



2009

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Secretariat of the
Pacific Regional Environment
Programme



Pacific Year of Climate Change 2009



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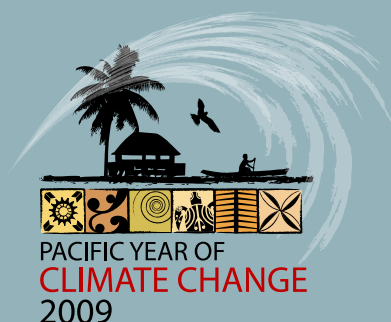
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Namdrik Atoll, Republic of Marshall Islands PHOTO – VAINUUPU JUNGBLUT

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FOREWORD

BY CHAIR OF 20TH SPREP MEETING KIRIBATI

2009

The year 2009 was an eventful period for the Pacific region, with challenges and accomplishments that will be forever etched in our Pacific history.

Tragedies struck different parts of our region as we suffered loss of Pacific brothers and sisters through disasters, felt throughout our ocean.

We are sorry for the losses our fellow island countries and territories have had to suffer in 2009. As we reflect on the year that was, our hearts are saddened by the tragic events – the tsunamis and cyclones that struck our Member countries.

We extend our deepest sympathy: it is in times like these that Pacific ties show their strength when that support is needed the most.

While our region will rightly look back on 2009 as a year of turmoil, it was also a year of quiet accomplishments. We made progress in our endeavour to better protect and manage our environment for sustainable development, while ensuring that the Pacific way of life is maintained.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has continued to help strengthen the partnership in a spirit of cooperation and unity by addressing our environmental needs, during a particularly challenging year for SPREP.

For a large part of 2009, the Secretariat operated with reduced internal capacity, particularly at senior levels. This while it was confronting significant strategic and institutional changes, particularly the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), the Independent Corporate Review (ICR) and the European Union's (EU) Institutional Review. These all demanded a high level of input from the Secretariat. The Executive Team was strengthened with the arrival of the new Director – Mr David Sheppard in October – and the new Manager for the Pacific Futures Programme – Mrs Netatua Pelesikoti in December.

“ While our region will rightly look back on 2009 as a year of turmoil, it was also a year of quiet accomplishments.”



PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

SPREP continued to work with its Member countries and territories across the Pacific region while it was addressing these challenges.

The Pacific Year of Climate Change campaign embodied the strong focus of all SPREP Members on the immediate threat that climate change poses to our way of life. Well prepared, we made the Pacific voice heard loud and clear at the 15th Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

SPREP played a significant role in addressing climate change at a range of levels: it assisted its Members to prepare for global negotiations, to develop regional strategies, national policies, and localised practical tools. It also helped formulate response strategies for countries to better adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change.

The five-year Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project started in 2009, as did a strong communications outreach campaign.

The results of numerous capacity building efforts were visible at the UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen, where Pacific island countries were highly engaged in the international negotiations.

Our island communities face a high magnitude of environmental challenges: they include the accumulation of solid and hazardous waste, the rapid loss of biodiversity, and the need to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change. To respond to these challenges, we need a strong scientific platform based on the latest scientific data. That will support adaptation solutions that are conducive and tailor-made for Pacific countries. Coming together through SPREP, as we did during the 20th SPREP Meeting in Apia, Samoa in November 2009, we find strength in numbers. United we can boldly address oncoming environmental challenges.

Concerted efforts have been made by the new Executive Team in addressing the priorities and issues of Members in 2009,

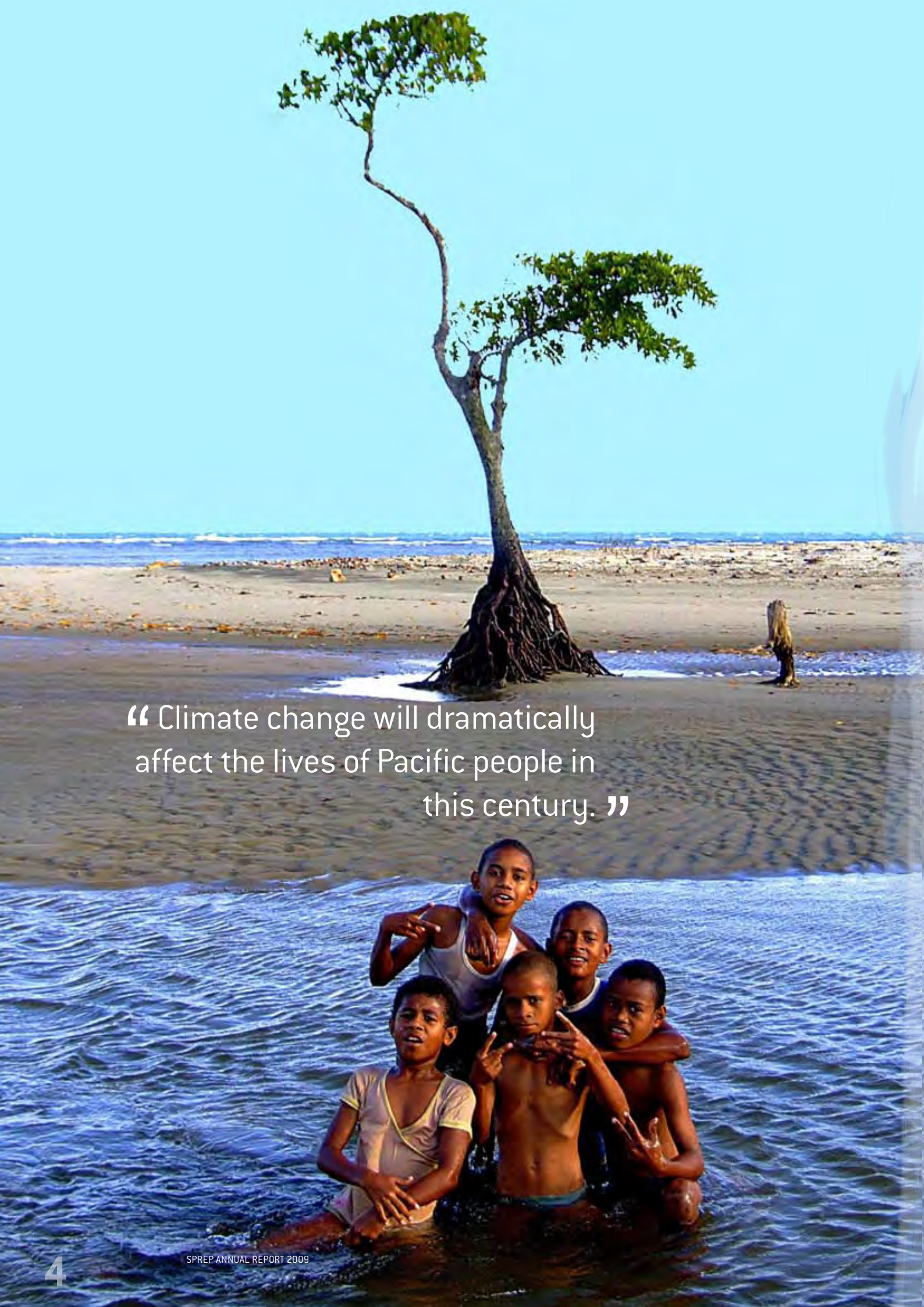
as well as key corporate and institutional matters. However, much work still needs to be done in the years ahead in order to safeguard a better future and safe environment for generations to come. Despite the many challenges we face, in my view 2010 bodes well for SPREP and our Pacific region.

The Secretariat must be congratulated for its important accomplishments in 2009. In saying that, it is critical that Members continue to engage with the Secretariat and support and strengthen it. That will position SPREP so that it can respond effectively to the challenges that lie ahead. It makes SPREP an organisation that we can count on and also be proud of.

Mrs Teboranga Tioti

Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Lands
and Agricultural Development, Kiribati
Chair of the 20th SPREP Meeting





“ Climate change will dramatically affect the lives of Pacific people in this century. ”



INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to have joined SPREP as Director of the Secretariat in 2009, a period of change in the Pacific: both in an environmental and an institutional sense.

From an environmental perspective, many Pacific countries and territories (PICTs) were affected by extreme weather events and natural disasters. The most extreme event was the tsunami that severely impacted Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga on 29 September 2009, with tragic loss of life and destruction of property. We at SPREP pass our sincere condolences to all affected by these events.

I am pleased that the Secretariat was able to provide assistance to the post-tsunami assessment and recovery effort in Samoa, in collaboration with the government and other partners.

The impacts of the tsunami clearly demonstrate the vulnerability of Pacific islands to extreme events. Climate change and associated sea level rise on Pacific islands became more evident during the year. Extreme high-tide events in several Member countries, in particular, highlighted the vulnerability of low-lying islands. At the beginning of the year, floods also had devastating impacts in Fiji. As we are clearly seeing, climate change directly affects the livelihoods of Pacific people and impacts across all sectors.

Institutionally, 2009 was a period of change within the region, and within SPREP. Of note are the Regional Institutional Framework process, the Independent Corporate Review of SPREP and the European Union (EU) Institutional Review; with myself starting as the new Director late in the year.

The Regional Institutional Framework process culminated in a meeting of the governing bodies of SPREP, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in July 2009. These meetings decided a number of functions would be transferred from SOPAC to SPREP and to SPC. SPREP has moved quickly and decisively to implement these recommendations.

The Independent Corporate Review and the EU Institutional Review have provided SPREP with a platform from which to strengthen institutional delivery and services.

The Secretariat has moved quickly to address key recommendations from the Independent Corporate Review. For example, we have established a functioning Executive Team which is reporting regularly to staff in an open and transparent manner, and implemented a range of institutional strengthening initiatives.



SPREP launched an ambitious change management strategy in 2009, guided by four key principles:

1. to improve the delivery of tangible services to Members;
2. to improve internal processes, in particular in response to recommendations of institutional reviews;
3. to strengthen SPREP's partnerships, including with other regional organisations; and
4. to improve the linkage between SPREP's policy work and practical, on-the-ground demonstration projects.

We recognise the critical role of partnerships to SPREP's work. In 2009, relations were strengthened through signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with key partners such as the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. We are pleased that several key countries have

increased their support to SPREP, including France in relation to solid waste management and Australia in relation to climate change.

Work began on the Strategic Plan for SPREP to replace the existing Action Plan that expired in December 2009. The new plan will clearly define SPREP's future niche and programmatic focus in support of Pacific countries. A major consultation exercise with Members and Partners will ensure this plan reflects priority environmental issues in the region and addresses the views of SPREP Members.

2009 was endorsed as the Pacific Year of Climate Change with the theme "Our Century's Challenge, Our Pacific Response". During the year, the Secretariat heavily supported Pacific country preparations for the Copenhagen Climate Conference which proved to be one of the largest-ever UN gatherings. This reflects the fact that climate change is recognised as one of the major

environmental, social, economic and moral issues of our time.

"Climate change will dramatically affect the lives of Pacific people in this century", was the resolute message from the Pacific. Already this region is experiencing the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, salt-water intrusion in drinking water and root crops, more extreme and frequent weather events, and coral bleaching.

There was strong representation of our Pacific region, with eight Pacific Heads of State sending a clear message about the importance of climate change for the Pacific. All Pacific island countries (PICs) in attendance had large delegations, and all were actively involved throughout the conference to ensure the Pacific voice was heard, and heard loudly.

The outcomes from Copenhagen fell short of the hopes of Pacific countries before the conference. However, I believe that SPREP and its Pacific Members should

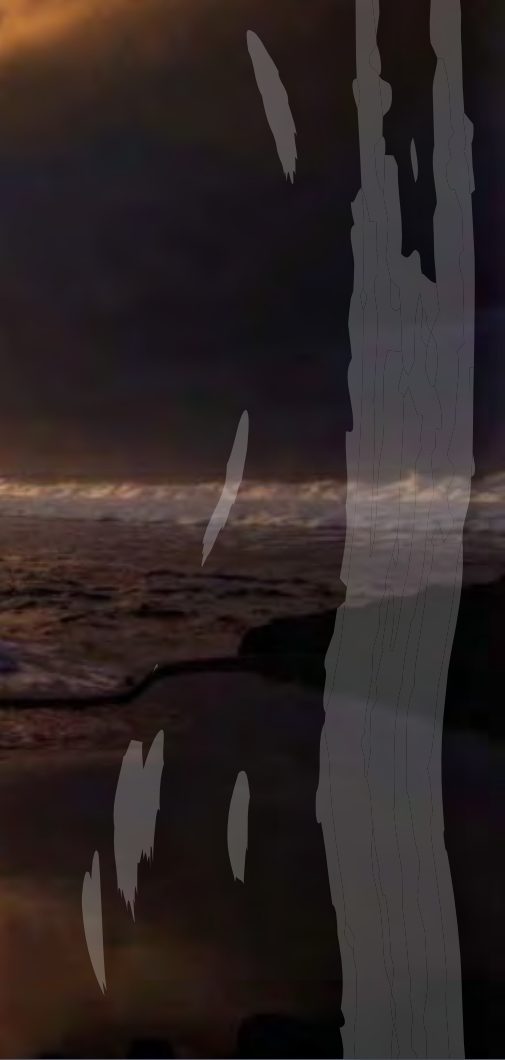


PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

not give up. We should recognise the conference as one step along a path, even though it is neither as ambitious nor as effective an outcome as that for which many were pushing so hard.

Targets in the Accord and the financial pledges made at Copenhagen must be honoured and directed to help communities adapt to climate change in the Pacific.

The Secretariat also undertook a number of practical programmes during the year to help PICs address climate change. The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project started in 2009: it provides practical support for countries to adapt to climate change in sectors such as water, agriculture and coastal infrastructure. Work continued on SPREP's renewable energy project: called PIGGAREP (Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project), it supports the application of different renewable energy sources. Many capacity building and

awareness activities were implemented; a highlight was the training of Pacific communication and media experts to better communicate climate change issues to the people of the Pacific.

This annual report highlights the breadth of work SPREP is undertaking to support its Pacific Members to improve management and protection of their environments. Excellent progress was made in helping PICs better manage their solid waste, address marine pollution, enhance ecosystems and protect important species, both on land and in the sea. The Secretariat continued to support PICs in United Nations processes relating to a range of areas, including biodiversity, species conservation and wetlands conservation.

The range of SPREP's work, and the beauty of our Pacific region, is evident in the following pages that outline the work of the Secretariat in support of a sustainable Pacific environment.

I am committed to making SPREP a more efficient and effective organisation that can better serve the needs of its Pacific Member Countries and Territories in addressing their environmental and climate challenges.

I look forward to working with Members and Partners to ensure that together we can rise to and meet these challenges. The Strategic Plan to be developed in 2010 provides ideal opportunities for us: not only for collectively addressing the environmental challenges, but also for building on the tremendous opportunities in the Pacific region to achieve an ecologically sustainable future.

David Sheppard
Director



David Sheppard
Director

“ I look forward to working with Members and Partners to ensure that together we can rise to meet our challenges. ”



THE PACIFIC YEAR OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The year 2009 marked an increase in international and regional activities on climate change adaptation, mitigation, science and meteorology, public awareness and capacity development.

International and Regional Processes

The Pacific region was heavily engaged in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. These sought to establish suitable international legal instruments to enhance the UNFCCC and to introduce further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The Pacific Island Countries supported the positions adopted by the Alliance of Small Island States, seeking a limit to warming of not more than 1.5 degrees; and they called for carbon dioxide emissions to be reduced to 350 parts per million. The Secretariat supported national negotiating teams in the international meetings and assisted with briefings, technical assistance and preparatory sessions. The Secretariat also convened negotiation skills training, and continued the work on enhancing media skills on climate change issues. The latter effort has considerably scaled up reporting on climate change issues in the region and led to much greater coverage of regional climate change concerns in the international media.

Although the increase in the number of UNFCCC meetings in 2009 placed additional burdens on PICs and on the Secretariat, the region was well prepared for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference of December 2009, with a large turnout and active participation. In addition to its regular technical assistance, the Secretariat provided briefings to the Heads of Delegation and facilitated media events in Copenhagen.

Pacific Island Countries and Territories were disappointed by the outcomes of the Copenhagen Conference. A clear, legally binding deal on greenhouse gas emissions that PICs called for, was not secured. On the positive side, the conference highlighted the global concern about climate change and acceptance of climate change science, and there should be increasing funding to help island states respond. The need to press for a global deal remains, with stronger and clearer commitments to reduce emissions and support adaptation in our vulnerable island states. The Secretariat will remain engaged in the negotiations throughout 2010 to support and advise its Members, as it did in Copenhagen.

At the regional level, the Secretariat convened the 2009 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). The meeting recommended a mid-term review of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC). It developed a number of proposals for the improvement of climate change governance and cooperation, and looked at the feasibility of a regional climate change financing facility or mechanism. In a session led by RMI, the meeting also discussed the special climate change concerns of atoll countries.





“ Pacific Island Countries and Territories were disappointed by the outcomes of the Copenhagen Conference. ”



Our Century's Challenge, Our Pacific Response

The Secretariat organised a regional photography competition with the aim of documenting people's perspectives on climate change. 50 entries were received and selected entries were used as a backdrop for various events at the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen. Winning entries received cash prizes. A regional schools competition was also held, with over 100 entries received. Factsheets, posters and stickers were produced and made available to Members, both electronically and in hard copy. A media kit on climate change was prepared, to be completed in 2010.

Member countries and territories organised their own activities throughout the year, climate change being the focus of national environment weeks. Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands and Samoa reported a number of school and community-focused programmes as part of the Pacific Year of Climate Change.

PACIFIC YEAR OF CLIMATE CHANGE 2009

ACT NOW!

Helpful tips for our Pacific response

- Share a car to work, save on fuel and minimise carbon emissions
- Reduce your waste: a healthy environment helps us cope with Climate Change!
- Protect your coral reefs as they protect us!
- Plant more trees to help absorb carbon emissions
- Turn off air-conditioners, lights, fans and replace light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs.



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http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/PYCC/index.asp





EU-funded photovoltaic systems in Niue PHOTO – PIGGAREP

Renewable Energy: PIGGAREP

The end of 2009 was the halfway point for the five years' life of the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project. A mid-term review highlighted the need to strengthen regional and national capacity for delivering the project. To do so, SPREP and SPC prepared a joint regional proposal for 9 million Euros to enhance energy security and sustainable livelihoods in Pacific countries (the Identification Fiche approved by the EU, under the 10th round of the European Development Fund, EDF 10). As PIGGAREP has laid the groundwork in terms of removal of barriers, this funding will contribute to the implementation of renewable energy projects in PICs. The Secretariat, along with members of the Energy Working Group of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), successfully convened the Regional Energy Officials and Energy Minister meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity to coordinate and optimise the impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the region.

PIGGAREP, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), provided technical advice and training on the rehabilitation of the Mango and Mo'unga'one solar electrification projects in Tonga. The feasibility study for the Talise hydropower project in Vanuatu was completed; IUCN and the Vanuatu Government are considering the construction of the hydropower station. PIGGAREP also supported the Italian solar water pumping project in Kiribati, by funding a local consultant to do the engineering design.

A Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Information Centre at the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the Solomon Islands was supported by PIGGAREP; the centre is now operational and benefits many students throughout the Solomon Islands.

Results so far show that the potential for power generation is marginal, with an average wind speed of only 3.57 metres per second. PIGGAREP is assisting in careful site selection for further assessment within interested PICs. Wind monitoring equipment was purchased for the Cook Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu. The PIGGAREP-funded Field Supervisor is currently assisting with the collection and analysis of hydro data for Samoa's Electric Power Corporation.

Capacity building

Power Utility and Energy Office engineers from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu completed a study tour of the wind power development and the use of copra oil for power generation in Vanuatu.

A Tonga workshop supported by PIGGAREP brought together 25 regional participants from power utilities, energy offices and the private sector. Here they learnt from the experiences with the eight-year-old SPC-funded solar electrification project PREFACE and the EU-funded grid-connected photovoltaic systems in Niue. The workshop encouraged sharing information and best practice in renewable energy under PIGGAREP.

A joint workshop by PIGGAREP and the Risoe Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided regional capacity building on Clean Development Mechanisms. PIGGAREP also assisted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the mitigation component of its Second National Communication Regional Workshop. Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu received technical assistance to conduct their greenhouse gas inventories and technology needs assessments.

Support to National Meteorological Services

In June 2009 the Secretariat started a new joint partnership with the Finland Meteorological Institute, under a project to build the capacity of Pacific island countries in the areas of climatology and meteorology. The project was based on identified national priorities in three key areas:

- Quality Management Systems (QMS) for aviation meteorology services;
- communications skills and strategies;
- review of an existing regional strategic action plan.

A regional QMS training workshop was hosted by the Secretariat to initiate training of national meteorological services staff in the region.

Three important meetings were held back-to-back during the year.

1. The Fiji Government and Fiji Meteorological Service hosted the 13th meeting of the Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) organised by SPREP. The 2009 RMSD meeting focused on strategic planning, telecommunications issues and capacity building on weather and climate services.
2. The first joint meeting of National Meteorological Services with National Disaster Management Officials was jointly organised by SPREP and SOPAC. It raised awareness of the Regional Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action and discussed opportunities for national collaboration between meteorological offices and disaster officials.
3. The RMSD also attended the Pacific Disaster Platform meeting organised by SOPAC which looked at a regional approach to the 2nd Global Conference on the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The international development agencies AusAID and NZAID provided financial, technical and policy advice to support SPREP in the implementation of the Pacific Forum Leaders' decision in 2008, that the Secretariat facilitate a review of regional meteorological services. The review started toward the end of 2009 and is now completed, the final review report to be tabled at the Pacific Forum Leaders' meeting in 2010.

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project began in April 2009, with the appointment of the Regional Project Manager. The inception meeting in July brought together representatives from the 13 participating PIC's, in preparation for national-level implementation of PACC. By the end of December all the PACC countries had signed their MoU with SPREP, which – together – with the PACC project document embodies the entire agreement regarding implementation of the project at the national level. The Project Executive Committee also convened a meeting, chaired by the UNDP Apia multi-country office, with members from Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Samoa, SOPAC and SPREP.

Under the project, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands will focus on food security. The Cook Islands, FSM, Samoa and Vanuatu are developing coastal management capacity and Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu are looking to strengthen their water resource management.

The PACC is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with UNDP as its implementing agency and SPREP as the implementing partner.



PHOTO – NANETTE WOONTON



Shoreline destruction from 2009 tsunami Lalomanu, Samoa PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Post-Tsunami Support for Samoa

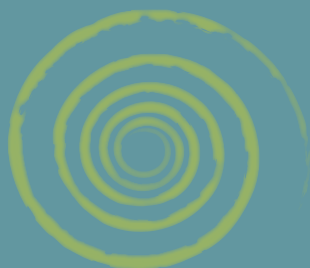
In Samoa, the Secretariat responded rapidly to the tragic tsunami that hit Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga on 29 September 2009. The support by staff included not only humanitarian relief to affected communities through donations, but also environmental impact assessments, surveying and mapping the affected areas, and assessing impacts on fisheries and sea turtles. The most obvious physical effects of the tsunami were solid waste, erosion of the beach and foreshore, and impact on marine resources. Staff of both SPREP technical programmes worked closely with the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), UN agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Conservation International's Pacific Islands Programme.

The results were submitted to the Environment Cluster of the Early Recovery Framework, a multi-stakeholder entity formed and led by the UN for the post-tsunami assessment and recovery planning work. After the tsunami struck, over 4500 people were forced to relocate from the impact zone. SPREP's mapping unit facilitated the effort to locate, quantify and deliver aid to the affected population by working with the Samoan Ministry of Health to produce and update maps on the location of displaced families.

“ The most obvious physical effects of the tsunami were solid waste, erosion of the beach and foreshore, and impact on marine resources. ”



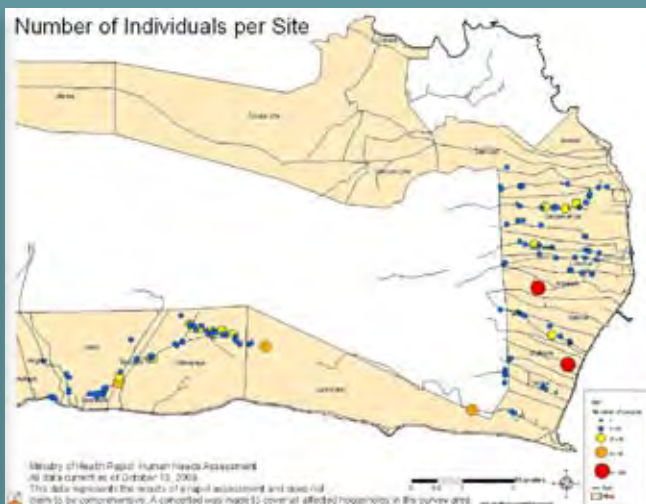
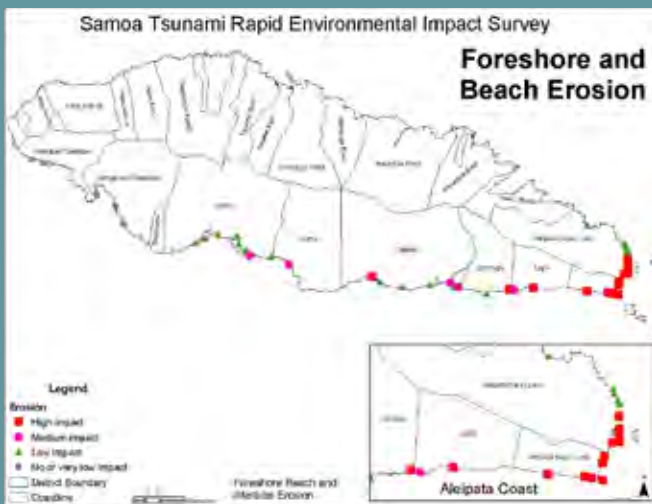
“ After the tsunami struck, over 4500 people were forced to relocate from the impact zone. ”



Aerial view of tsunami impact, Lalomanu PHOTO – STUART CHAPE



Lalomanu, after tsunami, 29 September 2009 PHOTO – STUART CHAPE



“ SPREP’s mapping unit facilitated the effort to locate, quantify and deliver aid to the affected population. ”



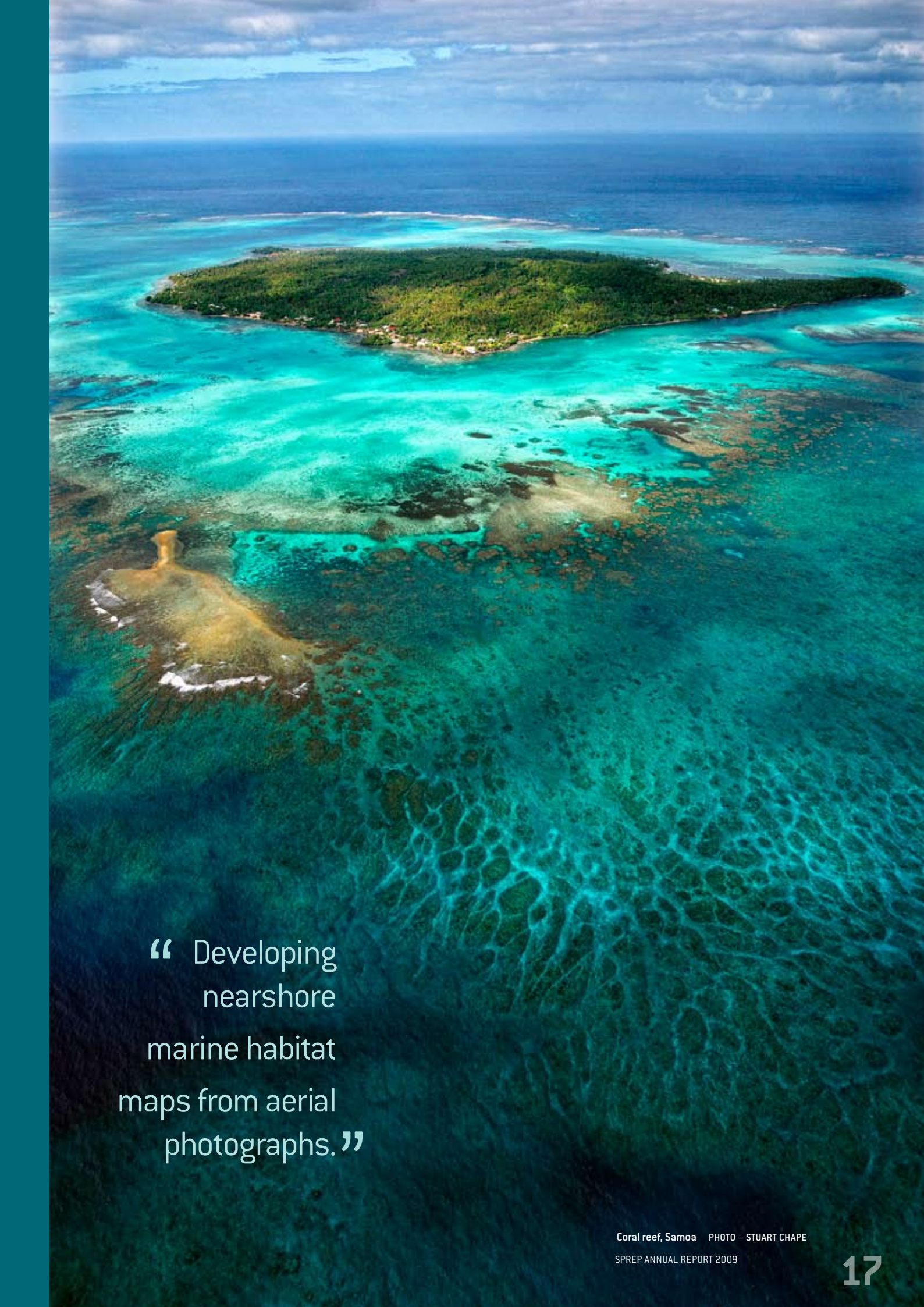
Namdrik Atoll, Republic of Marshall Islands. PHOTO – VAINUUPU JUNGBLUT

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Through SPREP's partnership with the Ramsar Convention, regional support and assistance to Pacific island parties continued throughout 2009. Ramsar Secretary General, Mr Anada Tiega visited Samoa in November 2009, to sign a new memorandum of cooperation with SPREP for 2009–2012. This renewed partnership continues to facilitate and enhance activities for the promotion, conservation and protection of wetlands in our region.

Other highlights included:

- a training workshop in Fiji on Ramsar site management planning and capacity building support, for community-based conservation practitioners;
- technical assistance for the Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course (PICCC) in collaboration with USP;
- support to the Marshall Islands in its role as Oceania representative at the 40th meeting of the Ramsar Convention's Standing Committee in Switzerland;
- work started by Marshall Islands, using the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, on designating their second wetland of international importance, Namdrik Atoll. The Secretariat assisted the Marshall Islands with community consultation and an awareness programme during 2009. Namdrik Atoll is expected to be formally designated a Ramsar site in 2010;
- assistance to Kiribati to finalise required documentation for their first nominated Ramsar site;
- support to Tonga with drafting the required documentation for joining the Ramsar Convention, including documentation for their first nominated Ramsar site; the Fanga'uta Lagoon system.



“ Developing
nearshore
marine habitat
maps from aerial
photographs.”



Ecosystem-Based Management in PNG

The Secretariat worked closely with UNEP and Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in the development of a project focused on Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM). The objective of the UNEP-funded support is to build and strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of DEC in designing and implementing marine and coastal EBM approaches. These incorporate principles of Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The project pays close attention to climate change vulnerability, with a particular focus on analysis to inform adaptation and mitigation measures.

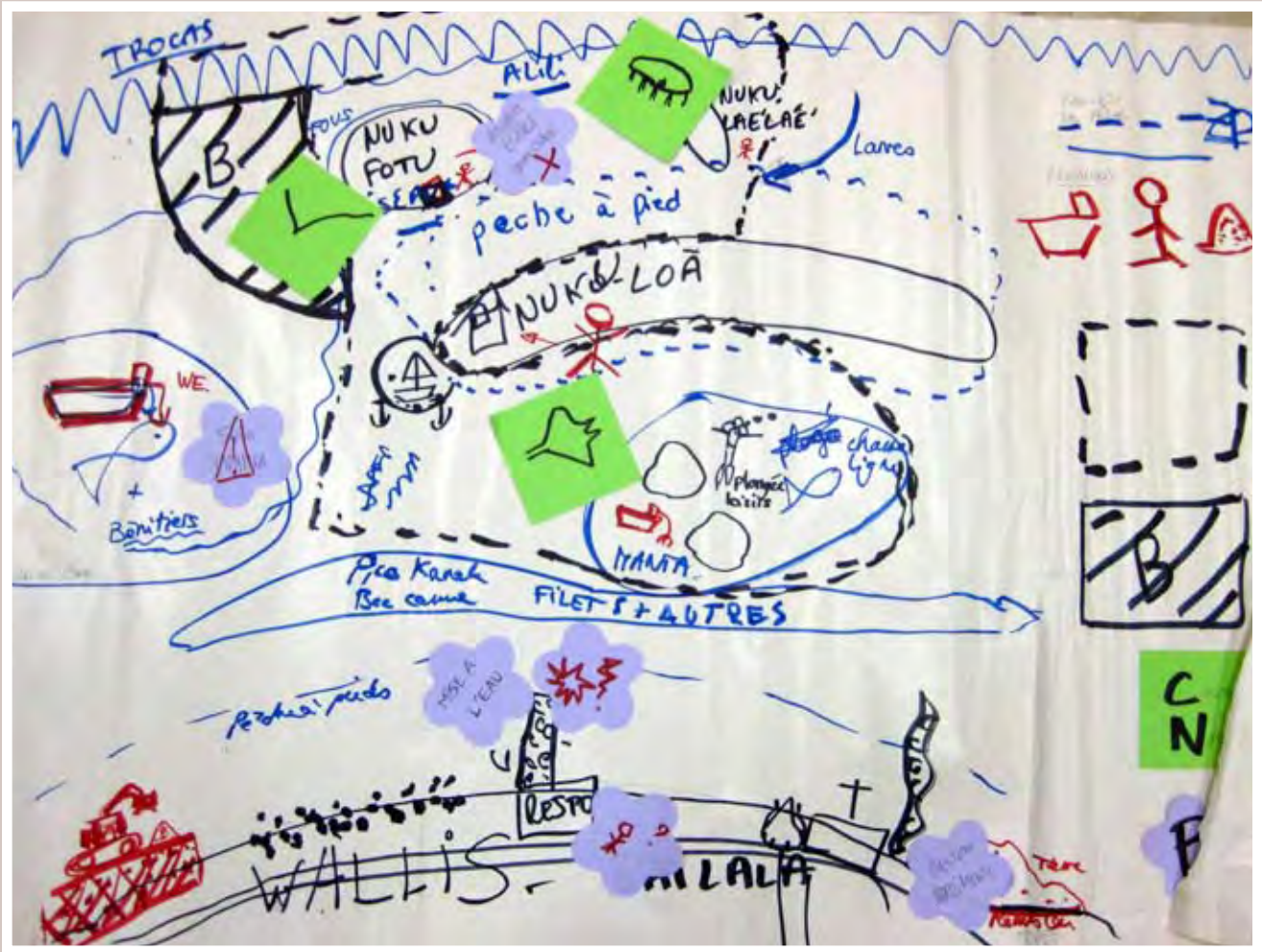
The project's genesis in August 2009, when the Secretariat assisted UNEP with its IEA workshop, was immediately followed by SPREP's training for DEC on conducting EIAs. To build capacity within DEC for the implementation of the EBM approach, a demonstration site was chosen in Kimbe Bay in the West New Britain Province. The purpose of the demonstration site is to utilise the previous and ongoing work undertaken by non-government organisations (NGOs), with a focus on the management of land-based activities that are impacting on coastal waters. Specific actions will be determined after the first initial field visit. Consultations so far suggest a priority will be the mitigation of impacts from oil palm production.

Collaborative partners on this project include UNEP, DEC, the Centre for Marine Studies at the University of Queensland, and SPREP. This project will also involve cooperation with other sectors within PNG, including the PNG National Fisheries Authority, as well as both local and international NGOs.

GIS Mapping and Analysis

The Secretariat's Marine Conservation Analyst worked with countries and partners to use Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and analysis, to map priority conservation and ecosystem management areas. The work included:

- assisting Samoa to develop a nearshore marine habitat map from aerial photographs. When paired with the results of the key biodiversity area analysis, this new GIS dataset will greatly assist ecosystem management of marine resources by helping to identify sites with the most critical habitat for management and conservation;
- teaching conservation officers who participate in the PICCC implemented by USP and SPREP, to use spatial information and map their protected areas for the first time. Mapping conservation sites and others is a key step to understanding which resources are being managed under a specific management regime. Participants from nine Pacific island countries left the course with maps and area measurements for use in reporting;
- assisting Kiribati to identify and quantify critical habitats by providing technical training in the field and office. The results of this project will create a national inventory of key biodiversity resources and foster enhanced resource management.



Participatory resource mapping from Wallis

Managing Natural Resources in the French Territories

Through the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP), French territories have begun to look into alternative ways of managing natural resources, particularly the opportunities afforded by community-based management of marine resources. To assist in this learning process, the Secretariat organised several exchange visits between managers and community members in the French territories and their counterparts in Fiji and Samoa.

Building on these exchange visits, SPREP gathered a regional training team and 20 coastal managers from French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna. Their further training on participatory approaches to marine resource management took place in French Polynesia in November 2009.

Role playing was particularly popular in creating a relaxed atmosphere among the participants and will be remembered as a highlight of this training. Participants returned to their home islands with detailed work plans to improve the management of marine resources. In 2010, SPREP will follow up on the implementation of these work plans, with participants monitoring progress and introducing the cycle of adaptive management.

Learning the participatory approach to marine resource management in French territories. PHOTO – MIKE GUILBEAUX





Fagaloa Bay, Samoa PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

“ There are few direct studies on the effects of hydropower dam water releases on downstream coral reef communities. ”



Monitoring Reefs and Water Quality in Fagaloa Bay, Samoa

The Asian Development Bank through its contractor, the Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC), is currently exploring the potential of augmenting the hydropower capacity of the Afulilo Reservoir: this could increase the level of freshwater discharge from the Ta'elafaga hydropower station into Fagaloa Bay.

SMEC has arranged for the Secretariat to oversee a consortium of partners consisting of Samoa's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and scientific research organisations, to conduct a 12-month monitoring programme. Coral reef surveys and water quality sampling began in July 2009, with the conclusions to be synthesised in a final report by mid-2010.

The monitoring programme is assessing the status of the marine environment, including coral reefs and water quality in and around Fagaloa and Uafato Bays. Its purpose is to determine any potential impacts and to provide information and recommendations to government decision-makers. This is important as the communities of Fagaloa Bay have long blamed the installation of the hydropower station for the degradation of environmental conditions of their bay.

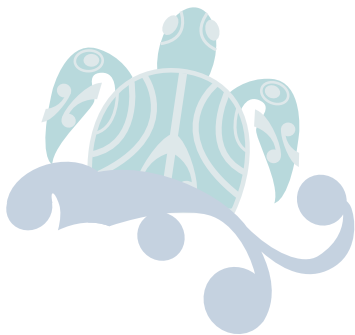
Currently, there are few direct studies on the effects of hydropower dam water releases on downstream coral reef communities in the Pacific or elsewhere. The 12 months' monitoring for Fagaloa Bay is expected to provide some answers to very complicated questions.

Species Management and Conservation

Giant Clam Fisheries and CITES Capacity Building

A Regional Workshop on the Management of Sustainable Fisheries for Giant Clams (Tridacnidae) and CITES Capacity Building was held in Fiji in August. Its aim was to identify national and regional initiatives that could ensure the long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability of this important fishery. The importance of the workshop is highlighted by the fact that Pacific island countries and territories have been supplying the world's aquarium industry for over 30 years with an increasingly diverse range of wild and cultured commodities, giant clams in particular. The workshop was organised by SPC, SPREP, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with support from the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Species Management Specialists (SMS, Canberra).

“ Pacific island countries and territories have been supplying the world's aquarium industry for over 30 years ”



Marine Turtle Conservation

Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation Symposium

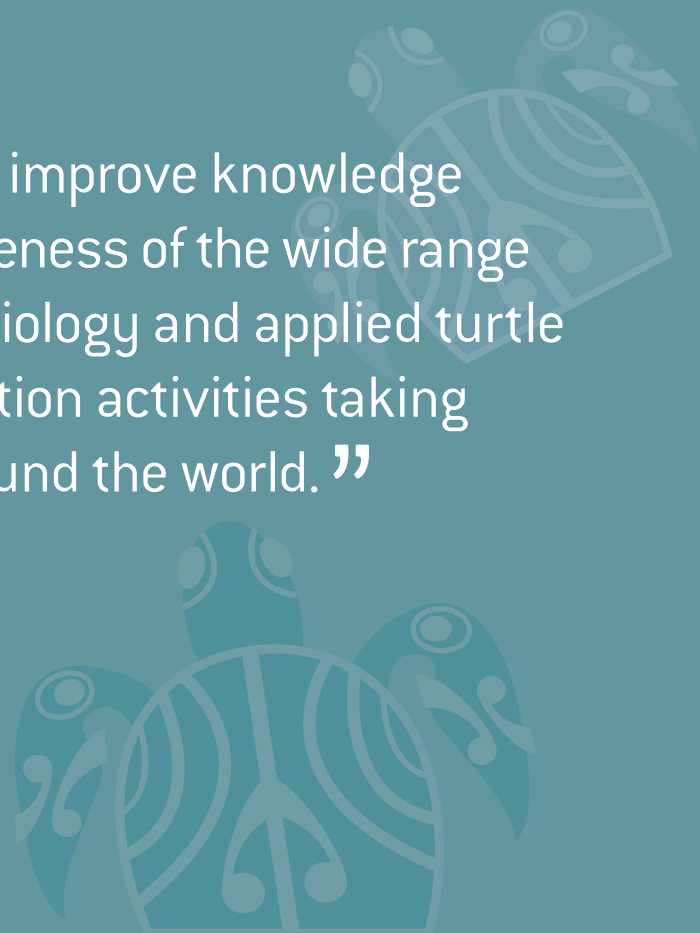
The 29th Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation took place in Brisbane, Australia, 14–19 February 2009. The organising committee had invited SPREP to coordinate a Pacific islands meeting in association with the international symposium. The symposium explored themes such as building communications and networking at local, regional and global scales. Its aim was to create linkages between communities and to connect policy-makers at all levels with the latest information on sea turtle research and conservation programmes.

With funding assistance from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Honolulu and from AusAID, representatives from 17 SPREP countries and territories were able to attend. The outcomes of the participation included:

- promotion of Pacific islands' efforts for conservation of marine turtles, and poster presentations made by French Polynesia, Marshall Islands, Palau and Vanuatu;
- improved knowledge and awareness of the wide range of turtle biology and applied turtle conservation activities taking place around the world;
- establishment of international contacts and linkages.



“ We aim to improve knowledge and awareness of the wide range of turtle biology and applied turtle conservation activities taking place around the world. ”



Turtle Monitoring and Capacity Building

The satellite tagging of marine turtles, initiated for the Pacific Year of the Sea Turtle in 2006, had been very successful. The Secretariat therefore developed in 2009 a new proposal for funding this important regional monitoring activity; it did so in collaboration with the South Pacific Programme Office (SPP0) of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Marine Turtle Research Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Marine Turtle Post-Nesting Migration Monitoring and Capacity Building project proposal was approved for funding by the Marine Conservation Action Fund of the New England Aquarium. Target countries are those with obvious information gaps on marine turtle post-nesting migration, including Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



School children learning about marine turtles in French Polynesia PHOTO – LUI BELL



“ releasing stranded turtles reflects the success of campaigns to conserve turtles. ”



Stranded turtle being taken back to sea after tsunami, Samoa PHOTO – LUI BELL

Saving turtles stranded by the Samoa tsunami

The tsunami that swept through parts of the Samoa Islands on 29 September 2009 brought much marine life onshore, some of it stranded when the wave retreated. In addition to reef fishes of varying sizes, marine turtles, a few sharks and dolphins were also stranded. In collaboration with the Samoa Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the Secretariat conducted an assessment of marine turtles on Upolu.

SPREP and DEC representatives observed and flipper-tagged several specimens, took measurements and tissue samples for genetic analysis, and recorded information. Results indicated that at least 52 marine (mostly green) turtles had stranded. Seven were released by DEC or SPREP, and at least 41 were reportedly released where found, by communities, government officials, resorts and individuals. One was consumed and the fate of three reported specimens is unknown. Dead turtles have also reportedly been buried at Malaela village.

The response of communities and the general public in releasing stranded turtles reflects the success of campaigns to conserve turtles in Samoa. In particular, the Marine Protected Areas work in both districts of Safata and Aleipata on Upolu seems to have contributed significantly to the high numbers of stranded turtles being released back to sea.





Counting poached turtle eggs, Bougainville. PHOTO – JEFF KINCH

Surveying Leatherback Turtles in PNG

SPREP conducted a survey to assess the nesting population of leatherback turtles on Bougainville in southeast Papua New Guinea. The survey was funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WPRFMC). Field studies had not been conducted in Bougainville for at least two decades; the only data available on this critically endangered species were two aerial surveys carried out between 2005 and 2007. The new field study produced the most comprehensive data on nesting leatherback turtles in Bougainville and will provide the baseline for conservation efforts.

Findings indicate that locals have harvested the great majority of leatherback turtle nests for eggs. Of the 46 nests recorded during the survey, 38 nests (83%) were found to be disturbed. During the survey, an education outreach programme was held in every coastal community that had potential nesting sites. The outreach objectives were:

- gathering local knowledge of turtles;
- educating communities about the decline of leatherback turtle populations locally and internationally;
- raising awareness that conservation success is in their hands.



Bougainville Leatherback survey.
Nesting Sites 2009



Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Humpback Whale Recovery Plan Endorsed

The 2008 IUCN Red List update for cetaceans moved humpback whales globally from 'vulnerable' to 'least concern'. However, an exception was made for humpback populations in Oceania (and the Arabian Sea) that were re-classified from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'. This is based on the fact that the Oceania humpback population is likely to have declined more than 70 per cent in the last three generations (since 1942). Most small breeding populations in the South Pacific remain at extremely low levels with some (e.g. Fiji) still vulnerable to local extinction.

The recovery plan was initiated as a coordinated undertaking between the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium (SPWRC) and SPREP, with input from a multidisciplinary recovery team from the region and Member countries. Development of the recovery plan, endorsed by the 20th SPREP Meeting, will contribute to eight of the nine themes of the Regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2008–2012.

Collaboration with CMS

The Secretariat collaborated under the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) on several fronts, notably for cetaceans and dugongs.

Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats

The second meeting of signatories of the MoU on the conservation of cetaceans and their habitats in the Pacific islands region was held in Auckland, New Zealand, 28–29 July 2009.

The meeting outcomes included:

- adopting the SPREP Regional Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2008–2012 as the MoU action plan, with minor changes as proposed by Australia;
- endorsing the CMS/SPREP proposal for a joint programme of work on CMS-related activities in the Pacific islands region;
- establishment of a Pacific Cetaceans MoU Advisory Group and acceptance of the offer by the Whales and Dolphins Conservation Society (WDCS) to coordinate the group;
- MoU signed by Pitcairn Island and two collaborating organisations: Whales Alive, and SPWRC;
- launching an MoU website, donated by WDCS;
- endorsing the SPWRC/SPREP proposal to develop an Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan.

Current signatories to the Pacific islands cetacean MoU include 11 SPREP Member states (Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea) and Pitcairn, as well as seven collaborating organisations.

Dugong Conservation

A project to progress dugong conservation in the Pacific islands region was agreed to between CMS and SPREP, funded by CMS and the UNEP/CMS Office in Abu Dhabi.

Project activities will include:

- a workshop to build capacity in questionnaire-based dugong survey methodology;
- documenting the status of dugong conservation work in SPREP range states (New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu);
- determining the status of implementation of the regional dugong action plan 2008–2012;
- identifying priority issues that concern dugong work and conservation in the region.





Nu'ulua & Nu'utele islands, Upolu, Samoa PHOTO –STUART CHAPE

“ Native wildlife is severely affected by introduced predators including the Pacific Rat, brought here by early human colonists.”

Saving Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands from Rats

Nu'utele and Nu'ulua are two small islands off the main island of Upolu: they are exceptional as they are covered by lowland forest in good condition, a habitat type that has been almost completely destroyed on other islands. They are also home to the last remaining Friendly Ground Doves in Samoa, a species that has become extinct elsewhere. The two islets are also important seabird nesting sites, but the large numbers of ground-nesting seabirds that formerly nested there no longer do so, because the rats attack and eat them. Rats are also predators of other fauna and have a variety of impacts on the forest ecosystem. They are the main impediment to the only realistic opportunity to restore a near-intact lowland forest ecosystem in Samoa. With lowland forest being the most threatened terrestrial habitat in the Pacific, saving these islands is a not just a national, but also a regional priority.



MNRE staff preparing helicopter for rat bait drop PHOTO –STUART CHAPE



“ With lowland forest being the most threatened terrestrial habitat in the Pacific, saving these islands is not just a national, but also a regional priority. ”



Friendly Ground Dove in Mist Net PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

Funding was secured in 2009 from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund through Conservation International’s Pacific Programme, to implement a rat eradication project. The best way to eradicate rats on islands of this size and steep terrain is to use a helicopter to drop baits that are designed to act fast but break down quickly, so as to minimise impacts on other animals. The baits are also designed to be unattractive to birds and reptiles, and the poison used does not affect invertebrates such as crabs. A helicopter brought from New Zealand carried out bait drops in August-September, and subsequent monitoring has shown no sign of rats; further monitoring will be done for two years before declaring success.

As a safety measure, 26 Friendly Ground Doves were captured and removed from Nu’utele and kept in captivity during the eradication operation. They were returned to the island afterwards. Monitoring has shown that the doves left on the islands seem to have been unaffected by the bait.

This was the first project of its kind in Polynesia, and is a great way to demonstrate that high-tech invasive species work can succeed in small Pacific countries. The project was managed by SPREP, implemented by Samoa’s MNRE, with technical assistance from the New Zealand Department of Conservation, the Pacific Invasives Initiative and others – demonstrating the value and effectiveness of working in partnership.

Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa, Assistant CEO, Division of Environment and Conservation, MNRE, with Friendly Ground Dove in mist net.

PHOTO –STUART CHAPE





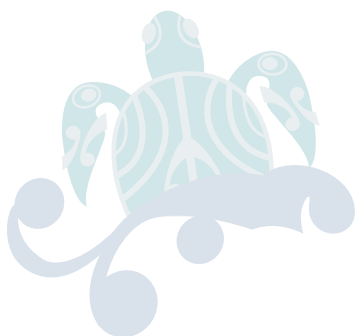
WASTE AND POLLUTION

“The primary focus is on capacity building for waste management using a train-the-trainers approach.”

Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy

At the country level, the regional approach to solid waste management is implemented through the National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS). In 2009, the Secretariat assisted Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji to develop, finalise or implement their NSWMSs. The Solomon Islands Government endorsed its strategy in July 2009. Fiji, having already endorsed its NSWMS for 2008–2010, started implementation with a consultation workshop to develop a communications strategy also the Secretariat advised Vanuatu by providing a legislative consultant to draft solid waste management laws and regulations.

The French Development Agency (AFD) Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative, valued at 1 million Euros, was approved in late 2009 for implementation beginning in 2010. The primary focus of this initiative, implemented by SPREP, is on capacity building for waste management using a train-the-trainers approach. Other activities to be implemented include the development of a waste oil recycling programme, and an activity to support PICTs in developing country proposals. This AFD project serves as co-financing for a larger UNEP project titled ‘PAS Pacific POPs Release Reduction through Improved Management of Solid and Hazardous Wastes’, to be funded under the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (PAS) programme of GEF. Together the UNEP and AFD projects will provide much-needed resources to address waste management in the region.





Hazardous Waste

POPs

Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) states that its effectiveness is to be evaluated starting four years after the date the convention, came into force and periodically thereafter. The first year of evaluation involves establishing background concentrations of POPs in air and human breast milk through a Global Monitoring Programme (GMP). The UNEP project 'POPs GMP in the Pacific Islands Region' supports the GMP through national monitoring activities to establish background concentration of POPs in Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. SPREP is a member of the Steering Committee for this project; in 2009 the Secretariat provided technical backstopping to the participating countries during the project's inception workshop. SPREP will continue to provide support until the project ends in 2010.

The Secretariat also participated in producing a global publication by UNEP on Practices in Sound Management of Chemicals, as a result of SPREP's role in the AusAID-funded 'POPs in PICs' project which ran from 1997 to 2006. The lessons learnt from the 'POPs in PICs' project may prove to be useful to other countries, and will also be very important for future POPs-related projects in the Pacific islands region.

Chemicals Management

The Secretariat provided support to the World Health Organization (WHO) and PICs for the development and submission of a proposal (Poison Information Network for the Pacific, PINP) for funding under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). PINP involves the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. It will result in the establishment of a pilot network of poison information desks in the Pacific islands, to significantly enhance national capacity for dealing with chemical-related poisoning. This network will be linked to the New Zealand National Poison Information Centre, and will be particularly useful in identifying severely hazardous pesticide formulations and potentially safer alternatives.

Ozone Depleting Substances

Activities in the field of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) focused on national-level implementation. The Secretariat assisted Vanuatu by drafting ODS legislation and ancillary supporting orders.

The Secretariat remained engaged with those countries that have not yet completed their regulatory and legislative requirements under the Montreal Protocol. The aim is to assist these countries in attaining full compliance and securing their additional yearly institutional strengthening funding. The remaining countries are expected to complete customs training in 2010 in order to attain full compliance, thus completing the regional strategy project.

A workshop on networking amongst ODS officers was held in June 2009

in Samoa. Discussions began on a possible new strategy to be developed to encompass other ODSs such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons. This work will continue in 2010.

Marine Pollution

Revised PACPOL Strategy 2010–2014

Significant progress was achieved in the strategy 2000–2005 of PACPOL, the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program. Work that was carried out from 2006 to 2009 followed the road map outlined in the regional strategy. Nevertheless, it was time to review the existing strategy to take stock of what has been achieved, review the gaps, and determine the priorities for the next five years.

The Revised PACPOL Strategy 2010–2014 developed in 2009 outlines the priorities in the region for addressing marine pollution from ships with revised mission and vision statements.

The mission statement of the PACPOL 2010–2014 Strategy is

“ to protect public health, safety, environment and natural resources of the Pacific islands from the effects of ship-sourced marine pollution. ”

In order to achieve this mission for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, the vision of PACPOL is

“ that the people of the Pacific islands are better able to prevent, minimise and mitigate ship-sourced marine pollution. ”



Regional Oil Spill Level II Workshop in Fiji - Harbour Deployment PHOTO – RUOIKABUTI TIOON

The implementation of the revised PACPOL Strategy is through 23 new work plans developed under five broad core principles. The emphasis has been on prevention of marine pollution rather than mitigation. The laws, legislations and conventions adopted and created today ensure that PICTs remain a clean and healthy environment for the people and children of the Pacific to enjoy in years to come.

Regional Oil-Spill Training

SPREP in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conducted a five-day IMO Level II Oil-Spill Response Training Course in Suva, September-October 2009. Assistance was received from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, with collaboration from SPC's Regional Maritime Programme (RMP) and support from the Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration (FIMSA), Fiji Ports Corporation Limited, and oil companies in Fiji: BP, Mobil and Total. There were 29 participants from port authorities around the region from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as participants from FIMSA and the three oil companies.

The workshop's four objectives were to provide:

- participants with the tools for better evaluating the risks, planning, preparing and responding to marine spills;
- a forum for discussing recent developments, addressing issues that have arisen from and since the last course and facilitating networking with other spill responders;
- the opportunity for participants to inspect and familiarise themselves with oil spill equipment available in the region;
- hands-on experience in an oil spill equipment deployment exercise.

Some participants from the region have attended training in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and France, but this was the first time a level II regional oil-spill response training was conducted in the Pacific. The participants unanimously recommended there should be more of this sort of training in the region, to be run in different countries.

The training course also included two practical field exercises: a shore line boom deployment and a wharf deployment exercise.



Regional PBBS Training Group Photo after the Wharf Field Survey PHOTO – ANTHONY TALOULI

Ballast Water Management and PBBS Training

The Secretariat conducted a regional introductory training course on ships' Ballast Water Management that was followed by specialised training in Port Biological Baseline Survey (PBBS), March 2009 in Suva, Fiji. The training course utilised the Global Ballast ('GloBallast') Water Management Training Manual, developed under the UN Train-X methodology of the TRAIN-SEA-COAST programme. This uses a train-the-trainer format, with participants encouraged to run similar workshops in their home countries. There were 27 participants, of whom 10 were women, from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- provide a common set of knowledge and skills to all participants;
- promote uniform implementation of the International Convention for Ballast Water Management adopted by IMO in 2004;
- build the necessary capacity in the region to offer similar training to stakeholders at the national level;
- provide the theory and practical training for how to plan and conduct a PBBS for introduced marine pests, using standardised protocols.



Participants at a Port Biological Baseline Surveys workshop in Suva. PHOTO: DR POSA SKELTON



Rubbish dumped into river, Solomon Islands PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

“ In 2009 the Secretariat continued to ensure that Pacific Plan initiatives relating to climate change, biodiversity, waste and environmental financing are implemented, monitored and reported. ”

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Mainstreaming and NSDS Strengthening

The Secretariat continues to assist Pacific island countries in developing, strengthening and implementing their National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS); in mainstreaming environmental concerns into their national development planning and decision-making processes.

SPREP's work on mainstreaming was delivered and coordinated mainly through the Pacific NSDS Regional Support Partnership. This is a voluntary association of regional and international development organisations that provide joint technical assistance to Member countries on development and implementation of NSDS. This partnership is being coordinated by the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of CROP: led by SPREP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) on behalf of CROP, and on behalf of the UN agencies by UNESCAP, the United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

SPREP was part of a team of regional technical advisers, coordinated through the NSDS partnership, that provided joint technical assistance to Nauru in reviewing its NSDS 2005–2025. As a result of this work, the Revised 2009 NSDS for Nauru has a substantial focus on the environment and reflects the critical need to sustainably manage its natural resources.

In collaboration with SOPAC, the Secretariat also assisted Niue in developing its national climate change policy. That initiative followed the work carried out by SPREP and PIFS in 2008, on revising Niue's National Strategic Plan 2009–2013. As a result, the profile of environmental management has been raised considerably and climate change identified as a key priority area of concern.

Pacific Plan and Climate Change

Promoting greater awareness of sustainable development and environmental considerations at the regional level is a key role for SPREP. Therefore in 2009 the Secretariat continued to ensure that Pacific Plan initiatives relating to climate change, biodiversity, waste and environmental financing are implemented, monitored and reported. An important element of this work is the identification and development of regional priority initiatives for the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' endorsement. This happens through consideration by the CROP Heads and the Pacific Plan Action Committee. As a result, climate change continues to be a regional priority for 2010.

Commission on Sustainable Development

The 17th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17) was held in May 2009. It provided a focal point for evaluating progress in implementing Agenda 21, Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Mauritius Strategy. The CSD-17 focused on policy options in the thematic clusters of agriculture, rural development, land management and degradation, and drought in the Pacific region; and how these have been addressed at the national and regional levels. The Secretariat provided support to the PICTs' participation at CSD-17 through development of regional policy briefing documentation.

Environmental Assessment and Planning

In 2009 SPREP continued to develop the capacity of PICTs in environmental impact assessment as a decision-making tool. The Secretariat held in-country EIA training sessions in Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. Tuvalu's training focused on the application of the EIA process on lagoon development such as boat channels, wharf extension and export of bêche de mer (dried sea cucumber). Vanuatu focused also on coastal development, specifically on planning for marinas, tourist resorts and aggregate quarrying. Tonga focused on the King's wharf upgrade, lagoon reclamations and sand mining.

The Kiribati training considered a combination of developments, those mainly affecting the coastline and lagoon waters such as road upgrading and reclamation. In Papua New Guinea, the training focused on the mining sector. The Secretariat is also developing tools for the incorporation of risk assessments that take into consideration climate change and natural disasters, to strengthen the EIA process. This was introduced in Papua New Guinea and is ongoing.

SPREP also responded to requests by Members for technical assistance on specific environment and development planning needs. This included support for

O le Pupu Pue National Park, Samoa PHOTO – STUART CHAPE



Rapid Environmental Assessment and Early Recovery Planning exercises, and addressing the impacts of the 2009 tsunami. The Secretariat provided this assistance to Samoa in collaboration with UNEP, Conservation International, UNESCO, UNDP, SOPAC and Samoa's MNRE.



MEA and SOE Reporting

The Secretariat, with collaborating partners such as UNEP, continued to assist Member island states in meeting their Multi-lateral Environment Agreements (MEA) thematic or sector reporting obligations, and improving their capacities for regular state of environment (SOE) reviews. It included collaboration with Australia's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to mainstream biodiversity issues into national-level development planning. These concepts were introduced during the first Pacific regional conference on processes for mainstreaming MEAs in national EIAs and other national assessments and policy planning processes, held in Apia in November 2009. Assistance was provided to Papua New Guinea and Tonga on methodologies for developing their next SOE review report; preparations were initiated by SPREP and UNEP for a regional SOE review report to be completed in 2010.

GEF Pacific Developments

Maximising PICs' access to GEF resources during the 4th Replenishment (GEF-4) have dominated efforts under the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability umbrella programme (GEF-PAS).

Several studies from the past decade have pointed out that PICs' poor access to GEF resources was disproportionate to their potential to generate global environment benefits and contribute to their environmentally sustainable development. Since the establishment of GEF in 1991, to 2006, the 14 PICs had only received about US\$84 million: over this 15-year period, an average of only \$5.6 million per annum – and much of this in support of enabling activities. With financial support from AusAID and NZAID, the Pacific response to this situation was the creation of a GEF Adviser position to strengthen PICs' capacity to access GEF resources. In consultation with the PICs Working Group of Ambassadors in New York and SPREP, the GEF Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson announced in 2007 the concept of the GEF-PAS.

The indicative total funding for the GEF-PAS is now essentially assured, at almost US\$100 million from GEF-4, so PICs have come a long way in the past three years in securing funding for important national and regional projects. Global, regional and national environmental benefits, and environmentally sustainable development, will be generated and enhanced by projects under the focal areas addressed by the GEF-PAS: the allocation is summarised in the table.

Almost all GEF-PAS resources were secured by the end of the year, on schedule for the close of the GEF-4 replenishment period in June 2010. Efforts will continue to ensure the momentum for PICs is sustained in the GEF-5 replenishment, starting in July 2010.

Table: GEF-PAS Programme Resources by Focal Area

| Focal Area | GEF Financing (US\$) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Biodiversity | 37,715,220 |
| Climate Change Adaptation | 30,392,000 |
| Climate Change Mitigation | 14,700,000 |
| International Waters | 10,722,950 |
| POPs | 5,307,750 |
| Total | 98,837,920 |



“ World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day and World Biodiversity Day in particular were well celebrated across the region. ”

Marine protected area, Chelbacheb, Palau. PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Climate Change was the major focus of the Secretariat’s education and communication activities, with 2009 designated the Pacific Year of Climate Change; this has already been described in the climate change section of the present report.

Celebration of UN-designated days has become a strong component of several Members’ annual programmes: World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day and World Biodiversity Day in particular were well celebrated across the region. The Secretariat helped coordinate national World Wetlands Day 2009 celebrations,

with media awareness campaigns, school essay competitions and educational presentations; it also launched Ramsar Small Grants projects in Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Marshall Islands.

SPREP’s capacity building activities for communications and education in 2009 included a social marketing workshop at the Pacific Youth Festival; partnering with the University of the South Pacific in youth-focused workshops for education for sustainable development education; and developing a training programme for journalists on climate change. The media training programme provided focused training for a group of journalists, who then attended COP 15.

The Secretariat received requests from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa for technical and financial support in communications and education. This included the development of a communication framework for the Kiribati Environment and Conservation Department and support for an environment education curriculum in FSM. Both are to be followed up in 2010. Technical support at the national level included assistance to Fiji in developing its draft Solid Waste Management Communication Strategy.

Pacific Environment Information Network

Development and coordination of the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) was again a core knowledge management priority of the SPREP Information Resource Centre (IRC) in 2009. Software installation, database development, and in-country assistance was provided to Tuvalu and Fiji. A regional training workshop was conducted in knowledge management for the marine information sector in Fiji. Further strengthening of the resources available via the PEIN virtual environment libraries was a focus in 2009. A number of new clearinghouse mechanisms were developed: these included a 'Virtual Library of Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Environment Management', and a clearinghouse mechanism for climate change resources.

A highlight of the year was the collaboration with the PIMRIS in developing a regional online portal for marine information. The 'Pacific Islands Marine Portal' is a collaborative project between the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (Project Office in Oostende, Belgium). Its mission is to improve access to Pacific marine information for the Pacific islands community. The portal contains news, articles and directories of websites relevant to Pacific fisheries and to the coastal and marine environment of the Pacific.

IRC and Library

In 2009 the Information Resource Centre and Library strengthened access to journal literature by acquiring a subscription to the JSTOR online multidisciplinary academic journal archive; and continued to expand a suite of available databases and e-repositories. A major focus was the continued identification of electronic resources to integrate into the PEIN online library suite. IRC and Library staff continued to identify, acquire and catalogue critical Pacific environment information and supported numerous reference and research requests from throughout the region, in addition to filling requests for SPREP publications and information. The IRC and Library continued to expand and strengthen its links with national and tertiary libraries across the region, renewing its commitment to provide easy access to SPREP materials and critical environment information to Pacific communities, both online and in traditional formats.

Information Technology and Institutional Strengthening

In June 2009 the Information Technology team successfully introduced video conferencing facilities to the Secretariat. This facility has already had cost-saving benefits: a few officers chose to use this facility and so save travel funds for more important projects.

In response to ICR Recommendation 61, for the Secretariat to increase its effectiveness and efficiency, was the re-development of the Events Database. The IT team worked in close cooperation with programme staff to upgrade the internal events and travel database to function as an integrated Annual Work Plan Implementation Database. In addition to the usual travel and event reports, it is now able to provide information on Performance Monitoring, Annual Report, Country Report, Calendar of Events and Tasks. The renamed database substantially strengthens SPREP's internal knowledge management capacity and provides a platform for generating a range of report outputs both for the Secretariat and for Members.

The annual IT training for staff was successfully delivered midyear 2009 and the old web server was replaced with a faster server.



20th SPREP Delegates Apia, Samoa November 2009

ADMINISTRATION

“ A successful 20th SPREP Meeting helped to reinvigorate and focus the organisation. ”

For most of 2009, the Secretariat was without a Director and without a Programme Manager for the Pacific Futures Programme. The latter position was vacant from August 2008 until December 2009, and the former from January until October 2009. In September 2009, the Manager for Corporate Services also completed his term.

The period January to July 2009 was particularly challenging for the management team and the majority of programme staff, as so much of their time was diverted to SPREP's input into discussions on the reform of regional organisations across the Pacific. Staff were busy developing position papers, generating information, and engaging in what were sometimes very intense, long and extremely challenging discussions with SOPAC and SPC on the Regional Institutional Framework. The outcomes of the Joint Council meeting of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP, held in Fiji in July 2009, were initially disappointing for the Secretariat's staff members, because SPREP only gained limited additional functions. In hindsight it allowed a consolidation of strengths and focus on the delivery of services and programmes to Member countries and territories.

A concerted effort in the latter part of 2009 to strengthen our institutional standards focused on responding to key issues raised by the Independent Corporate Review in 2008 and the European Union institutional assessment in 2009. The executive team was strengthened with the arrival of the new Director and the new Programme Manager for Pacific Futures.

The new executive team benefited from the support of an Institutional Capacity Support Adviser who was seconded from DEWHA, Australia to the Secretariat for an initial period of 12 months but extended to December 2010.

The highlight of the year was a successful 20th SPREP Meeting held in Apia, Samoa in November, which helped to reinvigorate and focus the organisation.

Human Resources

The Secretariat's commitment to strengthening its human resource (HR) management and development was reflected in the reclassification of the Senior Administration Officer post as Human Resources & Administration Manager. Work continued on the development and revision of key HR policies and procedures: this ensures that executive decisions are fair and consistent for all staff, and reflect best practices internationally. All staff had the opportunity to participate in SPREP's first Staff Satisfaction Survey; it has been adopted as an annual item on the HR calendar to address staff morale issues and to increase staff involvement in the development of key staff policies. The Triennial Reviews of Terms and Conditions both for professional and support staff was completed. Some key recommendations on staff terms and conditions were adopted, including job evaluation of all positions; and the endorsement in principle of a new salary banding for all CROP agencies proposed by consultants. The Secretariat continued to play an active role in the CROP Harmonisation Working Group where remuneration issues are reassessed and realigned; this ensures staff terms and conditions meet the needs of each individual organisation, follow the harmonised principles of the CROP agencies and are in line with generally accepted international best practices.

The organisation's General Records section continued to provide registry and archival services to the Secretariat; the Administration section continued to provide management and maintenance of the Secretariat's compounds and assets, addressing also the ongoing need for major repair and improvement works.

Staff Establishment

The Secretariat's staff establishment remained steady at 64 positions: 59% at the professional level and 41% at the support services level. At the end of the year, 84% of the positions were filled and 5% were under recruitment; the remaining 11% (all within Corporate Services) were put on hold for further reassessment of the need to continue, reclassify or disestablish. A total of seven new staff joined SPREP including two members of the Executive Management team: the Director in October and the Programme Manager, Pacific Futures in December. A short-term intern post was recruited for the coordination of the Pacific Year of Climate Change. Nine staff left the organisation during 2009 including the former Director, whose six-year term was completed in January. Of those who left the organisation, two were support staff. Four of the professional staff completed their contracts, while the others left to pursue other career opportunities and further studies, or left for personal reasons.

Of the total occupied professional staff positions, 76% were Pacific islanders, 18% were from other Member countries and 6% from non-member countries; 30% female and 70% male. The total work force (professional and support staff combined) had an equal distribution of males and females.

Finances

The 19th SPREP Meeting in 2008 had approved the Secretariat's budget of US\$7.64 million for the year 2009. Of the total approved budget expenditure, 29% was allocated to Executive, Corporate and Programme Support while 71% was allocated to programme implementation.

On the income side, 17% (\$1,297,572) was to be financed from membership contributions, 8% from bank interest and other sources, and 75% was to be raised through donor support. In terms of actual budget performance at the end of the year, SPREP was able to raise funds and implement programmes at 88% of the level of the approved work programme and budget.

The Secretariat once again is pleased to advise that, as in past years, the external auditors Lesa ma Penn provided an unqualified audit opinion on the Secretariat's operation.



Finances 2009

Donor Funds and Member Contributions (US\$)

| Donor | Balance 1-Jan-09 | Income | Expenses | Other Adjustments | Balance 31-Dec-09 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Asian Development Bank | (4,508) | | | 4,508 | - |
| AusAID Extra Budget | 94,375 | 715,442 | (648,557) | (63,316) | 97,944 |
| AusAID Extra Extra Budget | 176,155 | 855,786 | (326,910) | (211) | 704,820 |
| British High Commission | 9,208 | 16,482 | (2,830) | | 22,860 |
| Bishop Museum | 9,585 | | (5,059) | | 4,526 |
| Commonwealth Secretariat | 14,045 | | | | 14,045 |
| Conservation International | (5,394) | 367,320 | (245,088) | | 116,838 |
| Conservation International Development | 1,387 | | | (1,387) | - |
| European Union | (18,104) | 105,490 | (51,866) | (4,999) | 30,521 |
| Finnish Institute of Meteorology | - | 54,800 | (48,397) | | 6,403 |
| Food and Agriculture Organization | 11,343 | - | (5,854) | (4,429) | 1,060 |
| Government of Canada | (19,853) | 116,038 | (101,212) | | (5,027) |
| Government of France | 140,916 | 191,247 | (302,149) | (32,630) | (2,616) |
| Government of Japan | 19,626 | 204,751 | (215,500) | | 8,877 |
| Government of Switzerland | (12,983) | 84,798 | (90,609) | | (18,794) |
| Government of the United Kingdom | 8,806 | | (8,806) | | - |
| International Maritime Organization | 17,154 | 171,430 | (160,421) | | 28,164 |
| John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation | 71,366 | | (64,099) | (546) | 6,721 |
| National Fish & Wildlife Foundation | (19,013) | 20,000 | (987) | | - |
| Netherlands Red Cross Society | 398 | | (398) | | - |
| NZAid PIE | 2,485 | | (825) | (13,244) | (11,584) |
| NZAid Extra Budget | 42,594 | 1,055,761 | (1,006,513) | (62,853) | 28,990 |
| NZAid Extra Extra Budget | 43,391 | 142,845 | (137,145) | 7,090 | 56,180 |
| Pacific Development & Conservation Trust | 1,279 | 57,828 | (57,132) | | 1,975 |
| Packard Foundation | 3,043 | | | (3,252) | (209) |
| People's Republic of China | - | 180,000 | - | (60,000) | 120,000 |
| Other Funds | 152,525 | 208,822 | (231,822) | 245,349 | 374,874 |
| Ramsar Secretariat | 39,613 | 85,000 | (101,041) | | 23,572 |
| The Nature Conservancy | (15,092) | | 1,144 | | (13,948) |
| The Christensen Foundation | 24,867 | | (13,300) | | 11,568 |
| United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification | 1,592 | | (1,592) | | - |
| United Nations Development Programme | 115,725 | 1,853,558 | (1,841,772) | 7,919 | 135,430 |
| United Nations Environment Programme | 128,054 | 947,015 | (676,112) | (20,117) | 378,840 |
| United Nations Institute of Training & Research | 26,558 | 155,521 | (74,100) | | 107,979 |
| UN Economics & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific | 11,932 | | (3,146) | | 8,786 |
| UN Office of Project Services | 7,965 | | (910) | | 7,055 |
| US Additional Member Contributions | - | | (2,577) | 2,577 | - |
| US Dept of Energy/Los Alamos University | 4,801 | | (331) | | 4,471 |
| US Fish & Wildlife | 14,625 | | | | 14,625 |
| US Forest Service | 10,000 | | (10,000) | | - |
| US Dept of Land & Natural Resources | 28,000 | 2,000 | (27,157) | | 2,843 |
| US Dept of State | 60,000 | 70,000 | (58,727) | | 71,274 |
| US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration | 31,297 | | (111,720) | | (80,424) |
| US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council | 4,905 | 117,841 | (111,166) | | 11,579 |
| World Conservation Union (IUCN) Regional Office for Oceania | 911 | | (451) | (460) | - |
| World Health Organization | 2,456 | | | | 2,456 |
| Total | \$1,238,035 | \$7,779,775 | (\$6,745,136) | \$0 | \$2,272,673 |

| Member Contributions | (US\$) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| American Samoa | 12,766 |
| Australia | 227,049 |
| Cook Islands | 10,184 |
| Federated States of Micronesia | 23,497 |
| Fiji | 42,854 |
| France | 164,610 |
| French Polynesia | 24,974 |
| Guam | - |
| Kiribati | 12,492 |
| Marshall Islands | 20,368 |
| Nauru | - |
| New Caledonia | 24,468 |
| New Zealand | 164,610 |
| Niue | 25,014 |
| Northern Mariana Islands | - |
| Palau | 24,933 |
| Papua New Guinea | - |
| Samoa | 20,360 |
| Solomon Islands | 65,794 |
| Tokelau | 12,492 |
| Tonga | - |
| Tuvalu | 13,557 |
| United States of America | 200,000 |
| Vanuatu | 40,683 |
| Wallis and Futuna | 13,121 |
| Total | 1,143,826 |

| Parties to the Noumea Convention | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| New Zealand | 3,376 |
| Total | 3,376 |

| Parties to the Waigani Convention | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Niue | 703 |
| Total | 703 |

Note: The income received shown above can be located in the Donor Funds schedule in the rows titled 'Other Funds'.

| Income and expenditure | (US\$) |
|--|-------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Member Contributions | 1,143,826 |
| Programme Management Charge | 641,249 |
| Interest | 269,362 |
| Exchange Gain | 122,542 |
| Other Income | 261,145 |
| Donor Funds | 7,862,024 |
| Total Income | 10,300,148 |
| EXPENDITURE | |
| Programme Implementation | 6,745,136 |
| Executive Management & Corporate Support | 2,350,213 |
| Total Expenditure | 9,095,349 |

PHOTO – STUART CHAPE



**AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE**

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

We have audited the financial statements of SPREP as set out on pages 3 to 14, for the year ended 31 December 2009. The financial statements provide information on the financial performance, changes in equity and cash flows of the organization, and its financial position as at 31 December 2009.

Management responsibilities

The management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that comply with generally accepted accounting practice, and that gives a true and fair view of the financial position of SPREP as at 31 December 2009, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Auditors' responsibilities

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

Basis of Opinion

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

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

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

Specific reporting requirements

In accordance with the specific audit reporting requirements of SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 (a) to (f), we report as follows:

- (a) extent and character of examination is as explained in the section above under the heading "Basis of Opinion"
- (b) matters affecting the completeness or accuracy of the accounts; two major accounting policy changes were made in current year in order to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards, the resumption of depreciation which was ceased in 2003 and adoption of income approach for donated assets namely buildings and TEC equipment
- (c) the accuracy or otherwise of the supplies and equipment records as determined by stocktaking and examination of the records. The fixed assets register has been completed following the physical count of all SPREP fixed assets carried out in February 2010. Additions and disposals were randomly checked to supporting documents and are satisfactory. Depreciation charged for the current year and the past six years (2003 - 2008) is satisfactorily calculated following the resumption of the fixed assets' depreciation policy.
- (d) the adequacy of financial procedures of SPREP including internal control matters and adherence to the financial regulations; Financial Regulation and Financial Procedures Manual are effectively in place and adherence is satisfactory except for internal control matters noted in our management report.
- (e) the adequacy of insurance cover for the buildings, stores, furniture, equipment and other property of SPREP; insurance cover for buildings, furniture, equipment and other property is adequate.
- (f) Other matters, the matters raised in our report to management have been addressed.

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

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as of 31 December 2009, and of the results of its operations, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and in accordance with the SPREP Financial Regulations.

Our audit was completed on 15 April 2010 and our opinion is expressed as at that date.


Certified Public Accountants

Apia, Samoa

15/4/2010

| Publications 2009 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Publications Title | ISBN/ISSN | Pages |
| Action strategy for nature conservation in the Pacific islands region 2008–2012: empowering local people, communities and Pacific institutions | 978-982-04-0391-8 | 28 p. |
| The application of economic instruments to solid waste management in Pacific island countries and territories / Esther Richards | 978-982-04-0389-5 | 16 p. |
| Degradable plastics / Esther Richards | 978-982-04-0390-1 | 33 p. |
| Guidelines for invasive species management in the Pacific: a Pacific strategy for managing pests, weeds and other invasive species / Alan Tye | 978-982-04-0388-8 | 24 p. |
| Institutional capacity within Melanesian countries to effectively respond to climate change impacts, with a focus on Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands / Frank Wickham, Jeff Kinch and Padma Lal | 978-982-04-0392-5 | 76 p. |
| Review of economic and livelihood impact assessments of, and adaptation to, climate change in Melanesia / Padma N. Lal, Jeff Kinch and Frank Wickham | 978-982-04-0393-2 | 84 p. |
| Report of the 20th SPREP Meeting, 17–20 November 2009, Apia Samoa | 978-982-04-0394-9 | 73 p. |
| Rapport de la 20e conférence du PROE, 17–20 novembre 2009, Apia Samoa | 978-982-04-094-9 | 73 p. |
| Series | | |
| SPREP annual report: 2008 – “Celebrating the Pacific Year of the Reef” | ISSN: 1562-675X | 48 p. |
| Rapport annuel du PROE: 2008 – “L’Annee oceanienne des recifs coralliens” | ISSN: 1990-3561 | 48 p. |
| Non ISBN Publications | | |
| Acidification and coral reefs = L’acidification et les recifs coralliens = La acidificacion Y Los Arrecifes Coralinos : scientific review / Bernard Salvat and Denis Allemand | | |
| Assessment of humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) watching activities in Vava’u, Tonga : pilot study / Aline Schaffar | | |
| Assessment of leatherback turtle nesting and consumptive use in the autonomous region and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea / Jeff Kinch, Paul Anderson and Kevin Anana | | |
| Coral reef inspection of selected coral reefs on Upolu Samoa following the September 29, 2009 Tsunami / Edward Lovell, et al. | | |
| Ecosystem-based adaptation - using nature to help address climate change / Dr. Padma N. Lal and Stuart Chape | | |
| The importance of giant clam fisheries management and trade to the Pacific / Jeff Kinch | | |
| Implementation of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project: process, status and assessment / John E. Hay | | |
| Marine turtle monitoring programme in Tonga: project report / Lui Bell, Lupe Matoto and ‘Ulunga Fa’anunu | | |
| Marine biodiversity law in Fiji, Solomon and Vanuatu islands / Jean-Pierre Beurier, Bleuenn Guilloux and Karolina Zakovska | | |
| The Oceania humpback whale recovery plan : discussion paper | | |
| PIMS 2162 Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) : inception phase report / Taito Nakalevu | | |
| Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project technical meeting report, 5th - 9th October 2009, USP, Suva Fiji / Taito Nakalevu | | |
| Pacific Islands regional guidelines for whale and dolphin watching = Guide regional pour l’observation des baleines et des dauphins dans les iles du Pacifique | | |
| Pacific islands regional plan of action for sharks: guidance for PICs and territories on the conservation and management of sharks / Mary Lack and Frank Meere | | |
| Regional capacity development workshop on wetlands management with focus on the Ramsar convention in Pacific island countries. 9-31 March 2009, Nadi, Fiji. | | |
| Report on the regional workshop on London convention & protocol, 4-6 March 2009, Suva, Fiji | | |
| Scoping, analysing and managing mining and development projects impacts in coastal areas / Jeff Kinch | | |
| SEM-Pasifika: socioeconomic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in Pacific Island countries / Supin Wongbusarakum and Bob Pomeroy | | |
| Status and potential of locally-managed marine areas in the South Pacific: meeting nature conservation and sustainable livelihood targets through wide-spread implementation of LMMAs : study report / Hugh Govan, et al. | | |
| Strategic environmental assessment and potential future shoreline impacts of the oil spill from WWII shipwreck Hoyo Maru, Chuuk lagoon – Federated States of Micronesia / Anthony Talouli, Trevor Gilbert and Rean Monfils Gilbert. | | |
| Survey of turtles in captivity on Savaii, Samoa / Lui Bell, et al. | | |
| Towards a Pacific focus on climate change - a strategy for the Pacific Year of Climate Change (PYoCC) 2009 and beyond | | |
| Online Resources | | |
| JSTOR online multidisciplinary academic journal archive | http://www.jstor.org | Pacific Year of Climate Change 2009: our century’s challenge: our Pacific response Climate change and media poster |
| Pacific climate change resources | http://www.sprep.org/publication/climate.asp | |
| Pacific Islands marine portal | http://www.pimrisportal.org | CD/DVDs |
| Tsunami 2009 clearinghouse | http://www.sprep.org/publication/Tsunami_2009.asp | |
| Pacific Climate Change Blogspot | http://climatepasifika.blogspot.com | Climate change : our century’s challenge, our Pacific response |
| Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change | http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/PACC/index.asp | |
| Climate Change portal | http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/index.asp | Marine Managed Area in the Pacific |
| Pacific Year of Climate Change webpage (PYoCC) | http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/PYCC/index.asp | |
| Articles and newsletters | | |
| Monthly “Director’s Column” in Island Business magazine | | SEM-Pasifika: socioeconomic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in Pacific Island countries. |
| SPREP highlights | | |
| Climate change Pacific Newsbeat | | |



SPREP HQ, Apia, Samoa PHOTO – STUART CHAPE

Staff List in 2009

| Name | Designation | Country | Contract Expiry Date |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Executive | | | |
| David SHEPPARD | Director | Australia | 5 October 2012 |
| Kosi LATU | Deputy-Director | Samoa | 20 July 2011 |
| Ruta TUPUA-COUPER | Personal Assistant to Director | Samoa | 31 December 2011 |
| Apiseta ETI | Personal Assistant to Deputy-Director | Samoa | 31 December 2010 |
| Island Ecosystems | | | |
| Stuart CHAPE | Programme Manager | Australia | 4 August 2011 |
| Makerita ATIGA | Secretary to Programme Manager | Samoa | 2 August 2011 |
| Jeffrey KINCH | Coastal Management Adviser | Australia | 30 July 2011 |
| Lui BELL | Marine Species Officer | Samoa | 2 October 2011 |
| Paul ANDERSON | Marine Conservation Analyst | USA | 17 March 2011 |
| Anne Patricia TREVOR | Associate Turtles Database Officer | Samoa | 1 March 2010 |
| Seiuli Vainuupo JUNGBLUT | Associate Ramsar Officer | Samoa | 22 February 2010 |
| Kate BROWN | Action Strategy Adviser | Australia | - resigned in April 2009 |
| Ana TIRAA | Island Biodiversity Officer | Cook Islands | - resigned in July 2009 |
| Caroline VIEUX | Coral Reef Management Officer | France | 2 January 2010 |
| Alan TYE | Invasive Species Officer | United Kingdom | 29 June 2010 |
| Frank WICKHAM | Capacity Development Adviser | Solomon Islands | 7 September 2010 |
| Seema DEO | Education & Social Communications Adviser | Fiji | 12 March 2012 |
| Theresa FRUEAN | Programme Assistant | Samoa | 13 April 2012 |
| Ewan CAMERON | Internship: Campaign Coordinator, Pacific Year of Climate Change | Cook Islands | 19 April 2010 |

| Name | Designation | Country | Contract Expiry Date |
|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Pacific Futures | | | |
| Netatua PELESIKOTI | Programme Manager | Tonga | 29 November 2012 |
| Rosanna GALUVAO | Secretary to Programme Manager | Samoa | 11 October 2012 |
| Vacant | Pollution Prevention & Waste Management Adviser | | |
| Anthony TALOULI | Marine Pollution Adviser | Fiji | 20 April 2010 |
| Esther RICHARDS | Solid Waste Officer | St Vincent & the Grenadines | 11 August 2011 |
| Espen RONNEBERG | Climate Change Adviser | Marshall Islands | 28 October 2012 |
| Solomone FIFITA | Project Manager – Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement Renewable Energy Project | Tonga | 7 July 2010 |
| Taito NAKALEVU | Project Manager – Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change | Fiji | 5 April 2012 |
| Fine LAO | Climate Change Adaptation Officer | Tonga | 2 April 2012 |
| Dean SOLOFA | Pacific Islands – Global Climate Observing System Officer | Samoa | 16 October 2011 |
| Seve PAENIU | Sustainable Development Adviser | Tuvalu | 2 March 2010 |
| Tepa SUAESI | Environmental Officer | Samoa | 27 May 2010 |
| Clark PETERU | Environmental Legal Adviser | Samoa | 12 February 2010 |
| Joseph STANLEY | GEF Support Adviser | Samoa | 18 March 2010 |
| Joyce TULUA | Programme Assistant | Samoa | 20 July 2011 |
| Corporate Services | | | |
| Vacant | Corporate Service Manager | | |
| Vacant | Secretary to Corporate Service Manager | | |
| Information, Communication & Publication | | | |
| Kapeni MATATIA | IT Manager | Samoa | 11 September 2011 |
| Aliitasi UESELE-PETAIA | IT Network Officer | Samoa | 7 January 2010 |
| Christian SLAVEN | Database & Systems Administrator | Samoa | 9 April 2012 |
| Kemueli QOROYA | Information Technology Officer | Fiji | 4 June 2010 |
| Peter MURGATROYD | Information Resource Centre Manager | New Zealand | 3 January 2010 |
| Miraneta WILLIAMS | Assistant Librarian | Samoa | 31 March 2011 |
| Vacant | Editor and Publications Officer | | |
| Nanette WOONTON | Associate Media and Publications Officer | Cook Islands | 15 June 2010 |
| Finance | | | |
| Alofa TU'UAAU | Finance Manager | Samoa | 23 July 2011 |
| Makereta KAURASI- MANUELI | Project Accountant | Fiji | 14 April 2012 |
| Maraea SLADE-POGI | Assistant Accountant | Samoa | 13 September 2012 |
| Ioane IOSEFO | Finance Officer | Samoa | 2 March 2011 |
| Leilani CHAN TUNG | Finance Officer | Samoa | 27 October 2011 |
| Vacant | Finance Officer | | |
| Pauline FRUEAN | Conference and Travel Officer | Samoa | 8 February 2010 |
| Administration | | | |
| Simeamativa LEOTA-VAAI | Senior Administration Officer | Samoa | 7 January 2010 |
| Luana CHAN-JAMIESON | Personnel Officer | Samoa | 11 August 2011 |
| Lupe SILULU | Registry Supervisor | Samoa | 31 December 2012 |
| Helen TUILAGI-AH KUOI | Registry Management Assistant | Samoa | 27 April 2012 |
| Vacant | Records Clerk | | |
| Monica TUPAI | Receptionist/Fax Operator | Samoa | 30 December 2012 |
| Petaia I'AMAFANA | Property Services Officer | Samoa | 11 January 2012 |
| Faamanatu SITITI | Driver/Clerk | Samoa | 5 December 2011 |
| Vacant | Maintenance Tradesman | | |
| Vacant | Handyman/Relief Driver | | |
| Silupe GAFA | Groundsman | Samoa | 31 March 2011 |
| Tologauvale LEAULA | Cleaner/Teaperson | Samoa | 31 December 2012 |
| Amosa TOOTOO | Cleaner/Teaperson | Samoa | 31 December 2011 |
| Sione LEVU | Cleaner/Teaperson | Samoa | 6 April 2010 |

Acronyms used, and their meaning

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|---|
| AFD | French Development Agency | PAS | Pacific Alliance for Sustainability |
| AusAID | Australian Agency for International Development | PBBS | Port Biological Baseline Survey |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora | PEIN | Pacific Environment Information Network |
| CMS | Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals | PICs | Pacific Island Countries |
| COP | Conference of the Parties | PICCC | Pacific Islands Community-based Conservation Course |
| CRISP | Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific | PICTs | Pacific Island Countries and Territories |
| CROP | Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific | PIFS | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat |
| CSD-17 | Commission on Sustainable Development, session 17 | PIFACC | Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change |
| DEC | Department of Environment and Conservation (PNG) | PIGGAREP | Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project |
| DEC | Division of Environment and Conservation (Samoa) | PIMRIS | Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System |
| DEWHA | Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Australia) | PINP | Poison Information Network for the Pacific |
| EBM | Ecosystem-Based Management | PNG | Papua New Guinea |
| EDF-10 | European Development Fund (10th round) | POPs | Persistent Organic Pollutants |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment | PREFACE | Pacific Regional (rural) Energy France Australia Common Endeavour |
| EU | European Union | QMS | Quality Management Systems |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization | RIF | Regional Institutional Framework |
| FIMSA | Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration | RMI | Republic of the Marshall Islands |
| FSM | Federated States of Micronesia | RMP | Regional Maritime Programme |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility | RMSD | Regional Meteorological Services Directors |
| GEF-4 | Global Environment Facility, 4th Replenishment | SAICM | Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management |
| GIS | Geographic Information System | SDWG | Sustainable Development Working Group |
| GMP | Global Monitoring Programme | SMEC | Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation |
| HR | Human Resources | SOE | State of Environment |
| ICR | Independent Corporate Review (of SPREP) | SOPAC | Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission |
| IEA | Integrated Environmental Assessment | SPC | Secretariat of the Pacific Community |
| IMO | International Maritime Organization | SPPO | South Pacific Programme Office (of WWF) |
| IRC | Information Resource Centre | SPREP | [Secretariat of the] Pacific Regional Environment Programme |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature | SPWRG | South Pacific Whale Research Consortium |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency | UN | United Nations |
| MEA | Multilateral Environmental Agreements | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| MNRE | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa) | UNEP-Risoe | United Nations Environment Programme at the Risø Centre in Denmark |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding | UNESCAP | United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| NGO | Non-Government Organisation | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| NMS | National Meteorological Service | UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| NOOA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA) | USP | University of the South Pacific |
| NSDS | National Sustainable Development Strategy | WDCS | Whales and Dolphins Conservation Society |
| NSWMS | National Solid Waste Management Strategy | WHO | World Health Organization |
| NZAID | New Zealand Agency for International Development | WPRFMC | Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council |
| ODS | Ozone Depleting Substances | WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |
| PACC | Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project | | |
| PACPOL | Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program | | |

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

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

AMERICAN SAMOA AUSTRALIA* COOK ISLANDS FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
FIJI FRANCE* FRENCH POLYNESIA GUAM KIRIBATI MARSHALL ISLANDS NAURU
NEW CALEDONIA NEW ZEALAND* NIUE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PALAU
PAPUA NEW GUINEA SAMOA SOLOMON ISLANDS TOKELAU TONGA TUVALU
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* VANUATU WALLIS AND FUTUNA



Pacific Year of Climate Change 2009



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

The Secretariat runs two programmes. Island Ecosystems works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to manage island resources and ocean ecosystems, so they can support life and livelihoods.

Pacific Futures works to assist Pacific island countries and territories to plan and respond to threats and pressures on island and ocean systems.