes in the Pacific

The increasing generation of hazardous and radioactive wastes world-wide poses a threat to the human health and environment of the Pacific region. One regional Convention which aims to address this threat is the Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region. The Waigani Convention was signed in Port Moresby in 1995 and will come into force upon ratification or accession by ten Pacific island countries. By the end of 1998, five countries—the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Australia—had ratified this Convention. Upon entry into force, SPREP will act as the Secretariat, work closely with the Secretariat, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL)

To protect the Pacific ocean from ship-sourced marine pollution, the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), under the Canada – South Pacific Ocean Development Program Phase II (C-SPODP II) funded a new project—the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL). The new position of Marine Pollution Adviser is funded by COMSEC. Extensive regional and international consultations during 1998 resulted in development of a comprehensive new programme, PACPOL, which targets marine pollution from ships.

PACPOL uses a bottom-up approach: it was developed by identifying individual countries' needs and priorities, and designing a programme that would meet these needs. An integral part of the programme involves assisting Pacific island countries to implement international marine pollution conventions and regulations. This international regime is administered by the IMO, which worked closely with PACPOL as the programme was being developed. PACPOL addresses:

- * Marine spills (oil and other hazardous materials);
- * Ships' waste (oil, sewage and garbage);
- * Port activities;
- * Introduced marine species.

Coastal and marine environments are particularly important in the Pacific, where village-based subsistence fishing remains the mainstay of virtually all societies in the region, and where tourism and commercial fishing are the major component of most regional economies.

The cost of preventing oil spills is minimal compared with the clean-up costs after a spill has occurred.



Photo reproduced courtesy of IMO/UNEP-Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

In 1998, a draft PACPOL strategy and workplan were prepared and circulated to all stakeholders for review and comment. Stakeholders included all SPREP member countries, other regional organisations, and the shipping, port and oil industries. The draft strategy and workplan were approved and endorsed by the 10th SPREP Meeting in September 1998, and then discussed in detail by the region's technical personnel when the first annual PACPOL workshop was held in Fiji in December 1998.

This workshop provided training for government and oil industry representatives from Pacific island countries and territories, and developed a regional marine spill contingency plan which coordinates regional arrangements for cooperative responses to major marine spills. It was funded by IMO with support-in-kind from SPREP, the oil industry and the Governments of American Samoa, Australia, France, Fiji, New Zealand, Queensland (Australia) and the United States.

Future programme work will include building regional capacity to deal with marine pollution, identification of high-risk areas and pollution hot-spots, developing a comprehensive marine pollution education and awareness raising campaign, reviewing countries' capacity to deal with ships' waste oil and garbage, and developing a regional marine pollution surveillance and reporting system.

Marine pollution from land-based activities

In the Pacific, most marine pollution originates on land, including sewage, sedimentation, non-degradable solid wastes and persistent organic pollutants. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), signed in December 1995, addresses these issues. SPREP will be involved in implementation of the programme in the South Pacific. The programme, coordinated by UNEP, involves many other international organisations and was due to begin in 1998. Due to funding constraints, the implementation of the GPA in the Pacific is now anticipated to start in 1999.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Reporting

A 1998 review of SPREP's EIA activities found that EIA now has a reasonably secure foothold throughout the Pacific as a recognised and sometimes required methodology, but the impetus for taking the next step—the regular and competent use of EIA—is not so evident. The focus of the past six years, principally training of trainers, will be shifted to more specific support.

The review and analysis found that the Secretariat should facilitate the development and implementation of EIA in the region. This will include the establishment of an EIA Facilitation Office during 1999. The Office will among other things:

- * store and retrieve information
- * respond to country requests for one-off urgent work

- * maintain a register of expertise
- * share experience in similar projects
- * provide a help desk service
- * develop and update regionally consistent procedures and guidelines
- * disseminate information about new products and technologies
- * facilitate peer review for in-country specialists/generalists

The Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre (PENRIC)

PENRIC is part of a global network aimed at strengthening systems for State of the Environment Reporting. It provides SPREP with Geographical Information System (GIS) capabilities for environmental assessment. In 1998 the centre continued to make available environmental data for sustainable decision-making and action plans, and supported countries in operating the hardware and software provided to permit them to manage environmental data. PENRIC continued to assist countries develop their capacity to report on the state of their environments, and to prepare national environment outlooks to complement annual economic statements now produced in many island countries.

With the assistance of UNEP and the European Union, SPREP coordinated preparation of the first Pacific islands Environment Outlook. This report has been assembled as part of UNEP's world-wide preparation for the release of its biennial Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) in 1999. A workshop was convened in Apia to enable countries and experts to compile a first draft of the Outlook. The publication, once reviewed by countries and experts, will be released during the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Small Island Developing States in September 1999.

Sustainable Development Policy

To continue SPREP's support to the follow-up from the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), a regional workshop was held to help Pacific island countries prepare for the Seventh Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD7) and the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. This workshop was organised with the assistance of UNEP and New Zealand, in close collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and other regional organisations, NGOs and the private sector. Efforts to mainstream environmental concerns within development in the region has included support for the Forum Secretariat's role in coordinating regional input to the international sustainable development debate.

A Ministerial Roundtable, held in Auckland, New Zealand in November 1998, was attended by Ministers from Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, along with representatives of American Samoa, Fiji, Guam, Nauru and Wallis and Futuna. The Roundtable considered progress to implement sustainable development in the region and specifically the draft input to the CSD prepared by the regional consultations referred to above.

Continued assistance was provided to the Pacific island countries participating in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council. This included preparations for the First GEF Assem-

bly and the finalisation of the Project Brief for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for International Waters in the Pacific. The project, totalling US\$12million, was endorsed by the GEF Council in July 1998 and will commence in late 1999. Its long-term objective is to conserve and sustainably manage the coastal and ocean resources in the Pacific region, including, in particular, freshwater supplies, marine protected area enhancement, sustainable coastal fisheries, integrated coastal management including tourism development, waste reduction strategies and research into the Western Pacific Warm Pool ecosystem, whose boundaries correspond to the Western Pacific tuna fishery. Activities will include work on biodiversity, vulnerability to climate change and land degradation.

Work continued jointly with the Forum Secretariat on trade and environment issues.

A study on green labelling opportunities in the region was completed and this will be used in government and private sector consultations in 1999. Population issues also continue to be built into the projects and programmes of the organisation.

The Strategic Action Programme for International Waters will implement activities to preserve the coastline of small island states. Otherwise photographs such as this, of a Tuvalu atoll, will be the only memoirs we can leave our children



Photo by Peter Bennett

NOTE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION



The Division did not have its full complement of staff during 1998. The EIA post was on hold while the review of EIA activities was completed and the newly recruited Project Officer/Environmental Assessment and Reporting resigned within six months of taking up the post. The continuity of existing staff and programmes, however, ensured that 1998 was highly productive, particularly in the areas of climate change and waste management and pollution prevention.

During 1998, the implementation and development of projects within the Division paid particular attention to the private sector, national coordination and mainstreaming environment initiatives. Support for coordination at the national level has been seen as a means of broadening the impact and sustainability of projects. Building on the experiences of National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), the development of the Strategic Action program for International Waters and the CACC concept under the SPBCP, the implementation of PICCAP has included the establishment of intersectoral country teams. Using these teams and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), more resources have been able to be channelled to national activities.

The involvement of the private sector has increased steadily. Successful examples during 1998 included the development of PACPOL with the involvement of the shipping and oil industry and the preparation of input to CSD7 which involved private sector representatives from tourism and agriculture. This is expected to continue as the role of the private sector develops in economic reform in the region.

Finally, support to key international negotiations has emphasised the need for mainstreaming environment. This has included linking SPREP's input to international environment negotiations to the mandate of the Forum Secretariat and encouraging the involvement of other regional organisations.

Looking ahead, there is a clear need to further link our efforts closely with the development and economic reform agenda in the region. This will assist countries address environment issues within often rapidly changing development priorities at national and regional levels. As we continue to assist countries address climate change and pollution issues in the region we will need to renew our efforts to help assess environmental change. This assessment will be essential if we are to inform and influence the region's development path.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Finance section is responsible for monitoring, controlling and implementing SPREP's financial obligations and needs.

The Administration section provides all the core administrative services.

RAY WRIGHT, HEAD OF DIVISION

Daniel Devoe, Accountant; Luapene Lefau, Assistant Accountant; Asofa Fereti, Senior Accounts Officer; Juliana Mikaele, Accounts Clerk; Puni Chong Wong, Accounts Clerk; Sandy Taei, Accounts Clerk; Malama Hadley, Administration Officer; Saunoa Matau, Conference Officer; Lupe Silulu, Registry Supervisor; Faaafu T. Yoshida, Administration Assistant; Tiana Tuipoloa, Registry Assistant; Monica Tupai, Receptionist; Tologauvale Leaula, Clerk/Teaperson Faamanu Fonoti, Driver/Clerk; Albert Williams, Driver/Clerk; Aso Sione, Handyman; Amosa Tootoo, Cleaner/Teaperson; Elia Hunt, Night Watchman; Gardener (Vacant); Cleaner (Vacant).

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Division provides the support services necessary to ensure that SPREP's programme activities fulfil the objectives of the SPREP Action Plan 1997–2000. The Finance section is responsible for monitoring, controlling and implementing SPREP's financial obligations and needs according to SPREP's Financial Regulations, in addition to meeting the financial requirements of each individual donor, member countries and internationally accepted accounting principles. The Administration section provides all the core administrative services and assists management in monitoring and implementing obligations and requirements under SPREP's Staff Regulations, internal policies and administrative procedures.

Finance and Administration Objectives:

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

During 1998, systems which had been established to meet these objectives were monitored and refined.

Divisional activities

The Finance and Administration Division provides the administrative and financial expertise necessary to ensure that SPREP's programme activities fulfil the objectives of the SPREP Action Plan 1997 – 2000. In 1998 the Division's activities and services involved:

- * Provision of financial reports to donors, and liaison with donors on financial matters;
- * Payment and recording of commitments entered into by SPREP, and payment of staff payroll and other staff entitlements;
- * Preparation of annual financial statements, and provision of financial and administrative assistance to management and periodical reports to staff and management;
- * Preparation of documentation for the recruitment and engagement of SPREP staff, and assistance to new overseas employees settling into Samoa;
- * Coordination and compilation of the annual work programme and budget working papers and other papers required for the 10th SPREP Meeting, and coordination of administrative requirements for the 10th SPREP Meeting and the Meetings of the Parties to both the Apia and SPREP Conventions;

- ❄ Provision of travel and related services for staff and participants funded by SPREP to various conferences, meetings and workshops;
- ❄ Supply and monitoring of stationery and other office requirements;
- ❄ Maintenance of an effective registry system;
- ❄ Maintenance of office equipment, furniture & fittings, buildings and grounds; facilitating improvements to the existing SPREP office.
- ❄ Acquisition of assets (including the purchase of a new office van) and disposal of old assets;
- ❄ Working closely with Management and external consultants to progress the development of the new SPREP Headquarters Building Project.

Improvements to systems and resources carried out during the year included:

- ❄ Revision of the previous upgrade of SPREP's financial system, leading to further enhancements;
- ❄ A review of SPREP staff salaries and conditions of service by external consultants, with a subsequent report to the 10th SPREP Meeting which resulted in amendments to the SPREP Staff Regulations;
- ❄ Working closely with external consultants on the production and development of a completely output-based performance budget for 1999: the new format was accepted by the 10th SPREP Meeting;
- ❄ Review of some provisions in the administrative procedures manual; and
- ❄ Review of general office space allocation to accommodate additional staffing needs.

The Division will continue to monitor its systems in the coming year, and will implement changes wherever necessary. The review of SPREP professional staff salaries was deferred until a Special SPREP Meeting to be held in early 1999. The 10th SPREP Meeting also decided that a job sizing exercise should be carried out during 1999 for all SPREP staff. This review is expected to address the issue of future staff requirements and overall staffing structure of SPREP.

NOTE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION



As SPREP has progressively expanded its activities and programmes, the Division has continued to provide support to Management and the other Divisions. Demands on the Division's services, from staff and management, saw us always fully committed to a heavy work schedule. As well as the additional workload arising from the continuing increase in SPREP's activities, there were two other major demands on Finance and Administration staff this year: the 10th SPREP Meeting, and detailed planning for the new SPREP Headquarters.

The Divisional staff showed their quality and commitment to their jobs in the way they dealt with this increasingly demanding workload, involving as it does constant pressure and frequent urgent requests from programme staff. Despite some staff losses and turnover during the year, Finance and Administration staff worked beyond what might be expected from them, to achieve demanding tasks in time for what were in several cases very short deadlines. The Division is very fortunate to have staff of such high quality, dedication and calibre. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual member of the Division for the fine work and effort they put into their respective jobs over the last year.

One sad event should be recorded: the sudden death of Esera Rusia, who tended SPREP's grounds and gardens with great care during his six and a half years working as SPREP's gardener. Esera was a loved member of the SPREP family, and a popular fixture at the staff pool table on Friday nights. He kept SPREP's grounds tidy and colourful, and was always willing to undertake any extra task he was asked to do. All SPREP's staff were greatly saddened at his untimely death.

The coming year already appears to be another busy one, with further refinements proposed to the financial reporting systems to satisfactorily accommodate the new output-based performance budget system. Again, it will be a year for further consolidation and improvement to the procedures and systems that have been put in place, to ensure that we improve the services that allow all SPREP Secretariat staff to fulfil their mandate of building the region's capacity to manage and conserve its environment.

SPREP national activities

AMERICAN SAMOA



Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Provided technical support at preparatory meetings to upgrade telecommunications link between Samoa and American Samoa, aimed at identifying an alternative and reliable telecommunications link from Samoa to the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) via American Samoa. The previous link was old, unreliable, and only available to the Samoa Meteorological Service for incoming calls. (US\$20,000)

Funding
US\$30,000

Attended public awareness and media workshops on new procedures for issuance of tropical cyclone warnings for the two Samoas, July 1998, October 1998, November 1998. (US\$10,000)

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Presented the PACPOL plan for marine pollution from ships at a meeting and desk-top oil spill exercise of the USA's Oceania Regional Response Team (ORRT) Established links with ORRT; explored avenues for collaboration between ORRT and PACPOL.

COOK ISLANDS



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued funding and technical support to the Takitumu Conservation Area Project (TCAP). (US\$40,200)

Provided Australian Volunteer Abroad (AVA) to assist TCAP. (US\$12,262)

Funded publication of a glossy brochure advertising Takitumu Conservation Area as an ecotourism destination. (US\$5000)

Provided financial assistance for the production of a video on the Takitumu Conservation Area Project. (US\$12,104)

Funding
US\$72,144

Funded participant to the Small Business Management Workshop, Apia, Samoa, 13–24 July 1998. (US\$2576)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Established Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) through Memorandum of Understanding with Cook Islands Government. Coordinator recruited, country team established, country team meetings held, national consultancies on Cook Islands greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment, participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, began draft scoping report. Awareness raising activities carried out with Cook Islands media. (US\$45,406)

Funding
US\$45,406

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Employed a local consultant for five weeks to assist in the inspection of waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites. (US\$2000)

Funding
US\$2000

As part of the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries (POPs in PICs) project, advised on how to correctly clean up a shed of fertilisers and destroyed a small quantity of picric acid which can be unstable.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the Pohnpei Watershed Management Project (Pohnpei) (US\$26700) and the Utwa-Walung Conservation Area (Kosrae) (US\$43,000).

Funding
US\$80,359

Continued technical and financial support for the Pohnpei Conservation Area lowland sakau/fruit tree agroforestry project including nursery production, community nurseries and awareness programmes. (US\$10,659)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Established Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) country team, held country team meetings, held national Climate Change workshop, made State and Outer Island visits, held State workshops on Climate Change, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, began draft scoping report. Awareness-raising activities carried out in media. (US\$41,841)

Funding
US\$41,841

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

The State of Yap was used as a case study for the development of the SPREP/UNEP 'Guidelines for Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning in Small Island Developing States in the Pacific Region'. The multi-sectoral nature of solid waste management resulted in personnel from several Government departments assisting the consultant in developing the guidelines. (US\$6700)

Funding
US\$6700

Planning, managing and regulating development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable

Provided financial support for a preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a resort development project proposed in the Utwa-Walung Conservation Area (Kosrae). (US\$3200)

Provided supplementary financial assistance using AusAID funds for project consultancy on a socio-economic study of dredging activities within Pohnpei. (US\$3457)

Provided financial support for Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA) technical assistance to Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (US\$11,450); Kosrae Development Review Commission (US\$14,263); Yap Environmental Protection Agency (US\$8708).

Funding
US\$41,058

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Provided Small Grant Scheme Assistance for Environmental Education Video: 'Yap Tinag's Story'. (US\$5000)

Funding
US\$5000

Fiji



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the Koroyanitu Conservation Area Project in Western Viti Levu. (US\$20,000)

Provided technical support to NZODA project management workshop for Bouma and Koroyanitu National Heritage Parks, September 1998, Sigatoka.

Liaised with NZODA Fiji Ecotourism Programme for the Koroyanitu Conservation Area and work in villages of Abaca and Navilawa.

Provided part financial assistance using SPBCP and AusAID funds for project consultancy on assessment of coral reef stresses using satellite imagery (US\$4000)

Funding
US\$26,270

Provided Small Grants Scheme Assistance for a study on community utilisation of mangroves, in association with USP. (A\$3460)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Established the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fiji Government. Coordinator recruited, country team established, country team meetings held, national Climate Change workshop held, media awareness activities carried out, national evaluation of ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions completed, inventories of greenhouse gas emissions completed, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. (US\$44,376)

Funding
US\$44,376

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Employed a local consultant to assist in the POPs in PICs inspections of waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites. (US\$4600)

Negotiated with UNEP Chemicals to enable Dr Philomena Gangaiya from the University of the South Pacific to participate in the Criteria Expert Group meeting established by the negotiating committee for the Persistent Organic Pollutants convention.

Funding
US\$4600

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Provided technical assistance for Environment Unit personnel to run the Information Clearinghouse Seminar during the Environmental Education Conference in Fiji.



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the North Tarawa Conservation Area Project. (US\$32,300)

Continued financial and technical support for the development of the Cook Islet Conservation Area on Christmas (Kiritimati) Island. (US\$47,800)

Funding
US\$82,900

Funded visit by North Tarawa Conservation Area Officer to Arnavon to help with their community consultation process. (US\$2800)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Conducted in-country team visit to assess site for Atmospheric Radiation Monitoring (ARM ARCS-3) on Christmas (Kiritimati) Island. (US\$10,000)

Conducted Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) country team meetings, held national workshop on Climate Change, held national workshop on compiling inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, compiled greenhouse gas inventories, carried out public awareness activities through media, radio programmes and environment newsletters, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. (US\$46,321)

Funding
US\$56,321

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

A consultant and a counterpart from the Ministry of Environment and Social Development inspected waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites on South Tarawa and Christmas Island. (US\$11,000)

A local consultant was engaged to formulate and draft the Kiribati National Chemical Profile. The multi-sectoral nature of chemicals management resulted in the project involving many government departments in addition to the Ministry of Environment and Social Development. (US\$1000)

Funding
US\$12,000

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Provided financial assistance for North Tarawa radio quiz programme for primary schools, August, 1998.

MARSHALL ISLANDS



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the development of the Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area Project. (US\$54,900)

Funding
US\$54,900

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Recruited coordinator for Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP), established country team, held national workshop on Climate Change, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers, arranged national consultancies on training and greenhouse gas emissions, visited Outer Island visits to raise awareness. (US\$58,016)

Funding
US\$58,016

Planning, managing and regulating development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable

Financial support for AVA Technical Assistance to Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA) (Mr Stephen Eke, environmental officer). (US\$15,000)

Funding
US\$15,000

NAURU



Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Established Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) country team, held national workshop on Climate Change, held country team meetings, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers. Arranged national consultancies on training and greenhouse gases; began developing resource materials for education and curriculum on climate change. (US\$63,490)

Conducted two-week teacher training workshop, November 1998, on climate change and sea-level rise modules. (US\$20,000)

Established Atmospheric Radiation Measurement and Cloud Station (ARM ARCS-2), November 1998. (Funded by US DoE and University of California Los Alamos National Laboratory)

Funding
US\$83,490

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Visit by SPREP Waste Management Officer following inspection of waste and obsolete chemicals sites. (US\$1600)

Funding
US\$1600

NIUE



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area Project. (US\$40,000)

Provided United Nations volunteer to assist Huvalu Conservation Area staff and communities in managing their project (US\$32,200)

Provided financial assistance to conduct a pre-feasibility study and community workshop in natural resource-based income generation options for the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area staff and communities of Liku and Hakupu villages. (US\$1316)

Funding
US\$79,406

Provided financial and technical assistance for final translation and production of a Field Guide to the Birds of Niue. (US\$5890)

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Provided Small Grants Scheme Assistance to the Department of Community Affairs for an Environment Exhibition as part of the Niue Constitution Day Celebration. (US\$526).

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Funding
US\$8000

Held workshop on responding to climate change and sea-level rise – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), February 1998. (US\$8000)

PALAU



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Ngaremeduu Conservation Area, in collaboration with the Bureau of Natural Resources and Development. (US\$47,000)

Continued financial support for the development of the Rock Islands Conservation Area proposals, including community surveys carried out in collaboration with the Palau Conservation Society. (US\$49,900)

Funding
US\$104,900

Provided financial support for the Palau Conservation Society's "1997/98 Year of the Dugong". (US\$8000)

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Finalised agreement on funding to be provided to Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board to establish a composting facility for Koror State. The facility will involve separation and diversion of organic wastes for composting into a soil conditioner for agriculture. (US\$40,000)

Funding
US\$40,000

Planning, managing and regulating development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable

Provided technical and policy advice to Palau concerning admission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Funding
US\$40,000

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Financial assistance provided for eight months salary and ancillary costs for the attachment as Coordinator, Environmental Education Conference, of Palau Country Attachment, Ms Tiare Holm. (US\$27,606)

Funding
US\$27,606

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Ongoing visits to maintain and operate Atmospheric Radiation Measurement and Cloud Station (ARM ARCS-1), including training of staff, provision of new equipment, general support to National Weather Service. (Funded by US DoE and University of California Los Alamos National Laboratory)

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

PACPOL PNG Consultation and fact-finding mission. Attempts to organise meetings failed. Oil terminals and port facilities were inspected. Expenditure: 2 days x per diems (refer finance)

Engaged a consultant to formulate and draft the Papua New Guinea National Chemicals Profile. The multi-sectoral nature of chemicals management resulted in the project involving many Government departments in addition to the Department of Environment and Conservation. (US\$1000)

Funding
US\$1800

SAMOA



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Sa'anapu/Sataoa Conservation Area Projects with the Department of Environment and Conservation (US\$36,650) and the Uafato Conservation Area Project with O Le Siosiomaga Society Inc. (US\$40,000)

Provided financial assistance for construction of the Information and Interpretative Centre in the village of Uafato. (US\$16,000)

Conducted participatory community planning exercise and preparation of a Uafato Community Resource Management Plan.

Provided technical and full financial support for a community level coral reef pilot monitoring programme in six villages in Samoa. (US\$20,000)

Provided advisory input to Samoa's development of the IUCN/World Bank Marine Protected Areas project.

Funding
US\$76,000

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Established Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) country team, held national workshop on Climate Change, held country team meetings, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers, arranged national consultancies on training and greenhouse gases. (US\$30,827)

Held preparatory meetings to upgrade Telecommunications link between Samoa and American Samoa, June 1998 and October 1998. (US\$10,000)

Funding
US\$70,827

Held Public Awareness and Media Workshop on New Procedures for issuance of tropical cyclone warnings for the two Samoas, October 1998. (US\$10,000)

Planning, managing and regulating development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable

Provided technical and policy advice to Samoa concerning the GEF Council.

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Identified Internship technical support from University of Oregon, Micronesia/South Pacific Program to Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Government of Samoa.

Provided Small Grants Scheme Assistance for World Biodiversity Day Commemoration in Samoa. (US\$611)

Provided technical assistance in a national information needs survey.

Provided software (DB TextWorks) to assist in formulation of National Environmental Resource Database of Samoa (NERDS). (US\$2500)

Funding
US\$6111

Provided display boards for environmental information to assist with national environmental awareness programmes to 2 libraries. (US\$3000)

SOLOMON ISLANDS



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Komarindi (US\$20,800) and Arnavon (US\$33,000) Conservation Area Projects.

Provided financial assistance to conduct an Ecotourism Development Phase II skills programme in Komarindi, including tour guide and leadership training, financial management awareness and a tourism development workshop and technical assistance fore the operations of a half-day tour. (US\$5000)

Funding
US\$60,300

Funded one participant to the NZODA Pacific Ecotourism Workshop, held in Taveuni, Fiji, July 1998. (US\$1500)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP): held national workshop on climate change; held country team meetings, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers, visited Outer Island to raise awareness of climate change and to undertake a study of vulnerability and adaptation options (V&A study). (US\$61,999)

Funding
US\$61,999

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Employed an external consultant for two weeks to undertake the inspection of waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites as part of the POPs in PICs project. During the visit a stockpile of DDT in poor condition was repacked and relocated. (US\$7000)

Funding
US\$7000

TONGA



Protecting natural heritage through the conservaiton and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Ha'apai Marine Conservation Area. (US\$62,200)

Provided an Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA) marine biologist to assist staff and communities in managing the Ha'apai Marine Conservation Area. (US\$36,000)

Fully funded a study tour by eight members of the Ha'apai Marine Conservation Area coordinating committee and Tongan officials to Samoa, particularly to visit the Samoa Fisheries Extension Project activities, Uafato and Sa'anapu/Sataoa Conservation Area Projects and their communities, and the income-generating activities of the Women in Business Foundation. (US\$15,000)

Provided financial assistance for conservation staff participation in the Ha'apai Tourism and Environment Festival week.

In partnership with Whales Alive and the South Pacific Humpback Whale Project, developed and funded 1998 support to the implementation of Tonga's Vision for Whale Watching Tourism 2000 which included support to population survey and monitoring, training to whale watch operators and guides, public awareness and education initiatives. (US\$10,000)

Funding
US\$123,200

TUVALU



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Funafuti Marine Conservation Area. (US\$34,000)

Provided an AVA, a marine biologist, to assist Conservation Area staff in managing their project. (US\$21,600)

Funding
US\$55,600

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Provided financial support in the production of information sheet three on 'The Turtle'. This was produced in English and Tuvaluan language and has been distributed to the communities.

Provided financial support in carrying out awareness radio programmes on a weekly basis. These programmes are carried out in Tuvaluan. (US\$730)

Funding
US\$2721

Provided Small Grants Scheme Assistance for Environment Week Activities. (US\$1991)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP): held national workshop on climate change, country team met, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered data in-country, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers. (US\$28,049)

Funding
US\$33,049

Conducted integrated Coastal Management Introductory Workshop, August 1998, Funafuti. (US\$5000)

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Visit by the SPREP Waste Management Officer, following the inspection of waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites as part of the POPs in PICs project. (US\$1800)

Funding
US\$1800

VANUATU



Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Provided ongoing financial support to the Wan Smol Bag/Fisheries Department Turtle Conservation Project, village-based tours/workshops and Turtle Monitors Network. (US\$24,000)

Funded Wan Smol Bag's participation, training sessions and performances at the SPREP Regional Environmental Education and Training Conference, June–July 1998. (US\$5000)

Continued financial and technical support for the management of the Vatthe Conservation Area Project, in collaboration with the Environment Division. (US\$17,000)

Funded one participant to the NZODA Pacific Ecotourism Workshop, held in Taveuni, Fiji, July 1998. (US\$1500)

Funding
US\$47,500

Conducted national workshop on coral reef monitoring techniques. (US\$17,000)

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP): National coordinator recruited, held national workshop on climate change, country team met, undertook inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, began Phase II of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. Participants gathered in-country data, met with country team, and began drafting scoping report. Carried out awareness activities through media, seminars for Government officials and Ministers. (US\$50,692)

Funding
US\$50,692

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Engaged a consultant to formulate and draft the Vanuatu National Chemical Profile. The multi-sectoral nature of chemicals management resulted in the project involving many Government departments in addition to the Environment Unit. (US\$1000)

Funding
US\$1000

SPREP regional activities

Protecting natural heritage through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Conducted the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef Evaluation Meeting, April 1998, Nadi, Fiji. Funded Pacific island participants to the Meeting (American Samoa {1}; Cook Islands {2}; FSM {2}; Fiji {2}; Guam {1}; Kiribati {1}; Marshall Islands {1}; Nauru {1}; Niue {1}; Palau {2}; Samoa {1}; Solomon Islands {1}; Tonga {1}; Vanuatu {2}). (US\$45,694)

Funded Pacific island participants to the advanced training course in coral reef survey and monitoring methods (March 1998, Townsville, Australia. (FSM {1}, Fiji {1}). (US\$5781)

Conducted a sub-regional train-the-trainer workshop in coral reef survey and monitoring techniques at the College of Micronesia (October 1998, Pohnpei. (US\$17,553) Funded Pacific island participants to attend the workshop. (FSM {10 from Kosrae, Yap, Chuuk State, Pohnpei}; Vanuatu {1}). (US\$13,000)

Conducted a sub-regional train-the-trainer workshop in coral reef survey and monitoring techniques at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, July 1998. Funded participants to the workshop (Fiji {8}; Nauru {1}; Niue {1}). (US\$4000)

Funded Pacific island participants to the SPBCP Multipartite Review Meeting, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 19–20 November 1998. (Cook Islands {1}; Fiji {1}; Kiribati {1}; Niue {1}; Samoa {2}; Solomon Islands {1}; Tonga {1}; Tuvalu {1}). (US\$65,213)

Funded Pacific island participants to the community-based ecotourism skills development programme and workshop for SPBCP-supported Conservation Areas, Esperitu Santo, Vanuatu, 23 November – 4 December 1998. (Cook Islands {1}; Fiji {4}; Kiribati {2}; Marshall Islands {1}; Niue {1}; Palau {4}; Papua New Guinea {1}; Samoa {2}; Solomon Islands {1}; Vanuatu {2}). (US\$46,605)

Funded Pacific islands participants to attend the SPREP/Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD)/World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Pacific Islands Region, March 1998. (Cook Islands {2}; FSM {2}; Fiji {2}; Kiribati {2}; Marshall Islands {2}; Nauru {2}; Niue {2}; Palau {2}; Papua New Guinea {2}; Samoa {2}; Solomon Islands {2}; Tonga {2}; Tuvalu {2}; Vanuatu {2}). (US\$51,057)

Funded Pacific island delegates to the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Slovakia, May 1998, (Marshall Islands {1}; Samoa {1}). (US\$30,000)

Conducted in collaboration with the Samoa Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC) a Natural Resource-based Income-Generating Activities Training Workshop for the SPBCP-supported Conservation Areas, Apia, Samoa, July 1998. Funded Pacific island participants to the workshop. (FSM {2}; Fiji {2}; Kiribati {1}; Marshall Islands {1}; Niue {2}; Palau {2}; Samoa {3}; Solomon Islands {2}; Tonga {1}; Tuvalu {1}; Vanuatu {2}). (US\$54,461)

Organised and conducted the World Bank-funded Seminar on Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Coastal Uses in the Pacific, Nadi, May 1998. Pacific island participants at seminar: American Samoa {1}; FSM {2}; Fiji {1}; Guam {1}; Kiribati {2}; Niue {2}; Palau {2}; Samoa {2}; Solomon Islands {2}; Tonga {2}; Tuvalu {2}; Vanuatu {2}. (US\$2000)

Commenced Canada South Pacific Ocean Development Project Phase II Coastal Systems Project (FSM October 1998, Kosrae; Tuvalu August 1998, Funafuti; Vanuatu August 1998, Port Vila). (US\$41,300)

Funded Pacific island participants to the SPBCP/WWF workshop on community-based resource management, Gizo, Solomon Islands (Fiji {2}; Solomon Islands {6}; Vanuatu {1}). Also funded 50 percent of the workshop costs (resource people, venue costs, etc). (US\$12,977)

Funded Pacific island participants to the “train-the-trainers” Community Ecotourism Workshop for the Melanesia sub-region, November 1998, Vanuatu (Fiji {2}; Solomon Islands {2}; Vanuatu {2}).

Funding
US\$406,641

Understanding and responding to climate change, particularly through integrated coastal management

Hosted the World Conservation Monitoring Centre Phase 1 Pilot Information Management Workshop for Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) coordinators, Apia, Samoa, January 1998 (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). (US\$22,000)

Hosted the World Conservation Monitoring Centre Phase II Pilot Information Management Workshop for PICCAP coordinators, December 1998, Port Vila (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). (US\$35,000)

Funded 26 regional training attachments for Pacific island technical personnel, on outputs/results of the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project, and on climate change issues, National Tidal Facility, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, June 1998 and October 1998 (US\$100,000)

Regional Orientation and Planning Meeting for PICCAP Coordinators, 26–30 January 1998, Apia, Samoa. Represented by one participant from nine countries under PICCAP (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Federated States of Micronesia could not attend due to flight cancellations. Niue also attended under their own project costs. (US\$23,124)

Regional Meeting on Greenhouse Gas Inventory Training, 13–17 April 1998, Suva, Fiji. Represented by two participants from 10 countries under PICCAP (Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Another two participants each from Niue and Papua New Guinea attended under their own project costs. (US\$46,982)

1st Multipartite Review of PICCAP and Regional Meeting for Coordinators on United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 25–27 May 1998, Nadi, Fiji. Represented by each coordinator from 10 PICCAP countries (Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). (US\$18,000)

Regional Meeting on Mitigation, 30 November – 4 December 1998, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Represented by two participants from 10 countries under PICCAP (Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Kiribati could not participate due to airline travel problems. Another two participants each from Niue and Papua New Guinea attended under their own project costs. (US\$55,781)

Co-hosted the Fifth SPREP Meeting of Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) and a workshop on the Y2K problem for regional meteorological services. Jointly hosted with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US National Weather Service (NWS), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Bureau of Meteorology Australia, Météo France, November 1998, Honolulu, Hawai'i November 1998. (US\$75,000)

Hosted jointly with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) a workshop on guidelines for the management of national meteorological services, April 1998, Nadi, Fiji. (US\$60,000).

Hosted jointly with WMO the Second Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Regional Association V (South West Pacific), December 1998, Nadi, Fiji. (US\$60,000).

Undertook consultancy work for development and implementation of technical programmes in the South West Pacific Region (e.g: EMWIN, Qfax, etc), Brisbane, Australia, April 1998. (US\$20,000).

Installed Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) and conducted training of technical staff. (American Samoa; Cook Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; Niue). (US\$40,000)

Advised member countries of the outcomes of the Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 1–3 October 1998, Vienna, Austria. (US\$7000)

Provided technical advice and policy briefing to Pacific island delegates before and during the 8th sessions of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC, Bonn, Germany, June 1998. (US\$15,500)

Provided technical and policy briefings to Pacific island delegates during the preparatory meeting held in Nadi, Fiji before the Fourth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP4), 26–27 October, 1998. (US\$4000)

Provided technical advice and policy briefings to Pacific island delegates attending the G77/China meeting, 30–31 October, 1998, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (US\$2000)

Provided technical advice and policy briefings for Pacific island delegates attending the Ninth Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBI/SBSTA) and the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) to the UNFCCC, 2–13 November, 1998, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (US\$18,000)

Funding
US\$542,387

Minimising pollution and wastes, and improving preparedness for pollution emergencies

Undertook the Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries (POPs in PICs) project to inspect waste and obsolete chemicals and chemicals contaminated sites, including testing of electricity transformer oil for PCB content in 13 Pacific island countries. (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Equipment—US\$5600; inspections and project management—US\$213,000; training and education—US\$1900.

Regional consultation visit by the WASTE project coordinator to ascertain countries' requirements in development of a national waste public education campaign (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) (US\$12,700).

Conducted regional marine pollution (PACPOL) consultation and fact-finding mission. Roundtable meetings held with representatives from government maritime, environment, disaster management, fisheries and other departments, port authorities and the oil industry. Oil terminals and port facilities were inspected. (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) (US\$15,000)

Attended SPOCC Marine Sector Working Group meeting, March 1998, Fiji.

Attended first annual C-SPOD Programme Management Committee meeting to secure funds for development of PACPOL march 1998, Fiji.

Attended Forum Secretariat Petroleum industry workshop, October 1998, Fiji, to develop links between PACPOL and ForSec Petroleum Programme.

Held first annual PACPOL workshop, December 1998, Fiji. (American Samoa {2}; Cook Islands {2}; Federated States of Micronesia {2}; Fiji {10}; French Polynesia {2}; Kiribati {2}; New Caledonia {2}; Niue {1}; Palau {2}; Papua New Guinea {2}; Samoa {1}; Solomon Islands {1}; Tonga {2}; Tuvalu {1}; Vanuatu {3}; Wallis and Futuna {2}) (US\$50,000)

Funding
US\$328,200

Planning, managing and regulating development in a manner that is environmentally sustainable

Carried out the Preparatory Assistance Phase of the Capacity Building for Environmental Management and Planning Project. This involved the establishment of National Coordinating Committees to consult with all stakeholders to develop priority issues for incorporation into the CBEMP Project Document (Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). (US\$241,000)

Provided technical and policy advice concerning the Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD6) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly. (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). (US\$12,000)

Funded participation by experts in the review of the SPREP EIA programme, Christchurch, 19–20 April 1998 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu). (US\$10,000)

Funded participation and briefed delegates to the workshop on Pacific preparations for the Seventh Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD7), Apia, 11–13 November 1998 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna). (US\$70,000)

Funded participation and briefed delegates to workshops on the South Pacific Environment Outlook, Apia, 9–10 November (Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna). (US\$20,000)

Funded and briefed delegates attending the Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Development for Pacific Island Ministers. (Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna). (US\$10,000)

Funding
US\$363,000

Strengthening environmental education, training and information systems

Conducted Pacific Environmental Education and Training Conference, 29 June – 3 July 1998, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, to review the state of environmental education in Pacific island countries, re-establish a network of environmental educators, and exchange experience in incorporating environmental education into school curricula. Funded participants from 19 Pacific island countries. (American Samoa {3}; Cook Islands {4}; Federated States of Micronesia {4}; French Polynesia {3}; Guam {3}; Kiribati {3}; Republic of the Marshall Islands {4}; Nauru {4}; New Caledonia {1}; Niue {3}; Northern Mariana Islands {1}; Palau {3}; Papua New Guinea {3}; Samoa {4}; Solomon Islands {3}; Tokelau {3}; Tonga {2}; Tuvalu {3}; Vanuatu {3}). (US\$154,016)

Funded participation of environmental personnel to Environmental Information Clearinghouse workshop in Apia (Cook Islands {1}; FSM {1}; Fiji {1}; Kiribati {2}; Marshall Islands {2}; Vanuatu {2}). (US\$20,215)

Provided information and other services (technical database development) through library requests (American Samoa; Fiji; French Polynesia; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; New Caledonia; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; Vanuatu). (US\$1300)

Continued support of environmental library networking through sending of country updates (diskettes) (Cook Islands; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Samoa; Vanuatu) and providing photocopiers (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu). (US\$10,000)

Funding
US\$185,521

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

SPREP Funding in 1998

A total of US\$8,675,259 was available to SPREP during 1998. This included net funds of US\$1,760,575, carried forward from 1997. Actual funding of US\$6,914,684 was received in 1998. A total of US\$2,916,372 unspent funds on hand at 31 December 1998 is intended to be spent on projects during 1999.

SPREP Expenditure in 1998

Total expenditure by the Secretariat, to carry out SPREP's work programme, amounted to US\$5,706,111 in 1998.



Funding and Expenditure

The following table is an overview of the available funding in 1998, classified by function. For comparative purposes, the two previous years' funding has also been shown.

Function	1996 (US\$)	1997 (US\$)	1998 (US\$)
Project Implementation	7,231,416	6,713,953	7,442,711
Project Management	305,177	432,633	392,678
Primary Function	750,139	627,700	839,870
Total funds available in year	8,286,732	7,774,286	8,675,259
Carried forward from prior year	(2,767,759)	(2,950,731)	(1,922,587)
Funds returned to project donor	-	-	162,012
Funds received in year	5,518,973	4,823,555	6,914,684

The major source of total funding came from donors including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID); New Zealand Overseas Development Assistance (NZODA); and Canada – South Pacific Ocean Development Program (C – SPOD).

Member Government also contributed funds, with other donor funds for specific activities coming from various Governments and international and regional organisations including the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), Danish Government, European Commission, French Government, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Los Alamos National Laboratories, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United States Government, World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Some funds on hand at 31 December 1998 were in respect of the proposed new SPREP Centre, to be built in 1999 – 2000. Funds received in 1998 for this project included donations from Australia, NZODA, the Peoples Republic of China and Papua New Guinea.

The following table provides an overview of this expenditure. For comparative purposes the two previous years' expenditure have also been shown.

Function	1996 (US\$)	1997 (US\$)	1998 (US\$)
Project Implementation			
Conservation of Natural Resources	1,576,558	2,079,818	1,618,573
Environmental Management and Planning	1,468,876	1,737,396	2,124,600
Environmental Education, information and Capacity-building	950,880	832,694	844,155
Other Project Implementation	446,488	384,268	44,904
Total Project Implementation Expenditure	4,442,802	5,034,176	4,632,232
Project Management Expenditure	364,829	389,318	413,733
Primary Function Expenditure	647,181	509,645	660,146
Total Expenditure in Year	5,454,812	5,933,139	5,706,111

Relations with other Organisations

SPREP's annual budget relies heavily on the support of a range of donors for the implementation of programmes. Contributions come from international organisations and a number of member and non-member Governments.

Donors

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

Canada and Denmark, non-member Governments, continued to contribute towards projects in coastal management, marine turtle conservation and climate change impacts.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a major contributor towards SPREP's funding. UNDP 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 Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) Project.

Continuing this tradition of support, the Administrator of UNDP and the Director of SPREP signed an agreement in Barbados in 1994, for SPREP to implement the Capacity 21 project. The project was established to follow up and implement decisions of the 1992 Earth Summit. The follow-up to Capacity 21, the Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific (CBEMP) commenced in 1998.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), administered jointly by the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP, co-funds with Australia, the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP), SPREP's largest single project. The GEF also funds the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP), which is executed by UNDP and implemented by SPREP, in close collaboration with CC:TRAIN, which is administered by the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR). The implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for International Waters in the Pacific Region will also be funded by the GEF through UNDP.

Funding was also received from the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the International Maritime Organization, the United Kingdom's Darwin Initiative, the US Department of Energy through the University of California Los Alamos National Laboratories and the World Meteorological Organization. UNEP continued to support a number of projects within SPREP.

Collaborating institutions

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

SPREP has collaborated with regional institutes and technical agencies for a long time. These include the Universities of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Guam and Hawai'i, the Community College of Micronesia, the East-West Center in Honolulu, the Laboratoire d'étude et de surveillance de l'environnement in Tahiti, the Institute for Research and Development (formerly ORSTOM) and the Université Française du Pacifique Sud in Nouméa.

Other collaborative partners include the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Wollongong, the Flinders University of South Australia, James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science, in Australia, and the University of Auckland and Waikato University, in New Zealand.

SPREP works closely with other regional intergovernmental organisations in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP: formerly SPOCC), including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Nouméa and the Forum Secretariat in Suva, as well as the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in Suva, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Honiara, the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) in Suva and the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) in Honolulu.

Other collaborating partners are the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), the Foundation of International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United States Environment Protection Agency (US EPA), Whales Alive, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Through memoranda of understanding (MOUs), SPREP undertakes joint projects with several international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the IMO, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Geneva, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Honolulu, the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) in Cambridge, the International Centre for Protected Landscapes (ICPL) in Wales, Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA), the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program Phase Two (C-SPODP II), the Department of Conservation (DoC) in New Zealand and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

The Secretariats of the World Heritage Convention (WHC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) work closely with SPREP to assist Pacific island countries in implementing these conventions.

Individual Pacific island countries have assisted SPREP's programmes and training by willingly hosting both regional and sub-regional meetings. In addition, many skilled individuals from the region undertake consultancy work for SPREP in specialist areas not readily available in the Secretariat. SPREP thanks all its collaborating institutions and consultants for their efforts and assistance during the year.

Acronyms

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
ARCS	Atmospheric Radiation and Cloud Station
ARM	Atmospheric Radiation Measurement programme
ARM ARCS-3	Third Atmospheric Radiation Measurement/Atmospheric Radiation and Cloud Station
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AVA	Australian Volunteers Abroad
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CACC	Conservation Area Coordinating Committee
CAP	Conservation Area Project
CASO	Conservation Area Support Officer
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBEMP	Capacity Building for Environmental Management in the Pacific
CC:TRAIN	Climate Change Training (a programme of UNITAR)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CNN	Cable News Network
CNR	Conservation of Natural Resources Division
COMSEC	Commonwealth Secretariat
COP4	Fourth Conference of the Parties
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (formerly SPOCC)
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSD6	Sixth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development
CSD7	Seventh Meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
CSPODP-II	Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program Phase Two
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane
DEC	Division of Environment and Conservation (Samoa)
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)

DoC	Department of Conservation (New Zealand)
ECOASIA-Net	Environmental information network for Asia and the Pacific
EEIC	Environmental Education, Information and Capacity-building Division
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management and Planning Division
EMWIN	Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
EQPB	Environmental Quality Protection Board (Palau)
EU	European Union
FIELD	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO2	Second Global Environmental Outlook
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPA	Global Programme of Action
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICPL	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGCI	International Global Change Institute
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOE	Institute of Education
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ISSG	Invasive Species Specialist Group
IT	Information Technology
IT PACNET	Network of CROP Information Technology managers
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IWG	Information sector Working Group (CROP)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategies
NERDS	National Environmental Resource Database of Samoa
NETTLAP	Network for Environmental Training at the Tertiary Level for

Asia and the Pacific

NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
NTF	National Tidal Facility (Australia)
NWS	National Weather Service (US)
NZODA	New Zealand Official Development Assistance
ORRT	Oceania Regional Response Team (US)
OSB	Overseas Service Bureau (Australia)
PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
PENRIC	Pacific Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre
PIC	Pacific island country
PICCAP	Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme
PIDP	Pacific Islands Development Programme
PNG	Papua New Guinea
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
POPs in PICs	Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries project
PREL	Pacific Resources for Environment and Learning
PYOOCR	1997 Pacific Year of the Coral Reef campaign
RACP	Regional Avifauna Conservation Programme
Ramsar Convention	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat
RMIEPA	Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority
RMSD	Meeting of Regional Meteorological Service Directors
RMTCP	Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme
RTH	Regional telecommunications hub
SBEC	Samoa Small Business Enterprise Centre
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice check
SEAFRAME	Sea Level Fine Resolution Acoustic Measuring Equipment
SIDSnet	Small Island Developing States Network
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPaRCE	Schools of the Pacific Rainfall Climate Experiment
SPBCP	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme

SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPOCC	South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (now CROP)
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCAP	Takitumu Conservation Area Project
TCSP	Tourism Council of the South Pacific
TMAG	Technical and Management Advisory Group
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
US	United States
US DoE	United States Department of Energy
US EPA	United States Environment Protection Agency
USP	University of the South Pacific
WASTE	Waste Awareness and Solutions Through Education
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF-SP	World Wide Fund for Nature – South Pacific
Y2K	Year 2000