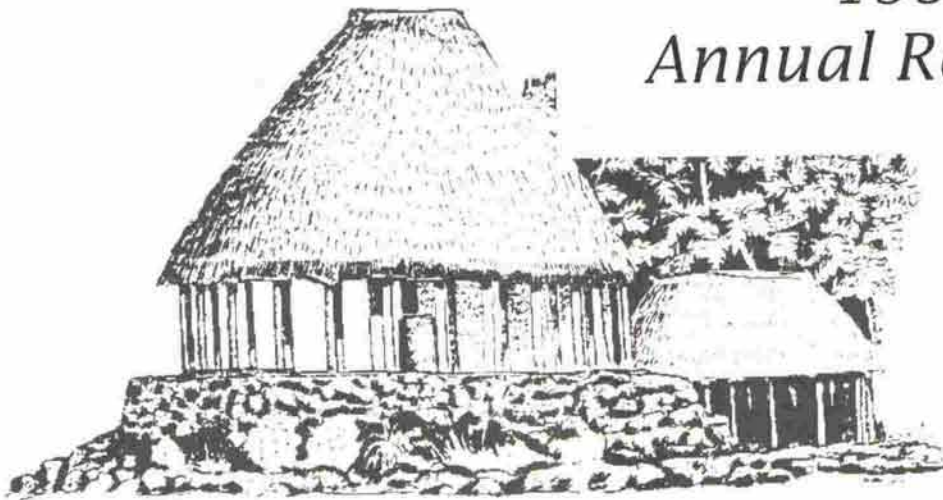




*1992/93
Annual Report*



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SPREP



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Foreword

Earlier this year, staff and friends celebrated the first anniversary of SPREP's move to Western Samoa as an autonomous, regional, intergovernmental organisation. This was an opportunity to thank people who helped us during the establishment period, to reflect on how much was achieved in a relatively short time, and to consider the amount still to be done.

The twelve months since my last Annual Report saw SPREP make substantial progress in a number of institutional and programme areas. New professional staff were recruited to work on biodiversity, coastal zone management, meteorological, legal, population and finance projects, complementing staff already engaged on issues such as climate and sea-level change, environmental impact assessment, pollution prevention and control, environmental education and information, national environment management strategies and sustainable development. Within these broad categories, SPREP staff worked together to plan, implement and manage a range of regional environmental activities aimed at fulfilling the organisation's primary objective – to assist South Pacific countries and territories to protect and improve their shared environment and manage their resources so as to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

In a year of fast-moving and noteworthy developments for SPREP, among the more significant from a long-term perspective was to co-ordinate actions, on behalf of Pacific Island governments, for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – the Earth Summit – in June 1992. Follow-up action – particularly implementing Agenda 21 activities in the

region and planning for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados next April – are now important activities for us. As part of this process, SPREP is now combining the environmental priorities established under National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) with Agenda 21 objectives, to present a co-ordinated package to potential donors.

Priorities for environmental programmes in individual countries are available through the NEMS. These indicate those priorities determined by national task teams, comprising government and NGO representatives. During the year an ADB-funded project successfully concluded in finalising NEMS for the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Solomon Islands and the Action Strategy for Conservation in the Kingdom of Tonga. This major task was co-ordinated by Mr David Sheppard, who left the Secretariat in April to become the Head of IUCN's Protected Areas Programme in Geneva. I wish Dave well, knowing that his new post will cement the already strong bonds existing between IUCN and SPREP. A Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and SPREP was signed during the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting in September.

In the Introduction to last year's Annual Report, I noted that SPREP was undergoing four related exercises aiming to enhance its institutional capacity to serve its members:

- ◆ the conclusion of a Treaty legalising SPREP's autonomous status;
- ◆ the development of a Corporate Plan;
- ◆ an integrated, annual work programme and budget process; and,



*Dr. Vili Fuavao
Director,
SPREP*
(Photo: SPREP)

- ◆ a review of staff salaries and terms and conditions of service.

I am pleased to say that the last two, at least, were achieved during the year.

However, progress on the Treaty and the Corporate Plan was not up to expectations due, in the first case, to a legal problem concerning participation by territories and, in the second case, to the last Intergovernmental Meeting being preoccupied with the Treaty issue. A Plenipotentiary Meeting is due to convene in Apia in June, which will hopefully resolve the Treaty question, while the draft Corporate Plan will be submitted again to the next Intergovernmental Meeting.

During the year SPREP attracted new, valuable donor support in addition to continuing assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France and the United States. Further assistance from 1993 was pledged by UNDP, UNEP, CFTC, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Australia, New Zealand and Japan. This allows some existing projects to continue, and the start of important new activities such as the South Pacific Biodiversity Programme, an Environment and Population project and a Coastal Zone Management project. I wish to thank all these donors who have so generously supported the work of SPREP, and assure them that their efforts are highly appreciated by member governments.

There was considerable activity on SPREP's domestic front during the year. We continued to develop and refine our newly established administrative,

financial, personnel and computing procedures and resources. Weekly staff meetings contributed substantially towards this. Proposals for a new headquarters reached the stage of initial design work on a master plan for developing a four-hectare site donated by the Western Samoan Government. However, funding is yet to be identified. The present, temporary headquarters buildings are now very crowded and it is hoped that more definite progress can be made with this project in the coming year.

I conclude by thanking my loyal and hardworking staff for their tremendous efforts during the year, often under great difficulty and stress. They are a credit not only to SPREP but to the region. The local support staff, in particular, deserve special mention. None have been with us longer than fifteen months, few if any had heard of SPREP before last year. In that short time, through enthusiasm and application, they have formed themselves into a highly effective support unit without which our work programme would simply cease to operate. I commend them all. Fa'afetai tele lava.

Finally, the Sixth SPREP IGM will be held in September in Guam – the first time outside SPREP headquarters. I hope to see as many of SPREP's friends, old and new, there as possible. To those unable to make it, then I hope this small publication assists you in your understanding of the Pacific region's own environmental organisation.

Soifua,

Vili A Fuavao Ph.D
Director



Environment and development are at a crossroads in the region ... Pacific Islanders must rise to meet the challenge.
(Photo: SPREP)

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back cover: map of the SPREP region

Introduction

What is SPREP?

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme – **SPREP** – is a regional organisation established by the governments of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Marianas Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa); and four developed countries (Australia, France, New Zealand and United States).

What is its Aim?

SPREP's mission is to assist South Pacific countries and territories protect and improve their shared environment, and to manage their resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

A Short History

Consultations between the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1975 led to proposals for a comprehensive programme of environmental management in the region. In the same year talks were held between the SPC and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC – now called the Forum Secretariat) to prepare proposals for a co-ordinated approach to the region's environmental problems.

In 1977 UNEP reiterated support for this initiative, joined in 1978 by the

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Proposals submitted to the South Pacific Forum – the annual meeting of Heads of Government of independent countries in the Pacific – and the South Pacific Conference – the annual gathering of representatives of all states and territories of the Pacific – led to the inception of SPREP in 1978.

Preparations then began for the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific, which took place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in 1982. This produced an "Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources of the South Pacific Region" to guide SPREP's future activities. SPREP reported to both the South Pacific Forum and the South Pacific Conference, with a Co-ordinating Group comprising SPC, SPEC, UNEP and ESCAP providing executive oversight. The Programme was administered from SPC's Headquarters in Noumea.

In 1986, to enable members to become more active in setting priorities for and managing SPREP, the first Inter-government meeting on the SPREP Action Plan (IGM) was convened, at first meeting every two years (1986, 1988 and 1990), and then annually from 1990. Also in 1986, the Co-ordinating Group was replaced by a Steering Committee of five representatives: one from each distinct cultural/geographical area of Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia, one from France/UK/USA, and one from Australia/New Zealand. The Group met at least once a year to assist and provide direction to the SPREP Secretariat in implementing its Work Programme. In 1990, the Steering Committee, in turn, was abolished when the IGM became an annual event.

At the 1990 IGM, amidst calls for more autonomy from SPC for SPREP, three working groups – chaired by Western Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea respectively – were set up to revise the Action Plan, financial arrangements, and the legal status of SPREP. These Working Groups prepared submissions to the 1991 Noumea IGM chaired by Fiji.

The 1991 IGM recognised that more work was needed in these areas, and so established the Action Plan, Finance and Legal subcommittees, chaired respectively by New Zealand, French Polynesia and Western Samoa. A Ministerial Session of the IGM then decided to re-constitute SPREP as an autonomous organisation. Ministers also accepted an offer by the Government of Western Samoa to host SPREP's Headquarters in Apia, and negotiations began (and are still in progress) on the terms of a Treaty formally establishing SPREP as a separate, fully independent, regional organisation.

SPREP's office and staff moved from Noumea to Apia early in 1992. The first IGM outside of Noumea was held in Apia in September 1992.

What are its Objectives?

The SPREP Action Plan sets out the mandate for its activities and provides a framework for environmentally sound planning and management for the region. The 1991-95 Action Plan is a regional strategy, identifying many aspects of environmental assessment, management and law. SPREP is responsible to its member governments and administrations for overall technical co-ordination and supervision in implementing the Plan, which aims to:

1. further assess the Pacific environment, especially where humans influence ecosystems, and the effects on their own environments;

2. improve national and regional capabilities, links and funding to carry out the Action Plan;
3. provide integrated legal, planning and management methods to protect and use natural resources in an ecologically sound way;
4. provide more training, education and public awareness for improving the environment;
5. encourage development that maintains or improves the environment;
6. protect the land and sea ecosystems, and the natural inhabitants that need help;
7. reduce pollution on land, in fresh and sea water, and in the air; and,
8. encourage the use of Environmental Impact Assessment and other methods to stop or lessen the effects of humans on the environment.

What Does it Do?

SPREP's Work Programme deals with:

1. Conserving Biological Diversity;
2. Global Climate Change and Sea Level Rise;
3. Environmental Planning and Management;
4. Coastal Management and Planning;
5. Managing Pollution and Pollution Emergencies;
6. Environmental Information, Education and Training; and,
7. Regional Environmental Concerns.

Details of activities in 1992/93 in each of these sectors are provided in the section on Individual Programmes.

How is it Structured?

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting

SPREP's controlling body is its Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM). This comprises representatives of 26 member states and territories, who now meet once a year to review the previous year's activities, approve a Work Programme and Budget for the next financial period, and consider institutional, staffing and other matters affecting the organisation.

The Fifth SPREP IGM was held in Apia, Western Samoa, in September 1992 – the first time it had been held outside Noumea (excluding a short special session in Nuku'alofa in 1991). Among a wide range of issues, the Meeting approved proposals put forward by the Secretariat for streamlining policies and procedures in formulating the annual work programme, adopted a SPREP staff salaries and conditions of service system, adopted a flag design for SPREP, considered the implications of the Earth Summit in Rio for the Pacific environment and approved consequential changes to the SPREP Action Plan to reflect Agenda 21 priorities, adopted Financial Regulations for SPREP and approved SPREP's work programme and budget for 1993.

The IGM also established a working group to conduct a technical evaluation of a proposal submitted by Papua New Guinea to the South Pacific Forum for a regional convention on hazardous wastes. That Group subsequently met in Suva in March 1993, and its report will be considered by the next meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Nauru in August and by the Sixth IGM.

On the SPREP Treaty, the IGM accepted a draft produced by its legal subcommittee of an Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as an Intergovernmental



Organisation. This is a basis for further discussion and decision at a plenipotentiary meeting to be convened by Western Samoa, held in Apia in June 1993.

The Fifth IGM was followed by half-day meetings of the contracting parties to both the Apia and SPREP Conventions called to discuss the adoption of financial regulations.

The Sixth SPREP IGM will be held in Guam in September 1993. It will be preceded by the Second Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and the SPREP Conventions.

2. The Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for executing the policies and directives of the IGM, for formulating and implementing projects under the Action Plan, for providing advice and assistance to member governments and administrations either directly or through consultants, and for securing appropriate donor assistance. It is headed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, and aided by a team of professional staff recruited from within and outside the region and support staff recruited in Western Samoa.

Details of the Secretariat's current staffing are on Page 23.

Programmes and Activities

Environment Planning and Management

The Regional Environment Technical Assistance (RETA) and National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) programmes address basic environmental issues in 12 Pacific Island countries. This assistance is largely funded by ADB and UNDP, with extra support from AIDAB and IUCN. RETA began in November 1990, and NEMS in April 1991.

RETA and NEMS aim to develop National Environment Management Strategies for the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. Tonga already has an Environment Plan, while similar projects are also underway in Fiji and Vanuatu. The Fiji project is funded by bilateral assistance from the ADB, and the Vanuatu project is funded by AIDAB.

NEMS are a statement of a country's environmental principles, and a detailed plan for realising the country's long-term environmental goals. These strategies are co-ordinated in-country by a Task Force, comprising senior representatives from government departments, NGOs and the private sector.

Each country is developing its own strategies, unique to its own economic, physical, cultural and social situation. They clearly link environmental protection to the economic development in each country, and outline the priority environmental action programmes that are needed. The existing knowledge on the environment in a number of countries is summarised in State of Environment (SOE) Reports, which outline major environmental issues for

key sectors in each country, such as forestry, fisheries, tourism and conservation. SOE reports have been produced for FSM, RMI, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands, and are being prepared for Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

The NEMS are developed after National Workshops or Seminars are held for interested groups and the wider community, and are then subject to extensive review with wide community consultation. This consultation and review process is vital if the Strategies are to be accepted and successful in their respective countries. Representatives from NGOs, education and media are also actively encouraged to be a part of this review.

Environmental legislation is also being reviewed in each country, and draft reports prepared. In many Pacific countries, environmental legislation is poorly developed or non-existent, and responsibilities for managing the environment are often dispersed between various government agencies, with limited co-ordination between them. These reviews aim to critically assess existing laws, recommend amendments to existing legislation and, where appropriate, recommend new legislation.

Managing the environment also needs a sound institutional base. A common constraint in Pacific countries is that relevant agencies are poorly staffed and lack the basic resources for implementing programmes. Studies are also underway to review existing levels of staffing and expertise in environmental agencies, and to recommend appropriate steps to strengthen agencies in each country. In some countries, the



Effective planning is needed to protect island resources for the long term.
(Photo: SPREP)

programme has helped establish new staff positions where none existed before.

Relevant environmental training activities are implemented by the NEMS and RETA programme. These include such areas as environmental impact assessment (EIA), testing water quality, and raising environmental awareness. Representatives from community groups, including NGOs, are actively encouraged to attend this training. NGO activities are also actively fostered. These include country-specific activities such as in recycling aluminium cans, and training NGO personnel in environmental awareness and EIA.

Future activities involve reviewing, finalising and adopting National Environmental Management Strategies in each country, and implementing specific, identified programmes. These activities will be closely linked with other SPREP programmes, particularly in the follow-up to UNCED and "Capacity 21", and with SPREP's EIA and environmental education training prog-

rammes. SPREP has also strengthened the role of these NEMS by formulating its own work programme from the specific projects identified in the NEMS.

It is envisaged that implementing NEMS will involve relevant Environment Departments or Sections working closely with other government departments, NGOs, community groups and the private sector. This aims to ensure that all development activities are undertaken with full regard for fragile island environments, and that the sustainable development of natural resources is achieved.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Concern about the impact of development projects on the environment has grown in recent years. SPREP member countries are realising that, to save the environment, development projects and policies should be assessed on how they will affect the environment. This assessment must be carried out in the planning stage, not after the project is completed.

SPREP has in-house expertise to help member countries ensure that development activities are carried out in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Officer assists coun-

tries to formulate and implement policies consistent with the principles of sustainable development, taking into account the associated complex problems of population growth, resource use, urban drift, unemployment and economic growth.

The EIA Officer strengthens national EIA capabilities by:

- ◆ carrying out in-country, sub-regional and regional training workshops;
- ◆ helping governments set up EIA capabilities by developing proposals and seeking funding;

- ◆ helping governments review EIAs completed by developers or outside consulting firms;
- ◆ developing an EIA task team of experts to provide advice on, or carry out EIAs of, major development projects in the region; and,
- ◆ advising governments on legislation and administrative procedures for developing and implementing EIA.

Work in 1992/3 centred on *Strengthening Environmental Planning and Management Capabilities in the South Pacific*, a UNEP-funded project. The main activities include:

- ◆ Conducting national environmental planning and management seminars for policy and decision makers such as government ministers, Secretaries and Heads of Departments. These seminars discussed policy issues on the use of EIA in their countries.
- ◆ A four-day technical workshop following on from the seminar, for technical officials, planners, private developers, NGOs and interested individuals. This training provided practical instruction on how to conduct an EIA, reviewed existing EIAs using in-country examples and case studies wherever available, and completed a field exercise to show how EIAs can assist rational decision-making for development projects.
- ◆ Developing instructional materials for environmental planning and management to raise awareness of EIA. These materials include an EIA poster and a video. An instruction booklet, a Guide to EIA in the South Pacific, will be published in September 1993.

One EIA response mission was undertaken in March 1993 to assess the impacts of three causeways in Vava'u,



Environmental Impact Assessments for development projects such as roads should be carried out as part of project planning – not after the fact!

(Photo: SPREP)

Tonga. Other missions planned for 1993/94 include assessments of construction of a new government administration centre in Niue, reef blasting in Nauru, a hydro-electric power scheme in Vanuatu, and assistance in producing EIA procedures for Solomon Islands.

An EIA database officer will be appointed in October 1993 to co-ordinate all database requirements in this area, including:

- ◆ updated information on applying EIA case studies and other methods in appraising development projects;
- ◆ practices and regulations in applying EIA and related methods; and,
- ◆ experts and consultancy firms in South Pacific countries that specialise in environmental planning and management.

A follow-up to the current training programme is now being revised, with more emphasis on integrating EIA into national planning using the principles of sustainable development.

Planning and Managing the Coastal Zone

The coastal zone is vital for the well-being of the Pacific Islands. With the exception of the interior of PNG, the interests of all Pacific countries are based on their coasts. It is where most people live, the focus of subsistence and commercial agricultural and fisheries activities, and the target of most economic development. Coasts are also subjected to natural hazards such as cyclones, storm surges and abnormally high tides, which may be increased by future climate change. These socio-economic pressures and natural hazards increase the degradation of coastal habitats, over-exploit the natural resources and escalate conflicts between competing users of coastal resources.

Coastal management and planning problems are widespread in the Pacific countries. In some areas these are severe, especially on atolls and in coastal urban areas on high islands. However, much degradation of coastal habitats, resources and values could be avoided or mitigated by effective integrated coastal management, planning and administration. This technique promotes a comprehensive, multi-sectoral and integrated approach to using and conserving coastal areas, habitats and resources.

The *Coastal Management and Planning Programme* is a co-ordinated approach to coastal environment issues, and promotes Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the region. The current programme consists of:

- ◆ in-country workshops;
- ◆ coastal resource surveys; and,
- ◆ developing research projects on coastal management plans and management.

There are also close links with other SPREP programme areas, especially Climate Change and EIA.

SPREP is the South Pacific centre for the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, so has a close working relationship with UNEP's Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Center (OCA/PAC) in Nairobi, Kenya. The Coastal Management and Planning Programme also works with other relevant international agencies, and complements related regional programmes in FFA, SPC, SOPAC and USP.

The Project Officer (Scientist) departed in September 1992, and the new Coastal Management Officer was appointed in mid-January 1993. With this change in staffing, SPREP now has a programme officer solely responsible for coastal issues.

Over the last year, national projects focused on coastal resource surveys and research projects for coastal management. They used local expertise and, where appropriate, involved collaboration with partner organisations. These projects included:

- ◆ A marine survey and inventory (including training) of the Palolo Deep Marine Reserve, Western Samoa. The resulting information was incorporated into a management plan for the Reserve;
- ◆ A multi-disciplinary, multi-agency survey of the natural resources of the Southwest Islands of Palau, partly sponsored by SPREP;
- ◆ The "Reef Reserve Effects" study in the Solomon Islands; and,
- ◆ A joint review of coastal protection systems jointly commissioned with SOPAC.

There are problems with implementing national ICZM at present, as Pacific Island governments have insufficient institutional mechanisms, legislation, trained personnel and financial resources; coastal management and plan-



Coastal areas are the centre for economic development in the Pacific – and are also very susceptible to damage.

(Photo: SPREP)

ning needs may fall across a number of government agencies, requiring better co-ordination between these agencies; there is poor information for coastal management decisions in developing plans; and the public and private sectors need to be better informed and educated about ICZM.

Climate Change

Regional governments still consider the potential impacts of climate and sea level changes as the greatest environmental threat for the Pacific Islands. These concerns rapidly expanded SPREP's activities in this area. SPREP is mandated as the regional clearing house and co-ordinating unit for climate change and related environmental concerns.

In 1992-93, SPREP, its Climate Change Task Team and other regional institutions worked with member governments, other regional organisations and international groups to address climate change issues. Their achievements include:

- ◆ Completing the preparatory missions to assess the implications of climate change and sea level rise for eight member governments, and conducting public awareness seminars around the region;
- ◆ Conducting case studies on the vulnerability of selected countries (Fiji, Kiribati, RMI and Western Samoa) to sea level changes.
- ◆ Co-ordinating the *South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project*, (a South Pacific Forum initiative funded by the Australian Government) for all South Pacific Forum countries.
- ◆ Co-ordinating other climate monitoring activities, especially in meteorology.
- ◆ Co-ordinating *Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere (TOGA)* research

SPREP is now developing a regional ICZM project to address this need for better management and planning in developing coastal areas. A preliminary meeting was held in late May 1993 to find the most effective ways to develop and implement this project.

activities, part of an international study involving 15 member countries.

- ◆ Undertaking impact assessment and coastal zone management activities.
- ◆ Co-ordinating and assisting SPREP governments to attend international meetings for the follow-up to UNCED, the IPCC Working Groups, the Framework Convention for Climate Change, the WMO Work Programme and the lead up to the World Coast Conference, thanks to funding from the Australian Government.

The 1992 SPREP IGM endorsed the climate change work programme developed in the *Second Meeting on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise* in New Caledonia in April 1992. It focuses on impacts and response strategies for member governments. Governments also specifically recommended that ICZM be developed for individual countries. This process has started, with detailed programmes being developed for consideration and implementation. This shows the close links between *Climate Change* and *Coastal Planning and Management*.

With support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, SPREP recently recruited a Meteorology/Climatology Officer to address technical questions and assist with training in this aspect of climate change. It is anticipated that member governments will also work closely with SPREP to assist each other in the area of meteorology.

Conserving Biological Diversity

Biological diversity is the rich variety of the living environment around us: birds, trees, bats, turtles, fish – and the forests, mangroves, reefs, and estuaries that shelter them. These plant and animal species clothe and feed Pacific peoples, provide economic opportunities through tourism and fishing, and sustain the culture and spirit of island societies.

The South Pacific is renowned for its diverse and unique species. However, island ecosystems are very fragile because of their small size, so the biological diversity and the species present are now among the most threatened in the world. Biodiversity conservation aims to protect biological diversity and the unique species (endemism) in the region, and to promote the ecologically sustainable use of the region's biological resources.

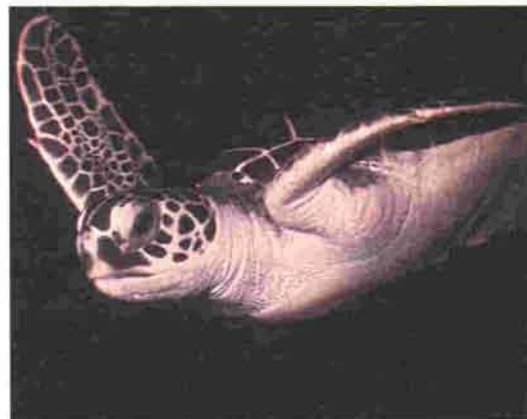
SPREP supports projects for:

- ◆ collecting data, particularly surveys;
- ◆ establishing conservation areas;
- ◆ protecting threatened and endangered species through research and habitat protection;
- ◆ promoting traditional knowledge and techniques that ensure sustainable use of resources; and
- ◆ developing policies, legislation, administrative structures and training to support these projects.

*Marine turtles –
endangered by overfishing,
both subsistence and commercial.
(Photo: WWF, 1977)*

The Preparatory Assistance Phase of the *South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)* was completed in 1992, resulting in an agreed Project Document. The SPBCP is a five-year project to establish and initially manage a series of large, diverse Conservation Areas, in which human activities will be guided to protect important ecological features and to enable sustainable use of the area's natural resources. Local landowners will be intimately involved, and this is a fundamental part of the concept. Fourteen independent countries of the region will be eligible for financial and technical assistance when the Programme commences. The Project Document was formally signed in April by SPREP and UNDP, and staff to manage the Programme are now being recruited.

On World Environment Day on 5 June 1992, during UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the International Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature and ratification. Fourteen Pacific countries have signed the Convention to date, and the Marshall Islands has also ratified it. SPREP officers are available to provide advice on the requirements of the Convention to any country wishing to pursue signature and ratification.



*Rainforests are incredible
reservoirs of biodiversity.
They must be conserved for the
ecological, cultural and
economic wellbeing of
all Pacific islanders.*

(Photo: SPREP)



The Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme (RMTCP), supported by the Canadian and Australian governments, has resulted in many important monitoring and conservation projects. Countries that are, or were involved are Fiji, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia (Yap State), Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Pohnpei (in FSM), Western Samoa and Tokelau are also interested in being involved. The Third Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme meeting was held on 9 - 11 June 1993 in Apia.

The Regional Marine Mammals Conservation Programme, which is expected to receive funds from the SPBCP, was boosted in June, when the last half day of the RMTCP Meeting was devoted to marine mammals. The Regional Avifauna Conservation Strategy is also expecting funding from the SPBCP.

The main immediate focus will be the start of the SPBCP. Also of interest is the Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, to be held on 4 - 8 October 1993 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The theme of this conference will be "Community Involvement in Conserving Bio-diversity in the South Pacific Region" - very relevant to the focus of the SPBCP.

Meanwhile, national projects continue to be implemented. For example: Tonga has gazetted a National Park on 'Eua, and is preparing a management plan with assistance from the New Zealand Government; Pohnpei (FSM) Integrated Catchment Management Project is going from strength to strength; and Solomon Islands is planning a locally-managed Komarindi Catchment Conservation Area for the proposed Komarindi hydro-electric power project.

Avoiding and Managing Pollution

Pollution and development often go hand-in-hand. Industrialisation, modern agricultural production and Western living styles all generate pollution problems, many of which are beyond the capacity of SPREP member governments to handle on their own. SPREP helps governments address these and other sources of pollution and contamination in land, air and water.

The Environmental Contaminants Officer (ECO) is developing a co-ordinated regional programme to prevent, monitor and control pollution, and to manage wastes. One part of this area is the Pollution Prevention Programme, which aims for all sectors of society to:

- ◆ be committed to preventing pollution;
- ◆ have sufficient information to help prevent pollution; and,
- ◆ have support to develop, implement and evaluate prevention programmes.

To do this the programme will support voluntary national and community initiatives, including those in the NEMS process; encourage economic incentives for pollution prevention; and assist in developing suitable legislation to encourage prevention.

Specific objectives for this programme are to develop:

- ◆ plans to manage wastes in land, freshwater, sea and air, including transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;
- ◆ studies for monitoring to prevent and control pollution in land, fresh and coastal waters, and high seas (incorporating current SPREP-POL activities);
- ◆ a regional database on sources, levels, amounts, trends and effects of contaminants and pollution; and,
- ◆ a regional programme on pollution awareness, training, education and information response.

The plan for this programme will be finalised by June 1993, and will include current SPREP-POL activities. Some pollution awareness training has already been carried in Niue, Kiribati and Tuvalu through the NEMS Project, with additional technical training on monitoring water quality in Niue.

A regional inventory of sources of land-based pollution has been carried out for all SPREP member countries, and a detailed study completed for Western Samoa under the NEMS Project. A regional marine pollution study will also be completed in late 1993.

Activities in the current regional marine pollution monitoring and research project (SPREP POL) will continue, as well as SPREP's technical inquiry-and-response service and the provision of waste management studies, especially through NEMS.

Growing consumerism and national economies are adding to the already major problem with solid waste disposal in the region.

(Photo: S. Milburn)



Information, Education and Awareness

Environmental Information, Education and Awareness aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of important environmental issues in the region. Education shows how the environment serves the needs of present and future generations of Pacific Islanders.

To do this, the programme has a number of target groups and regional activities, which include:

- ◆ providing educational materials and curriculum for schools and education ministries;
- ◆ providing teacher training and support;
- ◆ using a variety of media and approaches to raise community awareness;
- ◆ linking the efforts of government and non-government groups to further these communication and educational aims; and,
- ◆ acting as a "clearing house" to encourage a free and efficient flow of relevant information.

This programme has three officers: the Project Officer (Environmental Education – EEO), the Information and Publications Officer (IPO), and the Environment Information Data Analyst (EID).

The EEO ran successful workshops and seminars on curriculum development, teacher training, multi-media training and public awareness in the region during the year. An *Environmental Education Teachers Manual* is being distributed, aiming to improve the quality of formal environmental education in the region. It will also prove useful for NGOs and other trainers for extension.

SPREP distributes a variety of information to various organisations in the region, including teaching and research institutions, the media, libraries and

NGOs. Many publications are now in print or printed, including project and meeting reports and education materials, using desk-top publishing facilities and local printers. The *Environment Newsletter* is an important link between SPREP and the region. Other media are also being explored, including radio and video/television.

The *Pacific Sustainable Development Network* (PSDN) aims to improve information flow for sustainable development in the region. It is being established with a small Secretariat based at SPC Agriculture Programme in Suva, Fiji. A number of regional organisations and NGOs are on the Steering Committee, including SPREP. These organisations will use the PEACESAT communications system to exchange and search for information via voice and computer links.

The *Pacific Environmental Assessment and Management Information System* (PEAMIS) is an important information service developed by the EID. This computer information systems to produces maps and helps analyse data, so allowing governments to make better informed and ecologically sound decisions for development projects.

Future developments include:

- ◆ being an active leader in the PSDN;
- ◆ establishing the SPREP Information Centre to cater for requests from all our clients, in-house and in the region;
- ◆ improving the media's appreciation of the environment, and so improving the media's reporting of environmental issues;
- ◆ increasing contributions into the *Environment Newsletter* from national environment sections, NGOs and other interested groups.

Environmental Conventions and Legislation

SPREP is the Secretariat for two important regional conventions:

- ◆ The Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (*Apia Convention*); and,
- ◆ The Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific (*SPREP Convention*), and related protocols:
 - Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution to the South Pacific Region by Dumping; and
 - Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region.

The *Apia Convention*, which was opened for signature by SPREP member countries in 1976, concentrates on preserving land-based resources in Pacific Island countries. The goals of this Convention are embodied in the SPREP Action Plan, so that SPREP activities are guided by principles in the Convention.

Five SPREP member countries have ratified this Convention: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France and Western Samoa. It came into force on 28 March 1990. Other countries are now working on accession or ratification. The Government of Western Samoa is the depository for the Instruments of Ratification.



The *Apia* and *SPREP* Conventions were developed to conserve land and marine resources in the South Pacific.
(Photo: SPREP)

The SPREP Convention and its Protocols was adopted in Noumea on 24 November 1986, and entered into force on 18 August 1990. At this time, ten SPREP member countries had acceded to or ratified this Convention, which aims to protect and manage the natural land and marine resources of the South Pacific, including those resources within the national Exclusive Economic Zones. The articles of this Convention and related Protocols are also incorporated into the SPREP Action Plan.

The Parties are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Western Samoa.

The next meetings of the contracting Parties to both Conventions will be held in Guam in September 1993, immediately before the Sixth SPREP IGM.

SPREP is also closely involved with coordinating efforts in a number of other international conventions, including the:

- ◆ *London Dumping Convention*, where SPREP has observer status;
- ◆ *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, which was adopted and opened for signature at UNCED in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992. As a framework convention, it is an agreement in principle only, with no specific commitments. It aims to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases at levels which would prevent dangerous climate changes;
- ◆ *Convention on Biological Diversity*, which was adopted and opened for signature at UNCED in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992. Coral reefs are

National environmental legislation must be attuned to the culture and aspirations of the people to be effective.

(Photo: SPREP)



among the richest ecosystems in the world. It is now the challenge of SPREP members to protect these resources for future generations;

- ◆ *Montreal Protocol*, which aims to protect the atmosphere by controlling the emissions that destroy the ozone layer. It came into force on 1 January 1992;
- ◆ *Basel Convention* on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, and their disposal, entered into force on 5 May 1992. This aims to provide incentives to reduce the generation and transboundary movement of these wastes, and for their environmentally sound management and disposal;
- ◆ *CITES* (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) came into force on 1 July 1975. As the world's largest convention, with 118 Parties, it aims to control the trade in international wildlife and their products;
- ◆ *Ramsar Convention* (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat), which came into force late in 1975. It was the first modern global conservation convention, providing a framework for integrating conser-

vation and environmentally sound development. Its scope includes the coastal zones of the South Pacific; and,

- ◆ *World Heritage Convention*, which was adopted by UNESCO's general conference in 1972. Its main aim is to define the list of sites and monuments considered to be of universal value for all mankind.

SPREP, and its Legal Officer, assist by co-ordinating Pacific efforts to be involved in all these Conventions. An education and awareness programme will be launched in 1993/94 to improve awareness of these Conventions, and their importance as tools to help protect the Pacific environment.

SPREP can also provide advice on improving environmental legislation. A regional workshop on environmental legislation in November 1992 set a number of priorities for future work in strengthening legislation in the region, which will aim to also account for local culture and limitations. A series of national reviews were carried out as part of the NEMS projects, and these will be available in late 1993.

Follow-up to UNCED: Implementing Agenda 21

UNCED generated much support and participation from Pacific Island countries and their partners. The Conference was attended by over 100 representatives from the Pacific, including nine heads of government, one head of state, and two governors. For the Pacific, the combination of steps taken by the world's leaders in Rio, and the preparations for the conference, had a significant impact on the region, the activities of SPREP, and the role of Pacific Island countries in international negotiations.

With the support of the Asian Development Bank, Australia, Commonwealth Secretariat, New Zealand and the United Nations Development Programme, SPREP was able to assist countries participate in preparations for UNCED and related convention negotiations.

At UNCED, Agenda 21 – the global action strategy for sustainable development – was endorsed by Pacific Island countries, along with over 150 heads of government from throughout the world. Agenda 21 now provides an important global framework that helps guide environmental management and sustainable development activities in this region. This was recognised by regional leaders who, at the 23rd South Pacific Forum, highlighted many areas needing follow-up action. They clearly stated that all development must be economically *and* ecologically sound. At the Fifth SPREP IGM, countries considered the implications of UNCED outcomes for the 1991-95 SPREP Action Plan. As a result, the Action Plan was amended to include these objectives:

- ◆ to fully account for the principles in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of Forests;
- ◆ to integrate the objectives and activities of Agenda 21 into existing and new projects and programmes;
- ◆ to assist member countries to implement aspects of Agenda 21 within SPREP's mandate;
- ◆ to continue to co-ordinate regional approaches to global environmental concerns.

To carry out these new objectives, regional programmes have also been developed by SPREP to implement Agenda 21 on the basis of national priorities. These priorities are identified in NEMS, or their equivalent.

Within Agenda 21, sustainable development of islands (Chapter 17:g) receives special reference, and will receive special attention in SPREP's forthcoming work programme. Activities will be focused on the preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSIDS), in Barbados, in April 1994. This Conference is one outcome of UNCED that recognises their special environment and development concerns of island countries, and the significant role they played in international negotiations on sustainable development. It is essential that Pacific island countries present a co-ordinated view of sustainable island development to GCSIDS. This may be the last opportunity for some time to achieve a cohesive international response to sustainable development in island countries.

The implementation of Agenda 21, including preparations for GCSIDS, is not just about environment – it's about integrating environment and development. Other regional and international organisations in the Pacific have significant roles in the discussions, particularly through the South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee (SPOCC).

Conferences, Meetings and Workshops for 1992/93

Regional and International Conferences and Meetings

Date	Title	Place
3-14 June 1992	Pacific Delegation to UNCED	Brazil
20-21 Aug. 1992	South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Project (SPBCP) Appraisal Meeting	Western Samoa
14-17 Sept. 1992	SPREP Inter-Governmental Meeting	Western Samoa
18 Sept. 1992	Contracting Parties to the SPREP Convention	Western Samoa
18 Sept. 1992	Contracting Parties to the Apia Convention	Western Samoa
18-23 Oct. 1992	Marine Pollution Management	Fiji
24-28 Nov. 1992	Regional Environmental Law Meeting	Western Samoa
8-9 Mar. 1993	Technical Working Group on Convention for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes in the South Pacific	Fiji
10-11 Mar. 1993	SOPAC-SPREP Meeting	Fiji
5-7 May 1993	Expert Group Meeting for Asia-Pacific	Australia
24-28 May 1993	ICZM Technical Working Group Meeting	Western Samoa

National Meetings, Seminars and Training Workshops

1-3 June 1992	Environmental Education	Western Samoa
11-27 June 1992	Environmental Education	FSM
20-24 June 1992	EIA Training	Kiribati
29 June-3 Jul. 1992	EIA Training	Vanuatu
29 June-11 Jul. 1992	Marine Ecology	Tonga
10-14 Aug. 1992	EIA Training	Fiji
31 Aug.-3 Sept. 1992	EIA Training	RMI
28 Sept.-2 Oct. 1992	NEMS Pollution Awareness	Niue
5-11 Oct. 1992	Laboratory Technician Training - Water Quality	Niue
12-16 Oct. 1992	EIA Training	Solomon Islands
9-13 Nov. 1992	EIA Training	Western Samoa
23 Nov.-4 Dec. 1992	Environmental Education	Kiribati
15-18 Mar. 1993	NEMS Pollution Awareness	Kiribati
15-19 Mar. 1993	EIA Training	Tonga
15-16 Apr. 1993	NEMS NGO Environment Awareness	Palau
19-23 Apr. 1993	EIA Training	Cook Islands
26-28 Apr. 1993	National NEMS Seminar	Niue
11-14 May 1993	NEMS Pollution Awareness	Tuvalu

Relations with Other Organisations

Donors

Funds from international donor organisations are a significant portion of SPREP's annual budget, far exceeding contributions by member governments and administrations.

UNEP, one of SPREP's founding organisations, provides considerable financial support, especially through its Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC), as the South Pacific is a UNEP Regional Seas area. More support comes from other UNEP units, especially for international law, education and training, and environmental impact assessment.

UNDP is also one of SPREP's major donors. It gives direct financial support, especially through its Planning and Implementation of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (PMI). The PMI aims to assist the institutional strengthening of SPREP and of member government's environment sections, especially through the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) Project.

UNDP joined with the ADB, AIDAB and the NZ Government to assist the South Pacific region's input into the Rio Summit (UNCED) in Brazil in June 1992. The ADB, through its SPREP/Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) Project also provided substantial financial assistance to help SPREP build up environmental management capabilities throughout the region.

The GEF and AIDAB are co-funding the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP), providing considerable support for establishing a series of large, diverse Conservation Area projects over the next five years, aimed at protecting biological diversity. UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP administer the GEF.

The UNFPA will start a major project in May 1993 to strengthen information dissemination and awareness on one of the fundamental pressures on the region's environment – growing human populations.

Other conservation activities in the SPREP Work Programme continue to be supported throughout the year by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). At the last IGM, SPREP and IUCN signed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the organisations to work more closely together on a series of specific projects in the region.

The Australian, French, NZ and US governments continue to be strong supporters through their normal member country contributions and by providing extra-budgetary funds. Some of this assistance has allowed extra staff to be employed to help undertake SPREP's expanding work programme.

Two non-member countries, Canada and Chile, continued to support SPREP in the past year. The Government of Chile channeled its support through SPREP to its South Pacific neighbours by assisting in environmental protection. However, the closure of the Canadian-based International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) affected activities in marine environmental education and training.

The EC (through the Lomé IV Convention), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GTZ – Germany), and Japanese agencies have shown interest in supporting SPREP in 1993-94.

*Local and international
expertise is used extensively
by SPREP.*
(Photo: SPREP)



Collaborating Institutions and Consultants

Many regional and international institutions also assist SPREP. This is by direct financial support and by providing technical expertise. These organisations include Greenpeace, the MacArthur Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat, the latter through its Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC). In some cases this assistance is as a direct grant, in others as an in-kind contribution to SPREP, or through a sub-contractual or consultancy arrangement.

Since SPREP's beginning, considerable assistance has been given through the region's universities and technical institutions, including the University of the South Pacific (USP), the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), the Papua New Guinea Institute of Technology (UniTECH), the University of Guam (UoG), the University of Hawaii (UH), the Community College of Micronesia (CCM), the East-West Center (EWC), the Laboratoire d'étude et de surveillance de l'environnement (LESE) and the Institut français de recherche scientifique pour le développement en coopération (ORSTOM).

Other international institutions also provide support. These include Macquarie University, Sydney University,

the University of Wollongong and James Cook University in Australia; the University of Auckland in New Zealand, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in Suva, and the Université française du Pacifique Sud (UFP).

Through various memoranda of understanding, SPREP also undertakes collaborative exercises with the Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC), the Australian National Conservation Agency (ANCA), and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSWNPWS).

Many individual consultants also undertake consultancy work for SPREP, particularly in specialist areas not readily available through collaborating institutions. Many of these are drawn from the growing expertise now available within the South Pacific.

The SPREP Institution

Financial Situation

Expenditure

Table 1 and Diagram 1 provide an overview of expenditure incurred by the Secretariat during 1992. Expenditure is classified into SPREP's approved work programme areas.

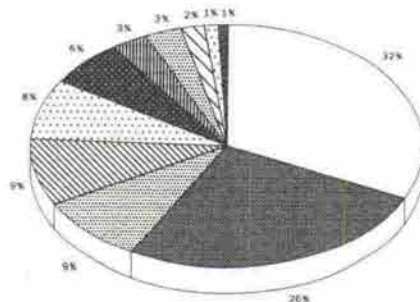
The work programme areas with large expenditure include:

- ◆ Environmental Management and Planning,
- ◆ Primary Function & Project Management,
- ◆ Global Change, and
- ◆ Miscellaneous Activities.

Table 1: Expenditure in 1992

Work Programme Area	Proportion of Expenditure	Expenditure (USD)
Environmental Management & Planning	32%	1,106,680
Primary Function & Project Management	26%	901,271
Global Change	9%	305,428
Miscellaneous Activities	9%	298,663
Regional Environmental Concerns	8%	294,863
Conservation of Biological Diversity	6%	207,760
Prevention & Management of Pollution	3%	118,455
Coastal Management & Planning	3%	110,576
Environmental Education & Training	2%	85,162
Environmental Information	1%	39,504
Planning & Response to Pollution Emergency	1%	25,586
Total		3,493,948

Diagram 1:
Proportion of
Expenditure for each
Programme Area



These work programmes include some of the larger projects administered by SPREP:

- ◆ the ADB-funded special Regional Technical Assistance project (RETA),
- ◆ the UNDP/AIDAB-funded National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) project,
- ◆ the UNEP-funded Strengthening Environmental Planning & Management project,
- ◆ SPREP primary function activities,
- ◆ the AIDAB-funded relocation of SPREP headquarters,
- ◆ the 4th SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting,
- ◆ the AIDAB-funded Climate Change Information Officer position,
- ◆ the AIDAB and Canadian-funded Coastal Programmes,
- ◆ ADB/UNDP/AIDAB/NZ-funded preparations for UNCED,
- ◆ international negotiations on climate change,
- ◆ various positions funded by the New Zealand government, and
- ◆ the AIDAB-funded networking of SPREP's finance systems.

These work programme activities contributed to 76% of all expenditure during 1992. The balance of expenditure was incurred in Regional Environmental Concerns, Conservation of Biological Diversity, Prevention & Management of Pollution, Coastal Management and Planning, Environmental Education and Training, Environmental Information, and Planning and Response to Pollution Emergency.

Funding

Funding provided to SPREP during 1992 is shown in Table 2. Total funding was \$5,188,685, and was separated into (i) Project Implementation and Management, and (ii) Primary Function.

The funding shown in Table 2 (i) and Diagram 2 comprises extra-budgetary funding received from donors to fund the implementation of particular projects

The funding in Table 2 (ii) and Diagram 3 relates to funding provided to SPREP for its "core" or primary activities. These funds were provided through voluntary contributions by member countries and from miscellaneous sources.

Total expenditure in 1992 was \$3,493,948, leaving a balance of funding unspent in 1992. This surplus was carried forward to 1993 and, with a full staff complement, is now being used on the activities for which the funds were originally provided.

Table 2: Funding received in 1992

Agency	Funds Received (USD)
<i>i) Project Implementation and Management</i>	
AIDAB	1,401,625
UNDP	955,239
ADB	556,993
New Zealand	467,774
UNEP	352,987
Project Administration Fees	310,436
ICOD	215,026
Miscellaneous funding	332,465
Total	4,592,544
<i>ii) Primary Function</i>	
Member Contributions	519,475
Other Income	76,665
Total	596,141
Total funding	5,188,685

The Finance Section

During 1992, SPREP established its own Finance Section to control and administer all its financial affairs. These functions were previously the responsibility of the South Pacific Commission. Various measures were taken during the year to manage effectively these matters, and to ensure appropriate financial controls are in place. These measures included the recruitment of staff to the Section, purchase of computer equipment and software, the development of systems and reports to monitor and control the flow of funding and expenditure.

With the rapid growth experienced by SPREP in recent years, the Secretariat has a priority to ensure its Finance Section was established as quickly as possible, and that its systems were developed in a systematic manner. This development is continuing in 1993, with an internal review of systems already carried out, and an independent review being undertaken by a firm of Chartered Accountants in Apia. The report from the firm of Chartered Accountants will be available by the middle of June 1993, and will be available to SPREP's member countries and donor organisations. Any recommendations resulting from this review will be implemented during 1993.

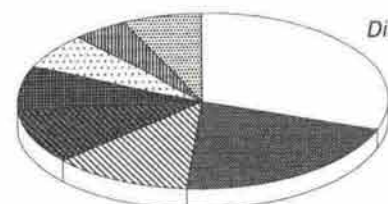


Diagram 2

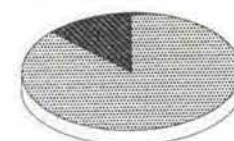


Diagram 3



Staffing

During the past year, staff from within and outside the region were recruited and appointed to the newly-established positions of Legal Officer, Coastal Management Officer, Meteorology/Climatology Officer, Population and Environment Officer and the Manager of the SPBCP. Local staff were also to the positions of Accountant, Secretary to the SPBCP, two Accounts Clerks, an Office Assistant and a Registry Assistant.

Other positions now being recruited are a Librarian, and technical officers for the SPBCP and an Assistant Coastal Management Officer.

SPREP lost the services of two very competent senior staff during this time:

Paul Holthus (Project Officer – Scientist) and David Sheppard (RETA Team Leader). Their enthusiasm and abilities will be missed at SPREP.

SPREP now has 20 professional staff and 16 local support staff to help implement its rapidly expanding work programme.

New staff salaries and terms and conditions of service, and staff regulations, were approved by the Fifth IGM and implemented immediately. These have brought SPREP's salaries and staff conditions broadly into line with those of most other regional organisations.

A list of staff appears on Page 26.



SPREP Staff and Consultants in 1993

Back row (left to right): T. Tologauvale, N. Jones, C. Kaluwin, W. Ward, K. Onorio, D. Sheppard, C. Handsford, B. Moutou, U. Sasagi.

Middle row: H. Petaia, M. Wendt, A. Eti, M. Solomona, D. Kamu, J. Devine, G. Miles, A. Smith, F. Pohega, G. G. Salesa-Uesele, N. Wendt, C. Appleton.

Front row: E. Rusia, L. Fauatea, M. I. Reti, D. Stewart, V. Fuavao, S. Mata'u, M. Hadley, M. Tupai.

Absent: N. Koop, A. William, S. Tucker, B. Crawley, L. Tulega, S. Pateluio, E. Hunt, F. Fonoti, F. Taei, L. Silulu.

(Photo: Apia Photo Mart)

List of SPREP Secretariat Staff (as of 31 May 1993)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Management	
Fuavao, Vili	Director
Hadley, Malama	Personal Assistant to Director
Stewart, Donald	Deputy Director
Kamu, Dorothy Seira	Personal Assistant to Deputy Director
Programmes	
Crawley, Bismarck	Environmental Information Data Analyst Officer
Farago, Adrienne	Project Officer (Biological Diversity Conservation)
Kaluwin, Chalapan	Climate Change Officer
Koop, Neville	Meteorology/Climatology Officer
Miles, Gerald	Sustainable Development Officer
Onorio, Komeri	Environment Impact Assessment Officer
Moutou, Bernard	Legal Officer
Reti, M. Iosefatu	Project Manager, SPBCP
Salesa, G. Gaufa	Environment Education Officer
Smith, Andrew	Coastal Management Officer
Tulega, C. Laisiasa	Environmental Contaminants Officer
Ward, Wesley	Information and Publications Officer
Wendt, Neva	Team Leader/National Environmental Management Strategies
Administration	
Sasagi, Ueligitone	Administrative Officer
Silulu, Lupe	Registry Clerk
Pohega, Faatupu	Secretary, SPBCP
Mata'u, M. Saunoa	Office Assistant
Eti, Apiseta	Office Assistant
Pateluo, Sia	Office Assistant
Solomona, Merina	Registry Assistant
Taei, Faalepo	Handyman
Tupai, Monica	Receptionist
Fonoti, Faamanu	Driver
Leaula, Tologauvale	Teaperson
Rusia, Esera	Gardener
Leota, Fakupo	Cleaner
Hunt, Elia	Night Watchman
Finance	
Jones, Nuku	Finance Manager
Petaia, Helen	Senior Accounts Clerk
Fauatea, Luapene	Account Clerk
Wendt, Miriama	Account Clerk
Volunteers	
William, Alex	Computer Specialist (UN)
Tucker, Stan	Financial Adviser



*SPREP: serving
the people and
the environment
of the South Pacific.*

(Photo: SPREP)

Looking to Tomorrow

As SPREP moves well into its second year of autonomous operations based in Apia, two fundamental building blocks – the Treaty Establishing SPREP and the Corporate Plan – remain to be completed. As was noted in this section of last year's Annual Report, with these structures in place SPREP will be better positioned to embark on its future with confidence.

That future lies increasingly with coordinating the implementation, on behalf of SPREP members, of environmental strategies and priorities identified for individual countries in their NEMS documents. As part of its follow-up to last year's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, SPREP will combine, during 1993/94, the NEMS and Agenda 21 priorities in a package for submission to potential donors. At the same time we will coordinate the region's preparations for participation in next year's Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States so as to position members to gain maximum advantage from those proceedings. The challenge in the post-UNCED period will be for the region, and SPREP, to select and prioritise their involvement in relevant international initiatives and negotiations.

For its first ten years, SPREP's work programme was based on project proposals submitted by members. Those for which funding could be found were the lucky ones; the others went by the

board. This hit-and-miss approach is giving way in the 1990s to a work programme formulated from the NEMS. The 1994 work programme will be the first attempt at this formulation. It is not an easy transition, and it will need time and patience to achieve it to everyone's reasonable satisfaction. But it is an essential task if a regional approach to environmental problems and solutions is to prove effective. That, after all, is SPREP's mission – to assist South Pacific countries protect and improve their shared environment and to manage their resources to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

Critical to the successful implementation of its annual work programme and the future of SPREP is that appropriate infrastructures be established in each member country to address relevant environmental issues. Ignoring this process will lead to SPREP becoming an ineffective, paper-oriented programme, growing too big for the wishes of its members. SPREP's growth and expansion must be proportionate to the development of infrastructures in national governments.

It is in this context that in-country training and education must remain a major focus for us. SPREP's training programmes are now putting more emphasis on in-country training and workshops, and less on regional gatherings. This is more economical and has proven to be more effective.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the generous and continued assistance of donors. During the coming year, and beyond, SPREP will continue dialogue with existing and potential partners and will also seek new avenues for co-operation.

SPREP's first year of autonomy was a very good one. We intend to maintain the momentum.

Will future Pacific Islanders see the same beauty that we now see?
(Photo: S. Milburn)



Annex 1: Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank	PNG	Papua New Guinea
AIDAB	Australian International Development Assistance Bureau	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
CNMI	Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	SPC	South Pacific Commission
EC	European Community	SPOCC	South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)	UH	University of Hawaii
EWC	East-West Center	UN	United Nations
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)	UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UN)
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (UN)
FS	Forum Secretariat	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme (UN)
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UN)
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UN)
ICOD	International Centre for Ocean Development (Canada)	UNITECH	University of Technology (PNG)
IMO	International Marine Organisation	UoG	University of Guam
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change	UPNG	University of Papua New Guinea
IUCN	World Conservation Union	USA	United States of America
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategies	USP	University of the South Pacific
NZ	New Zealand	WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
PEACESAT	Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
PIDP	Pacific Islands Development Programme (EWC)		

Annex 2: SPREP Member Countries

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

Stop Press!

SPREP Treaty is Signed in Apia

After long meetings and some hard decisions, the SPREP Treaty was concluded in the early hours of Wednesday 16 June, in Apia, Western Samoa.

The Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was signed on 16 June after two days of intense negotiations. Concessions were made by both the French and US delegations to reach a compromise agreement, allowing the legal formation of the region's newest autonomous intergovernmental organisation.

Most disputes during the negotiations centred on the ability of Pacific territories to take part in decisions in SPREP's meetings. Finally, a compromise presented by Tuvalu proved acceptable to all delegates, and a final draft of the Treaty was completed.

The Chairman of the meeting, Hon. Misa Foni Retzlaff of Western Samoa, congratulated the delegates on their uniting efforts to reach unanimity on these difficult issues. The Premier of Niue, Hon. Frank Lui, recognised the outstanding leadership of the Chair and the delegates, and the efforts of the SPREP Secretariat. The Director of SPREP, Dr. Vili Fuavao, finished with a prayer of thanks.

The opening for signing by Parties to the Treaty allows the legal separation of SPREP from its former home in the South Pacific Commission in Noumea, New Caledonia. It also allows SPREP to now concentrate fully on its mission to encourage sustainable development in its member island countries.

The signing by Parties is due to start at Papa'uta Girls School at Apia, Western Samoa, at 9.00 am.

*(This is a copy of a press release from the
Chairman of the SPREP Plenipotentiary Meeting
on 16 June 1993)*

*The Prime Minister of
Western Samoa,
Hon. Tofilau Eti Alesana,
signs the Agreement
Establishing SPREP.
(Photo: Apia Photo Mart)*



AREA SERVED BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

