

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

2012

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

SPREP LIBRARY – CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

SPREP Annual Report: 2012 – Apia, Samoa : SPREP, 2013

p. 29 cm

ISSN: 1562-675X

1. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). I. Title
363.7099

Cover photo: S. Chape.

Additional photo credits: all photographs in this publication were taken by staff of SPREP and are the copyright of SPREP unless otherwise acknowledged.

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

SPREP, PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa

T: +685 21929

F: +685 20231

E: sprep@sprep.org

W: www.sprep.org

This publication is also available electronically from SPREP's website.

Design by The Little Design Company, Wellington, New Zealand

Printed by Star Printery Ltd, Suva, Fiji on paper sourced from a well-managed forest in accordance with guidelines established by the Forest Stewardship Council.



SPREP Vision: The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

www.sprep.org

CLEAN
PACIFIC 




Photo credit: S. Chape.

FOREWORD	2	BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT	44
INTRODUCTION	4	Island and Oceanic Ecosystems	46
TRIBUTE TO LUI BELL	8	Threatened and Migratory Species	52
		Invasive Species	54
CLEAN PACIFIC CAMPAIGN 2012	10	COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	56
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL	18	SPREP Open Day	57
Solid Waste Management	20	Communications and Outreach	58
Hazardous Waste	22	Supporting Environment Education	58
Marine Pollution	23	Information Resource Centre & Archives	60
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE	26	CORPORATE SERVICES	62
Sustainable Development — Rio+20	28	Human Resources	62
Environmental Policy and Planning	29	Information and Communication Technology	64
Environmental Monitoring and Reporting	30	Finance and Administration	65
Highlights around MEAs	31	ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	74
CLIMATE CHANGE	32		
Adaptation	34		
Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project	34		
Mitigation	37		
Science and Policy	39		



Foreword

by Caroline Machoro, Chair of the 23rd SPREP Meeting



2012 has been a very productive year for the Secretariat, and its member countries and territories, as we continued the voyage begun with the new 2011–2015 Strategic Plan, which guides our collective efforts to address our pressing environmental issues and challenges.

As Chair of the 23rd SPREP Meeting I am pleased to acknowledge the Secretariat's achievements throughout the year, which are detailed in the pages of this report, and congratulate them on their hard work.

I am particularly happy that SPREP has significantly increased its support to its Pacific Island members, including increasing its work in French and American territories of the Pacific region.

The 2012 conference in Noumea was a great and friendly opportunity for Pacific Island members of SPREP to experience and better understand the realities of living in our region. The field trips reminded us that we are all aboard the same boat, navigating the same waters, and that SPREP's work is for the benefit of our people.

SPREP's efforts have greatly supported Pacific countries in their work to address the impacts of climate change, to better manage and protect their biodiversity, to reduce and manage their waste and to improve their governance systems, from Ministries to NGOs and associations.

In 2012, SPREP was the messenger for Pacific Islands at the UN Conference for Sustainable Development, Rio +20, which raised awareness on the 21st century challenges for our region. As one outcome, the importance of SIDS - Small Island Developing States - was recalled and the 2014 SIDS conference will symbolically be held in Apia, Samoa. It will be a chance to muster everyone's efforts to act for "the future we want" as people of Oceania.

With the strong economic, social and environmental pressures Pacific Islanders have to deal with, we will gain from coordination and cooperation, sharing values such as our solidarity and fellowship. Some themes will especially require our attention and as an example, I can make reference here to the fair sharing of natural and mineral resources and the governance of areas "outside national jurisdictions", the high seas and the deep seabed. We can be grateful to SPREP for their work in helping each of her members understand these issues and also key international instruments such as the Nagoya Protocol.

SPREP's very successful Clean Pacific Campaign highlighted the challenge of waste management in the Pacific and underlined the need for effective waste management policies and programmes in our region. Highlights of the campaign included projects that turned "trash into cash", as well as awareness and education programmes on the link between poor waste practices and the loss of biodiversity, the detrimental effects to health and quality of life, and to increased impacts from climate change events. It was a very inclusive approach, with very technical subjects aimed at professionals but also waste awareness programmes that were delivered to women and children.

As Chair, I would like to congratulate and thank all members and partners for their coordinated efforts to guide and support SPREP's hard work in the region. Despite the passing of Lui Bell, the man who cared for everyone, the voyage continues. I am sure he would have been proud to know that French territories are finally integrating the TREDIS database. These strong partnerships promote a unified front as we endeavour to create a Pacific environment that sustains our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

CAROLINE MACHORO
Chair of the 23rd SPREP Meeting

Introduction

by David Sheppard, Director General





It is my pleasure to report on SPREP's activities in 2012, a year of consolidation and achievement for the Secretariat.

I am pleased to report our change management process is directly benefitting our Pacific Island members. In particular, financial and technical support from SPREP to Pacific Island countries and territories has more than doubled over the last three years.

2012 has seen the successful implementation of a new structure for SPREP reflecting the priority areas in our Strategic Plan: biodiversity and ecosystem management; climate change; environmental monitoring and governance; and waste management and pollution control.

During the year we commenced a number of new projects, including those on invasive species, island biodiversity, ocean observation, and waste management. We have strengthened our core support functions of finance, human resource management and communications, as well as our technical capacity. The result is that SPREP is better able to support our members in addressing their pressing environmental challenges.

SPREP's budget has increased from USD8 million in 2008 to USD19 million in 2013, reflecting increasing confidence of donors and partners in our work. SPREP values this trust and commits to working hard to ensure we deserve it. We have been pleased by moves of some members to support SPREP through multi-year rather than annual funding, which significantly increases the ability of the Secretariat to plan and implement long term programmes in the Pacific region.

This annual report highlights the breadth and scope of SPREP's work in 2012. It has been a busy year for the Secretariat as we have strived to support Pacific Island countries and territories to more effectively respond to key challenges facing our region, including managing solid and hazardous waste; addressing marine pollution; enhancing and protecting important species and ecosystems; and responding to the overarching impacts of climate change.

SPREP's 2012 campaign theme of "Clean Pacific" underlined the challenges of waste and pollution,

which pose major threats to the sustainable development of the Pacific region due to impacts on the environment, health, water and quality of life. Clean Pacific raised awareness through a range of community based activities in many Pacific countries and emphasised that "every action counts". With this theme in mind it is hoped that everyone will consider what they can personally do to reduce waste and pollution.

To reinforce the Clean Pacific campaign SPREP accelerated its efforts during the year to support Pacific countries with the management of solid waste through the innovative J-PRISM project, implemented by Japan International Cooperation Agency in collaboration with SPREP. Capacity for waste management was strengthened in Pacific countries through support from the Government of France.

SPREP has also accelerated efforts to help Pacific countries and territories better manage hazardous waste, including waste oil, electronic waste (E-waste) and asbestos. Efforts on marine pollution were also enhanced through various activities associated with the review of the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN).

Climate change remains a major challenge in our region, with enormous impact on the way of life and livelihoods of Pacific peoples. The impacts of climate change cut across all sectors and require integrated approaches.

The devastating ferocity of the 2012-13 cyclone season, with the impacts of Cyclone Evan on Samoa and Fiji, brought home the reality of living in our region and the need to better integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk management approaches. SPREP has worked closely with partners, particularly the SPC, in developing the Joint



National Action Plan (JNAP) approach to ensure climate change and disaster risk management considerations are mainstreamed into national, sectoral and community development processes.

SPREP has moved quickly to support implementation of the Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy (PIMS 2012–2021), and has strengthened its capacity to support Pacific national meteorological services in managing and disseminating weather and climate information.

SPREP's flagship Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project, a joint GEF-funded initiative between SPREP and UNDP, reported significant results in 2012 in supporting Pacific countries to adapt to climate change.

Work also continued on our renewable energy project, PIGGAREP, which supports countries in achieving their national renewable energy targets.

The unique and diverse ecosystems of Oceania are essential for sustaining livelihoods of Pacific Island peoples. Keeping these ecosystems intact also provides a strong basis for increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change and other environmental and developmental challenges.

Conserving our unique biodiversity and fragile ecosystems has always been a major focus of SPREP's work as the regional organisation charged

with the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific Islands environment. A highly successful rapid biological assessment (BIORAP) was carried out in the unique upland forests of Savai'i, Samoa, with financial assistance from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and major partners, including the Governments of Samoa, New Zealand and the United States.

One of our main areas of work is the conservation of threatened and migratory species. In 2012 we were proud to launch the 2013–2017 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme, incorporating marine species action plans for whales, dugongs, dolphins and marine turtles. This new programme was built on the momentum generated by previous plans and presented new directions based on lessons learnt.

At SPREP, the name Lui Bell is synonymous with marine species. All those involved with marine species in the region, and internationally, joined the SPREP family in 2012 to mourn his tragic passing. We are committed to ensuring that Lui's enormous legacy is carried on for the benefit of the marine species and people of the Pacific region.

Ecosystem protection is proving to be an effective frontline response to climate change. The USAID-funded ecosystem-based adaptation project in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands, began in



Photo credit: S. Chape.

2012 and is part of an integrated, multi-sector partnership approach requested by the Solomon Islands Government. In 2012, SPREP, GIZ and SPC collaborated on a community-based vulnerability and adaptation assessment in 27 villages throughout the province. SPREP's focus on ecosystem-based adaptation, including coastal protection and ridge-to-reef management planning, aims to support sustainable livelihoods by maintaining intact ecosystems.

SPREP provided substantial support for the Pacific preparations for the Climate Conference held in Doha, Qatar, as well as for the Biodiversity Conference held in Hyderabad, India, and the Rio+20 Conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These important meetings showcased island countries speaking with one voice, through our "Pacific Voyage" campaign, which delivered a clear message of the vulnerability of our small islands, the need for urgent action and the importance of partnerships.

During the year, SPREP increased its support for a wide range of environmental monitoring and governance activities in our Pacific members. These were carried out primarily through the EU-funded ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) MEA project. The mid-term review of this project singled out SPREP as the best performer amongst all participating

regions, in terms of capacity built and long term sustainability of approach.

SPREP supported the development of new legislation in a number of countries, including drafting new meteorology legislation for Vanuatu, as well as the development of National Environment Management Strategies for Kiribati and the Cook Islands.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines were further developed and applied during the year, including in the Federated States of Micronesia and Tokelau. State of Environment (SoE) frameworks for the region were also developed.

The range of SPREP's work and the beauty of our Pacific region are evident in the following pages, which outlines our work in support of a sustainable Pacific environment.

I would like to thank our SPREP members, donors, partners and staff for all they have contributed to a very successful 2012.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy this 2012 SPREP Annual Report.

DAVID SHEPPARD
Director-General

Tribute to Lui Bell

1956–2012



“Whoever you are, no matter your station in life, you can and must play a role to conserve and protect marine species and to respect them.”


LUI BELL

LUI Bell was the SPREP Marine Species Adviser for seven years and the driving force for marine species conservation and management in the region. His commitment was a life-long passion that inspired communities and leaders of Pacific nations and territories.

Before SPREP, Lui worked for the Government of Samoa on fisheries, aquaculture and marine conservation. He also spent time with the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and AusAID as an aquaculture adviser.

He is survived by his wife, Anunisia Silila Bell, and children Margaret, Rachel, Caroline, Lui Jnr and Lars, who are all based in Samoa.

Lui was an outstanding person in every respect. He was one of those rare people who could relate to everyone, whether a village community member or the head of an international organisation, and achieve positive outcomes through working with them. He excelled at establishing productive partnerships to achieve regional marine conservation objectives with the Convention on Migratory Species, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Conservation International and many others.



During his years with SPREP, Lui had many outstanding achievements that have made lasting contributions to the regional conservation of marine species. Many of these were made with limited resources but Lui was a master at making ends meet to achieve important outcomes for his programme.

Lui's notable achievements include:

- The development and implementation of regional Marine Species Action Plans that provide guidance for Pacific Island countries to conserve and manage dugongs, whales, dolphins and marine turtles. The latest versions of the plans, for 2013–2017, are currently available. These plans have been dedicated to Lui's memory and will remain one of his most important legacies as the culmination of his many years of work with partners and governments.
- The development of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region under the Convention on Migratory Species. Lui was a driving force behind the memorandum due to his deep passion for the conservation of whales and dolphins. This important memorandum now has 15 country signatories and seven collaborating organisations. Lui also designed

and implemented whale-watching guidelines to support Tonga's ecotourism economy.

- Lui's outstanding work on turtle conservation resulted in the development and implementation of ground-breaking approaches for monitoring turtle migration in the Pacific using satellite and static metal tags. The information gathered through this work has significantly improved our understanding of the migration paths of these iconic species.
- Thanks to Lui's skill at engaging partners such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), SPREP now hosts a CMS Pacific Officer position to support regional conservation efforts.

These are just a few examples of the stellar contributions Lui made to conservation efforts in the region. Already the impacts can be seen in the establishment of whale and shark sanctuaries across the Pacific and in our improved knowledge of the regional status of turtles.

Lui's professionalism, joviality and team spirit will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. We honour him by ensuring marine species conservation goals in the region are achieved for the benefit of present and future generations.



Clean Pacific Campaign 2012

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE — EVERY ACTION COUNTS

This was the theme of SPREP's Clean Pacific 2012 campaign, aimed at galvanising actions at all levels for better management of waste and pollution across the Pacific islands. The campaign was launched on World Wetlands Day in February in collaboration with Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The campaign's key outputs included: training grassroots champions from nine Pacific Island countries in good waste practices to develop and drive waste management projects in their communities; supporting community-initiated activities in five countries; and developing and distributing information resources on good waste management practices across the region.



**CLEAN
PACIFIC**
2012



An attentive audience at the Clean Pacific launch in Fiji.

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

OBJECTIVE 1:

To ensure effective implementation, broad awareness and positive impacts of the campaign.

National Campaign Launches

Several countries launched national campaigns in solidarity with Clean Pacific 2012. Among these countries were:

COOK ISLANDS

Taaу Taku Tita (Taking Action Against Waste) was launched on 10 February. *Taaу Taku Tita* was originally a campaign started by a women’s group in the early 1990s to raise waste management awareness and action within their community. Its message is that waste management is everyone’s responsibility (*Taaу* – Yours, *Taku* – Mine, *Tita* – Rubbish). The campaign was revived in 2012 with more resources and commitment to take action at community and national levels.

Cook Islands campaign launch: waste sorting for the Taaу Taku Tita Campaign.

FIJI

The Fiji campaign was launched on 4 July by the Fiji Catholic Women’s League. The campaign focused on helping local women to teach their friends and relatives about proper management and disposal of household wastes.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Gizo Town, in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands, was the location for the Clean-up Solomon Islands campaign launch on 29 March. The Environmental Health Division and Gizo Town Council jointly organised a clean-up involving office workers, business houses, market vendors and residents. There was also a demonstration of waste separation and household waste composting by a Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteer in Environment Education.



Clean-up activity at the Solomon Islands campaign launch.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To increase awareness of, and capacity to implement, good waste management and pollution prevention practices.

Training of Grassroots Waste Champions

An old and wise proverb, attributed to Chinese philosopher Confucius, reminds us that the man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.

With this rationale in mind, SPREP conducted a five-day training workshop in Fiji, with 10 "Waste Champions" from nine Pacific Island countries, in February. The Secretariat was supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency under the Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM). The waste champions were selected from women's groups, non-governmental organisations, local councils, and religious groups. The champions learned waste reduction techniques, organic waste composting principles and how to run a Clean School Programme.

Knowledge gained at the workshop was then used to develop waste management projects.



Clean Pacific 2012 Workshop: learning new ways to improve composting.



Launch of E-waste Guide for Journalists

SPREP has developed a guide for Pacific media to raise awareness on the impacts and disposal options of unused and obsolete electrical and electronic equipment (E-waste). This guide covers the legal, social, economic, health and environment implications of E-waste, which are growing challenges in Pacific island communities. It also describes different ways reporters can explore E-waste story ideas using activities and a case study from the Cook Islands. The *E-waste for Journalists* guide was produced with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It has been distributed to 50 media organisations in 15 Pacific Island countries and territories.

Input to the SPREP Open Day

Presentations from the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division promoted the 3Rs, *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*, and raised awareness about hazardous waste management during the SPREP Open Day on 8 June.

Waste Management team discuss waste separation at SPREP Open Day.
Photo credit: J. Key.



Fun Walk

Clean Pacific was celebrated as the theme for the *G'day Samoa Fun Run and Walk* for the month of April. This was jointly organised by the Australian High Commission in Samoa and SPREP. The promotion was supported with a SPREP information booth.



G'Day Samoa fun run – Samoan Clean Pacific Fun Run. Photo credit: D. Haynes.

OBJECTIVE 3:

To support grassroots actions for waste reduction and management, pollution prevention and/or hazardous chemicals management.

Supporting Grassroots Actions

To help turn knowledge into action, grassroots Waste Champions were invited to submit a project proposal for funding. Proposals were funded from Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Palau, Tokelau and Vanuatu.

EMPOWERING FIJIAN WOMEN ON PROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In Lami, a small town near Suva, the local Catholic Women's League was the recipient of the Clean Pacific grant for Fiji. The league conducted a household survey on waste management practices, which revealed that 48 per cent of women managed household waste and 68 per cent of people thought plastic bags were the most common type of rubbish in Lami. The league then worked with local women to better manage household waste and taught 35 women the art of "turning trash into cash" by converting snack packets, food wrappers and milk cartons into purses and pot plant holders.

CLEAN NEW CALEDONIA 2012

The *Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néocalédonienne* was awarded the Clean Pacific grant for New Caledonia, which it used to support "Clean-Up the World 2012". Activities took place at 26 sites in the mainland, the Loyalty Islands (Lifou, Mare) and Belep, and involved almost 2000 volunteers. In Noumea, 90 young people collected 120kg of aluminum cans, over 185 bags of assorted trash and bags of plastic bottle caps.



CLEAN-UP OF SOUTHWEST ISLANDS, PALAU

The Palau Education and Enhancement Committee, through the Environmental Quality and Protection Board, was another Clean Pacific grant recipient. They ran a clean-up campaign in the Southwest Islands. The Committee held community meetings to address solid waste issues and ran several beach clean-ups, collecting recyclable materials (mainly plastic bottles) and hazardous materials (mainly used lead acid batteries) for transport to Koror, which is on the main island of Babeldaob. An important issue raised during the meetings was the amount of marine debris washing ashore. As a temporary measure, the Committee showed how to reuse and safely dispose of the debris.

According to the Palau Education and Enhancement Committee, island residents have been recycling since the campaign because they are now aware of the facility in Koror can buy all their used cans and bottles. As stated in the Committee's report on completion of activities:

"There is also a positive movement towards good waste management practices as littering around the island has subsided. Furthermore, established relationships between the local community and personnel from government agencies involved in the project has allowed for continued collaboration and support in waste management and all other areas of infrastructure improvement and mitigation."

RAISING AWARENESS IN KIRIBATI

In Kiribati, South Tarawa and Betio were identified as two areas with a waste disposal problem.

With support from the Clean Pacific grant, the Tarawa Adventist Youth Group held a workshop for 25 young people representing 6 denominations. Participants learned about lead acid battery management, composting, and the 3Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The next phase, due to begin in 2013, is to spread awareness through activities along the Betio and South Tarawa corridor, media promotion, and a road show.



Kiribati grassroots activity – training.

FAKAOFO WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The aim of Tokelau's Clean Pacific project was to realign the work of the Fakaofu Waste Champions to the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2011–2015 through a one-day training and planning workshop. As a result, 20 waste champions from Fakaofu improved their understanding of the recycling arrangements between Samoa and Tokelau, which allows Tokelau to send recyclable materials to Samoa for consolidation with Samoa's own recyclables. These are then exported for processing. The waste champions also identified operational shortfalls and suitable remedies.

Tokelau's Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment Director Mika Perez says a healthy community centres around *"the interconnectedness of all healthy natural ecosystems of which human beings are a part — such as the sea, lagoons, reefs, oceans, coasts, flora and fauna"*.

VISION PASIFIKA MEDIA AWARD

This award celebrates excellence in journalism. The 2012 award winner was Daniel Namosuaia, a reporter with the *Solomon Star*, for his news item "Wastes of our City", which covered poor waste management practices in Honiara and potential solutions. A special commendation was given to Helen Rei, a journalist from Papua New Guinea, whose articles on cleaning the ocean were published by the *Post-Courier* and *The National* newspapers in PNG.



Daniel Namosuaia.

OBJECTIVE 4:

To mainstream waste management and pollution prevention into national sectoral policies.

RMI National Solid Waste Management Policy, Strategy, and Action Plan

Strategic planning and implementation is one of the cornerstones of a sustainable solid waste management programme. To borrow a quote from Benjamin Franklin (paraphrased by Winston Churchill): “Failing to plan is planning to fail”.

The Secretariat, with financial support from JICA, assisted the Republic of the Marshall Islands to develop and finalise their draft National Solid Waste Management Policy, Strategy and Action Plan. The plan makes the link to the National Strategic Development Plan Framework 2003–2018 and to the RMI Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2000.

RMI Strategy Workshop – waste separation station.



OBJECTIVE 5:

To advance the ratification and enhance the implementation of relevant regional and international agreements.

Marine Pollution Training

The Pacific region possesses outstanding ecological resources that are under pressure from many sources, including pollution from ships, oil and chemical spills, garbage disposal, sewage and ballast water discharges.

Assisting countries to prevent and respond to oil spills by mapping priority sensitive areas will benefit the region's marine environment.

A two-week workshop was conducted in October to train participants from Pacific Island countries on mapping sensitive coastal sites. It was run by the International Maritime Organization with assistance from SPREP, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime New Zealand. The training targeted senior officials from countries that are party to the International Convention on

Oil Pollution Preparedness Response Cooperation 1990 and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region (Noumea Emergencies Protocol), as well as to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention).

The training resulted in participants gaining a better understanding of:

- i. roles and responsibilities of members of an oil spill response team;
- ii. the *International Oil Spill Preparedness Response and Cooperation Convention* and *Regional Noumea Convention Emergency Protocol*; and
- iii. mapping sensitive coastal sites.

RESOURCES

PACIFIC WASTE EDUCATION HANDBOOK

This handbook was created for educators and community facilitators in the Pacific. It provides fun and educational activities that encourage people to keep their islands clean and free from waste. Originally developed in 2010 as an electronic resource, it was printed in 2012 under the Clean Pacific Campaign with financial assistance from Westpac Banking Corporation.



FACTSHEETS

A range of factsheets have been produced with funding from Westpac Banking Corporation and are available for download from the SPREP website.

The factsheets are:



EVERY ACTION COUNTS:
Steps everyone can take for a cleaner environment.



LEAD ACID BATTERIES:
Guidance on the dangers of lead acid batteries and their safe handling and disposal.



WAIGANI CONVENTION:
Information on the convention, which bans the importation into Forum island countries of hazardous and radioactive wastes and controls the trans-boundary movement and management of hazardous waste within the South Pacific region.



WASTE, POLLUTION AND TOURISM:
Explains the link between waste and pollution and tourism and provides tips on proper waste management.

2013 AND BEYOND


The key message for Clean Pacific was "Every Action Counts". This timeless message will be retained as SPREP implements its waste management and pollution control mandate in 2013 and beyond. The Clean Pacific logo (pictured) will continue to reinforce the 2012 campaign.



Waste Management



and Pollution Control



Development and growth has been steadily increasing in the Pacific as the region adopts new technology and establishes new sectors of industry to sustain and improve the livelihoods of its people. Unfortunately, poor waste management continues to be a major threat to sustainable development. It negatively impacts on the region's environment, as well as on public health, water quality, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, trade and the quality of life in general.

SPREP's waste management and pollution control work focuses on three major areas: solid waste management, hazardous waste management and improved terrestrial and marine pollution management.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



SEP Landfill Tahiti. Photo credit: D. Haynes.



Waste transfer station Tahiti. Photo credit: D. Haynes.

J-PRISM

Significant progress was made in the five-year (2011–2016), USD10 million Japan Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (J-PRISM), which is implemented by Japan International Cooperation Agency in collaboration with SPREP.

As a result, Fiji has introduced a market waste-composting programme, waste data collection procedures and facilitated the training of other countries in the principles of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. In addition, the local government of South Tarawa, in Kiribati, developed an effective method of home composting. Vanuatu hosted regional participants who received intensive, hands-on training in landfill management. In the Solomon Islands, waste data collection activities and dumpsite improvement plans were completed.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is a cornerstone activity for the adoption of sustainable solid waste management systems. Under the J-PRISM project, SPREP assisted the Republic of the Marshall Islands in developing a national waste management strategy (2012-2016) and action plan. SPREP also provided technical advice to Palau to help finalise and implement its solid waste management plan.

Private Sector Development in Waste Management

Involvement of the private sector as a vital solid waste management stakeholder is a key strategic action of the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015. SPREP lent its support to the J-PRISM project to help strengthen private sector engagement in 2012 through participation in two important events in Okinawa, Japan — an Eco-Island Symposium and a training workshop for Pacific waste recyclers.

Private and public sector stakeholders from several Pacific islands participated in the one-day Eco-Island Symposium. The Eco-Island concept describes a model island with eco-friendly agriculture, renewable energy, sustainable management of water resources, waste management, and conservation of the island's natural habitat and biodiversity, among other elements.

The symposium highlighted possible approaches towards achieving the Eco-Island ideal, including:

- Integrated planning for waste and water management, as well as advance planning to deal with root causes of environmental problems.
- Behavioural change and awareness building through sustained outreach programmes targeting key groups, in particular school children.
- Better partnerships between the public and private sectors, financial incentives and an enabling environment, which can improve delivery of waste and water management programmes.



Sorting of recycled resources, Centre for Recycling and Transfer (CRT), Papeete, Tahiti. Photo credit: D. Haynes.



Bulk recyclable storage bays, CRT, Papeete, Tahiti. Photo credit: D. Haynes.

Enhancing capacity within the private waste recycling sector in the Pacific was the focus of a workshop facilitated by an Okinawa-based non-governmental organisation in collaboration with J-PRISM. Waste recycling company representatives from Samoa, Tonga and Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia were exposed to new ideas that will enhance their recycling operations.

AFD Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative

The four-year (2011–2015) Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative implemented by SPREP made significant inroads into addressing capacity gaps in the region. SPREP contracted Griffith University, in Brisbane, Australia, in collaboration with the Fiji National University, to develop a train-the-trainer style waste management course for Pacific island people. The course will be delivered in Fiji in 2013, and will focus on developing capacity and training others in the use of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), waste collection and disposal.

Missions to two of the three French Territories were carried out in 2012 to investigate and learn from their waste management practices. The missions determined that the management of solid waste is far more advanced in the main islands of French Polynesia and New Caledonia than in

other Pacific Island countries and territories. This is due, in part, to financial support provided by the French Government.

However, if this support is ever withdrawn, full costs will have to be met by local households, which may require a significant increase in municipal rates.

Lessons learned from this initiative have been incorporated into the AFD waste management course.

Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into the Waste Management Sector

Climate change impacts such as increased intensity and frequency of rainfall, extreme heat and more intense tropical cyclones will exacerbate the effects of such natural disasters, which may include increased damage to waste management facilities. Consequently there is an increased risk of environmental contamination and potentially adverse public health impacts.

In 2012, SPREP secured funding from the AusAID International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative for a two-year pilot project on the “Integration of Climate Change Adaptation Planning into the Waste Management Sector”. The Labasa town dump, on Vanua Levu island in Fiji, has been selected as the project site and an initial assessment was completed to support detailed planning of project activities.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Used Oil Management

In 2012, SPREP produced a background paper for Pacific Island governments on the implementation of a regional used oil stewardship system. This will form the basis for the development of national used oil management strategies.

Recommendations for improved waste oil management include:

- completing national lubricant import audits;
- developing legislation or specific regulations to manage used oil;
- establishing a national management agency to oversee the daily operation of the stewardship system; and
- establishing a levy system to ensure the stewardship system is self-financing and the costs of collection, storage shipment and re-use are built into the cost of the original product.

Funding for this work was provided through the AFD Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative.



Used oil storage tanks, Fletcher Pacific Steel, Fiji. Photo credit: D. Haynes.

Electronic Waste (E-waste)

Due to the demand for newer technology, the lifespan of electrical and electronic products is progressively decreasing. Older and obsolete versions of computers, printers, photocopy machines, television sets, washing machines, radios and mobile phones are being discarded in large quantities and at increasing rates worldwide, including in the Pacific Islands.

E-waste contains hazardous, but also valuable and scarce, materials such as metal and alloys that can be recovered and recycled.

A regional E-waste management strategy released in 2012 provided background information on the environmental risks associated with E-waste and guidance on best practice in e-waste handling and disposal options through an integrated framework to progressively collect, store and dispose of E-waste in the Pacific region.

SPREP, with funding from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through its Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Programme, will develop an integrated framework to assess, collect and recycle E-waste from Cook



Ewaste, Kiribati. D. Haynes.

Islands, Kiribati and Samoa. This will be supported by the development of comprehensive policy and regulatory frameworks for sustainable management of E-waste in Pacific Island countries. The frameworks aim to help decrease reliance on donor funding to cover the costs of E-waste disposal, and ensure that domestic and industrial consumers fund E-waste recycling activities on a user-pays basis.

International Pollution Conventions

The Waigani and Basel Conventions are international agreements that regulate the trans-boundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the Pacific. Countries party to these conventions have committed to ensuring hazardous chemicals and wastes are disposed of in a way that will not further harm the environment.

SPREP is the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention, as well as the Pacific Regional Coordinating Centre for the two conventions. In 2012 SPREP released a 2012–2015 business plan for the centre. The plan focuses on on-ground programmes to minimise the risk to Pacific Islanders being exposed to hazardous wastes such as e-waste, asbestos and health care waste. It also includes strengthening relationships with a sister Basel Centre based at Tsinghua University, China. Co-operative arrangements planned with the Chinese Basel Centre include training placements, joint workshops and increased technical assistance in selected projects.

Pacific Nuclear Issues

In the 50 years from 1946 to 1996, a total of 305 nuclear tests were conducted in the Pacific region by Britain, France and the United States of America. Tests were conducted in the territories of five SPREP Members – Australia, French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and the United States. Four tests were also conducted in and over international waters in the Pacific.

In 2011, radioactive contamination was released into the Pacific region from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, which sustained severe damage following a powerful earthquake and resultant tsunami.

Following a request by French Polynesia, SPREP completed a background briefing paper on nuclear issues in the region, which will serve as an information resource for the region.

MARINE POLLUTION

Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan Review

The Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) is the region's framework for cooperative responses to major marine spills. PACPLAN was originally developed in 2000 and underwent extensive review and updating in 2012 through a series of discussion workshops between SPREP member countries and territories. Funding for the review was provided through the International Maritime Organization.

The new PACPLAN provides a contemporary approach to managing major oil spill responses in the region. It now takes into consideration recent developments in international and regional conventions, changes in regional economic and political circumstances, an updated regional oil spill risk assessment and an updated guide for the PACPLAN activation processes.



PACPLAN review participants in Auckland, New Zealand.

The new PACPLAN will be released at the Asia-Pacific Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness Conference (SPILLCON 2013) in Australia, and will also be submitted for endorsement at the 24th SPREP Meeting in September 2013.



Photo credit: S. Chape.

WORKSHOPS

Pacific Sub-Regional Compensation and Liability Workshop

An important regional priority is the protection of Pacific marine environments from ship-sourced pollution. Such protection activities are covered by three compensation and liability conventions: the Bunker Convention, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and the Fund Convention.

A Melanesian sub-regional workshop was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in January 2012, on how the conventions operate and how funding could be accessed through the conventions following national ratification and implementation. The workshop was made possible with funds from the International Maritime Organization. It was facilitated by Chiara DellaMea, of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, and Alex Hunt, of the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited.

Regional Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and Associated Protective Measures

A Particularly Sensitive Sea Area is a marine area that may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities and, as a consequence, needs special protection through action by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The IMO uses the *Particularly Sensitive Sea Area* and *Special Area* guidelines from the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution to help achieve this protection.

A regional workshop organised by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and SPREP, with financial support from the IMO, identified five areas in the Pacific region that satisfy the ecological criteria required under the guidelines. The areas were the Jomard Passage in Papua New Guinea, the Southern Cook Islands, the western part of Fiji, the Southern Islands in Palau and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati.



Compensation and liability workshop, PNG. Photo credit: A. Talouli.



Apia OPRC participants Photo credit: N. Woonton.

Oil Spill Level III & Environment Sensitivity Mapping Training

In response to a call from countries for more oil spill training following recent international oil spills, SPREP conducted an Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Oil Spill Level III & Environment Sensitivity Mapping training in Samoa in 2012. This training was attended by 31 participants from 12 Pacific Island countries and was made possible with IMO funding and assistance from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Maritime New Zealand and the Samoan Government Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

An action plan, developed after the training, called on SPREP Members to strengthen regional pollution management arrangements by formulating national pollution strategies and completing risk assessments, carrying out regular oil spill response exercises and maintaining oil spill response equipment, and ratifying and implementing regional and international instruments for oil spill response.



OPRC training. Photo credit: A. Talouli.



Environmental Mo



Monitoring & Governance

Environmental monitoring and governance (EMG) is a new strategic priority for SPREP's 2011–2015 Strategic Plan, recognising the importance of strong governance frameworks for integrated environmental planning and management to ensure sustainable development. In late 2011, the new EMG Division was created and 2012 was the first full year of its existence.

EMG activities assist members improve frameworks for multilateral environmental agreements, environmental policies, legislation, planning, programme implementation, monitoring and reporting. EMG activities also include the mainstreaming of environmental issues and facilitating sustainable development.



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development



Pacific delegates at Rio+20.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – RIO+20

A major focus for SPREP's mainstreaming work was the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, commonly known as Rio+20, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. SPREP co-chaired the Pacific Sustainable Development Working Group that provided coordinated and integrated technical advice and support to Member countries during the 18-month negotiation process.

Our regional efforts resulted in the inclusion of the Pacific region's key issues in the Rio+20 Outcomes Document. These issues were: highlighting the role of oceans; applying the green economy in a blue world; and maintaining the special case for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Our efforts were rewarded with 19 paragraphs in the outcomes document focusing solely on oceans, making it the biggest thematic area in the document. This recognised the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and outlines a way for parties to

address the issue through the development of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It also ensured that oceans issues were incorporated within the "green economy" approach.

Rio+20 agreed to retain the special case for SIDS, encouraging the move into implementation of SIDS-related global plans, specifically the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. The special case focuses on the distinct vulnerabilities and lack of capacities of SIDS owing to remoteness, small size, and small administrations and populations. It also agreed to have a third International Conference on SIDS in 2014. This conference is likely to be held in the Pacific since the previous two SIDS conferences were held in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean. At Rio+20, SPREP led a highly successful Pacific side event where Pacific Island leaders were able to highlight our issues. A SPREP media team promoted Pacific issues and progress during the conference.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING

Legislation

In early 2012, SPREP completed drafting new meteorology legislation for Vanuatu. The legislation will go beyond traditional weather forecasting to encompass new areas of geo-hazards and climate change responsibilities that have arisen under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This new draft law forms the basis for the responsibilities, powers, operations and authority of the Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazard Department. It is expected to be introduced into Parliament in the second half of 2013.

National Environment Management Strategies

National Environment Management Strategy drafts were developed for Kiribati and the Cook Islands. These review and update national plans formulated in the 1990s and strengthen actions to address national environmental priorities. They also contribute to each country's National Sustainable Development Strategy.

SPREP also assisted with the formulation of Tokelau's national development and environment plan by facilitating community consultations in its three atolls: Nukunonu, Fakaofu and Atafu. The 2013–2015 plan outlines Tokelau's priorities for improving economic livelihoods and the management of its environmental issues.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Following on from the scoping mission in 2011, SPREP developed Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines for the Federated States of Micronesia. These guidelines aim to mainstream sustainable land management and "climate proofing" measures at both federal and state levels. They also provide a guide for stakeholders for implementing these measures in their existing policies and plans for economic development.

For Tokelau, a policy framework has also been developed to guide their assessment process. This will help assess the major environmental and social impacts of the proposed airstrip. It was recommended Tokelau put in place a legal



Collecting water in Kiribati.

framework to undertake the assessment. Assistance was also given to Fiji for the review of the preliminary environmental impact assessment for the proposed Namosi copper mine project.

UNCCD activities

EMG worked with Fiji's National Landcare Steering Committee to revise and align Fiji's National Action Plan (NAP) into a format consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Advice was also provided to the Cook Islands for their NAP alignment.

Workshops were held for Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Samoa on the use of the UNCCD online monitoring and reporting system. This enabled country teams to assess and report the status of their country's implementation of convention priorities. These reports will enable countries to track implementation of activities at local, national and global levels and for planning future programmes.

Other Planning Activities

SPREP also facilitated a workshop with the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and presented a planned approach for selecting potential project sites for the GEF-5 multifocal programme.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND REPORTING

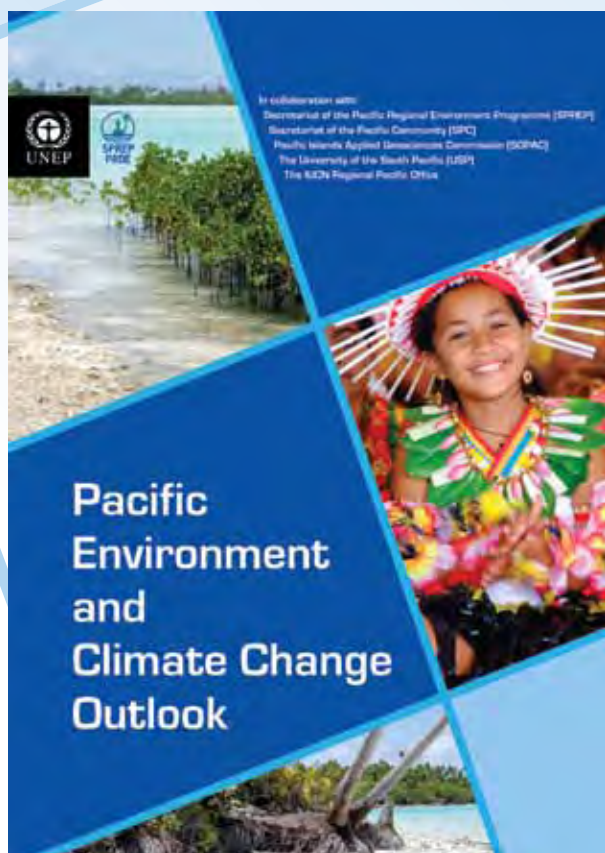
Effective and Streamlined Environmental Reporting

In a bid to reduce the burden of reporting, a vision for streamlined cross-sectoral reporting has been developed using the environment sector as an example. This aims to streamline national, regional and global reporting needs in all sectors as outlined in the SPREP 2011–2015 Strategic Plan.

This was a joint effort with University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Children's Fund,

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Funding for the activity was received from the Noumea Convention, as well as the European Union-funded project for capacity building related to multilateral environment agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The initial framework will be further developed between SPREP, PIFS and SPC.



State of Environment Reporting

The 2012 Pacific Environment Forum made valuable recommendations on developing an effective and enduring State of Environment framework for the region. Following the forum, a framework was endorsed at the SPREP Meeting with some additional recommendations. The framework sets out the structure and process for developing state of environment reports in the region.

The Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook Report was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar. The report is a detailed review of the region's state of environment for the past 20 years, outlining the physical, geological, socio-economic and political aspects of climate change and the environment. Using more than 500 community case studies, the report also lays out policy options for improving sustainable development in small island communities. The report was prepared by SPREP in partnership with UNEP and other partner organisations.



Tegua, Vanuatu. Photo credit: T. Nakalevu.

HIGHLIGHTS AROUND MEAs

Pacific Hub for ACP/MEAs project



The main vehicle for capacity-building work under EMG has been the European Union-funded project “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries”. This four-year multi-region project began in March 2009 and is executed by UNEP, with SPREP as the Pacific Hub. It aims to increase countries’ capacity to better comply with, implement and enforce multilateral environment agreements and related commitments to address the adverse effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought, land degradation, and other threats to the environment.

Highlights of 2012 include:

- The Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held 10–13 August in Rotorua, New Zealand, for 43 participants from 10 countries, eight resource institutions, and the UNEP Regional Office Asia Pacific. The meeting included media

skills training and a negotiation skills refresher session. A Pacific Island brief was prepared to guide the Pacific Voyage delegates during COP11. Caribbean hub coordinators also attended and synergies between the two hubs were identified and discussed.

- A side event, “My Pacific Home, My Islands, My Wetlands”, was financially supported by the project at the Ramsar COP11, 3–14 July, in Bucharest, Romania. Pacific visibility increased notably compared to COP10 and stories were posted on the Bionesian blog (www.bionesian.blogspot.com).

In 2012, a second phase of this project was approved, and is scheduled to start in mid-2013. This comes after the 2011 mid-term review that highlighted many positive outcomes, including the delivery of quality capacity-building services to Pacific Island members and strengthened negotiation skills for international environment agreements. Phase two will focus on the biodiversity and waste clusters.



Climate Change

Climate change is synonymous with the Pacific. The culture, people and future of the region cannot be separated from this paramount challenge. It is a challenge that the global community must respond to with commitment and sincerity to match the efforts of Pacific nations.

SPREP is the lead agency on climate change in the Pacific region. It is responding by strengthening

its capacity to respond to the ever-increasing calls for advice, support, and on-the-ground implementation from Pacific island countries and territories. The scope of SPREP's climate change work includes: building national and community capacity to adapt to climate change, providing timely climate change information and the most recent science, mainstreaming, on-the-ground implementation, policy support,



mobilising resources, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and supporting Pacific representatives advocating for urgent progress to significantly reduce global emissions.

To achieve this, SPREP's Climate Change Division successfully raised funds to increase its annual budget by a third from 2011 levels and expanded its staffing. Cooperative work with other SPREP Divisions has enabled SPREP to provide diversified support to

SPREP Members in areas such as communications, ecosystem-based adaptation and advice on how to access climate change funding.

In 2012, SPREP's national adaptation and mitigation programmes were scaled up across the region, the Pacific Meteorological Desk increased support to national meteorological services, and assistance on climate change-related matters was extended to even more Pacific Island countries and territories.

ADAPTATION

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project

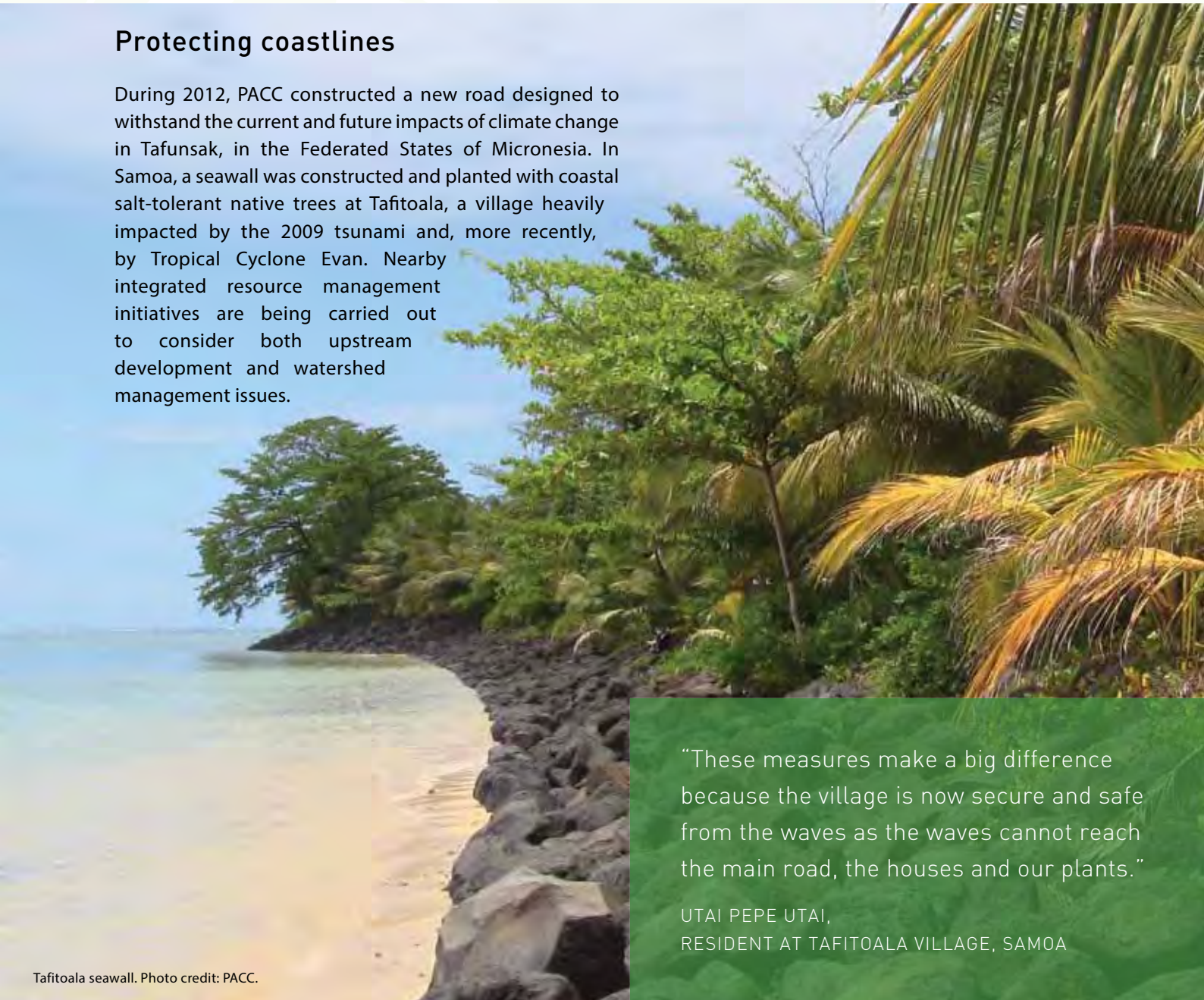
The flagship initiative of SPREP's Climate Change Division is the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC). The project aims to improve capacity in 14 Pacific island countries to mainstream climate change adaptation into government policies and plans, develop systematic guidelines for adaptation, demonstrate their use at a pilot scale and lay the foundation for a comprehensive approach to address adaptation at the regional level.

Highlights in 2012 for mainstreaming climate change into national plans included climate change policies being approved by the Cabinets of the Solomon Islands and Fiji.



Protecting coastlines

During 2012, PACC constructed a new road designed to withstand the current and future impacts of climate change in Tafunsak, in the Federated States of Micronesia. In Samoa, a seawall was constructed and planted with coastal salt-tolerant native trees at Tafitoala, a village heavily impacted by the 2009 tsunami and, more recently, by Tropical Cyclone Evan. Nearby integrated resource management initiatives are being carried out to consider both upstream development and watershed management issues.



“These measures make a big difference because the village is now secure and safe from the waves as the waves cannot reach the main road, the houses and our plants.”

UTAI PEPE UTAI,
RESIDENT AT TAFITOALA VILLAGE, SAMOA

Tafitoala seawall. Photo credit: PACC.



Photo credit: PACC.

Sustaining water supplies

In the water sector, PACC Tuvalu has completed the construction of a 700,000-litre water cistern for the community of Lofeagai. The official hand-over will be held early January 2013. In addition, new solar-powered water purifiers for Nauru were supplied as part of the PACC project. These are significant developments that will impact how water will be managed in Tuvalu and Nauru for the next 10–20 years.



Photo credit: N.Woonton.

Food security for all

In 2012, field demonstrations were held on the remote atolls of Ontong Java in the Solomon Islands to show improved agricultural farming systems and climate resilient crops. Climate change adaptation was also incorporated into the drainage infrastructure guidelines of Fiji. This will now inform Fiji's drainage and irrigation infrastructural development for the next 10–20 years.



Photo credit: PACC.

Incorporating gender

A broad gender assessment of the PACC project assessed the level and degree to which gender was addressed within the project. This ground-breaking assessment considered many issues including the enabling environment, available resources and capacity for gender mainstreaming at all levels. Assessment recommendations will support further planning for gender considerations by national coordinators, key stakeholders and the PACC Regional Project Management Unit.

Advancing sustainability of Adaptation through Cost Benefit Analysis



A new Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) programme assisted countries in selecting the most appropriate climate change adaptation options for their unique situations. The programme determines whether the project benefits (including environmental and health benefits) outweigh its cost and by how much, relative to other alternatives. SPREP, in collaboration with Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), introduced the programme to help countries with their decision making.

During 2012, the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu presented the results of their CBA reports and shared how these results helped them design their pilot projects.



Joint National Action Planning — integrating climate change and disaster risk management

The devastating ferocity of the 2012–2013 cyclone season brought home the reality of living in our region.

Studies have proven that addressing existing disaster risks provides a sound basis for successful adaptation to climate change. SPREP has pioneered the Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) approach to ensure climate change and disaster risk management considerations are mainstreamed into national, sectoral and community development planning and implementation processes.

The capacity to deal with either disasters or climate change at the national level in the Pacific is often

very limited, so pooling together all available human and financial resources for appropriate adaptation and disaster risk reduction form the core of the JNAP approach.

In 2012, the Cook Islands JNAP was developed with support from SPC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SPREP. Tuvalu's Climate Change Policy (Te Kaniva) and National Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management was also launched, with support from SPREP and SPC. Nauru has also begun developing its JNAP with support from SPREP, SPC and GIZ.

“The CBA for the Solomon Islands helped to focus and provide clear direction for our pilot project. It has also helped to properly cost project activities and map out what is feasible within the PACC project budget and timeframe.”

CASPER SUPA, PACC SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Mainstreaming

To help make climate change an integral part of central government planning in Pacific Island countries and territories, SPREP supported the development of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). SPREP, through the PACC project, also supported the development of a cross-sectoral National Climate Change Policy for Fiji that was launched in 2012.

“Before the National Climate Change Policy was in place, we faced challenges such as long processes in soliciting support from other government departments and a general lack of awareness and interest in climate change issues.”

JONE WAQANIDROLA, FIJI MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

MITIGATION

Providing renewable energy for the Pacific

Pacific Island countries have some of the highest renewable energy potential per capita, despite only around 30 per cent of the population having access to electricity and continuing to rely heavily on fossil fuels.

SPREP currently supports member countries and territories in implementing appropriate renewable energy activities under the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP).

Highlights for the PIGGAREP project in 2012 included completing:

- the installation of six wind monitoring towers in six provincial sites in Vanuatu;
- a renewable energy water pumping site survey for Kiribati;
- a dynamic stability study for Niue Power Corporation;
- a feasibility study for the Samoa Solar PV Grid Connected project;

- a renewable energy activities survey in Tonga;
- an environment impact assessment, power sector and a biomass feasibility report for the Cook Islands; and,
- installation of wind monitoring masts and sensors for four sites in the Solomon Islands.



Solar panel installation in Tonga.



Solar PV installation in Santa Ana Village, Solomon Islands.

During the year, PIGGAREP also supported educational and awareness activities and conducted monitoring and evaluation visits for renewable energy sites in Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. In addition, a partnership was formed with the International Renewable Energy Agency to collect data on transport and to update renewable energy information. A comprehensive market survey, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, on renewable energy and energy loan schemes in development banks in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu was also completed.

Additional renewable energy projects, funded by donors through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, were implemented in 2012. These include the Japan-funded “Productive Utilization of Renewable Energy in the Tourism Sector of the Forum’s Small Island States”, implemented in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue and Tuvalu. It promotes renewable energy technologies in the tourism sector, fossil fuel-free eco-tourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

In the Solomon Islands, an initiative funded by Taiwan aims to promote modern light technology in community villages on Santa Ana Island through stand-alone solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Preliminary work was completed in 2012 and installation will be completed in 2013.





Portal launch at 23rd SPREP Meeting.

Pacific Climate Change Portal – Managing information and knowledge

Regional and national institutions hold an enormous amount of climate change-related information and tools. However, this information has not been accessible in a coordinated and user-friendly manner.

Now, www.pacificclimatechange.net is the 'go-to' portal that houses all information on climate change in the Pacific region. The portal will help a greater number of people in the region improve their understanding of climate change issues by acting as the hub for climate change information and knowledge sharing.

Current features include an events calendar, expert directory, documents, national and regional committees, image library and links to virtual libraries in the Pacific that contain climate change information. Continual development of the portal will ensure the site remains current and addresses the needs of users.

"The portal aims to ensure the substantial amount of climate change-related information and tools produced by regional and national institutions are available and easily accessible in a user-friendly manner."

DAVID SHEPPARD, SPREP DIRECTOR GENERAL

The portal was developed after requests from the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in 2009. It is coordinated by SPREP, in cooperation with Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific agencies. Partners that have helped bring the Pacific Climate Change Portal to development are: GIZ, University of the South Pacific, SPC, and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. It was launched in Noumea at the 23rd Annual SPREP Meeting in 2012.

Forecasting from the Pacific Meteorology Partnership Desk

Within the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and the Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy (2012–2021), SPREP has considerably strengthened its capacity on meteorological services in 2012 by supporting national meteorological services to manage and disseminate weather and climate information.

At the 2012 SPREP meeting, the Pacific Meteorology Council adopted the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy to ensure national meteorological services have the capacity to fulfill their responsibilities over the next decade.

“Tropical cyclones and typhoons, drought and flash floods, storm surges, earthquakes and tsunami, are but some of these extreme events that concern our services. The past decade has seen some unprecedented disasters in the wake of these in the loss of life and livelihoods of Pacific people. I am confident that this strategy and the commitment of support from the SPREP Secretariat and the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership will provide us with a sound roadmap for the next ten years.”

REGINALD WHITE, DIRECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



Weather forecasts for people

Village communities have expressed the need for weather forecasts and warnings that are linked to their livelihoods, such as the implications of weather for fishing and the planting and harvesting of crops.

The Finland–Pacific Project to Reduce Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Countries Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change fills this information gap. The project develops the capacity of national meteorological services in the Pacific to deliver accurate and timely weather and climate information to the community level.

The government of Finland is providing EUR3.96 million for the four-year project that involves 14 SPREP member countries — Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

This project will be implemented and coordinated by SPREP’s Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership within the Climate Change Division.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) Secretariat is currently located in the Climate Change Division at SPREP. The secretariat facilitates the establishment and implementation of coastal and open ocean observing programmes, and helps to improve application and use of data, information and products being generated.

In 2012, it continued to work with regional projects, such as the Australian Climate and Ocean Support for the Pacific, and the American Affiliated Territories Ocean Observing System, to develop oceanographic products suitable for the region.

Initiatives to undertake new measurements, such as a Continuous Plankton Recorder tow from Brisbane to Fiji, were also undertaken. Planning for a Pacific Ocean Acidification Network was initiated with the inclusion of key regional partners such as Conservation International, Institut de recherche pour le développement, United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Sailing vessels were identified to deploy Argo floats in the Pacific region, which suffers from a low number of these floats that collect real time subsurface ocean data. This included preparing deployment from sailing canoes that were part of the traditional Te Mana o te Moana va'a fleet that crossed the Pacific raising awareness about Polynesian voyaging and navigation and ocean conservation.

To contribute to capacity building, support was given to the Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo profiling floats in the South Pacific Ocean (SEREAD) programme and planning was initiated for a marine data workshop to be held in 2013.

PI-GOOS also facilitated University of South Pacific students and staff from resource agencies participating on a research cruise to investigate fundamental Pacific Ocean processes, resulting in the development of educational material on the ocean observing system and its benefits.

Coordinating regionally

SPREP has participated in several coordination meetings to identify collaboration and cost-sharing across projects and to find synergies in implementation measures.

Key outcomes include:

- planning for joint work with SPC on logical framework training and ensuring that national-level climate change work is better coordinated;
- providing coordinated input to the Pacific Climate Change Portal; and
- ensuring a strengthened partnership with SPC for the JNAP process.

“SPC welcomes the opportunity to strengthen our support to member countries and territories through this working partnership with SPREP. It will help consolidate our efforts to address disaster risk management and climate change, which are areas that touch all of the sectors we work in.”

DR JIMMIE RODGERS, DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPC

Various projects also have cooperative mechanisms through their project boards and multi-partite meetings, such as the SPC/EU Global Climate Change Alliance project, which has a staff member at SPREP for regional coordination and collaboration.



“This partnership will be very important to strengthen the existing climate change-related networks or organisations in Kiribati. We would like to see more participation of these international networks in Kiribati to strengthen our effort.”

RIIBETA ABETA, CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICER, GOVERNMENT OF KIRIBATI

Strengthening coordination for Pacific adaptation with APAN

In 2012, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network and SPREP signed a Memorandum of Understanding, cementing the Secretariat’s role as the sub-regional node for the network in the Pacific. Activities under the memorandum include targeted technical workshops and detailed technical reports for sharing among the network members. The partnership will help strengthen the adaptation capacity of Pacific Islands, as well as the ability of Pacific governments to access adaptation funding.

Supporting negotiations at the UNFCCC

Throughout 2012, SPREP provided technical support to Pacific Island countries during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations. The preparatory meetings and negotiations skills training resulted in a united effort from the Pacific at the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18).

COP18 made a further significant step by adopting a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, ensuring continuity in the Kyoto mechanisms. This sets out the new emissions reductions for industrialised countries for the second commitment period, 1 January 2013 to the end of 2020. However, the impact on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 will be limited due to reduced participation of developed countries, the lack of ambition in the targets, and possible carry-over of some unused credits from the first commitment period.

Key outcomes included a decision to place greater focus on addressing slow onset and unavoidable climate change impacts through the work programme on loss and damage, set to culminate in a decision at the next COP in Warsaw in 2013.

“As a small island developing state, the Cook Islands is facing a big problem in loss and damage. We know this. The latest science shows us that climate change impacts are escalating in an accelerated manner.”

ANA TIRAA, DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION,
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, COOK ISLANDS



Biodiversity and Ecos



System Management

The unique and diverse ecosystems of Oceania are essential to sustaining livelihoods of Pacific Island peoples. Keeping these ecosystems intact also provides a strong basis for increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change and other environmental and developmental challenges.

Many of the most pressing stressors on marine, coastal and terrestrial habitats are related to increasing human population, including expansion of urban centres, invasive species, and unsustainable development and resource use in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

The Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division builds members' capacity to integrate resources, manage stressors on ecosystems, conserve the Pacific's unique natural heritage, build resilience and support more sustainable use of the Pacific's valuable natural resources.

ISLAND AND OCEANIC ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystem-based adaptation options offer high return

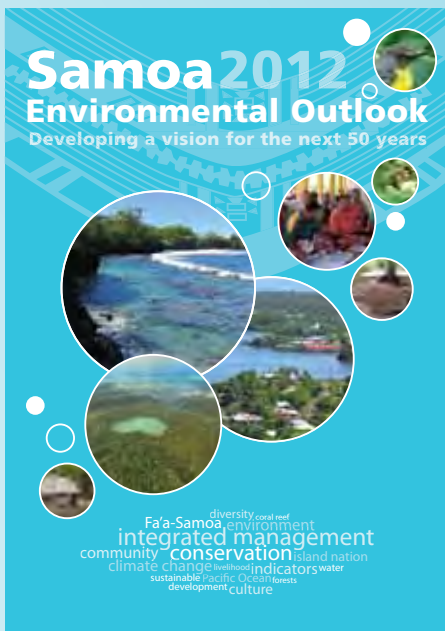
A cost-benefit analysis of ecosystem and engineering-based coastal adaptation options was carried out for Lami Town, Fiji. This collaboration with Lami Town Council included staff from two SPREP divisions, United Nations Environment Programme, Conservation International, United Nations HABITAT programme and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Funding was provided by the Government of Norway.

Vulnerable areas were identified and adaptation actions were identified and compared with respect to total cost and benefits, damages potentially avoided by taking action, as well as ecosystem services that would be supported by adaptation actions. This exercise concluded that the benefits of all adaptation actions outweighed the costs, while actions with an ecosystem component, such as replanting, provided positive returns per unit cost investment.



Lami hotspots.

Implementing the Noumea Convention



The Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (the Noumea Convention) and its protocols obliges parties to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from any source and to ensure sound environmental management and development of natural resources, using the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities.

Twelve countries are party to the Noumea Convention. The 11th Conference of Parties to the Noumea Convention was convened in Noumea, New Caledonia, in 2012 and chaired by France. The convention meeting in Noumea discussed environmental aspects of deep sea minerals, particularly how precautionary measures may be applied in exploration and extraction.

The links between the Noumea Convention and the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, as well as with the International Maritime Organization and the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN), ensure the convention and its protocols are relevant and active. The secretariat for the convention comprises staff from three SPREP divisions covering the broad range of relevant environmental, legal and waste issues.

Key outputs during 2012 included:

- facilitating amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL);
- updating members on the PACPLAN review;
- training more than 300 staff from seven countries in oil spill management;
- supporting the development of regional frameworks for environmental reporting; and
- supporting the development of a State of Environment reporting framework in Samoa.

An Integrated Approach to Climate Change Adaptation in the Solomon Islands



The USAID-funded ecosystem-based adaptation project in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands, began in 2012. The project is part of an integrated multi-sector partnership approach requested by the Solomon Islands Government known as the Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Currently, the programme partners are: SPREP; Secretariat of the Pacific Community; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Pacific-

Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme; The Nature Conservancy, and the United Nations Development Programme. The combined efforts of these organisations aim to increase the resilience of Choiseul Province to climate change and natural disasters, enhance food security and strengthen management of natural ecosystems.

In 2012, SPREP, GIZ and SPC collaborated on a community-based vulnerability and adaptation assessment in 27 villages throughout the province. The assessment is being used to communicate the threats, vulnerability and potential adaptation options at village, province and national levels. SPREP's focus on ecosystem-based adaptation, including coastal protection and ridge-to-reef management planning, aims to support sustainable livelihoods by maintaining intact ecosystems.

By working closely with other agencies and including local development aspirations, a more holistic adaptation response will be delivered that is committed to establishing a long-term sustainable adaptation programme.

Eroding coastline in Choiseul.

Key findings of Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Report

- Deforestation, poor agricultural practice and clearing mangroves are weakening people's resilience to climate change.
- Livelihoods are linked closely to utilisation of key ecosystem services in Choiseul Province.
- Capacity to adapt to climate change is low due to complex social, cultural, economic and environmental factors.
- Ecosystem-based adaptation measures such as water catchment management (ridge to reef) and mangrove rehabilitation are identified as appropriate adaptation responses.
- Multi-partner and multi-sectoral approach to address the range of complex development factors contributing to people's vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change.

The Pacific prepares for Ramsar COP11



Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve – Palau's first Ramsar Site. Photo credit: C. Joseph.

The 5th Oceania Regional Meeting for the 11th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP11) was convened from 26–30 March in Koror, Palau, with financial support from the Governments of Australia and France, as well as the SPREP–Ramsar partnership. This meeting, which was hosted by the Government of Palau, assisted preparations for the triennial Ramsar COP. It was attended by about 30 representatives from government and regional partner organisations. During the meeting, Ramsar contracting and non-contracting parties and regional partners discussed regional priorities for wetlands conservation in light of the Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands 2011–2013 and Ramsar COP11.

The representatives developed plans for convening a Pacific side event at Ramsar COP11 and concept proposals focusing on wetland conservation priorities for the region. Training on convention processes and mechanisms for both contracting and non-contracting parties was also conducted, enabling Ramsar Site Information Sheets and COP11 national reports to be completed.

Kiribati on the way to joining the Ramsar Convention

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati officially endorsed joining the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in November 2012. This was a timely milestone for the country that began its preparations to join Ramsar in 2007. Kiribati's first nominated wetland of international importance, Nooto-North Tarawa, is an exceptional site that contains a wide range of coastal habitats. The adjacent lagoon, coral

reefs and reef patches support high biodiversity, are resource rich and include a wide variety of finfish, turtles, crustaceans, seaweed and other plants. SPREP has been assisting the Kiribati's Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development to compile the accession documents for submission to the depository for the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO in Paris.

Fiji begins process to review list of nationally significant wetlands

A meeting of Fiji's National Wetlands Steering Committee was held during September to identify candidate wetlands for Fiji's next Ramsar Site nominations. From a list of 47 priority national wetlands compiled in 2006, Nasoata Islet and Lake Tagimoucia were identified as being candidate sites for further investigation. During the meeting, the Great Sea Reef or Cakaulevu was also added as a candidate. This is the third largest continuous barrier reef in the world. The Department of Environment has been developing a 'road map' to confirm which of the three candidate sites should be designated as Ramsar Sites. This process will involve discussions with the local communities of these sites to facilitate their understanding and support prior to designation going ahead. The management of Fiji's first Ramsar Site, the Upper Navua Conservation Area was also discussed.



Lake Tagimoucia, Taveuni Photo credit: S. Chape.



FIJI TO HOST
9th PACIFIC ISLAND
CONFERENCE ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PROTECTED AREAS

Poster artist: Duane Leewai.

Fiji will host the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, following its endorsement by the 2012 SPREP Meeting in Noumea. The conference, now in its fourth decade, will shape how we approach nature and biodiversity conservation in the Pacific for the next five years, and beyond. The Fiji Government, SPREP and the Pacific

Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania Regional Office, are jointly organising this major event.

SPREP and the Fiji Government planning team have secured the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, as the conference venue from 2–6 December 2013.

SPREP and CBD Secretariat strengthen partnership

SPREP and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat celebrated another milestone achievement when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention (COP11) in Hyderabad. SPREP and the CBD Secretariat continue to collaborate in supporting 14 Pacific Island parties to implement the convention, especially achievement of the Aichi Targets. Other key collaborative activities to be delivered through the memorandum include the review of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans, Programme of Work on Protected Area, Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, and the preparation of national reports.



David Sheppard with Braulio F. de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary.

Pacific voyage at CBD COP11

Pacific Island countries that attended CBD COP11 joined forces with SPREP and key partners to deliver a successful Pacific Voyage campaign. The campaign was delivered through: formal interventions by Pacific Island delegates during plenary sessions where biodiversity successes and challenges in the Pacific were highlighted; side events organised by SPREP and others; and formal statements delivered during the High Level Segment. In addition, the 9th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Area was officially launched during the Pacific Voyage Side Event.

Parties to the convention were urged to intensify efforts to meet the 20 Aichi Targets by 2020, which could be a real challenge for many Pacific Island countries unless increased resources are made available from the international community.

New GEF leader shares insights with Pacific delegates

At a special meeting at COP11 hosted by SPREP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, Pacific delegates met Dr Naoko Ishii, the new GEF chief executive officer, who shared her vision and plans on innovative and catalytic GEF roles based on global transformational changes needed to deal with environmental and sustainability challenges. She assured delegates that the GEF 2020 Strategy will pay special attention to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In response, Pacific delegates raised key issues, especially access to GEF resources and requested more streamlined processes and requirements for SIDS with limited capacities and resources. The meeting noted the importance of strengthening partnership between countries and GEF to reduce biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change in the Pacific.



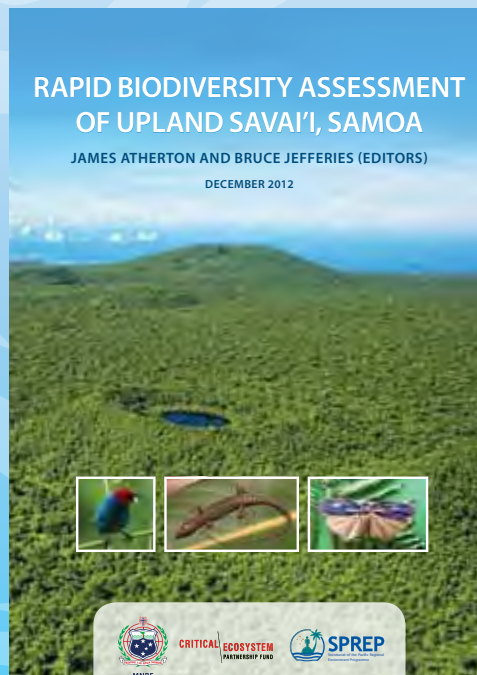
Island ecosystem approach key to conserving biodiversity

The regional Global Environment Facility — Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF–PAS) Integrated Island Biodiversity project officially started in March 2012. This three-year initiative supports the Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu in implementing the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work through an ecosystem-based approach. The project focuses on three components: threatened species and ecosystems, sustainable use of natural resources and capacity building. Tonga, Cook Islands and Nauru have started implementing their project, while Tuvalu is expected to start in 2013.

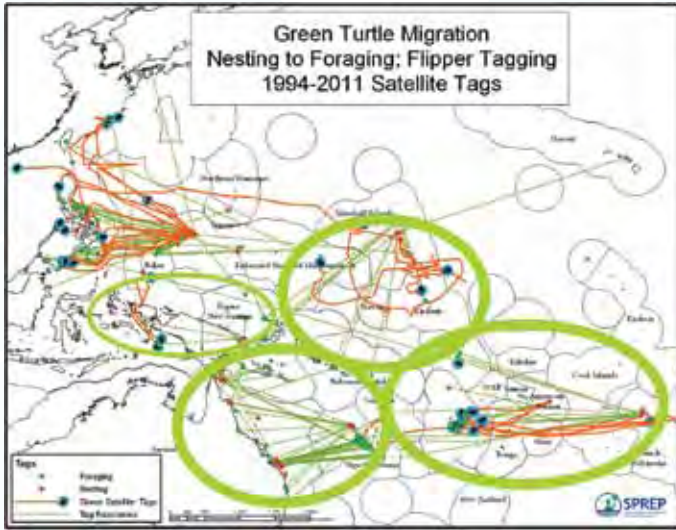
Biological Assessment of Samoa's Savai'i Uplands

A biological rapid assessment survey was done by a multi-disciplinary and multi-national team of experts in May 2012 in the upland forests of Savai'i, Samoa. It was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and implemented jointly by SPREP and the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. This survey is an innovative biological inventory methodology developed by Conservation International, which uses scientific information to catalyse conservation action. The

upland forests of Savai'i sit 1000 metres above sea level and are a priority for the expansion of Samoa's conservation area network because of their large area, habitat integrity and for Samoa's threatened terrestrial species. A documentary DVD in English and Samoan was produced to accompany the survey report, which will contribute to decisions on the conservation and management of biodiversity by Savai'i land-owning communities, relevant government departments and other partners.



THREATENED AND MIGRATORY SPECIES



Identifying potential sub-regional management units for post-nesting green turtles

Data collected by SPREP and partners over 18 years from green turtle flipper tag recaptures and satellite tagging, has begun to show movement patterns from which sub-regional management units can be identified. Green turtles that nest in the western Pacific Islands are shown to forage mainly in Asia, while those nesting in the central Pacific, forage mainly within the central area of the Pacific, and those nesting in eastern Pacific Islands, forage mainly in Fiji.

Due to their migratory nature, efforts to manage turtles have been at regional or ocean scales and required significant resources to coordinate. However, identifying

sub-regional units could significantly improve the conservation and management of green turtle populations in the Pacific Islands region by focusing efforts on increasing collaboration among countries within particular sub-regional units.

SPREP presented this information at the 2012 Society for Conservation Biology Conference in Darwin, Australia. These results support a proposal that the best approach for managing and conserving turtles is to establish broad management and protection units at a higher level than nesting populations but below the level of species.

2013–2017 Marine Species Action Plans endorsed

A blueprint developed for the conservation of threatened and migratory populations of whales, dolphins, marine turtles and dugongs across the Pacific, was endorsed at the 23rd SPREP meeting and is now available on the SPREP website. The 2013–2017 plans build on the momentum generated by the many achievements of the previous action plans, which include: strengthening the development of marine turtle legislation in seven SPREP member countries; the successful completion of the Pacific Year of the Dugong campaign; and the integration of the plans into the reviews of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans.



Photo credit: Opération Cétacés.

Fiji endorses accession to the Convention on Migratory Species

On 11 September, the Fiji Cabinet officially endorsed its accession to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Fiji will now be party to all six of the biodiversity related conventions. Fiji has strong cultural ties to several migratory species listed in the CMS Appendices including four species of turtles,

the monarch butterfly, and the sperm whale, and their protection beyond Fiji's jurisdictional waters was highlighted as a strong basis for accession to the CMS. Fiji will join six other SPREP member countries that are currently party to the convention.



Photo credit: Opération Cétacés.

Pacific Cetaceans MoU Signatories welcome a 15th member and a new plan

The CMS Pacific Cetaceans Memorandum of Understanding concluded its third meeting of the signatories in September in New Caledonia. At this meeting, the 2013–2017 SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan was adopted by the signatories as the revised plan for the memorandum. The United States of America was present as an observer although they noted their interest in becoming a signatory. This eventuated on 28 September making the USA the 15th signatory to the Pacific Cetaceans MoU.



INVASIVE SPECIES

“Invasive species are an issue of serious environmental, economic, social and cultural consequences to our Pacific people ... Success will depend on our renewed commitment, our support for current initiatives and our understanding of the need for new initiatives”.

HONOURABLE HENRY PUNA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE COOK ISLANDS



The Cook Islands Prime Minister, Honourable Henry Puna, spearheaded the invasive species campaign at the 43rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting held in the Cook Islands in 2012. The Pacific Islands Leaders, as well as representatives from SPREP’s member countries Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America, reaffirmed their commitment to tackling invasive species, requesting SPREP, SPC and partners to increase efforts to address invasive species.

2012 started strongly for invasive species management with the third meeting of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network held on Kiritimati Atoll, Kiribati. More than 40 participants from around the Pacific attended the meeting hosted by the people of the island and the Wildlife Conservation Unit of the Kiribati Ministry of Environment. Kiritimati contains land-locked lagoons dotted with countless rat-free and cat-free motu (islands) following invasive species eradication projects over the past five years. These motu provide refuge for 19 species of nesting and breeding threatened seabirds. The meeting identified capacity building, mainstreaming invasive species into national planning and invasive species information management as key areas to focus on for the next two years.

Cat Clinic

Kiritimati is home to two critically endangered species, which are vulnerable to cat predation. The New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine held a cat clinic on Kiritimati to train Wildlife Conservation Unit staff how to neuter and spay domestic cats. Staff members are now able to run their own cat clinics and are exploring policy options to regulate the number and importation of cats to the island.



Cat clinic on Kiritimati atoll.
Photo credit: C. Pritchard.

SPREP, in collaboration with SPC, hosted the first invasive species information management training in partnership with the Centre for Agricultural Bureau International (CABI). The training course on the CABI–Invasive Species Compendium gave Pacific participants access to peer-reviewed information on species of concerns.

The Pacific Invasives Partnership is the leading regional coordinating body on invasive species management and one of the principal working groups of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation. More than 30 regional and international organisations and agencies are now part of this partnership and provide on-the-ground support to Pacific island countries and territories. The BirdLife Pacific Partnership, a key member of the partnership, launched its Pacific invasive species programme with a EUR1.4 million fund from the European Union. The BirdLife invasive species programme will work closely with local non-governmental organisations, complementing the focus of SPREP's work through government agencies.

The USD7 million investment by the Global Environment Facility — Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF-PAS) on invasive species management in 10 Pacific Island Countries began full operation with the appointment of the GEF-PAS officer. Five countries are leading the Pacific through appointments of dedicated invasive species officers, finalising work-planning and undertaking capacity building training in biosecurity.

Awareness raising was a key component of the invasive species team activities in 2012 with a side-event held at the 23rd SPREP Meeting in partnership with the United States National Invasive Species Committee and the New Caledonia invasive species group. Invasive species presentations were also made to the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (Fiji), the Pacific National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans Review (New Zealand), the Pacific Islands Species Forum (Solomon Islands) and the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (Marshall Islands).



Pacific Islands Roundtable
for Nature Conservation





Communications, Outreach and Knowledge Management

SPREP Open Day

SPREP celebrated the 20-year anniversary of its arrival in Samoa on 8 June. The environment programme was established in 1982 as part of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community based in Noumea, New Caledonia. Its key focus at the time was to implement the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme. SPREP moved to Samoa in 1992 and was established as an independent inter-governmental organisation with the signing of the SPREP agreement in Apia on 16 June 1993.

The 20-year anniversary was marked with a formal ceremony featuring a keynote address by Samoa Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and a tree planting ceremony. This was followed by an Open Day, which involved campus tours run by SPREP staff.

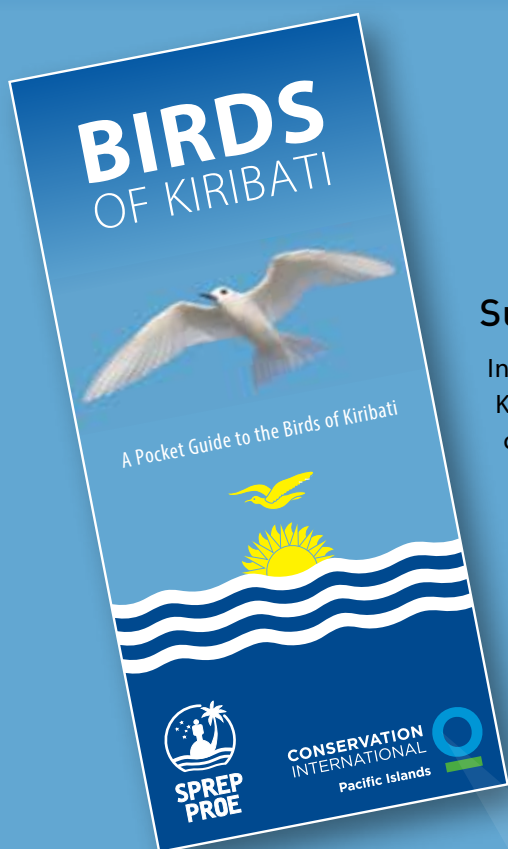
Displays, demonstrations and discussions helped promote SPREP's work to an audience that ranged from school children through to Government



Hands-on learning at the SPREP Open Day Photo Credit: J.Key.

ministers. The Information Resource Centre and Archives team worked with the divisions to create dynamic displays of their publications and educational material highlighting SPREP's work in protecting, conserving and managing the natural resources and environment of our region.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



Supporting environment education

In 2012, SPREP produced a guide to assist the Wildlife Conservation Unit of Kiritimati Atoll, Kiribati, with its school education programme. The booklet compiles ideas for lessons and hands-on, discovery-learning activities that can be used in the classroom. Although developed for use by the Wildlife Conservation Unit staff, several primary school teachers have also shown interest in using the guide to support their own lessons.

A pocket identification guide to the birds of Kiribati was also produced with SPREP technical assistance. The bird guide has been extremely well received within Kiribati and is being used in schools, as a field guide and as a visitor resource. Both activities were carried out under the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund work of SPREP.

Strengthening Climate Change Education among the young

The question of how to engage the very young in learning about climate change is a challenging one. SPREP, in collaboration with an enthusiastic illustrator/writer and a small group of advisors from the Food and Agriculture Organization and SPC, embarked on a story-book project in 2011. A series of focus groups and consultations with teachers and young people resulted in *The Children Take Action* — a climate change story. Positive reviews and reprint requests indicate this little book has long-term value in the region.



Teacher Training

In Samoa, SPREP supported a pre-school teacher training workshop run by the Australia-Pacific Technical College. The workshop focused on assisting teachers to develop educational resources with simple language and activities to engage children in environmental values and practices.

Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders

The Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders' programme was officially endorsed by the 23rd SPREP meeting. PEEL supported youth participation at the Pacific Youth Heritage workshop in the Solomon Islands during the Pacific Arts Festival, established links with the Pacific Voyagers (Pacific Island-based voyaging societies) and focused on developing relationships with other leadership programmes in the region. Members will meet in 2013 to evaluate progress.



Communicating Science Policy

A series of climate change summary briefs were prepared based on outcomes of the *Lessons for Future Action Conference* held in 2011. The conference, run by the Pacific Australian Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Program (PACCSAP), brought together practitioners, academics and policy makers to discuss success and lessons in climate change policy and practice.

The Pacific Voyage

The Pacific Voyage Campaign sailed through international waters in 2012 continuing to raise the *One Pacific Voice* at the Conferences of Parties to Multi-lateral Environment Agreements.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, held in April, SPREP partnered with the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) and Conservation International to enable two senior regional journalists (from Fiji and Solomon Islands) to report on the conference. The team to Rio+20 also included a SPREP media and communications intern and a young delegate from Samoa.

A side event on “the blue economy in a green world” featuring Pacific Heads of State drew hundreds of people and was well covered by the media — all news articles are featured on the www.climatepasifika.blogspot.com website.

The Pacific had a strong visual presence for the first time at the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention, in Romania, through displays and a side event showcasing achievements and successes of Pacific parties to the Convention.

“Being chosen to file stories from COP 18 has indeed broadened my knowledge especially in the area of climate change. Certainly there is never enough to learn; however participating in COP 18 has enlightened me more about some of the issues at the core of our existence.”

MR. HALITESH DHATT, FIJI TV

“We felt that apart from the professional media groups that were there, the Pacific Media Team did a marvelous job in keeping the region informed about what was happening, especially the issues that were relevant and pertinent to us. The interviews, photographs, blogs and commentaries were excellent and were fresh.”

DR FRANK GRIFFIN, UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Hyderabad, India, at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, an extremely popular side event provided a Pacific perspective on conservation discussions.

Finally, in Doha, Qatar, the Pacific Voyage 2012 landed at the 18th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A display booth showcased the Pacific and the Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook was launched at a well-attended side event. Halitesh Dhatt of Fiji TV was awarded a Media Fellowship to attend the COP and provide media updates, funded under the Media and Climate Change Project.

A new project commenced in partnership with PACCSAP to raise capacity of Pacific journalists to report on environment and climate change and to strengthen capacity of climate change practitioners in communicating their work to media. This Australian government-funded project began in June. It involved a regional media workshop in partnership with the Pacific Island News Association and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat at the Forum Leaders’ Meeting, and three communications workshops in partnership with Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project and the Pacific Negotiations Training.

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE & ARCHIVES

Following on from the Green Lab initiative by the ICT department in 2011, the Information Resource Centre and Archives (IRCA) has brought to life the concept of a “Green Library”.

In previous years, the four computers available for public use consumed a total of 1200 Watts per day. Using the virtualisation software, the four computers

together consume just 20 Watts daily. Over the whole year this takes electricity consumption from 43,800 Watts down to a mere 7,300 Watts.

2012 also saw more resource centre visitors, including school children, researchers, general public, visiting dignitaries and representatives of partner and donor agencies.





Photo credit: S. Chape.

Information Network

The development and coordination of the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) was again a core knowledge management priority in 2012. A key highlight of the year was the migration of the PEIN country profiles and virtual libraries from the old SPREP website to the new one, with a new structure and look.

Throughout the year, the IRCA continued to identify, acquire, catalogue and integrate critical Pacific environment information in its PEIN online library suite, as well as disseminate publications to SPREP

focal points, depository libraries around the region and to other organisations and individuals who sent in requests. Collaborative work with the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System was also kept up to ensure on-going sharing of relevant information to stakeholders.

The IRCA also played a vital role in raising the visibility of SPREP, its work and products, through regular updates on the PEIN Facebook page. The page currently has over 3000 followers from around the world.







CORPORATE SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

The new organisation structure for SPREP came into effect on 1 January 2012. This structure focused on the strategic priorities of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management, Waste Management and Pollution Control, and Environmental Monitoring and Governance. It also strengthened Corporate Services through Information Resources and Archives, Information Technology, Communications and Outreach, Finance and Administration, and Human Resources.

SPREP allocated funds for staff learning and development for the first time in its history. This was linked to priorities identified in individual Performance Development Plans. Thirteen staff members were supported through different development programmes in 2012.

The Director-General of SPREP had the first formal review of his performance using the Secretariat's Performance Development System. The assessment was carried out initially by the Troika (past Chair, current Chair and future Chair of the SPREP Meeting) and endorsed at the 23rd SPREP Meeting. This process will now continue on an annual basis for approval at the SPREP Meeting by all members.

Revised Staff Regulations were also approved at the SPREP Meeting. The full review ensured the regulations were aligned with the change management process from the previous two years. It also allows for a balance between operational and policy matters and clarifies the Secretariat's internal processes.

The annual market data and triennial reviews for Employees in Positions Advertised Internationally (EPAI) was carried out by Employment Conditions Abroad International, Australia as part of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies joint review of EPAI terms and conditions. A Market Data Salary Review was also carried out for Employees in Positions Advertised Locally (EPAL) by Strategic Pay Ltd, New Zealand. Further analysis is required on the financial implications of these outcomes for both staff and their respective organisations before any firm decisions on terms and conditions are made by the CROP Harmonisation Working Group.

The annual staff satisfaction survey was carried out with a significant improvement noted in staff participation, 71% participating compared to 53% in 2011 and 52% in 2012. Staff morale was stable with 54% rating it high or very high, compared to 55% giving it the same rating in 2011. Additionally, only 5% recorded a rate of low to very low morale compared to 13% in 2011. Overall, the majority of staff continued to express satisfaction with working at SPREP.

The Human Resources Information Systems was implemented in early 2012 and continues with the new payroll in its final testing stages. This project has continued to progress in close collaboration with the Finance and Information Technology teams.

Staff Numbers

The Secretariat continues to grow and increase in numbers with the recruitment and establishment of new positions. By the end of the year, staff positions rose to 75, up from 69 in 2011. Sixty-seven of those positions were filled, 44 at the programme level and 23 at the support level with eight positions still under recruitment. A total of 14 new staff joined SPREP during the year, nine at the programme level and five at the support level.

Two short-term interns were recruited under our Young Professionals programme — one for the Year of Clean Pacific Campaign and one within Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division. Five temporary opportunities were also made available to accommodate the needs of the divisions and projects. One secondment from Commonwealth Secretariat and one volunteer

from the Volunteer Services Abroad Scheme, New Zealand, joined SPREP along with a few other voluntary short-term work attachments.

Four staff left the organisation, two to pursue other career opportunities; one completed their contract and did not seek extension; and, unfortunately, one passed away. Three completed work attachments and one completed a Young Professional internship.

Staff representation in terms of nationalities and gender has changed slightly compared to the previous year. Of the total number of staff, 81% are from the Pacific Island countries (46% are in programme positions and 35% at the support level), 16% from metropolitan member countries and 3% from non-member countries. Of these, 46% are males and 54% females, which reflect an equal proportion of males and females within SPREP.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a vital part of the core services at SPREP. The team ensures reliable, secure and effective ICT systems are available to the organisation so it can deliver services to our members and stakeholders. The team's combined expertise consists of systems analysis, design, web and desktop applications development, network design, systems administration including library, human resource and finance systems.

To keep up with a growing organisation and, subsequently, the ongoing need to replace aging IT equipment while strengthening our commitment to providing greener solutions, the ICT team has turned to virtualisation. This software is an effective way to maximise the organisation's infrastructure, reduce costs and provide an efficient data centre. Other benefits with implementing a virtualised data

centre environment include reduced recovery times for critical systems and setup of test environments without incurring costs for additional hardware.

In 2012, the ICT team was able to increase our direct community engagement in Samoa with a donation of used computers to Fasito'o Uta Primary School. The donated computers are now part of the school computer laboratory, which is available for use by the members of Fasito'o Uta community. The primary school also has internet access, so additional computers for community use was well received.

A further, critical, part of the arrangement is SPREP will collect the donated computers when they finally stop working and recycle them. This demonstrates SPREP's core principle of promoting environmental leadership and good practices.

SPREP Website

The “new look” SPREP website was launched in February 2012 with a new design consistent with our branding, new navigational structure and advanced features. Since then, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of visitors to the site. The total number of visits to our website has increased by 20% since the launch of the new website in 2012, from 82,000 in 2011 and 100,000 in 2012.

The most number of unique visitors to the site occurred during the first month, due to the widespread and regular promotion of the soft launch through emails, circulars and word-of-mouth. Throughout the year, increases in page views and visit duration showed that guests were spending more time reading content rather than simply browsing through the site.

The new-look website has been a vital part of improving visibility of SPREP, as seen by the rise in visits and page views. The improved structure and navigation, which feature options to share through social media and user-friendly menus, have also increased engagement with the information available online. This is evident through the longer site visits per guest, from 2 minutes to 3.5 minutes on average, as well as the increase from 1.9 to 2.6 pages per visit.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The new organisational structure of SPREP features a combined finance and administration section that reflects the improvements made to the daily operations of the Secretariat, particularly in the maintenance and repairs of the SPREP Campus.

The campus suffered major damage from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Evan in December. Despite the damage to the grounds and properties, clean up and restoration of services

took approximately two months and the cost was recovered from insurance.

A key achievement in financial reporting was the successful implementation of the new structure based on SPREP's new Strategic Plan. This involved the restructuring of the entire SPREP budget, as well as developing a new chart of accounts to comply with the Strategic Plan. The 2011 accounts were also restated as comparative figures to the 2012 accounts.

FINANCES 2012

DONOR FUNDS AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)							
DETAILS	Balance 01-Jan-12	Actual Funds Received	Total Funds Available	Prog. Support	Expenses	Other Adjs	Balance 31-Dec-12
AusAID Extra Budget	45,753	1,854,800	1,900,553	(188,026)	(1,660,335)	(30,522)	21,670
AusAID Extra Extra Budget	760,522	1,134,511	1,895,033	(54,501)	(558,317)	(69,265)	1,212,950
British High Commission	13,254		13,254	-	-		13,254
Bishop Muesem	(234)		(234)		-	234	-
Commonwealth Secretariat	14,045	17,236	31,281	(1,916)	(19,164)		10,201
Conservation International	88,435	281,184	369,619	(31,586)	(316,861)		21,172
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	-	275,170	275,170	(19,788)	(211,740)		43,643
European Union	53,300		53,300		-		53,300
Finnish Institute of Meteorology	977		977		-		977
Food and Agriculture Organisation	66,816	6,244	73,059	(8,280)	(12,801)		51,979
Government of Canada	2,180		2,180		-		2,180
Government of France	272,326	115,833	388,159	(18,610)	(173,878)	(12,220)	183,451
Government of Japan	7,341	22,796	30,137	(1,799)	(22,246)		6,092
Government of Switzerland	159		159		-		159
International Maritime Organisation	45,244	227,070	272,314	(28,732)	(281,704)		(38,122)
John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation	6,303		6,303		-		6,303
NZ Aid PIE	4,812		4,812		-		4,812
NZ Aid Extra Budget	11,895	1,001,197	1,013,092	(82,880)	(819,338)	(83,166)	27,708
NZAid Extra Extra Budget	79,694	126,345	206,039	(6,634)	(130,731)		68,674
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust	919		919	(84)	(836)		-
Parkard Foundation	(209)		(209)		-	209	-
People's Republic of China	10,298	150,000	160,298		(150,000)		10,298
Other Funds	422,633	765,915	1,188,548	(51,366)	(435,490)	182,510	884,202
Ramsar Secretariat	(10,175)	47,244	37,069	(9,973)	(99,734)		(72,638)
The Nature Conservancy	(11,721)	12,191	470	(822)	(8,223)	12,220	3,645
The Christensen Foundation	11,568		11,568	-	-		11,568
United Nations Development Program	538,601	4,109,420	4,648,021	(211,562)	(4,228,162)		208,296
United Nations Environment Program	284,906	1,610,504	1,895,410	(96,017)	(1,256,963)		542,430
United Nations Institute for Training & Research	(16,179)	55,915	39,736	1,457	14,573		55,766
UN Economics & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (UNESCAP)	8,786		8,786		-		8,786
UN Office of Project Services	7,055		7,055		-		7,055
US Dept of Energy/Los Alamos University	4,471		4,471		-		4,471
US Fish & Wildlife	14,625		14,625		-		14,625
US Dept. of Land & Natural Resources	(39)		(39)		-	39	-
US Dept. of State	173,414	60,000	233,414	(7,059)	(70,593)	(39)	155,723
USAID	-	287,524	287,524	(17,457)	(290,825)		(20,758)
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	17,266	70,000	87,266	(8,464)	(89,560)		(10,759)
US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council	(2,956)	25,000	22,044	(1,892)	(19,070)		1,082
World Health Organisation	2,456		2,456	(223)	(2,233)		-
TOTAL	2,928,538	12,256,099	15,184,637	(846,214)	(10,844,229)	-	3,494,194

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS (USD)	
American Samoa	8,456
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,214
Federated States of Micronesia	10,184
Fiji	20,360
France	134,177
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	-
Kiribati	10,179
Marshall Islands	-
Nauru	10,184
New Caledonia	10,178
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	10,184
Northern Mariana Islands	-
Palau	-
Papua New Guinea	40,720
Samoa	20,360
Solomon Islands	-
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	25,371
Tuvalu	10,131
United States of America	200,000
Vanuatu	-
Wallis and Futuna	10,184
TOTAL	880,734

PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION	
Cook Islands	872
Nauru	3,084
New Zealand	3,572
TOTAL	7,528

PARTIES TO THE WAIGANI CONVENTION	
Cook Islands	2,051
Kiribati	3,047
New Zealand	5,399
Niue	1,353
Tuvalu	2,117
TOTAL	13,967

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (USD)

INCOME	
Member Contributions	880,734
Programme Management Charge	846,214
Programme/donor funds income	10,844,229
Other Donor funds income	625,570
Amortisation of deferred income	87,575
Other income	147,874
TOTAL INCOME	13,432,196

EXPENDITURE	
Executive Management & Corporate Support	2,843,869
Climate Change	5,741,736
Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management	3,200,767
Waste Management & Pollution Control	1,009,673
Environment Monitoring & Governance	892,053
Depreciation expense	134,093
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,822,191





**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ("SPREP") which comprises the statement of income, statement of movement in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December, 2012, the statement of financial position as of that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Managements' responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and with the requirements of the SPREP Financial Regulations. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion to the Members of SPREP, as a body, in accordance with SPREP Financial Regulation 32. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters we are required to state in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than SPREP and the SPREP Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

We confirm that we have no other relationship with SPREP other than the audit of the financial statements. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the SPREP's Directors and Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by SPREP, so far as it appears from our examination of those books and the financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards:

- (i) are in agreement with the books of account;
- (ii) to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us:
 - a. give a true and fair view of SPREP's state of affairs as at 31 December, 2012 and of its statements of financial performance, changes in reserves, and its cash flows for the year ended on that date;
 - b. provide the information required by the SPREP Financial Regulations in the manner so required.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Specific Reporting Requirements

In accordance with SPREP's Financial Regulation 32 we report on the specific matters per the financial regulation as follows:

- a) The extent and character of our examination has been explained in the section on Auditor's Responsibility above and is based on the International Standards on Auditing. The financial statements for the year end of 31st of December, 2012 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- b) There are no specific matters affecting the completeness and accuracy of the accounts as all matters are reflected in the financial statements.
- c) We confirm the accuracy of the equipment records as determined by physical inspection of additions to assets and verification of disposals during the reporting period.
- d) The financial procedures of SPREP are adequate based on our examination of the financial procedures necessary for the purposes of formulating the auditor's opinion expressed above.
- e) Based on our examination of the insurance documentation the insurance cover for SPREP's assets is adequate.
- f) Others matters which do not affect our audit opinion have been brought to the attention of management in our report to management.

Betham & Co

BETHAM & CO.
Certified Public Accountants
Apia, Samoa
25th April, 2013



A member of **AGN International Ltd.**, a worldwide association of separate and independent accounting and consulting firms
Betham & Co. House, Vaitelele Street, Lalovaea, Samoa. P.O. Box 859, Apia, Samoa. T: +(685) 24337. F: +(685) 24336.
www.bethamco.com www.agn.org

INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Internal Audit & Risk Management Attestation

Statement Financial year: 2012

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

We, David Sheppard & Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, are of the opinion that the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme has internal audit and risk management processes in place that are, in all respects, compliant with the policy procedures and other requirements contained in the policy document titled "Internal Audit Policy". These processes provide a level of assurance that enables the Senior Management of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to recognize, understand, manage and effectively control its exposure to risk.

We, David Sheppard & Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, are of the opinion that the audit committee for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is constituted and operates in accordance with the independence and governance requirements of the Internal Audit Policy and Audit Committee Charter.

The Chair and members of the Audit Committee are:

- Independent Chair Mr. Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a (CPA) - Partner Su'a & Associates
- Independent Member Mr. Stuart Horne - Deputy High Commissioner NZ
- Independent Member Mr. Jovilisi Suveinakama- General Manager Apia Office of Tokelau
- Non-Independent Member Mr. Clark Peteru -Secretariat Legal Counsel
- Non-Independent Member Mrs. Simeamativa Vaai - Secretariat Human Resource Adviser

We, David Sheppard & Tagaloa Fa'afouina Su'a, declare that this Internal Audit Attestation is made on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

David Sheppard
SPREP Director General

28th June, 2013
Date

Tagaloa Fa'afouina Sua
Chair of the Audit Committee

1 July, 2013
Date

SPREP PUBLICATIONS 2012

	ISBN/ISSN	PAGES
TECHNICAL REPORTS (ISBN/ISSN)		
A comparative analysis of ecosystem-based adaptation and engineering options for Lami town, Fiji. / N.S. Rao ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0454-0 (print) 978-982-04-0455-7 (online)	72 p.
Birds of Kiribati : a pocket guide to the birds of Kiribati	978-982-04-0456-4 (print) 978-982-04-457-1 (online)	4 p.
The children take action!: a climate change story / by Seema Deo and Kylie Jane Andersen-Navuku	978-982-04-0450-2 (print) 978-982-04-0451-9 (online)	20 p.
Climate Services Training Workshop, Regional meteorological Services Directors Meeting (RMSD), Pacific Meteorological Council, 8-12 August 2011, Majuro, Marshall Islands	978-982-04-0460-1 (print) 978-982-04-0461-8 (online)	77 p.
E-waste for journalists: a guide to covering electronic waste in the Pacific / by Nanette Woonton ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0444-1 (print) 978-982-04-445-8 (online)	20 p.
Pacific E-waste: a regional strategy and action plan	978-982-04-0448-9 (print) 978-982-04-0449-6 (online)	36 p.
Legal frameworks for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in the Pacific islands / Ben Boer and Pepe Clarke	978-982-04-0439-7 (print) 978-982-04-440-3 (online)	57 p.
Manual for mangrove monitoring in the Pacific Islands region / Joanna C. Ellison ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0433-5 (print) 978-982-04-0434-2 (online)	52 p.
Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook	978-982-04-0465-6 (print) 978-982-04-0466-3 (online)	232 p.
Pacific islands meteorological strategy 2012 – 2021 : sustaining weather and climate services in Pacific island countries and territories.	978-982-04-0446-5 (print) 978-982-04-0447-2 (online)	42 p.
Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2013 – 2017 (English)	978-982-04-0452-6 (print) 978-982-04-453-3 (online)	66 p.
Programme régional océanien sur les espèces marines 2013 – 2017 (French)	978-982-04-0477-9 (print) 978-982-04-0478-6 (online)	66 p.
Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP): recommended proactive strategic barrier removal approach / Frank Pool	978-982-04-0458-8 (print) 978-982-04-459-5 (online)	33 p.
Pacific waste education handbook : a guide for educators and communities	978-982-04-03963	98 p.
Plan d'action régional océanien pour les zones humides 2011 – 2013	978-982-04-0441-0 (online)	18 p.
Rapid biodiversity assessment of upland Savai'i, Samoa / by James Atherton and Bruce Jefferies (editors)	978-982-04-0470-0 (print) 978-982-04-0469-4 (online)	151 p.
Status of birds, peka (flying foxes) and reptiles on Niue Island	978-982-04-0468-7 (print) 978-982-04-467-0 (online)	33 p.
SERIES		
SPREP Annual Report 2011	1562-675X	52 p.
Rapport annuel du PROE 2011	1990-3561	52 p.



OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Non-ISBN/ISSN)

A vision for effective and streamlined reporting in the Pacific

Restoration of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands (Aleipata group), Samoa through the management of introduced rats and ants

Synthesis of National Capacity Self-Assessment Reports in the Pacific Region

Strategies and on the ground options for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in the Pacific

The 2012 State of Environment (SOE) Outlook for Samoa: brochure

MEETING REPORTS

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention, 31st August 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention, 30 August 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia

Report of the Twenty Third (23rd) SPREP Meeting, 4 – 7 September 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia

Regional Meteorological Services Directors (RMSD) 14th Meeting, Climate Services Training Workshop, Pacific Meteorological Council, 8-12 August, 2011, Majuro, Marshall Islands

Report of the Fifth (5th) Oceania Regional Meeting for COP11 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Koror, Palau, 26-30 March 2012

POSTERS/BROCHURES

The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Poster (PACC) Project Poster

Ocean Voices: Lessons from the whales for the CBD: Humpback whales in Oceania

CD/DVDs

The Dugong: respect and protect

FACTSHEETS

Building MEA Capacity in Pacific Island Countries

Clean Pacific: lead acid batteries

Clean Pacific: Every Action Counts!

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

MEA Pacific Wetlands

MEA Biodiversity FAQ

Waigani Convention

Waste, Pollution and Tourism

NEWSLETTERS

Climate Change Matters

Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) Soundbites

SPREP Empower Series

STAFF LIST AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

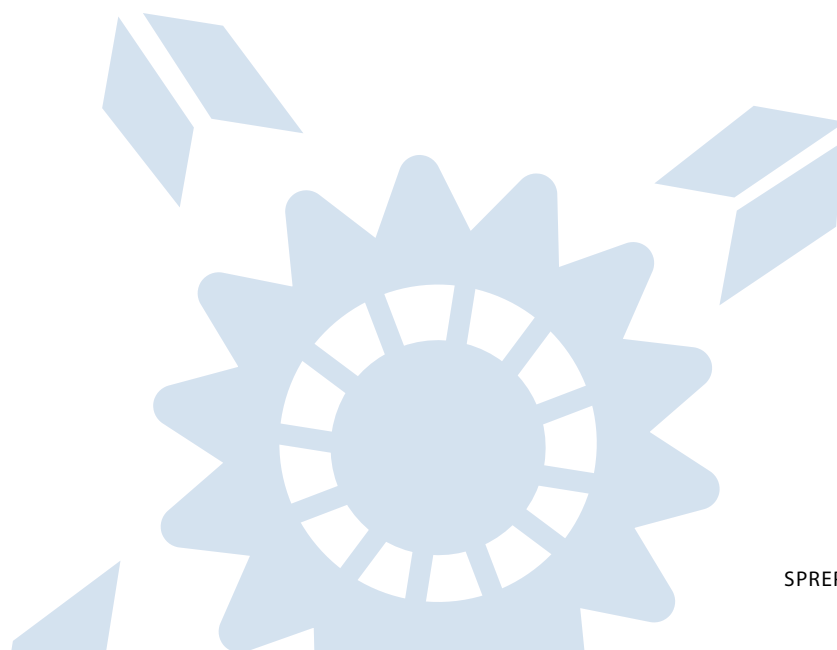
	STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE
Senior Management Team				
1	David Sheppard	Director General	Australia	05-Oct-15
2	Kosi Latu	Deputy Director General	Samoa	20-Jul-14
3	Stuart Chape	Director Biodiversity Ecosystems Management	Australia	04-Sep-14
4	Netatua Pelesikoti	Director Climate Change	Tonga	29-Nov-15
5	Sefanaia Nawadra	Director Environmental Monitoring & Governance	Fiji	12-Feb-15
6	David Haynes	Director Waste Management & Pollution Control	Australia	12-Feb-15
7	Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	12-Feb-13
8	Alofa Tuuau	Finance & Administration Adviser	Samoa	23-Jul-14
9	Simeamativa Leota -Vaai	Human Resources Adviser	Samoa	07-Jan-16
Executive Support				
10	Rosanna Galuvao-Ah Ching	Executive Assistant to the Director General	Samoa	30-May-13
11	Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director General	Samoa	31-Dec-15
Internal Audit				
12	Selesitina Reti	Internal Auditor	Samoa	25-Jun-15
Climate Change				
13	Taito Nakalevu	Project Manager – Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change	Fiji	05-Apr-14
14	Peniamina Leavai	Adaptation Planning Officer Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change	Samoa	30-Jun-13
15	Diane McFadzien	Climate Change Adaptation Adviser	Cook Islands	12-Nov-13
16	Carlo Iacovino	Climate Change Communications Officer	Australia	06-Oct-15
17	Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Marshall Islands	31-Dec-15
18	Tagaloa Cooper	Climate Change Coordination Adviser	Niue	12-Aug-14
19	Makelesi Gonelevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	30-Mar-14
20	Philip Wiles	Pacific Islands Global Oceans Observing Systems Officer	New Zealand	06-Aug-14
21	Sili'a Kilepoa-Ualesi	Project Manager – Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	Samoa	12-Jun-14
22	Nixon Kua	Climate Change Mitigation Officer	Solomon Islands	29-Jun-13
23	Azarel Mariner	Climate Change Technical Assistant	Samoa	27-Sep-15
24	Joyce Tulua	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	29-Jul-13
25	Aaron Buncle	Environmental Resource Economist <i>On Secondment from Commonwealth Secretariat</i>	Australia	18-May-15
26	Neville Koop	Meteorology / Climatology Adviser <i>On Secondment from Commonwealth Secretariat</i>	Australia	18-Mar-14
27	Rachael Dempsey	Climate Change Specialist on Secondment from Giz	Australia	31-Dec-15
28	<i>Vacant</i>	Meteorology & Climate Officer		
29	<i>Vacant</i>	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Finance & Operations Officer		
30	<i>Vacant</i>	Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation Officer		
Biodiversity Ecosystems Management				
31	Tim Carruthers	Coastal & Marine Adviser	Australia	05-Jun-14
32	Vainuupo Jungblut	Ramsar Officer, Oceania	Samoa	22-Feb-15
33	Paul Donohoe	Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer	Australia	27-Apr-15
34	Penina Solomona	Convention On Migratory Species Pacific Officer	Fiji	07-Jan-14
35	Catherine Siota	Turtle Database Officer	Solomon Islands	12-May-13
36	David Moverley	Invasive Species Adviser	New Zealand	13-Oct-15
37	Posa Skelton	Pacific Islands Learning Network Coordinator	Samoa	29-Jun-13
38	Easter Galuvao	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	11-Apr-13
39	Bruce Jefferies	Terrestrial Ecosystems & Management Officer	New Zealand	10-Jan-14
40	Gianluca Serra	Global Environment Facility – Project Facilitator	Italy	20-Mar-15
41	Neil Wilkinshaw	Conference Coordinator Volunteer Service Abroad, NZ	New Zealand	31-Dec-13
42	Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	02-Aug-14

STAFF MEMBER	DESIGNATION	COUNTRY	CONTRACT EXPIRY DATE	
43	<i>Vacant</i>			
44	<i>Vacant</i>			
Environmental Monitoring and Governance				
45	Paul Anderson	Environmental Monitoring Analyst	USA	17-Mar-13
46	Giliian Key	Capacity Development Adviser	UK	27-Sep-13
47	Tepa Suaesi	Environmental Planning Officer	Samoa	27-Jun-13
48	Meapelo Maiai	Global Environment Facility Support Adviser	Samoa	4-Nov-15
49	Theresa Fruean-Afa	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	13-Apr-15
50	Patrick Zerzan	Emg Intern Young Professionals Programme	Guam	06-Sep-13
51	<i>Vacant</i>	Environmental Monitoring & Planning Adviser		
52	<i>Vacant</i>	Sustainable Development Adviser		
Waste Management and Pollution Control				
53	Anthony Talouli	Pollution Adviser	Fiji	20-Apr-13
54	Esther Richards	Solid Waste Management Adviser	St Vincent and the Grenadines	11-Aug-14
55	Pulemalie Habiri	Secretary to Division Director / Division Assistant	Samoa	03-Oct-13
56	<i>Vacant</i>	Hazardous Waste Management Officer		
57	<i>Vacant</i>	Global Environment Facility Project Coordinator		
Corporate Services				
<i>Information Resources & Archives</i>				
58	Miraneta Williams-Hazelman	Information Resources Centre & Archives Manager	Samoa	9-Aug-15
59	Lupe Silulu	Registry & Archives Officer	Samoa	31-Dec-15
60	Helen Tuilagi-Ah Kuoi	Registry & Archives Assistant	Samoa	27-Oct-15
61	<i>Vacant</i>	Information Management Officer		
<i>Communications & Outreach</i>				
62	Seema Deo	Communications & Outreach Adviser	Fiji	12-Mar-15
63	Nanette Wootton	Media & Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	15-Sep-13
64	Kathleen Leewai	Publications Officer	Fiji	17-Nov-15
<i>Information Technology</i>				
65	Christian Slaven	IT Manager	Samoa	02-May-15
66	Epeli Tagi	IT Network & Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	06-Jan-14
67	Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	13-Feb-14
68	<i>Vacant</i>	Systems Developer / Administrator		
<i>Finance & Administration</i>				
69	Makereta Kaurasi-Manueli	Financial Accountant	Fiji	14-Apr-15
70	Maraea Slade-Pogi	Accounting Officer	Samoa	13-Sep-15
71	Pauline Fruean	Conference & Travel Officer	Samoa	07-Sep-13
72	Leilani Chan Tung	Finance Officer – Accounts Payable	Samoa	25-Aug-15
73	Ioane Iosefo	Finance Officer – General	Samoa	02-Apr-14
74	Rachel Levi	Finance Officer – Payroll	Samoa	11-Mar-15
75	Lawrence Warner	Property Services Officer	Samoa	4-Dec-15
76	Faamanatu Siliti	Driver/Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-14
77	Tologauvale Leaula	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-15
78	Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-13
79	Silupe Gafa	Groundsman	Samoa	31-Mar-14
<i>Human Resources</i>				
80	Luana Chan-Jamieson	Human Resources Officer	Samoa	11-Aug-14
81	Christine Purcell	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Samoa	04-Mar-15
82	Jolynn Managreve-Fepuleai	Assistant Human Resources Officer	Fiji	08-Jul-15
83	Monica Tupai	Receptionist/Customer Services Assistant	Samoa	30-Dec-15

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

3Rs	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	GEF	Global Environment Facility
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (countries of the Lome Convention)	GEF-PAS	Global Environment Facility — Pacific Alliance for Sustainability
AFD	Agence Française de développement (French Development Agency)	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Development Agency)
APAN	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network	HR	Human Resources
APTC	Australia-Pacific Technical College	IBPoW	Island Biodiversity Programme of Work
ASNNC	Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne	ICCAI	International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
BIORAP	Biological Rapid Assessment Survey	IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
CABI	Centre for Agricultural Bureau International	IMO	International Maritime Organization
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis	IRCA	Information Resource Centre and Archives
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	IRD	Institute de recherché pour le développement
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CI-CEPF)	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
CI	Conservation International	JNAP	Joint National Action Plan
CLC	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage	J-PRISM	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
COP	Conference of the Parties	MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
COSPPac	Climate and Ocean Support for the Pacific	MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (Kiribati)
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa)
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	MNZ	Maritime New Zealand
CWL	Catholic Women's League (Fiji)	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	NAP	National Action Plan
EDNRE	Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment (Tokelau)	NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
EU	European Union	NEMS	National Environment Management Strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
FINPAC	Finnish-Pacific Project to Reduce Vulnerability of the Pacific Island Countries Livelihoods to the Effects of Climate Change	NIEP	National Integrated Environment Policy
FNU	Fiji National University	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance Project	NSAP	National Strategic Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
		NWSC	National Wetlands Steering Committee (Fiji)

OPRC	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness Response Cooperation	SERED	Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo profiling floats in the South Pacific Ocean
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
PACCSAP	Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning Programme	SOE	State of Environment
PACPLAN	Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
PCCP	Pacific Climate Change Portal	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PECCO	Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook	TAY	Tarawa Adventist Youth Group (Kiribati)
PEEC	Palau Education and Enhancement Committee	UMCES	University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences
PEF	Pacific Environment Forum	UNCA	Upper Navua Conservation Area (Fiji Ramsar site)
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
PI-GOOS	Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
PIMS	Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PIP	Pacific Invasives Partnership	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System	UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area	USP	University of the South Pacific
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012)	US-PacIOOS	American Affiliated Territories Ocean Observing System
RPMU	Regional Project Management Unit	VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazard Department
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management	WCU	Wildlife Conservation Unit (Kiribati)

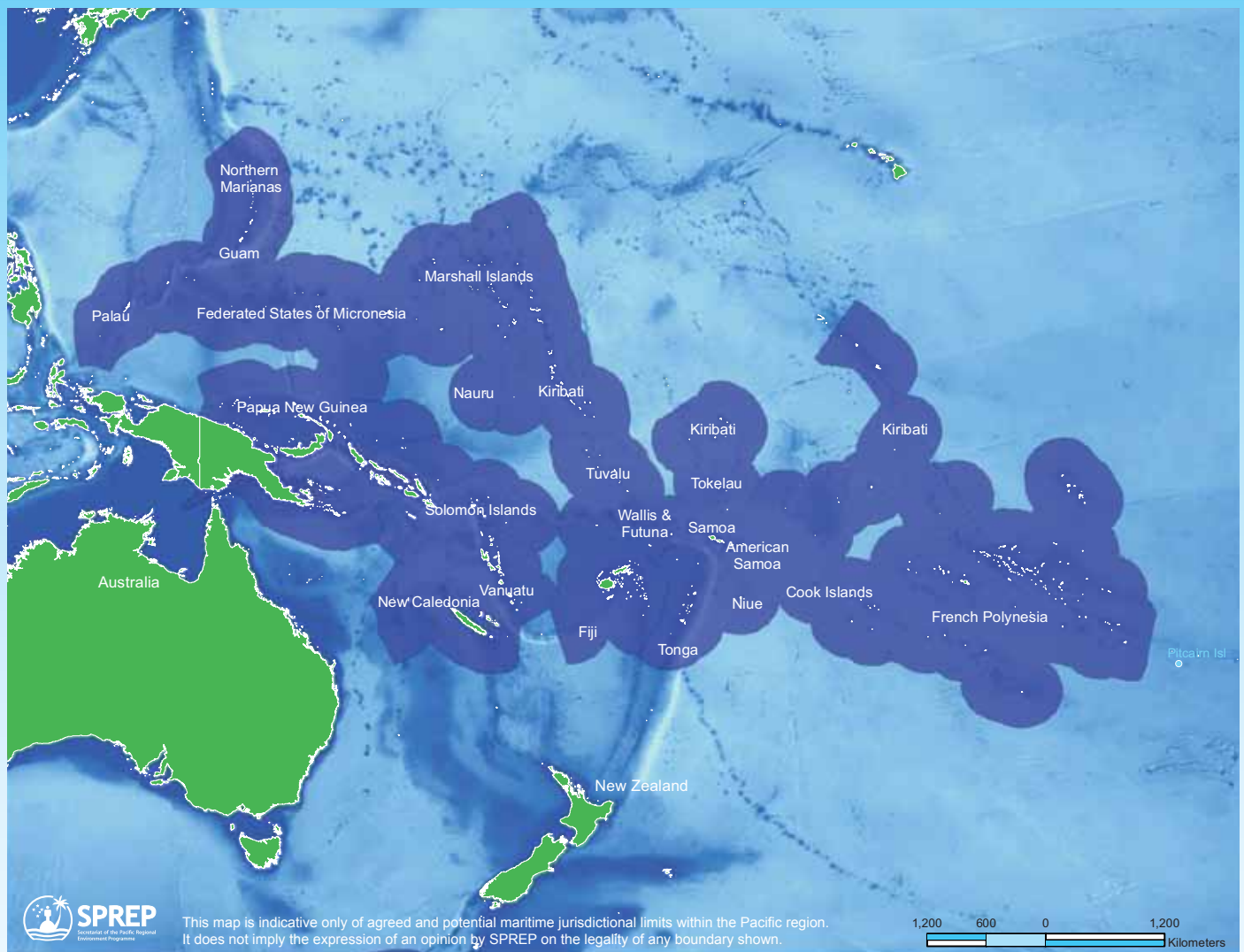


THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

SPREP Members comprise 21 Pacific island countries and territories, and five 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 Kingdom*, United States of America*, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the primary intergovernmental environmental organisation working in the Pacific. SPREP works to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.



SPREP Vision: The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the intergovernmental agency charged with the protection and sustainable management of the Pacific island region's environment.

SPREP's vision is for a Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

SPREP works at the forefront of regional efforts to address environmental concerns by providing national-level technical advice, programme support, human and institutional capacity building and coordinated regional responses to global issues and international agreements.

The work of SPREP is guided by a 5-year Strategic Plan (2011–2015) which was formally adopted at the 21st SPREP Meeting in Papua New Guinea in September 2010.

For more information regarding SPREP and SPREP's contributions to conservation, resource management and sustainable development, please visit: www.sprep.org.



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme