

27 FEB. 1976

---

REPORT ON THE 13TH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE HELD AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER, CANADA

15th August - 1st September, 1975

---



NAVU KWAPENA,  
Ecologist,  
Wildlife Branch,  
D.A.S.F.,  
KONEDOB  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wildlife Leaflet 75/22

13TH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS HELD BETWEEN 15TH AUGUST -  
1ST SEPTEMBER 1975 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

REPORT:

The 13th Pacific Science Congress was held recently during 15th August and 1st September 1975 in Vancouver, Canada.

The theme of the Congress was "Man's Future in the Pacific". Nearly all the Pacific countries were represented and about 2000 people attended the congress. The countries and islands or states involved in the congress were as follows:

Canada, U.S.A. (most states), India, U.S.S.R., Indonesia, China, Japan, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Hawaii, New Caledonia, Fiji, Cook Islands, American Samoa, Africa, Rome, England, Germany, France, Bangkok, Hong Kong, etc.

SYMPOSIA:

The list of symposia arranged for the Pacific Congress is as follows:

1. Pacific Populations and their Implications for Scientific Research.
2. Aquatic Resources and their Management.
3. Energy and the Pacific Region.
4. Land Based Resources and their Management.
5. Nutrition.
6. Science and Social Science Policy.
7. Man's Future condition in the Pacific.
8. Symposia of the Scientific Committees and Special Symposia.

Papua New Guinea was represented by the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries. An officer, Mr Navu Kwapena of the Wildlife Branch, attended the Congress in Symposium Number 4 - "The Land Based Resources and Their Management", and presented a contributed paper, 'The Wildlife Habitat Conservation and the Biological Resource Utilization in Papua New Guinea'.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS  
FACING THE PACIFIC PEOPLE

In the Congress many Pacific participants raised the problems facing the Pacific people. The major problems discussed were as follows:

- A: Population Explosion and Over Crowding in many of the small Pacific Islands and Cities.
- B: UNEMPLOYMENT: There are many countries and islands in the Pacific which have many young educated and uneducated men and women without jobs.

The main problem is that there are not enough jobs available either in the Governments or private firms in the Pacific. Recommendations were made to provide more job opportunities with many varieties. It was mentioned that employment in the rural sector was most desirable for the Pacific people who were more used to the rural life.

C: MALNUTRITION: In the Pacific many young children and babies do not have a proper diet with protein-rich foods. In some Pacific schools many people have protein deficiency, because they do not have enough fresh foods, vegetables, meat and fish which are the sources of protein. It was pointed out strongly that the Governments in the Pacific must provide proper and efficient services, facilities etc. to obtain protein rich foods such as the above.

It was pointed out that relevant authorities, Committees and Departments should be approached or asked to look at the nutrition situation of the Pacific and cope with the malnutrition problem.

D: LAND USE PROBLEMS: Nearly all of the lands in the Pacific Region are owned by individuals or are under a complex form of clan or village ownership. Most of these lands owned are for traditional gardening, hunting, social, economic and other useful purposes.

Many Pacific people will soon face land shortage problems due to lack of wise use of the land and its resources. The population of the Pacific people is also increasing and this population rise will result in too many people and not enough land. There are other problems.

It was pointed out that the problems causing land shortage, land dispute, land ownership and the wise utilization of land should be investigated to improve the land situation in the Pacific. Other non usable lands should be improved and developed for the people to use.

E: MULTIPLE USE OF LAND SOURCES: In some countries of the Pacific many lands are not used wisely and are not fully productive. Some lands are uselessly wasted and not at all cultivated. When lands are used, not many varieties of activities are carried out on them.

It was pointed out that lands of any sorts should be used for all purposes. There should be a mixed variety of activities when using the land. The lands should be used for multiple purposes, including agriculture, forestry, Wildlife and National Parks and Reserves, Zoos, Outdoor Recreation, Sightseeing and so forth. The use of Coral Reefs, setting up of aquaculture, marine reserves, marine parks and the protection of marine life and coastline and shores be very important.

F: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF THE PACIFIC REGION: The Pacific water and air are already polluted in some parts by the explosive and poisonous chemicals from mining industries, hydro-electric schemes, nuclear power testing, industrial and city sewerage. Smog and noise pollution are also experienced in the Pacific. Sea, river and lake poisoning has resulted in the death of enormous amounts of marine and terrestrial life. Care must be taken to protect the environment, the sea and the land where human beings and the natural resources are.

G: MANAGEMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES: In the countries of the Pacific, there are abundant marine resources such as fish, mammals, reptiles, corals, sea weeds etc. that dominate the wonders of the marine world.

It was reported that some important marine life and other resources are decreasing in number due to human disturbance in the Pacific waters, reefs, coastlines, shores, beaches and the islands. Marine pollution is a common problem which causes the death of many useful corals, abundant shallow water fishes and the seaweeds of the coral reefs and shallow waters.

Human wastes, industrial sewerages etc. pouring into the sea are the main causes of the marine pollution.

Steps must be taken to control the waste disposal into the sea to avoid marine pollution on sea life.

Steps must also be taken to set up Marine Parks where important coral reefs, fish, shell fish and seaweeds such as Giant Kelps can be managed. The Aquarium, Aquaculture, underwater gardens including Oyster farming, coral reef management, seaweed management and the preservation of marine life should be set up and encouraged.

H: MANAGEMENT OF TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES: In the Pacific, there are land resources, forest resources and Wildlife resources both for conservation and utilization purposes.

With the development of roads, agriculture, forestry, mining and the hydro-electric schemes, the terrestrial resources of value will be disturbed and eventually wiped out completely.

In order to have the resources survive from generation to generation, the conservation, preservation and the wise utilization of the resources are needed. Areas should be set aside for important Wildlife Preservation and Conservation. When clearing forest for Agriculture development care must be taken in preserving the important wildlife and traditional habitat. The resources should be controlled and used wisely.

I: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ITS HABITAT: In the Pacific certain wildlife resources are known to be traditionally important for their status and scientific values to the Pacific people. Some of these wildlife resources are important for preservation and utilization purposes.

In Papua New Guinea, Birds of Paradise of all species are important for their uniqueness and the seven species of Birdwing Butterflies are important for their size and beautiful colours as well as their rareness. In other Pacific countries certain species of fauna are important for their own purposes and uses.

Enforcement of Wildlife Laws should be encouraged in the Pacific, areas should be set aside for important wildlife habitat and controlled measures introduced to safeguard the wise utilization of the resources.

J: ECOLOGICAL RESERVES: In the Pacific several terms are used to describe areas set aside for scientific research, preservation, conservation or management purposes where important animals and plants are. The ecological reserves may refer to Wildlife Management Areas, Nature Reserves, Marine or Terrestrial Reserves, National Parks etc. In the Pacific the setting up of Ecological Reserves is important for preservation, conservation and Management of natural resources purposes. In P.N.G., Wildlife Management Areas, National Parks are set up as ecological reserves. There should be more ecological reserves or Management Areas for wildlife habitat.

In U.S. Ecological Reserves are set up under U.S. Ecological Reserve Act. These reserves are mainly for Scientific Research.

K: ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON ENDANGERED FLORA AND FAUNA: In the Pacific there should be a close relationship in sorting out, deciding and agreeing on the common problems and the endangered flora and fauna which need protection and control. There should be a continuous flow of information concerning the law governing the endangered flora and fauna in the Pacific. There are countries which do not have any controls and are not aware of the existing endangered flora in the Pacific Region. There should be an International Agreement on the Protection and Control of the endangered flora and fauna. Each Pacific country should be aware of the endangered species in all the Pacific Region.

L: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON THE IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT IN THE PACIFIC: Public awareness and education on the resources in the Pacific are necessary. The information on the important resources and their management should be made available through radios, televisions, newspapers, journals, magazines, books, in school curricula and in other publications in the Pacific. Not many countries in the Pacific teach people about Natural Resources and their Management. There should be compulsory education on the important natural resources available in the Pacific. There should be courses on Wildlife Management and Conservation, Environment Protection, Marine Parks, National Parks, Aquaculture, Environmental and ecological sciences including marine and terrestrial life. The high schools and universities should adopt these courses.

M: NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY ON SOCIAL CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH: In the Pacific, it is the Government which makes Policies and Rules on Scientific Research, both cultural and biological. The Policies and rules should be made with full consultation with the landowners or the local people who are always affected.

The Policies and the Rules on any Scientific Research to be carried out should include the following:-

- (a) Where the research is to be carried out.
- (b) People should be consulted with Area Authorities and DC's.
- (c) What sort of research is to be carried out.
- (d) What is the purpose of the research.
- (e) What are the benefits of the research.
- (f) Reports, publications, photographs, films, etc. on research should be made available to the Government concerned.

N: NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL: In the 13th Pacific Science Congress held recently in Canada many Pacific countries which have National Science Councils of their own have taken part in the congress.

Most of these National Science Councils are members of the Pacific Science Association. Papua New Guinea, although an appropriate area in the Pacific is not a member of the Pacific Science Association. Now Papua New Guinea is Independent and has a newly formed National Science Council.

It is essential now that Papua New Guinea become a member of the Pacific Science Association.

Papua New Guinea has much to contribute to the Pacific people socially, culturally, educationally, economically and in exchange of scientific ideas, in exchange of biological specimens for study purposes and exchange of cultural and traditional activities and skills. Papua New Guinea can support other countries with natural resources such as fish, timber, wildlife, copra, coffee, rubber etc. Papua New Guinea can share ideas and knowledge with other Pacific people, discuss common problems and look at ways of assisting each other.

O: PACIFIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION - BRIEF HISTORY:

The Pacific Science Association is an International non-governmental regional scientific organization. The founding meeting, the first Pan Pacific Scientific Conference, was held in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1920. Ninety three scientists from Australia, Canada, China, Hawaii, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the United States met to "outline scientific problems of the Pacific region and to suggest methods for their solution, to make a critical inventory of existing knowledge, and to devise plans for future studies". Dr Herbert E. Gregory, then Director of Bishop Museum, was Chairman of the meeting, and is recognized as the Founder of the Association.

Twelve Pacific Science Congresses have been held: Hawaii 1920; Australia 1923; Japan 1926; Indonesia 1929; Canada 1933; California U.S.A. 1939; New Zealand 1949; Philippines 1953; Thailand 1957; Hawaii U.S.A. 1961; Japan 1966; Australia 1971; - The first Inter-Congress was held in Malaysia, 1969; the second in Guam U.S.A. 1973. The Association also co-sponsors regional scientific meetings relevant to its interests.

This year in August 1975 the 13th Pacific Science Congress was held in British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

There are 46 member countries or areas and seven honorary member countries from among others not geographically eligible to the Pacific Science Association.

Administration of the Association is directed by the Pacific Science Council, consisting of not less than 10 nor more than 25 members. The president of the Association is Chairman of the Council. The executive committee of the council consists of five members. The Council meets during the Pacific Science Congress and Inter-Congress.

There are Scientific Committees authorized by the council to study and seek solutions to important problems of Pacific interest.

P: COUNTRIES INVOLVED WITH LAND MANAGEMENT, MARINE RESOURCES AND PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN THE PACIFIC:

In the Pacific there are many countries involved in Marine and Terrestrial Resource Management and Conservation. The Countries included are: Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Philippines, United States, Indonesia, Taiwan, Hawaii, Fiji, Cook Islands, Australia and recently Papua New Guinea.

Marine resource conservation and management is mainly carried out in the Islands and along the coastlines of the Pacific. Terrestrial resource management and conservation is carried out in the mainlands of the Pacific.

Q: BENEFITS FROM THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS:

The benefits which should be obtained from the Pacific Science Congress are:

P.N.G. to participate fully with other Pacific people in social, cultural, scientific and other relationship purposes. P.N.G. to obtain first hand information from the rest of the Pacific people. P.N.G. to obtain international co-operation, educational, economic, scientific and manpower aid in developing the nation.

To have more mutual understanding with the Pacific people and to be recognized as a nation with its own people, culture and natural resources.

R: RECOMMENDATIONS:

Realising that Papua New Guinea is an Independent nation with its people and natural resources.

Believing that its status in the Pacific be considered in the overall planning of the Pacific countries in any social and economic development.

Recognizing the needs for its cultural, social and traditional development and which must be preserved and passed on from generation to generation.

Accepting that Papua New Guinea and its people must be recognized in the Pacific and be involved in the social, cultural, traditional, scientific and other gathering activities to learn, assist, share and work together in all works of life in the Pacific. Knowing that Papua New Guinea is an appropriate area in the Pacific it must become involved fully and participate in the Pacific Congresses, meetings, seminars, symposia, and other scientific and social functions.

Therefore it is strongly recommended that:-

1. Papua New Guinea to become a member of the Pacific Science Association.
2. To become a member of other Scientific Councils or organisations in the Pacific.
3. Papua New Guinea to be involved in the Scientific, Cultural, Social, education and economic planning of the Pacific Region.
4. It is further recommended that the Papua New Guinea Government representative for overseas to seek relevant information to follow up the above.

CONCLUSION:

On the conclusion, it should be mentioned here that Papua New Guinea has a lot of natural resources but does not have the appropriate skills, experts etc to develop them. Its educational, scientific, economic and cultural fields should be developed to deal with the above. The manpower, financial, educational, economic and scientific assistance from the Pacific countries, are very essential and necessary at this stage of Papua New Guinea's development.