

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



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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.

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by the Marshall Islands, Chair of the 22nd SPREP Meeting

Charting a New Voyage Together

There is one Planet Earth, which we have been gifted as stewards.

In the Pacific our environment is the basis for our livelihoods and cultural traditions. It is our responsibility to ensure we protect it to sustain our Pacific way of life.

This is a challenge the members of SPREP face together. Through the support of each other and the Secretariat we can better ensure a Pacific environment that sustains our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

In 2011 we embarked on a voyage with SPREP, working hand in hand to empower our people as stewards of our environment under a new five-year plan.

This voyage was guided by the new 2011–2015 SPREP Strategic Plan, which identifies four priority areas: Climate Change; Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management; Waste Management and Pollution Control; and Environmental Monitoring and Governance.

I am proud that the SPREP Strategic Plan was developed through the largest consultation exercise in SPREP's history. We as SPREP members established the targets and the performance indicators in this plan.

As Chair of the 2011 SPREP Meeting I am pleased too that 2011 was an excellent year of achievement under this new plan.

It was a very busy year for SPREP and her member countries and territories, as you will read in the following pages. The many achievements have enabled Pacific island countries and territories to better face their environmental challenges.

Challenges we are navigating with SPREP and our many partners include the following:

- Climate change is the major threat to our region and its peoples. SPREP's many climate change projects, such as the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project, have shifted to implementation and provide a positive and practical response. However, the international community must be more engaged in supporting the efforts of Pacific islands to become more climate resilient.
- Biodiversity continues to be lost at alarming rates in the Pacific islands. Our island biodiversity battles against invasive species and we strive for recognition of its value as the main source of income for many community livelihoods and life-styles. SPREP commenced two new biodiversity projects during the year and these need to be "scaled up" throughout our region. SPREP also continues to provide support for national biodiversity strategic action plans, empowering us to better manage our terrestrial and coastal ecosystems.
- The growing problems of waste and pollution are major threats to our environment and sustainable development. 2012 will be a key year as SPREP embarks on a targeted campaign to empower our region for better waste management practices – the Clean Pacific Campaign. SPREP has greatly expanded programmes on waste management and pollution, and these are outlined in this annual report.

“ . . . many achievements have enabled Pacific island countries and territories to better face their environmental challenges. ”

- Improved environmental governance and better monitoring is essential in our region. Enhancing the tools that help us improve environmental governance, planning, monitoring and reporting was an area of high importance for SPREP in 2011. We recognise that strong governance frameworks that link environmental issues with sustainable development are crucial. The European Union-funded "Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements" project has proved a very useful tool for strengthening environmental governance.

The above reflects on only some of the work that SPREP does under the new Strategic Plan. This does not take into account the crew in Corporate Services at SPREP, who help ensure our voyage is smooth and successful.

As Chair, I congratulate the Secretariat for its hard work and achievements this year. The Republic of the Marshall Islands was honoured to be Chair of the 2011 SPREP Meeting and has worked hard with the Secretariat to ensure implementation of our Strategic Plan.

I also congratulate our members and partners for coming together in strong unity to support and guide the work of the Secretariat. It is through partnership with SPREP and others that we can bring about a better environment for all, together.

A true indication of our fellowship through SPREP was the endorsement of the 2011 Pacific Year of the Dugong. Despite the fact that dugongs are found in only six of the Pacific islands, all members of SPREP agreed wholeheartedly to support this campaign as an important vehicle to raise awareness of the vital need to protect the dugong and other important marine species in our region.

Let us continue our journey in the same way to a better environment, a journey together in strong partnership with all.

Kommol tata,

Warwick Harris
Chair of SPREP

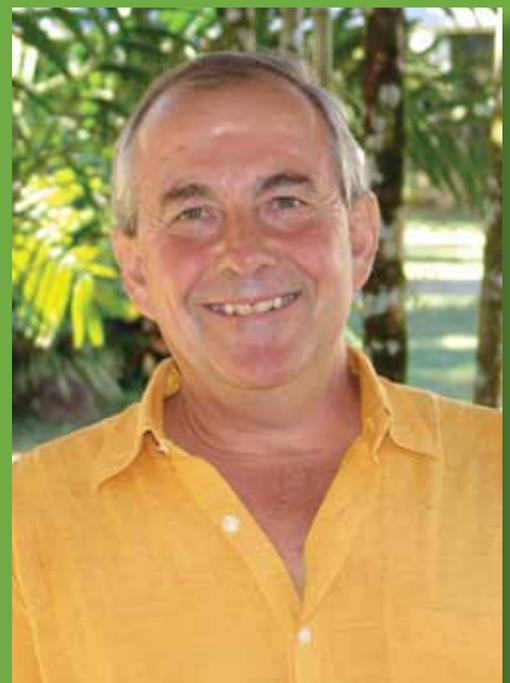


Introduction

from the Director -

It is my pleasure to report on SPREP activities in 2011, a year of implementation in support of Pacific island countries and territories. The Secretariat has sharply focused on how to help our Pacific island members to better address their environmental challenges. These challenges are many, they are pressing, and they continue to grow.

To achieve this we have implemented an ambitious change management process, which aims to make SPREP better able to respond to, and support, our island members. This has been guided by four key principles: (1) to improve the delivery of tangible and relevant services to members; (2) to improve internal processes for managing staff and money; (3) to strengthen SPREP's partnerships, including with other regional organisations; and (4) to improve the link between SPREP's policy work with science and practical, on ground demonstration projects.





Apolima, Manono, Savaii islands in Samoa. PHOTO © S.CHAPE/SPREP

General

2011 has been a year of rapid change at SPREP and I am pleased to report tangible outcomes from our change management process, including:

- SPREP has more than doubled its direct financial and technical support for member countries over the 2009–2011 period, with SPREP’s direct financial support to Pacific countries and territories increasing from USD2.4 million in 2010 to USD4.3 million in 2011, while support for SPREP member regional level activities increased from USD7 million in 2010 to USD8.3 million in 2011.
- Overall the total SPREP budget increased from USD7.6 million in 2009 to USD14.3 million in 2012. Over this period, salary costs as a percentage of the total SPREP budget have dropped from 49 per cent in 2009 to 33 per cent in 2012. This clearly indicates our primary focus on increasing support directly to SPREP members rather than building up staffing at SPREP.

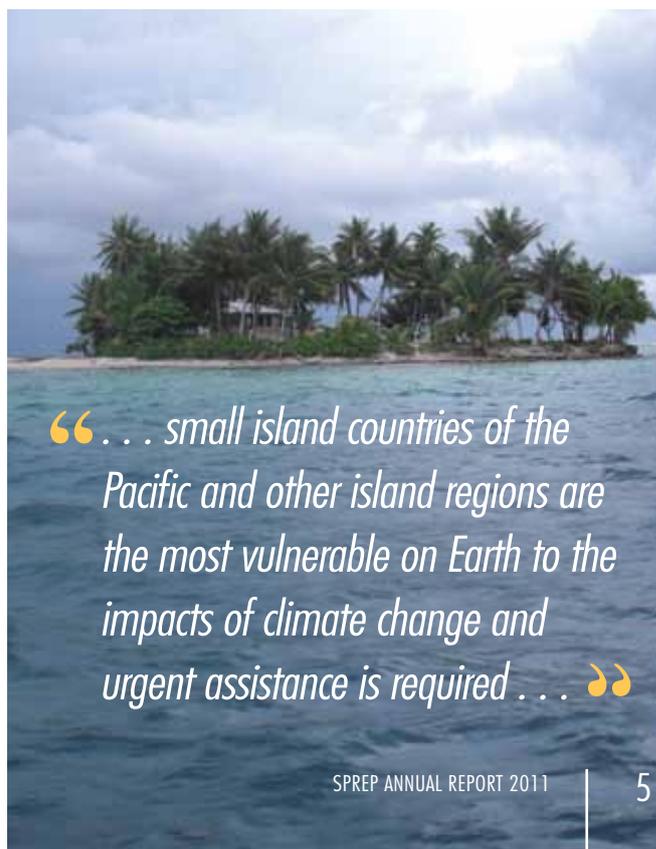
- We have substantially improved financial and human resources systems at SPREP, with an emphasis on improving performance, efficiency and service delivery to members. As one indication of our improvement, we are delighted that SPREP passed the European Union (EU) “5 Pillar Institutional Assessment” in 2011.
- Initiation of major new programmes addressing priorities of island members in areas such as waste management, climate change and biodiversity conservation.

This annual report highlights the breadth of practical work SPREP is undertaking to support Pacific islands to better manage and protect their environments and more effectively respond to key challenges facing our region.

Climate change remains a major challenge. SPREP recognises climate change as a reality 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, involving all relevant agencies.

We must work together to respond to the challenges of climate change, and I am pleased with the improved cooperation between Pacific regional agencies in 2011 as a key response to this challenge.

During 2011 the flagship Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project, a joint GEF-funded initiative between SPREP and UNDP, welcomed a number of other key donors and partners, including the governments of Australia (AusAID) and the United States (USAID). A key feature of the PACC approach is identifying country priorities and bringing together key sectors to work together to address climate change.



“ . . . small island countries of the Pacific and other island regions are the most vulnerable on Earth to the impacts of climate change and urgent assistance is required . . . ”



Niuean school children visit the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable meeting.

In 2011 PACC moved from planning to action with a number of practical programmes now helping SPREP members to adapt to climate change in sectors such as water, agriculture and coastal infrastructure.

SPREP provided substantial support for Pacific preparations for the Durban Climate Conference. This very important UN meeting showcased island countries speaking with one voice, along with key partners such as the European Union. Our message was heard “loud and clear” in Durban — that the small island nations of the Pacific and other island regions are the most vulnerable on Earth to the impacts of climate change, and urgent assistance is required, and it is required now. Pacific countries welcomed the initiation of the Green Climate Fund and called for it to become operational as soon as possible.

In addition to PACC, SPREP undertook a number of other practical programmes during the year to help Pacific island countries address climate change. Work continued on SPREP’s renewable energy project, PIGGAREP, which supported countries to achieve their ambitious renewable energy targets. A major programme of support for Meteorological Services in the Pacific was also developed, with support from the Government of Finland.

Marine species were in the spotlight in 2011 as we celebrated the Pacific Year of the Dugong, and implemented many programmes to raise awareness about protecting dugongs in the Pacific. As well as being culturally significant to Pacific peoples, dugongs have a vital ecological role in maintaining coastal seagrass habitats. In our region, dugongs are rated as vulnerable to extinction, with the Palau dugong

population particularly at risk because of its geographic isolation.

The Year of the Dugong highlighted that biodiversity is the cornerstone of life in the Pacific — our plants, animals and ecosystems are essential for livelihoods and have shaped Pacific culture and traditions. Our precious Pacific biodiversity is at risk as never before. We continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate, with extinction rates for some species being the highest in the world. SPREP expanded efforts to protect and better manage biodiversity in the Pacific islands with two new major projects starting, both funded through GEF-PAS and matching contributions: one on island biodiversity, focused on protection of species, and another focused on invasive species.

The Pacific Ocean covers 34 per cent of the Earth’s surface, with only two per cent comprising land. Identification and protection of marine biodiversity is thus critically important. During the year SPREP supported the Pacific Oceanscape proposal — an important initiative called for by Pacific leaders to better manage and protect our lifeblood — the Pacific Ocean.

Pollution control and waste management are major development issues for all SPREP members, as waste and pollution pose major threats to the sustainable development of the Pacific region with their significant impacts on our environments, health, water, and quality of life. In response, SPREP has increased activities on the management of solid waste during the year and we have greatly appreciated support from the governments of Japan and France to address this important issue. There are many dimensions to the problems of waste and



Red-footed booby from Fiji: PHOTO © S.CHAPE/SPREP



Line Island Bokikokiko (Warblers): PHOTO © J.KEY/SPREP

“ We continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate, with the extinction rates for some species the highest in the world. ”

pollution, and SPREP has also expanded into the areas of hazardous waste management with particular attention to ensuring better management of chemicals, asbestos and waste oil in our region.

SPREP’s 2011–2015 Strategic Plan places strong emphasis on environmental monitoring and governance. During the year we provided support to many Pacific countries in these areas, including support for the development of laws and policies, environmental impact assessment and the strengthening of capacity.

The innovative EU-funded project “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries” was a key vehicle for supporting Pacific islands to build their capacity in implementing multilateral environmental agreements such as those dealing with climate change and biodiversity.

SPREP also focussed on building its own capacity in 2011. Our aim is to attract and retain the highest quality of staff so we can better serve our members. We are pleased that the retention of staff has increased with the percentage of staff staying at SPREP, as a percentage of total staff, increasing from 76 per cent in 2008 to 93 per cent in 2011. During this time we are also pleased to have seen a major increase in staff morale at SPREP, as assessed through the annual staff satisfaction survey.

We recognise the critical role of partnerships to SPREP’s work. In 2011, relations were strengthened through signing MoUs with a number of

key partners, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and other regional agencies. New and innovative partnerships were initiated with Westpac on the Clean Pacific Campaign, due to start in 2012, and with the 5Cs – the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center. The latter partnership will share climate change expertise and experience between Pacific and Caribbean countries on climate change.

We are pleased that a number of countries and partners have increased their support to SPREP during the year. SPREP values this trust and commits to working hard to make sure we earn it.

This annual report outlines excellent progress in helping Pacific countries better manage their solid waste, address marine pollution, better enhance and protect important species and ecosystems, and respond to the overarching impacts of climate change.

The range of SPREP’s work, and the beauty of our Pacific region, is evident in the following pages, which outline the work of SPREP 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 2011 for SPREP.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the 2011 SPREP Annual Report.

David Sheppard,
Director-General



The Pacific Year of the DUGONG

2011 was dedicated to raising awareness about protecting dugongs in the Pacific. These large, slow-moving mammals are the only surviving member of the Dugongidae family, with its closest relative, Stellar's sea-cow, hunted to extinction within 27 years of its discovery in the 18th Century.

Dugongs are also one of the three marine fauna groups that make up SPREP's marine species programme — whales and dolphins (cetaceans) and sea turtles are the other groups. Some of the most important remaining dugong habitats are in the Pacific.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature rated dugongs as vulnerable to extinction in 2008, with the Palau dugong population particularly at risk because of geographic isolation.

As well as being culturally significant to Pacific peoples, dugongs have a vital ecological role in maintaining coastal seagrass habitats.

The SPREP campaign is important because little information is available on dugong populations in the Pacific. Much work is needed to improve information, public awareness and ultimately, management and protection of dugong populations in the region.

The campaign aimed to:

- Promote awareness and conservation of dugongs at site-level targeting key stewards and the fishing industry.
- Reduce dugong mortality from human activities.
- Improve status information and promote sustainable management of dugong populations and protection of their habitats at the national level through effective and practical national legislation and policies.
- Advance partnerships and secure resources for long-term support for dugong conservation in the region.

“ As well as being culturally significant to Pacific peoples, dugongs have a vital ecological role in maintaining coastal seagrass habitats. ”

Threats to dugongs

There are two main threats to dugongs: those that cause direct mortality to dugongs, and those that result in loss of, or degradation to their habitat.

Threats that cause direct dugong mortality include:

- Harvesting for food, medicine and artefacts: Given the low numbers or unknown status of dugong populations in some areas, this is perhaps the greatest threat in the Pacific region. For most countries, it is unknown whether the level of harvest is sustainable, and there is concern over the use of modern equipment to hunt them.
- Incidental by-catch, destructive fishing methods and vessel strikes: The incidental drowning of dugongs caught in fisheries gear, such as gill-nets, has contributed to the decline of dugongs in some areas of the Pacific. The increase in vessel traffic also increases the likelihood of dugongs being killed by vessel strikes.

Threats to dugong habitat include:

- Coastal development including human settlement: These activities increase sedimentation and turbidity in coastal waters, smothering seagrasses and reducing the amount of light reaching them. This results in degradation of the seagrasses and reduction in their density and productivity.
- Agricultural pollution and nutrient runoff from land: Herbicide runoff from agricultural activities presents a potential risk to seagrass habitats.
- Nutrient enrichment: This leads to increases in epiphytic growth in the water column, which in turn reduces light levels for seagrasses. Nutrient enrichment may also change the community structure of seagrass habitats.



Regional and National Campaign Activities

The regional Pacific Year of the Dugong (PYOD) campaign was launched in Palau on 14 March 2011 by Palau President Johnson Toribiong and Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism Harry Fritz. This also incorporated the Palau national campaign launch.

In launching the regional and national campaign, President Toribiong reminded Palauans that they are stewards of the environment and have a moral obligation to protect dugongs in the spirit of “I’ll save you so someday you’ll save me”. He asked for support from other nations to join Palau to preserve, protect and cherish dugong populations.

National PYOD campaign launches were held in Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. New Caledonia celebrated its national Year of the Dugong in 2010 but joined the regional campaign in 2011 with the production of materials such as the 2011 Dugong Calendar.

National campaign material included:

- A poster depicting the theme, “Respect and Protect Dugongs and their Coastal Environment”, and listing activities to help save dugongs
- Fact sheets on: (i) Pacific Dugongs; (ii) Working Together to Save Dugongs; and (iii) Pacific Seagrasses
- 2011 Dugong Calendar by New Caledonia
- Pacific Dugong 10-minute DVD
- Pacific Range State Dugong Profiles publication

E-communications and awareness were promoted through the development of the PYOD Webpage on the SPREP website, as well as a PYOD Facebook page.

“ *Respect and protect our dugongs and seagrasses.* ”



PHOTO © COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA (GBRMPA)

Papua New Guinea Arts and Essay Competition

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (OLSH) led the coordination of primary and secondary schools in the Kavieng District in a Dugong Arts and Essay Competition. The Kavieng District is home to vast seagrass beds, and dugongs are regular visitors to the Kavieng Harbour and neighbouring coastal and island villages. The entries were judged on 3 June to coincide with the World Environment Day on 5 June.

During the year, dugong surveys in range states continued. The results will help determine national distribution and abundance of dugong populations, identify and map areas of important dugong habitat, assess the risk of degradation of dugong populations and their habitats, and develop appropriate mitigation measures.



Government of Palau Gift of Dugong Carving to SPREP

A tribute to the Year of the Dugong was unveiled by the Palau Vice President, Kerai Mariur, in Samoa on 19 July for SPREP's work on the conservation of dugongs in the Pacific.

The carving of a dugong was gifted to SPREP from the Government of Palau, which is a Pacific, and indeed global, environmental leader in protecting marine species. Palau declared a shark sanctuary in its EEZ in 2009. This was further

strengthened in 2010 through extending the protection to encompass all marine mammals including dugongs.

Vice President Mariur presented a special letter from the President of Palau, the carving, and a copy of the "Mesekiu" booklet.

Vice President Mariur said: "The designation of the 'Pacific Year of the Dugong' is indicative of the enduring efforts of SPREP to continue to lend its assistance toward the protection and preservation of the rich marine ecosystems that sustain the balance of nature that our Pacific islands continue to be dependent on."

In turn, SPREP presented a Certificate of Environmental Leadership to Palau.

Vision Pasifika Media Award

The 2011 Vision Pasifika Media Award focused on "Dugongs and Seagrasses: Respect and Protect". The award recognises excellence in Pacific environment reporting. Acknowledging that not all Pacific island countries and territories are home to the dugong species or abundant in seagrasses, the award also emphasised respecting and protecting Pacific marine life in general. This award is funded by the "Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries" project.

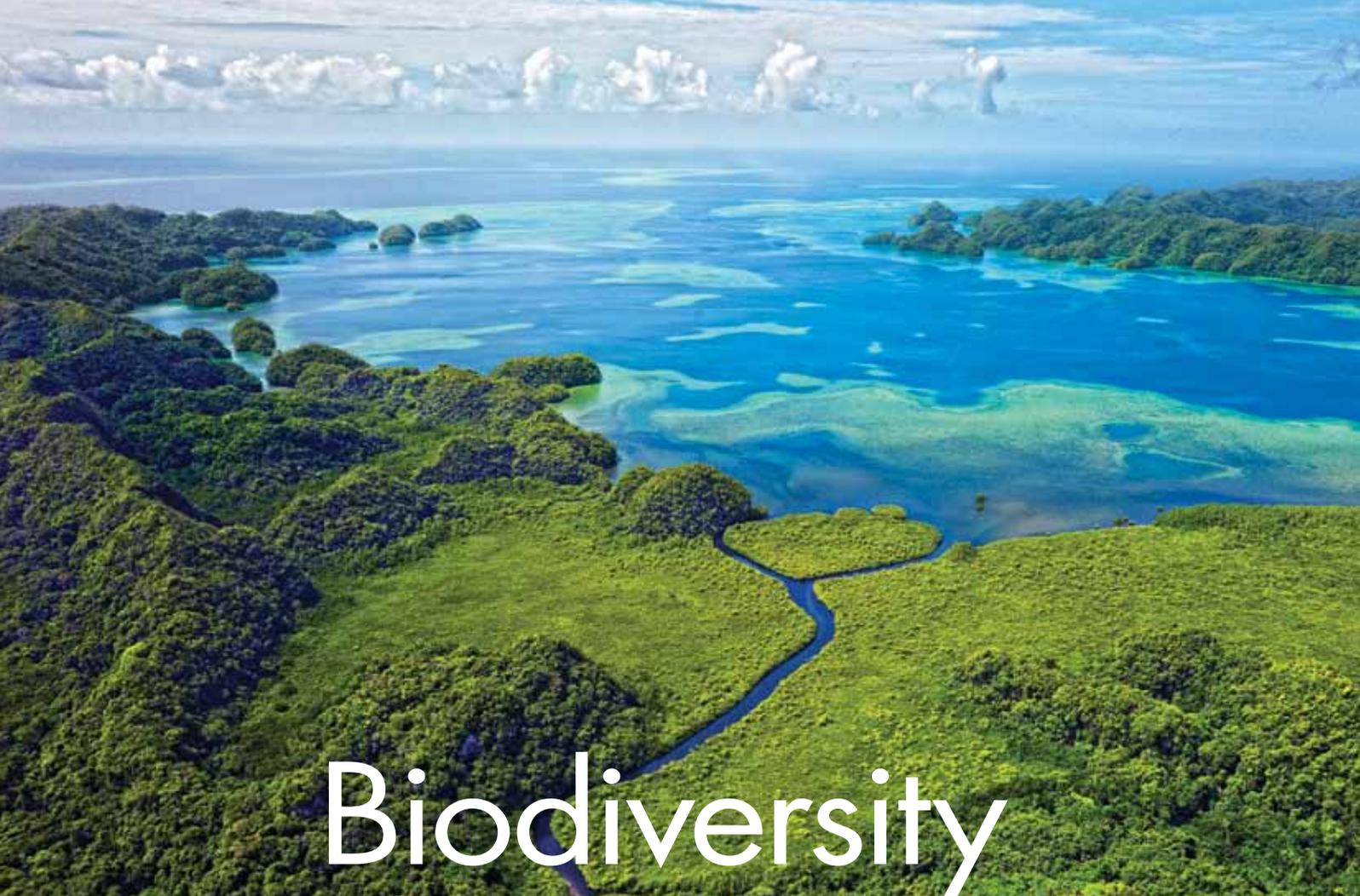
In 2011, special awards commended the role of the following Pacific media workers in raising awareness of the dugong and other marine species:

- Julian Makaa, for the article, "Whale Watching in Solomon Islands" in the Solomon Airlines In Flight Magazine, May 2011.
- Moffat Mamu, for the story, "Let's Preserve our Dugongs" in Solomon Star, May 2011.
- Nigel Sandy, for "The Unknown Sea Cow" in the Island Sun, Solomon Islands, November 2011.
- Parijata Gurdayal, Journalism student, for the article, "Calls to Protect Mangroves", in the Fiji Times, June 2011.

Partners/Donors

The Pacific Year of the Dugong was led by SPREP and its partner, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UN Environment Programme/CMS). The campaign was made possible with funding from CMS (including the UNEP/CMS Dugong MoU Secretariat) and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Government of Australia).





Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

The Pacific islands and ocean region is an ecologically and biologically significant region, a global resource for which the peoples of the Pacific islands are guardians. Due to the immense size of the marine ecosystem, containing numerous nations and thousands of diverse islands, these resources present great and important management challenges. Pacific ecosystems continue to face imminent threats from land clearing, coastal development, overfishing, sediment disturbance, nutrient inputs to rivers and reef flats, and climate change. The SPREP Strategic Plan highlights the need and a way to preserve and sustainably manage our natural ecosystems for future generations.



Mangroves, lagoon and forests in Palau.
PHOTO © S.CHAPE/SPREP

“ *Pacific ecosystems continue to face imminent threats from land clearing, coastal development, overfishing, sediment disturbance, nutrient inputs to rivers and reef flats, and climate change.* ”



PHOTO © A.TYE/SPREP

Island & Oceanic Ecosystems

Building Capacity to Implement Outcomes of CBD COP10

Following the successful Pacific Voyage to the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan in 2010, SPREP coordinated a number of capacity-building activities in 2011 to help Pacific island parties better understand the outcomes of the Nagoya meeting, and to prepare for their implementation.

A post-COP10 meeting for the Pacific concluded with key recommendations to guide discussions and planning at the national level. Draft roadmaps were developed to address potential funding opportunities; ways to align the targets of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) with the Aichi Targets; possible technical assistance from regional partners and organisations; how to provide input to the in-depth review of the CBD Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity; synergies between the different biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); capacity building needs and opportunities; and major international events relevant to biodiversity and CBD reporting requirements.

“ Participants developed draft national action plans and were also given tools, guides, and information to assist with implementation. ”



Additionally, SPREP undertook key activities to implement recommendations from the post-COPI0 meeting:

- I. The SPREP-led NBSAP Support Group, part of the Pacific Islands Round Table (PIRT) for Nature Conservation, provided technical support for Pacific island NBSAP reviews.
- II. SPREP and the CBD Secretariat held a regional capacity-building workshop on reviewing and updating NBSAPs, which included valuation and incentive measures.
- III. A capacity-building workshop on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas was held in parallel with the NBSAP workshop. Participants developed draft national action plans and were also given tools, guides, and information to assist with implementation.
- IV. SPREP, with the support of regional and bilateral partners, initiated a review of the CBD Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity (PoWIB). The PoWIB is the only CBD programme of work that focuses specifically on island parties and parties with islands. Key biodiversity achievements such as the Micronesian Challenge, Locally Managed Marine Areas, Phoenix Islands Protected Area, and the Coral Triangle initiatives are highlighted in the in-depth report, including biodiversity challenges faced by PICs. The in-depth review of the PoWIB also provides an excellent opportunity to gain additional support for PICs implementing key biodiversity priorities in the region.

Pacific Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing

An Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) workshop was hosted by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABSCDI) to begin the process of a stock-take of ABS implementation and related capacity needs in the Pacific region. The ABSCDI is a three-year German-aid funded project, established to support ACP countries with implementation of the Nagoya Protocol once it enters into force. Pacific countries have requested assistance with developing and implementing national ABS policies and measures, and developing best practices with the private sector and relevant research institutions for bio-discovery activities. SPREP will work with ABSCDI and other partners to address these needs.

Pacific Mangrove Initiative Endorsed

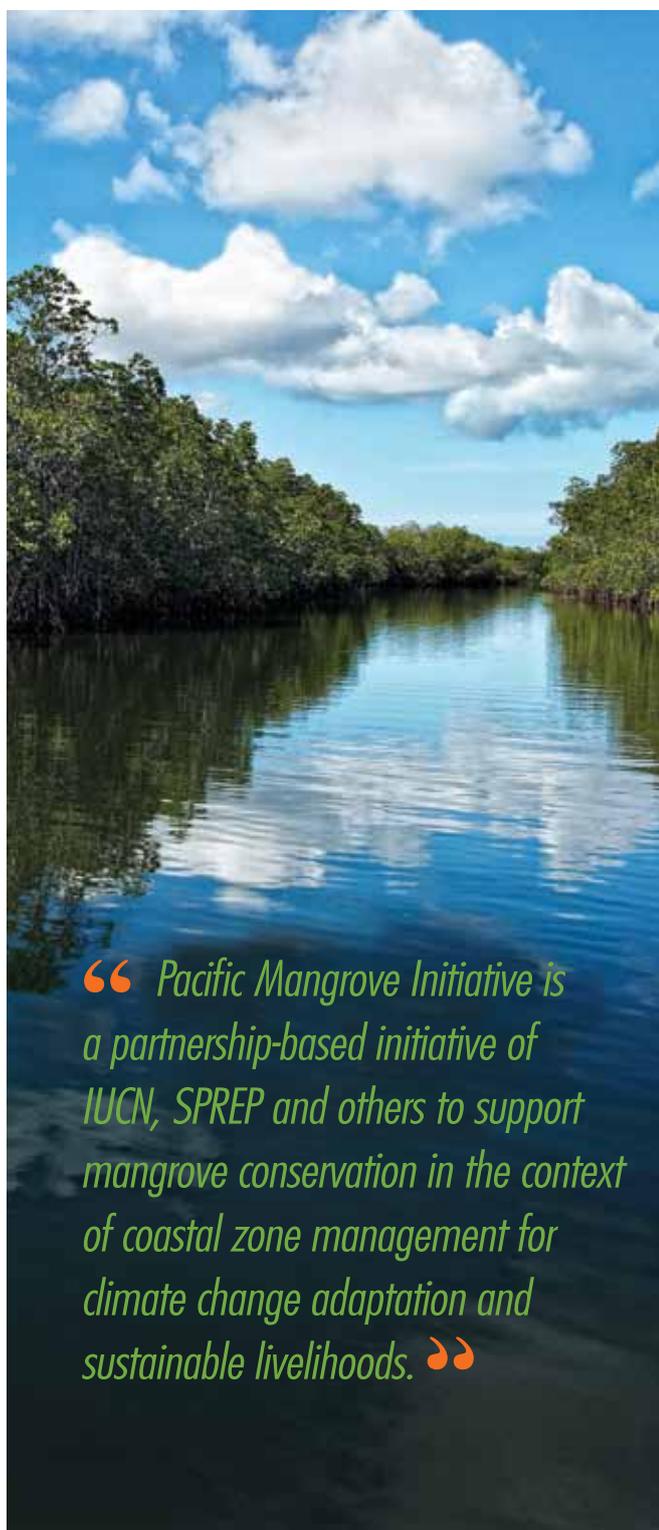
The Pacific Mangrove Initiative (PMI), which has been in development since 2007, was approved by the 22nd SPREP Meeting. PMI is a partnership-based initiative of IUCN, SPREP and others to support mangrove conservation in the context of coastal zone management for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. The inaugural meeting of the PMI steering committee agreed to identify institutional foci for PMI at regional and national levels; widen the PMI partnership to include active participation of all relevant organisations and countries; and develop a database of experts and initiatives to enable better coordination and working relationships within the PMI.

Funding opportunities; the green economy issue; and development of a future similar initiative for seagrasses will also be followed up as part of the PMI.

Vanuatu Prepares to Join Ramsar Convention

Vanuatu is one step closer to becoming a contracting party of the Ramsar Convention. There are currently 160 parties to the convention, five of which are Pacific island countries.

A country visit was carried out during September 2011 to assist the Vanuatu Environment Department to begin national preparations to accede to the Ramsar Convention. The process of accession involves consulting all stakeholders to ensure a clear national understanding of what being a Ramsar Contracting Party entails. The country visit included a briefing for the Minister for Environment on the value of accession to the Convention. Crab Bay, located on the island of Malekula, is Vanuatu's first nominated Wetland of International Importance or Ramsar Site. Crab Bay supports extensive and unique biodiversity, which sustains the livelihoods of its communities.



“ Pacific Mangrove Initiative is a partnership-based initiative of IUCN, SPREP and others to support mangrove conservation in the context of coastal zone management for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. ”

Pacific Oceanscape Vision Continues

Pacific Island Forum Leaders continued to endorse and take action under the Pacific Oceanscape Framework. Through specific projects and collaboration, SPREP has provided technical support to members to achieve goals under Oceanscape. This has included development of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati; establishment of a one million square kilometre marine protected area in the Cook Islands; and set-up of a Marine Sanctuary throughout the entire EEZ of Tokelau for the protection of all marine mammal species, turtles and sharks.

In 2011, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Secretary-General Tuiloma Neroni Slade was established as the first Ocean Commissioner. The CROP agency Marine Sector Working Group, of which SPREP is an active member, became the interim support mechanism for the Pacific Oceanscape Framework. Funding is being sought for expanded implementation of the Framework.

The Pacific Oceanscape Framework, formalised in 2010, was conceived by Kiribati President Anote Tong in 2009, and aims to better protect and manage the Pacific Ocean. It builds on the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (2002/2005) in working towards implementation of the Pacific Plan, adopted by Pacific Island leaders in 2005.



“ Effective management and sustainable use of resources in the vast Pacific Ocean requires a clear understanding of what resources are present and which areas hold particular significance. ”

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas Identified

Effective management and sustainable use of resources in the vast Pacific Ocean requires a clear understanding of what resources are present and which areas hold particular significance. To increase this understanding, SPREP collaborated with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to facilitate the identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in the Western South Pacific. At a workshop in Fiji during November, 13 SPREP members considered features such as uniqueness, importance to endangered species, vulnerability, biological productivity or naturalness for marine areas greater than 100m of depth. The Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) provided technical support for data identification, presentation and synthesis. More than 25 potential EBSAs were identified. This is an integral step in developing a comprehensive list of significant areas in the Western South Pacific. Identifying EBSAs attains a key goal in SPREP's strategic plan and can inform more coordinated and improved marine management in the region.

Developing Ecosystem-based Adaptation Approaches

In recognition that Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is still a new concept for the Pacific, and indeed globally, SPREP partnered with Conservation International, with funding from AusAID to produce three resources on EbA. These are available in hard copy and via the SPREP website. The first is a guiding document on the utility and implementation of EbA in Pacific islands: *Pacific Islands Biodiversity, Ecosystems & Climate Change Adaptation: Building on Nature's Resilience*. The second is a DVD on how to build EbA into adaptation planning: *Toolbox for Ecosystems & Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Islands*. The third resource is a synthesis on legal frameworks for EbA actions in Pacific islands: *Legal Frameworks for Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in the Pacific Islands*. These successful efforts have established the groundwork for initiating projects in various member countries. Strengthening this work, USAID approved USD1 million for an EbA project in the Solomon Islands, which will begin in 2012.

Threatened & Migratory Species

Community-based Turtle Monitors Network Expands

In 2011, a four-year project on marine turtle monitoring and ecotourism development in Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati and Solomon Islands was approved under the New Zealand Aid Programme. The project, with management and advisory support from the New Zealand Department of Conservation and SPREP, aims to:

- Increase knowledge, skills and involvement in marine turtle conservation and management of people in local communities and national agencies.
- Improve protection of nesting turtle populations and habitats.
- Enhance management based on better information and coordinated planning.
- Increase coordination and sharing of information and experience within and between countries.
- Ensure ecotourism businesses are established based on turtle conservation, watching and monitoring best practice.

Community involvement, as highlighted in the regional Marine Turtle Action Plan, is key to marine turtle conservation in the region.

In 2010, SPREP, in collaboration with Wan Smol Bag, Fiji Department of Fisheries, WWF South Pacific, with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, successfully established the community-based marine turtle monitors' network in Fiji. Recently, the community monitor role in Fiji expanded, and monitors are now licensed fish wardens with the ability to enforce the regulations of the 2009–2018 moratorium protecting turtles throughout Fiji.

CMS Collaboration Gathers Momentum

A significant milestone for collaboration between SPREP and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was achieved in 2011 with the establishment and recruitment of a CMS Pacific Officer based at SPREP. This was the result of the SPREP/CMS 2005 Memorandum of Cooperation and a recommendation at the 2009 Second Meeting of Signatories of the Pacific Islands Cetacean Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Auckland. The position will strengthen migratory species conservation using CMS and relevant instruments in the Pacific islands region, including the Memoranda of Understanding for the conservation of Pacific islands cetaceans, dugongs and sharks, and their related action plans.

Through the Memorandum of Cooperation, SPREP and CMS have collaborated on:

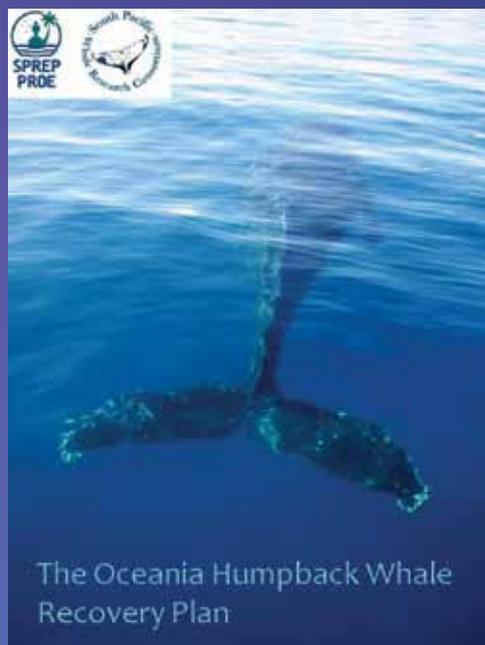
- The *Pacific Islands MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands region*.
- Reviewing marine turtle legislation in SPREP member countries for improved protection.
- National dugong surveys.

To date, six SPREP states — Australia, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu — have signed the CMS MoU on dugongs; five SPREP member countries — Australia, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu and USA — have signed the CMS MoU on sharks; and five SPREP member countries — Australia, Nauru, Palau, Tuvalu and USA — have signed the CMS MoU on sharks.



“ There are now licensed fish wardens with the ability to enforce the regulations of the 2009–2018 moratorium protecting turtles throughout Fiji. ”

“ *The Oceania Humpback Whale was moved from ‘vulnerable’ to ‘endangered’ on the IUCN 2008 Red List.* ”



Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan Endorsed

The Oceania humpback whale population (as well as that in the Arabian Sea) was re-classified in the 2008 Red List from “vulnerable” to “endangered”. The Oceania humpback whale population has probably declined more than 70 per cent since 1942. It is also genetically and demographically isolated from adjacent breeding stocks, and includes sub-stocks in Eastern Australia, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands and French Polynesia. However, globally the 2008 IUCN Red List for threat listing for cetaceans moved humpback whales from “vulnerable” to “least concern”.

The Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan is the first of its kind, and endorsement by the SPREP meeting in 2011 demonstrates the region’s dedication to the conservation of threatened species. The development of the recovery plan was a coordinated undertaking between the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium, SPREP, and a multidisciplinary recovery team.

Invasive Species

Increased Financial Support for Fighting Invasive Species

Invasive species management in the Pacific islands received a major funding boost in 2011. More than USD7 million was secured for invasives projects, including USD3.5 million from the Global Environment Facility, with one-to-one matching funds from SPREP and ten member countries. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) provided USD500,000 over the last four years, and the French Government Fonds Pacifique contributed a further Euro200,000 for invasive species work.

Invasives Networks

In 2011 the SPREP invasive species team continued to coordinate and support the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP), which now includes more than 30 organisations working on invasive species in the region. The partnership’s annual work planning ensures implementation of priorities from the Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific (SPREP 2009).

The Pacific Invasives Learning Network (PILN) is proving a successful model for building capacity on invasive species and was showcased at the CBD South-South and Triangular Cooperation meeting in Incheon, South Korea. SPREP also facilitated Pacific input to the 15th CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 15) in Montreal, Canada, and attended key regional invasives-related meetings, including a presentation to the executive committee of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO).

PILN assisted with developing the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council’s Strategic Action Plan for 2012–2016, which was endorsed at the Micronesia Chief Executives’ Summit. The network also helped establish the Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce (FIST), which was endorsed by Fiji’s National Environment Council, recognising the advisory role that FIST will provide to national development issues relating to invasive species. Kiribati, Samoa and New Caledonia received support with learning exchanges and training attachments in invasive species management, environment enforcement and surveying of threatened bird species.

One of the key functions of PILN is to be the regional conduit for sharing and disseminating information. In 2011, monthly PILN Soundbites newsletters were published and distributed to more than 400 network members.

GEF-PAS Invasives Species Project Start-Up

A major activity of the invasive species programme during the year was the start of the ten-country GEF Invasive Species Project. Inception workshops were carried out in nine of the ten participating countries (the tenth will take place in 2012), and the first block of funding was released by UNEP to SPREP. A project facilitator was recruited and begins in early 2012. This project comprises more than 80 individual projects in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The projects include such activities as developing or revising national invasive species strategies, education, legislation, research, database development, biosecurity, eradication and ecological restoration. The project will run until 2015.

French Pacific Territories

France has supported SPREP's work on invasive species over the past five years, with successive grants from the Fonds Pacifique. These have included several support grants to PILN, and most recently a grant of Euro 100,000 for integrated management of solid waste and the little red fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in French Polynesia and its major Pacific trading and transport partners. The fire ant has infested parts of Tahiti and Mo'orea islands and is a biosecurity risk to the rest of French Polynesia and the wider Pacific.

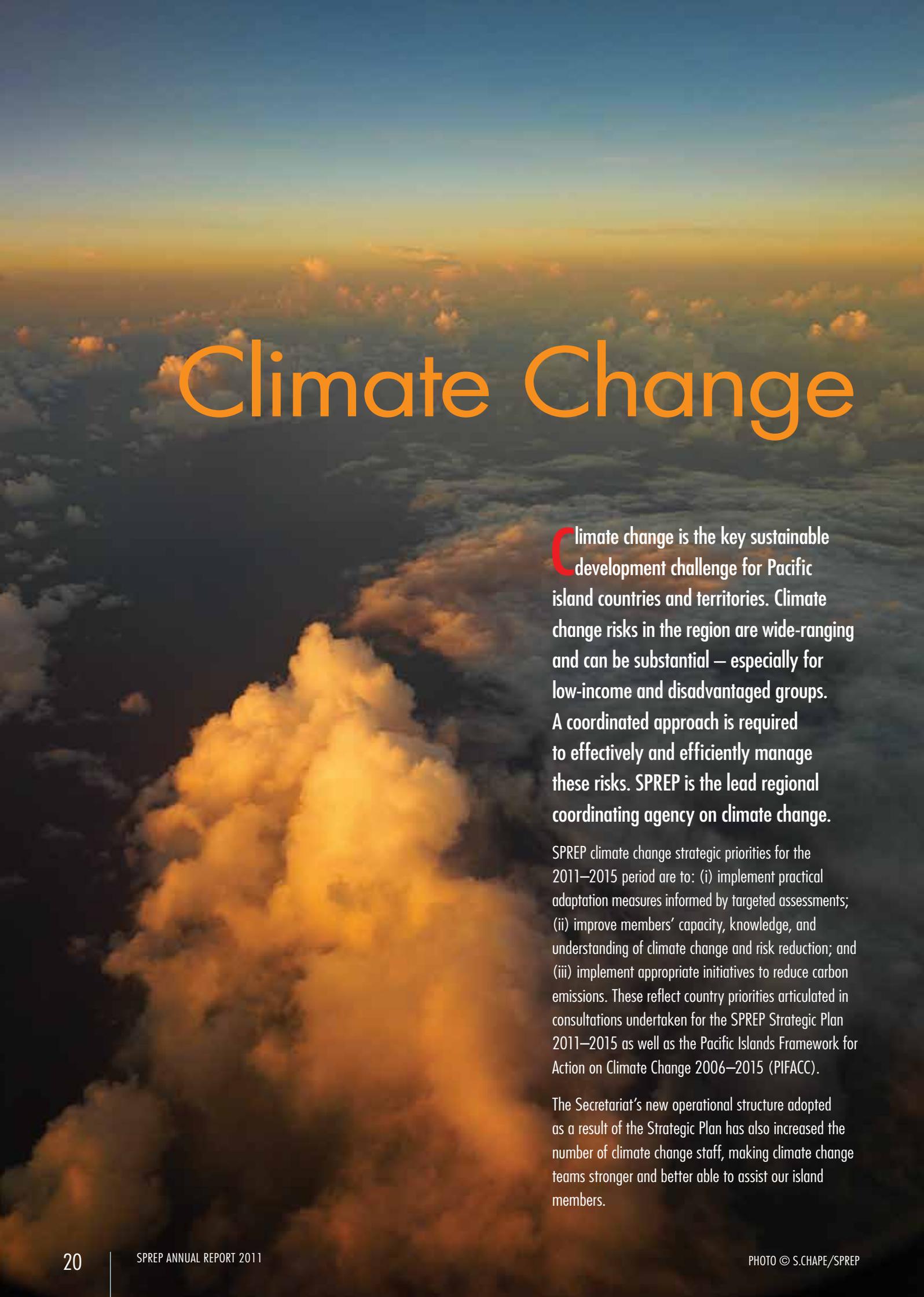
Kiritimati Island Protection and Restoration

The CEPF-funded Line Islands Restoration Project continued in 2011. The overall objective is to build the capacity of the Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit (WCU) to manage seabird poaching and invasive cats and rats, and to carry out survey work on Teraina and Tabuaeran islands, and community and schools awareness and education. During 2011, the project provided training and equipment to the WCU, including three motorbikes, which have doubled the amount of field work done and reduced costs by replacing the need to run an expensive 4WD vehicle into distant sites every day.

This project will convene the 3rd PILN meeting on Kiritimati in 2012. This will provide an opportunity for the WCU to showcase its work to a Pacific audience and share skills with others working on similar problems.

“ Three motorbikes have doubled the amount of fieldwork done and reduced costs. ”





Climate Change

Climate change is the key sustainable development challenge for Pacific island countries and territories. Climate change risks in the region are wide-ranging and can be substantial – especially for low-income and disadvantaged groups. A coordinated approach is required to effectively and efficiently manage these risks. SPREP is the lead regional coordinating agency on climate change.

SPREP climate change strategic priorities for the 2011–2015 period are to: (i) implement practical adaptation measures informed by targeted assessments; (ii) improve members' capacity, knowledge, and understanding of climate change and risk reduction; and (iii) implement appropriate initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. These reflect country priorities articulated in consultations undertaken for the SPREP Strategic Plan 2011–2015 as well as the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 (PIFACC).

The Secretariat's new operational structure adopted as a result of the Strategic Plan has also increased the number of climate change staff, making climate change teams stronger and better able to assist our island members.



An eroded beach profile PHOTO © SPREP

Implementing Adaptation Measures

Pacific Climate Change Roundtable

The 5th Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) met in Niue in March 2011. The Roundtable endorsed the midterm review process of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 (PIFACC). It also confirmed the PCCR steering committee, and working groups with their terms of reference. The four working groups are on mitigation; adaptation and mainstreaming; climate change resources; and climate change information and knowledge. The climate change resources working group put forward that the regional backstopping mechanism be considered separately from any regional fund. The mechanism is aimed at strengthening capacity for regional agencies to rapidly respond to member requests.

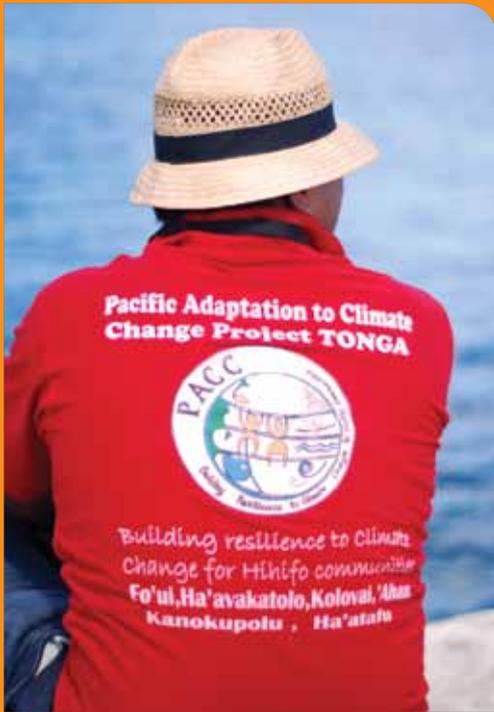
The Roundtable also discussed outcomes from the 2010 UNFCCC Meeting in Cancun, and agreed on a strategy to prepare Pacific island countries for the 17th Conference of the Parties to be held in Durban.

The 2013 PCCR will be held in conjunction with the Pacific Disaster Platform and the Pacific Meteorological Council. This will aim to align different regional policy frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management, which both expire in 2015. This is an opportunity to develop an integrated regional framework for disaster risk management and climate change.

National Level Climate Change Policy and Strategy

In 2011, SPREP Climate Change staff, through the Pacific Adaptation for Climate Change project (PACC), assisted in the development of climate change policies and Joint National Action Plans on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAPs) in the Republic of Marshall Islands, Niue, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Fiji (climate change policy). These were led by SPREP in partnership with SPC SOPAC Division, UNDP, PACC and the Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program (PASAP).

The Tuvalu Climate Change Policy and JNAP were produced in English and Tuvaluan, making it the first to be translated and published in a national language. Tuvalu's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour (MFATTEL) CEO, Tapugao Falefou, coordinated the process. He emphasised that the translation into Tuvaluan was very important, as people consulted in the outer islands would be able to read what they had prioritised, and implementation was dependent upon the full involvement of all communities.



“ Hands-on training, on-the-ground assessments, and a cost benefit analysis training workshop for water-sector pilot projects were also conducted during the year. ”

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project



The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project is SPREP’s flagship regional adaptation initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by SPREP, UNDP and other national and regional partners. PACC marks another significant year of progress with the inclusion of Tokelau as the 14th member country through support from the Australian Government.

As the project proceeds into its fourth year, member countries have moved from establishing management units and systems to implementation. The first stage included site-specific assessments, and the second stage involves demonstration of adaptation measures identified through the first stage.

Regional highlights for the year include policy development assistance and advisory support to countries on mainstreaming climate change into different sectors in each country. Hands-on training, on-the-ground assessments, and a cost-benefit analysis training workshop for water-sector pilot projects were also conducted during the year. Additionally, a review of PACC tools such as a guideline to ‘mainstream’ climate change risk into relevant governance projects, policies and strategies was initiated in late 2011.

National activities

The Federated States of Micronesia reviewed and amended the Kosrae State Code to recognise and include climate change adaptation measures in the design and construction of public infrastructure. This was passed by the 10th Kosrae State Legislature of Federated States of Micronesia on 11 March 2011. This is a significant achievement and a first in the Pacific region.

Nauru finalised its National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, a partnership of both the PACC and the SPC/SOPAC Integrated Water Resources Management project. The policy was due to be endorsed by cabinet in early 2012. Nauru established its first Water Unit under the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment as a result of the policy. This is a great achievement for Nauru, having had one of its major development concerns being addressed with incorporation of climate change risks into national planning.

Samoa introduced policy changes at the community grassroots level. Driven by consensus from village communities and government partners (Attorney General’s Office, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment – Water Resource Division, Legal Division), PACC Samoa developed village by-laws that have links to national law. This allows for effective regulation of the use and control of village natural resources such as surface water and sand. As a result of the development of these by-laws, the PACC project and the

Ministry further reviewed the national sand mining policy. Samoa has advanced well into the second stage of the project, completing its planned demonstration activities in three of five pilot sites. This has increased resilience of the coastal resources, community grounds and infrastructure, thus protecting people and their livelihoods.

Nauru installed solar-water purifier panels in selected households of its pilot site. It is currently monitoring changes in quality and quantity of potable water collected from this adaptation activity. The innovative technology allows for re-use and recycling of contaminated underground and rain water.

Cook Islands completed its geospatial framework assessment, or its ridge-to-reef assessment, as part of ground-truthing its pilot site – Mangaia Island. The assessment has resulted in the creation of a ‘calculator’ programme that develops coastal storm surge models and scenarios for the island. The programme, the results of which will be shared once the pilot is finished, is another ‘first’ for the PACC project. Trials continue with collaboration of engineers from the Cook Islands Ministry of Industry and Planning and scientists from SPREP’s Pacific Island Global Oceans Observations Systems programme, SPC/SOPAC, and the New Zealand National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research.

Fiji initiated five technical and scientific site-specific assessments to guide the development of climate-proof drainages around the country, especially in vulnerable farming communities. The assessments comprise: (i) climatology and hydrology; (ii) hydraulic engineering; (iii) storm and wave run up; (iv) vulnerability and adaptation; and (v) cost-benefit analysis.

Resources developed

PACC video documentaries were developed for Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Niue capturing the project’s plans, achievements and involvement of the community. The videos are available online through the climate change portal; UNDP’s Adaptation Learning Mechanism; and social media sites Facebook and YouTube.



A stand-alone solar system at Santa Ana in the Solomon Islands.

Improving Capacity, Knowledge & Understanding of Climate Change & Risks Reduction

Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership

In past years, regional support of national meteorological services has been coordinated through the Regional Meteorological Services Directors’ meeting (RMSD) coordinated by SPREP. In 2011, the RMSD met in Majuro and discussed terms of reference for setting itself up as the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC).

The first chair of the PMC is Republic of Marshall Islands National Weather Service Director, Reginald White. The PMC terms of reference describes the vision and functions of PMC in leading weather and climate services development in the region, in support of National Meteorological Services (NMS).

A 2010 regional review of meteorological capacity called on SPREP to strengthen its capacity to service needs of the RMSD (now the PMC). With the endorsement of the SPREP meeting, the Secretariat designed a Pacific Regional Desk concept in consultation with technical partners and directors of NMS. A Suva-based donor roundtable meeting was held in mid-June 2011, which discussed priorities for weather and climate services development in the region, and funding opportunities.

The 14th RMSD and the 1st PMC endorsed the “Desk” concept and renamed it the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership. It is based within SPREP’s new climate change division.

The 2011 SPREP Meeting endorsed the outcomes of the 1st PMC, and work continues to finalise the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategic Plan, which will be launched at the 2012 SPREP meeting in Noumea.



UNFCCC negotiations support

Throughout the year SPREP provided technical support to Pacific island countries in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. With support from the UK government, SPREP held a negotiations workshop in Apia in October, prior to the meeting of the 17th Conference of Parties (COP) in Durban. A refresher workshop was also held for negotiators in Durban.

At Durban, a key outcome was agreement to continue negotiating on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, although countries have yet to determine whether this period is five or eight years. There was also progress in many work areas. The Adaptation Committee established in Cancun had its initial work programme decided. This should assist SPREP with an improved focus on adaptation work in the UNFCCC, which to date has been fragmented. A designated SIDS seat was secured on the Adaptation Committee. The Green Climate Change Fund was also operationalised, with a SIDS seat (Samoa) also secured on this Board.

As of the end of 2011, the Adaptation Fund Board had approved projects for Solomon Islands (USD5.5 million), Samoa (USD5.7 million) and Cook Islands (USD5 million). Projects have also been endorsed for Fiji (USD5.7 million) and Papua New Guinea (USD5.2 million). Several other Pacific island members, including Niue, are currently working on developing proposals. It is estimated the fund will have available resources of USD250 to USD350 million by 2012.

SPREP has applied for accreditation as a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund so it can better support Pacific island members. This application was endorsed by several PICs, meeting the Adaptation Fund Secretariat requirement for endorsement by at least two PICs, as well as by the 2011 SPREP Meeting.

Throughout the Durban conference there was positive cooperation between SPREP and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (5Cs) through an Islands Pavilion, where many side events, joint meetings and activities were held. This co-operation builds on the MoU signed between the 5Cs and SPREP in June 2011.

Launch of landmark resources

During the COP, SPREP and the Pacific Climate Change Science Program jointly launched two landmark resources at the Islands Pavilion. The report *Climate Change in the Pacific: Scientific Assessment and New Research* as well as web-based projections tool *Pacific Climate Futures* were launched by Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Greg Combet, and Papua New Guinea Vice-Minister for Forestry and Climate Change, Ronald Asik. Australia has committed AUD328 million over five years to the Australian International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative with a key focus on least developed countries and Small Island Developing States. The reports can be found at www.pacificclimatefutures.net.

Pacific Climate Change Portal

SPREP is leading the development of the Pacific Climate Change Portal, which is a key action under the PIFACC. Guided by the recommendations of the Portal Business Study (2011) by Geoscience Australia, the study was endorsed by the PCCR and SPREP meetings in 2011. The key recommendations were to start simple, build on regional initiatives and partnerships, and establish a portal governance committee.

After meetings between SPREP and regional agencies, a user-needs survey was conducted with donors, partners and climate change practitioners in the Pacific. The GIZ-Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region project will provide Euro40,000 to support the development of the portal in 2012. Additional resources are expected from the second phase of the Australian Government's International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

A "soft" launch of the portal (www.pacificclimatechange.net) is scheduled in 2012.

Contributing to Global Greenhouse Gas Reduction

PIGGAREP

The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) assists 11 island members to effectively use renewable energy technologies at a national level. In 2011, PIGGAREP initiated a number of national and community energy projects and raised awareness about greenhouse gases and renewable energy. There was a focus on overcoming barriers to the use of renewable energy. Projects included filming a renewable energy DVD, setting up wind tower trials in Vanuatu, a bio-fuel study in Kiritimati Island, and installing stand-alone solar systems for a village in the Solomon Islands. PIGGAREP also gave financial assistance for renewable energy development in the Cook Islands. The PIGGAREP project has been extended to run until December 2013.

Wind Monitoring Towers for Vanuatu

In 2011, six towers with wind sensors were installed at different sites in Vanuatu to determine whether the locations were suitable for wind power development. The installation started in November and will be completed in early 2012. The wind sensors will map out the wind regime in the six sites for a period of 12–24 months.



Kiritimati Island Bio-fuel Feasibility Study

Inter-island travel can incur high fuel costs for people living on small, isolated islands. In 2011 a bio-fuel feasibility study was initiated to test whether bio-fuel feedstock can sustain bio-fuel production for electricity generation and transportation. The study is due to be completed in January 2012.

Solar PV systems for Solomon Islands village

For rural communities, improved lighting is of great importance. In 2011, 50 stand-alone solar photo voltaic systems were installed in 50 households on Santa Ana Island in the Solomon Islands, bringing electricity to more than 300 people. The Solomon Islands Government provided funding to buy the systems and PIGGAREP assisted with freight and installation. Anticipated benefits are: financial savings achieved from buying less kerosene; more study time for school children in the evenings; and less potentially harmful kerosene fumes for women and children, who usually light the kerosene lamps. The initiative is part of the Solomon Islands renewable energy goal to supply 50 per cent of the country's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2015.

Renewable Energy DVD

Success stories from around the region were the focus of a documentary produced in 2011. The *Renewable Energy in the Pacific Islands* series documented useful lessons and best-practice methods in renewable energy in the region and promoted the cost-effective use of commercial renewable energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gases.



“ Climate change is the key sustainable development challenge for Pacific island countries and territories. ”



Waste Management and Pollution Control

Pollution control and waste management is a key development issue and challenge for Pacific island countries. Waste and pollution pose major threats to the sustainable development of the Pacific region with their significant impacts on national environments, public health, drinking water quality, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and on people's overall quality of life.

Most Pacific nations have progressively shifted towards the use and reliance on non-biodegradable products, and management and control of wastes generated from use of these products is hampered by limited technological and financial capacities across the region. Marine pollution from both land and sea (from vessels) has also become a significant problem to migratory marine species and marine and freshwater ecosystems in general in the region. The quantities and types of waste that are generated in the region will continue to grow on an annual basis. As a consequence, waterways and coastal areas will continue to be impacted by wastes and pollutants from local sources as well as by pollutants and wastes originating from other countries.

Many of the governments in the region still do not classify waste management as a key development priority, as shown by the lack of prominence in national development strategies. Even when listed as a priority, the attention given through funding and personnel allocation often remains inadequate. Although nearly all Pacific countries and territories now have national waste management strategies and plans, their implementation is often incomplete owing to limited capacity, finance, awareness and access to appropriate and economical pollution and waste minimisation methods.

Furthermore, many of these strategies and plans have not been amended or updated to take into account the changing nature of the waste that now has to be dealt with and appropriate management

methods. The lack of appropriate legislation to govern the management of waste in the region still remains a big obstacle but work to improve this is progressing steadily.

The lack of proper controls on the importation of chemicals into the region, and the lack of capacity to manage the range of pollutants, including hazardous wastes, disposal of oil, and oil spill response still remain immediate and priority concerns for Pacific island nations.

In 2011 the Waste Management and Pollution Control personnel continued building capacity in the region to establish national waste management strategies and policies, strengthening regional links to deal with recycling, and assisting Pacific island members to comply with international conventions dealing with hazardous substances. SPREP also carried out training in the areas of oil spills, marine pollution enforcement, and contaminated site assessments. Much of this waste management and pollution control work continues to be determined and driven by the regional strategies and priorities adopted by the SPREP membership, such as the Regional Solid Waste Strategy, the Regional Asbestos Strategy, and the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program.



Solid Waste Management

Two major regional projects to build waste management capacity of PICTs began in 2011.

The Japan Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of the Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management (J-PRISM) officially began in February with the establishment of the project office at SPREP headquarters. This five-year, USD10-million project is implemented by JICA in collaboration with SPREP. It aims to strengthen the human and institutional capacity for solid waste management through implementing the Pacific Regional Solid Waste Management Strategy 2010–2015. At the end of 2011, there were nine JICA staff and experts working with counterparts in 11 countries to build capacity and ensure effective implementation.

The French Development Agency (AFD) Regional Solid Waste Initiative is a four-year, 1-million Euro project. It began in October and marks the culmination of almost five years of hard work and preparation by AFD and SPREP. The project will develop and deliver training programmes in waste management through regional institutions. It will also develop a regional framework for waste oil collection and disposal, and assist SPREP member states to develop funding proposals for future implementation.

National Planning and Implementation

Failing to plan is planning to fail. So goes the well-known maxim from American Army General and former American President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Similarly, the development of a National Solid Waste Management Strategy is seen as a fundamental prelude to achieving sustainable waste management systems in a Pacific island nation. It also conveys the region's long-term commitment to waste management to potential donors. In many cases, the strategy must also be converted into a state or local government waste management plan to ensure effective implementation across multiple jurisdictions. To achieve this, during 2011 SPREP provided technical training in waste management and technical assistance to prepare or finalise draft national waste management policy and strategies in the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau and Kavieng Province (Papua New Guinea). This assistance was often provided in partnership with JICA.

In addition to assistance on strategic planning for solid waste management, SPREP also provided direct financial assistance to countries to implement on-the-ground projects and activities such as a recyclable waste removal project in Tokelau. The project saw more than seven metric tonnes of recyclable waste transported to Samoa for further processing and export. The sale of the recyclables also generated much-needed revenue to support further recycling, and the relationship between waste managers in Tokelau and the recyclers in Samoa was strengthened to support future recycling activities.

Community Engagement

While the Secretariat works primarily with national governments, it is important to also engage at the community level where a small spark can ignite a fire that leads to attitudinal change. To this end, the Secretariat provided financial assistance to the LukaotemGud Santo Festival Committee in the Santo Province of Vanuatu to help create a clean and safe environment through an awareness campaign. The theme of the festival was *Look after Santo - make it clean and green*, and included activities such as distributing information on the impacts of plastic bags and the use of biodegradable rubbish containers for waste separation during the festival, biodegradable food containers, composing of a theme song for the festival, and a school awareness programme.

Exposing young minds to environmentally sound waste management is important for the future management of waste. This was the basis for a two-week school programme jointly organised in Samoa by a Japan Overseas Cooperation volunteer and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE), assisted by SPREP. Eleven primary and secondary schools, 147 students, and 20 teachers participated. The programme increased awareness of the Samoan Tafaigata semi-aerobic landfill operation and other good waste management practices. Similarly, SPREP assisted MNRE with a national media campaign to make residents aware of their obligations under the 2010 Waste Management Act.

Hazardous Waste Management

USD9M Support for Behaviour Change in Waste and Pollution Management

Every time a cooking fire is lit, or green waste from the garden is burnt in an open fire, highly toxic persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are released into the environment. SPREP, in partnership with UNEP and FAO, has successfully completed development of a project that could generate an additional USD9 million worth of funding to manage this problem in the region over the next five years. This includes promoting better composting techniques, improved hospital waste management, better use of agricultural chemicals, and cleaning sites contaminated with pesticides. The project will focus on demonstrating feasible, innovative technologies for POPs reduction and has been submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for funding support in 2012.

Contaminated Sites Assessed in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga

Agriculture is an important component of Pacific island economies as well as a critical source of local foods. Unfortunately, modern farming techniques resulted in the use of persistent pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin. When these pesticides were banned for use in the 1980s, unused stocks were often buried. In 2011 SPREP, in



Hazardous waste sampling PHOTO © F.TAFUNA'I

partnership with FAO, surveyed suspected contaminated burial sites in Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Tonga and found residual pesticides.

Sites in Niue, Samoa and Tonga have been prioritised for clean-up over the next two years using funding provided by FAO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

International Convention Training

The Waigani, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are key international agreements that regulate the use and trans-boundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in the Pacific. Parties to these conventions have committed to managing and tracking hazardous chemicals and wastes to make sure they are disposed of properly. However, country officials are often untrained in these procedures, and this places the Pacific region at risk. To improve this situation, SPREP coordinated a five-day capacity building workshop in Fiji in 2011, which was attended by 30 participants from 15 member countries. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the European Commission (ACP MEA project) generously made funding and training resources available for this workshop.

Better Regional Asbestos Management

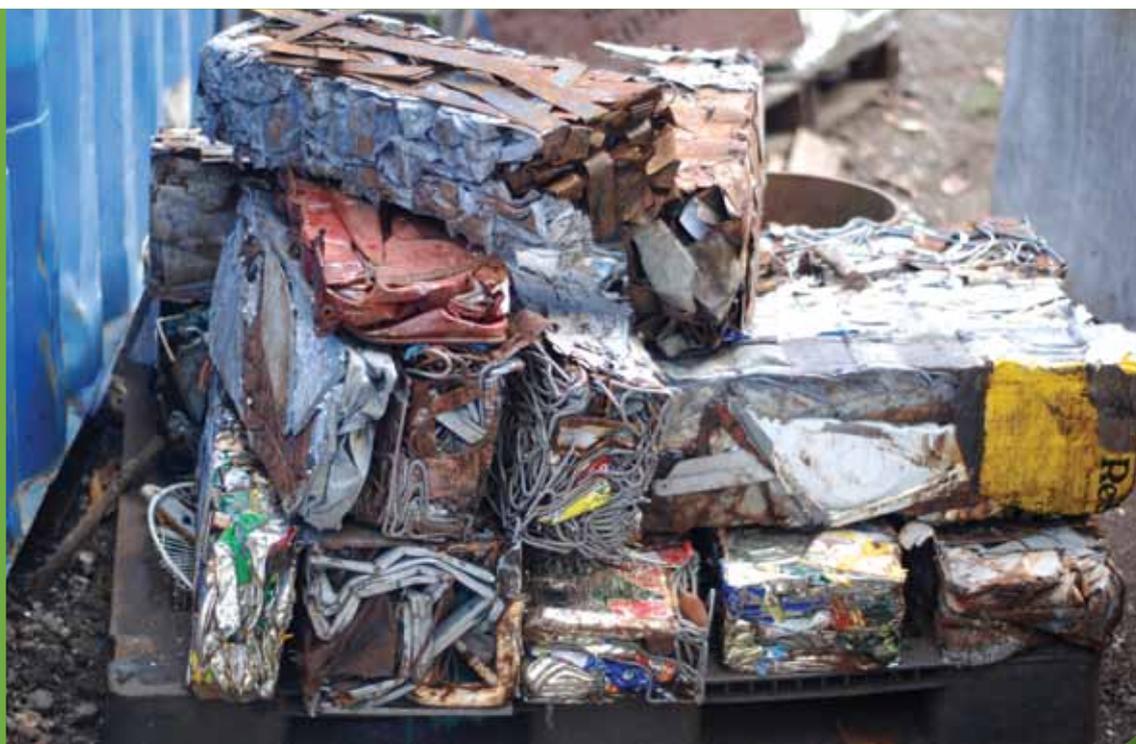
Asbestos is one of many hazardous wastes covered by international conventions. Unfortunately, construction materials containing asbestos fibres have been widely used in Pacific Island Countries and are still present in many older buildings.

As the Pacific is subject to periodic catastrophic weather and geological events such as tsunamis and cyclones, which are highly destructive to buildings, asbestos-containing materials are a significant waste and human health issue in many Pacific countries.

A regional asbestos management strategy developed by SPREP was endorsed by members in 2011. The strategy provides guidance on best practice in asbestos handling, including the adoption of minimum occupational health and safety guidelines for workers and citizens involved in asbestos handling operations. The strategy is supported by a five-year action plan, which includes a regional framework for actions and funding to manage the issue.

Assistance with ODS and Refrigerant Legislation for Fiji

Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigerators are highly destructive to the Earth's ozone layer, which protects us from the sun's harmful radiation. The Pacific islands are working towards better regulation or banning of these types of gases. In 2011 SPREP, in association with UNEP, assisted Fiji to reform national legislation to provide a comprehensive administrative and regulatory framework to control ODS and refrigerants, in accordance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its various amendments, which regulates these pollutants. This model legislation has been provided to all interested Pacific island countries. The ultimate phase-out of ODS will also result in a significant reduction of national greenhouse gas emissions.



Scrap metal collection for recycling PHOTO © A.TALOULI/SPREP



Workshop participants on board a vessel inspecting ballast water management documentation PHOTO © A.TALOULI/SPREP

“ The Secretariat’s marine pollution advisory work is focused on minimising shipping-related marine pollution. ”

Marine Pollution

Shipping-Related Marine Pollution

The Secretariat’s marine pollution advisory work is focused on minimising shipping-related marine pollution. This is achieved through the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme Strategy 2010–2014, in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Underpinned by the phrase “Think Globally, Act Locally”, activities throughout the year saw the institutionalisation of international maritime conventions, development and review of regional model legislations, and facilitation of regional and national trainings and workshops. Many of these activities were supported by key donors such as the IMO and the Taiwan/Republic of China, as well as key partners – the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime New Zealand, United States Coast Guard, and Interpol.

Waste Management on Ships

In July 2011 the IMO approved amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (better known as the MARPOL - “marine pollution” - Convention). These amendments will assist countries with unique circumstances such as Pacific island countries and territories in meeting obligations to provide adequate ship waste reception facilities under the convention through regional arrangements. This milestone for the region (and globally) in preventing marine pollution from vessels was made possible through the efforts of AMSA and the support of IMO member countries in the region. This outcome brings to an end nine years of work with the recognition that Pacific islands had difficulties in providing adequate ships’ waste reception facilities – an impediment for ratification of the MARPOL Convention.

Currently, nine Pacific island states are party to the convention – Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It is hoped that more Pacific island states can now sign up to the convention.



Oil Spill Exercise in Tuvalu PHOTO © D.HAYNES/SPREP

“ The training sessions were well attended with more than 150 participants from government ministries and private sector organisations. ”

Marine Invasive Species Management

Foreign marine species introduced into Pacific environments through ballast water discharges and marine fouling on the hulls of vessels represent major threats to the integrity of Pacific waters.

As part of the Shipping Related Invasive Marine Pests in the Pacific region strategy, regional training was carried out in Fiji to assist countries to implement the MARPOL Convention through the development of appropriate legislation. The training workshop was attended by 11 Pacific Island Countries and was followed up with national awareness seminars in Fiji, Marshall Islands and Tonga.

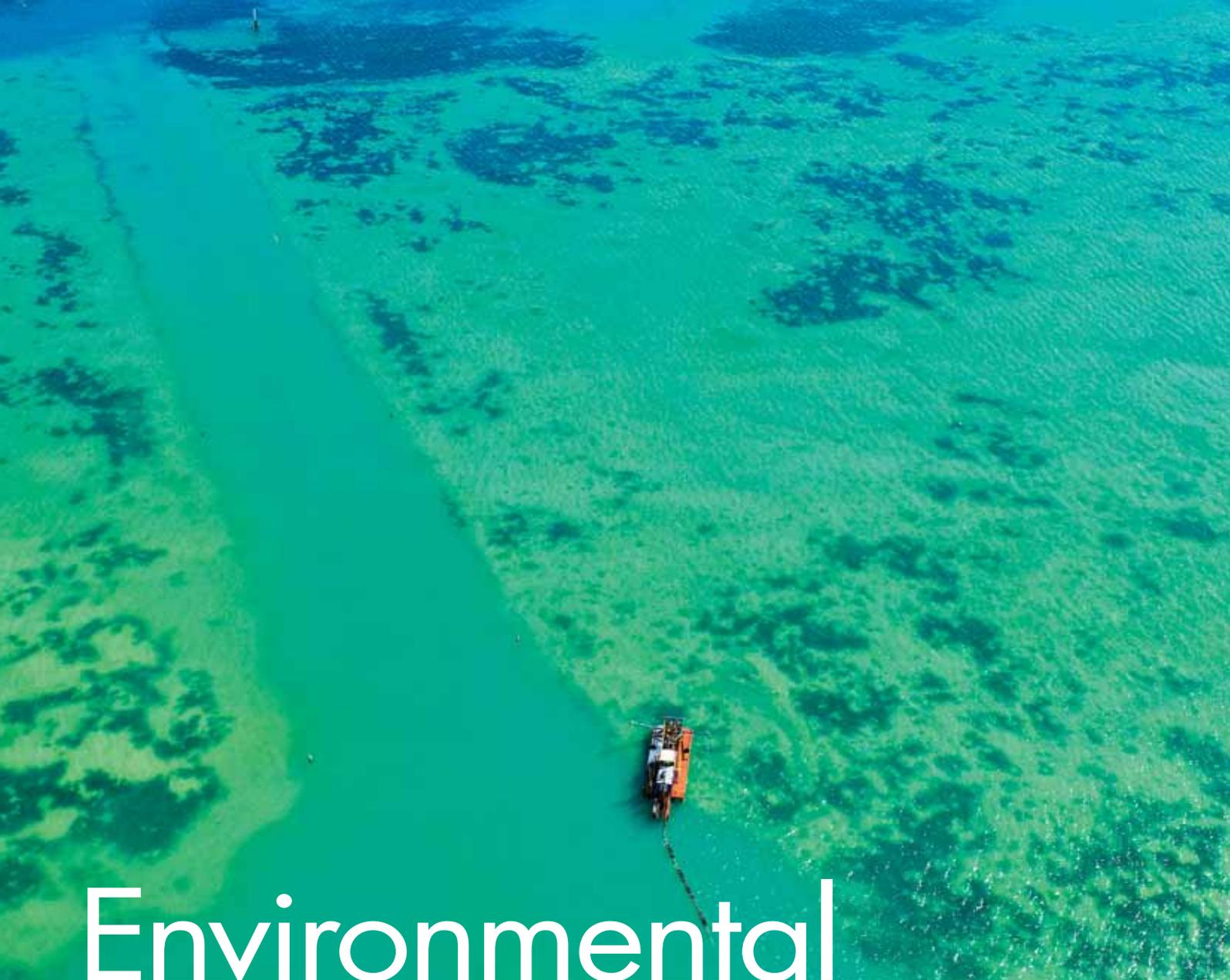
Marine Spills Preparedness

National oil spill training was conducted in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tonga. The training sessions were well attended with more than 150 participants from government ministries and private sector organisations. The training built on previous oil spill training that the Secretariat conducts every two to three years. The purpose of the oil spill training was to assist members in ratifying and implementing the Noumea Convention and Protocols as well as the International Convention on Oil Pollution Response, Preparedness and Cooperation (1990). The training helped strengthen national capacity in marine pollution planning, preparedness, and response by ensuring that countries have an updated National Marine Spill Contingency Plan.

Marine Pollution Enforcement Training

Most Pacific islands have very large Exclusive Economic Zones under their jurisdiction, and limited capacity for maritime enforcement. Consequently, many countries have experienced increases in oil pollution incidents from foreign fishing and other vessels over the years. The Secretariat continued building capacity in the area of marine pollution enforcement, in collaboration with Interpol and AMSA with two training sessions in Palau and Marshall Islands, funded by Taiwan/Republic of China.

The “Investigating Shipping Pollution Violations” training provided participants with enhanced awareness of vessel waste generation and technical aspects, as well as developing specific investigation techniques. One of the major outcomes of the training was increased knowledge of port state control requirements by the participants. The training was also very timely for Palau, which is the newest and 170th member of IMO and is embarking on the promulgation of a Registry Act, which enables registry of foreign vessels under the Palauan Flag. The Secretariat presented Palau and Marshall Islands with state-of-the-art oil sampling kits, purchased with funding supplied by AMSA and SPREP.



Mulifanua ferry channel PHOTO © S.CHAPE/SPREP

Environmental Monitoring and Governance

Environmental monitoring and governance (EMG) was created as a new strategic priority in SPREP's 2011–2015 Strategic Plan. This recognises the importance of strong governance frameworks that link environmental issues with sustainable development. It also acknowledges the need for establishing regional standards for monitoring and reporting environmental change.

In 2011, the main vehicle for implementing EMG activities has been the European Union-funded project "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries". This four-year multi-region project began in March 2009 and is executed by UNEP with SPREP as the Pacific hub. Funding support was also provided by AusAID and NZAID.

The MEA project builds on the National Capacity Self-Assessments and aims to strengthen national capacity to effectively implement and comply with multilateral environmental agreements, ensuring improved management of the environment and natural resources.



Farren Redfern of Kiribati and Tapa Suaesi (SPREP) prepare for UNCCD COP10.

The three main MEAs are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

A mid-term review carried out in June 2011 indicated that the project is progressing well, providing an operational and outreach programme that is delivering quality capacity-building services to Pacific island members. Lessons learnt from implementation are fed into the design of future projects, including:

- Mainstreaming is not a short-term process.
- Knowledge management is an integral part of the process.
- Each country's capacity building needs are different.
- Country approaches to mainstreaming are different.

SPREP's environmental monitoring and governance activities are carried out in four strategic areas: enabling frameworks, mainstreaming, capacity building, and monitoring and reporting.



Bruce Jefferies (SPREP), Louisa Karika (Cook Islands) and Chenchu Norbu, chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. PHOTO © N.WOONTON/SPREP

Enabling Frameworks

Negotiating at a Conference of the Parties (COP) to any environmental agreement can be an intimidating experience. Typically Pacific island countries are only able to send one or two delegates. This puts island nations at a disadvantage, especially when compared with the often large, experienced delegations from larger countries. COPs offer invaluable opportunities to voice national issues as well as regional concerns, and to build coalitions with other negotiating blocs for stronger joint negotiating positions.

In 2011, national negotiation training was run in Cook Islands, Niue, Timor Leste and Tonga. A total of seven countries have now received national training in this area, covering 141 participants from over 40 organisations or government departments. A Pacific negotiators booklet, *Taking the Floor – A Pacific Island Country Guide to Negotiating International Environmental Agreements*, was developed and used at each of the workshops.

UNCCD support

Technical assistance was provided to Pacific Island Country Parties for the production of 4th National Reports as required under the convention. Building on lessons from the Pacific preparatory meeting for the CBD COP in 2010, SPREP held a regional preparatory meeting for the UNCCD COP10, which was attended by 17 participants from 13 countries. Participants received media and negotiations training, developed a COP communications strategy and a Pacific islands brief.

At COP10, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, Chenchu Norbu, remarked upon the strong performance of the tight-knit Pacific team: "In the past I have not seen such active participation from the Pacific islands but more recently I have noticed our friends from the Pacific are not only engaging themselves in the contact group but also negotiating the text with our European Union and African friends."



Legal drafting

Legal drafting was carried out in the areas of climate change and marine pollution.

For climate change, new meteorology legislation was drafted for Vanuatu. The law incorporates new areas of geo-hazards and climate change responsibilities arising under the UNFCCC. Similar legislation is envisaged for Niue and Tonga. In addition, a new Decree was drafted for Fiji to reform the regulatory framework for ozone-depleting substances.

For marine pollution, model legislation on Ballast Water Management was drafted to regulate the discharge of ships' ballast water to prevent the transportation of alien invasive species. The existing regional Model Pollution Prevention Act was also revised to keep it current with recent developments at the global and regional levels.

Mainstreaming

Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, and Tuvalu received technical support with mainstreaming environmental issues into national planning processes. SPREP's approach is to promote multi-stakeholder consultations and work closely with local partners to build capacity and ensure national ownership.

Cook Islands

In the Cook Islands, SPREP assisted with the review of the Cook Islands National Sustainable Development Plan and the National Environment Strategic Action Framework. The framework was aligned into a more strategic document that better reflects the Cook Islands work and strategic priorities, and is more clearly linked to the development plan. The integrated planning approach will be introduced at the island level through two pilots in 2012. The two islands of Aitutaki and Mauke were selected with a focus on tourism and agriculture respectively.

Kiribati

Kiribati sought SPREP support with the drafting of an environmental policy and environmental strategic action plan. After in-country consultations, these were combined into a National Integrated Environment Policy (NIEP). The policy is linked to the new Kiribati Development Plan, currently being developed. The development plan has six key policy areas, and the NIEP is aligned with key policy area 4 (environment). The NIEP also guides the Ministry Operating Plan, which is part of the annual national budget process.

Tuvalu

Assistance was provided to Tuvalu to formulate a Climate Change Policy and the National Strategic Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2012–2015. These were also used in the review of Tuvalu's 10-year National Sustainable Development Plan – "Te Kakienga II".

Rio+20

Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), commonly known as Rio+20, was a major focus of SPREP's mainstreaming work. Rio+20 will be held in June 2012. The CROP Heads delegated the regional preparations for Rio+20 to the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), of which SPREP and PIFS are co-chairs. The SDWG is working with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the UN agency overseeing regional preparations. Rio+20 will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The Pacific Preparatory Meeting was held in Samoa and had two parts:

- an open forum on 20 and 21 July; and
- a Joint Ministerial Meeting between the regional ministers of environment, finance and fisheries on 22 July, which produced a regional Outcomes Document.

The Outcomes Document was sent to the Secretariat for the UNCSO, the SIDS Inter-regional Meeting in New York in September, and the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Korea in October. SPREP also provided technical advice to the Pacific Small Island Developing States missions at the United Nations, which are closely involved with the ongoing global negotiations. These efforts were reflected in the inclusion of many of the Pacific region's key issues in the Zero Draft for the Rio+20 Outcomes Document circulated in December. The two key issues for the Pacific are: highlighting the role of oceans in the green economy; and maintaining the special case for Small Island Developing States. The latter issue centres on the special vulnerabilities and inherent lack of capacities of islands owing to remoteness, small size, small administrations and small populations.

Capacity Building

Determining the reporting framework and database structure is the first phase of strengthening national and regional capacity to carry out monitoring and regular state of the environment (SOE) reporting. This process is being led by the SPREP monitoring working group. The working group will convene an inter-CROP agency workshop in 2012 to facilitate the development of a regional framework of environmental indicators and monitoring database.

Capacity-building activities were conducted with the Kiribati and Samoa environment divisions to better monitor and evaluate environmental trends in mangroves and in protected and biologically significant areas. Technical advice was also given to Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on EIA processes and review of EIAs for key development projects, which include road upgrading, fish processing plants, waste incinerator plants, mining, hydro damming, and artificial shoreline beach development. A scoping mission was made to Federated States of Micronesia to develop EIA guidelines that mainstreamed sustainable land management and climate proofing measures at both federal and state levels.

Monitoring & Reporting

The Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue and Samoa received training for SOE reviews. Workshops were held for technical and policy teams of government, non-government and civil society organisations on the Integrated Environmental Assessment process and tools for reviewing and mainstreaming SOE into national development planning processes.

A SPREP-led peer review and revision of the Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook report was carried out by USP, SPC, SPREP and PIFS with assistance from UNEP. Member countries' comments will be included in the report, which is due to be published in 2012.



“ Rio+20 will focus on two themes . . . a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and . . . the institutional framework for sustainable development. ”

Delegates prepare for Rio+20

PHOTO © N.WOONTON/SPREP



Communications, Education and Knowledge Management

Communications & Education

Communications, awareness, education and outreach continue to play a significant role in the work of the Secretariat. A highlight for the outreach team this year was the Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders' (PEEL) Symposium, which brought together 25 young professionals from different disciplines who were selected on merit from across the Pacific islands region.

Members of the PEEL Network have committed to being leaders for the environment and sustainable development in the region in line with the SPREP Strategic Plan. These young leaders will work with other young professionals to strengthen the network and build environmental leadership across the region.

During the year, SPREP's outreach team expanded its media support and worked alongside not only those reporting for the media, but also those talking to media. The Secretariat ran media skills presentations for Pacific island delegates to assist them with dealing with local and international media. This training was incorporated into SPREP workshops and supported by the European Union-funded project "Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries".

To raise the quality and quantity of environmental reporting in the region, national and regional print and broadcast media were targeted through training programmes conducted in partnership with UNESCO and the Vois Blong Yumi Initiative, as well as the Vision Pasifika journalist award for environmental reporting and through the organisation's ongoing input to scheduled media programmes. Environmental issues continued to be given prominence in the media through the support of The Pacific Islands Business and Radio Australia.

Regionally, SPREP maintained a significant and on-going presence at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Auckland. A week-long exhibit showcased progress in renewable energy development in the region, highlighting the SPREP-led Pacific Island Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) in collaboration with SPC and IUCN, under the Pacific Energy Policy Partnership.

In 2011, the "Pacific Voyage" campaign concept was used successfully again, this time at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Durban, South Africa. The campaign was based on lessons from the first "Pacific Voyage" initiated at the 2010 Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. SPREP member countries met with the outreach team well before the COP and agreed on key messages, and tasked the communications and outreach team with developing these further. A communication strategy was developed to guide the campaign activities. An "Island Pavilion", hosted by SPREP and the Caribbean Climate Change Community Centre, was also a feature of the Durban conference. This was a successful venture that held lunchtime events on joint issues of interest, displayed Pacific resources and allowed for a meeting and press conference space for Pacific and Caribbean delegates.

Communications support such as editing and designing publications, developing promotional material, media announcements and communications support at key events for SPREP's strategic priority areas of climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, and waste management were provided throughout the year.

Finally, education of children remains an important aspect of SPREP's outreach programme, and work has begun on a climate change children's storybook, due to be published in 2012. SPREP also renewed its partnership with PREL — Pacific Resources for Education and Learning — and organised a climate change education workshop for teachers and curriculum developers in the Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands. The workshop has set the foundation for further input into climate change education within the school system, with activities planned for the state of Kosrae in Federated States of Micronesia in mid-2012.



“ . . . new modern look and design that is more intuitive and user friendly . . . ”

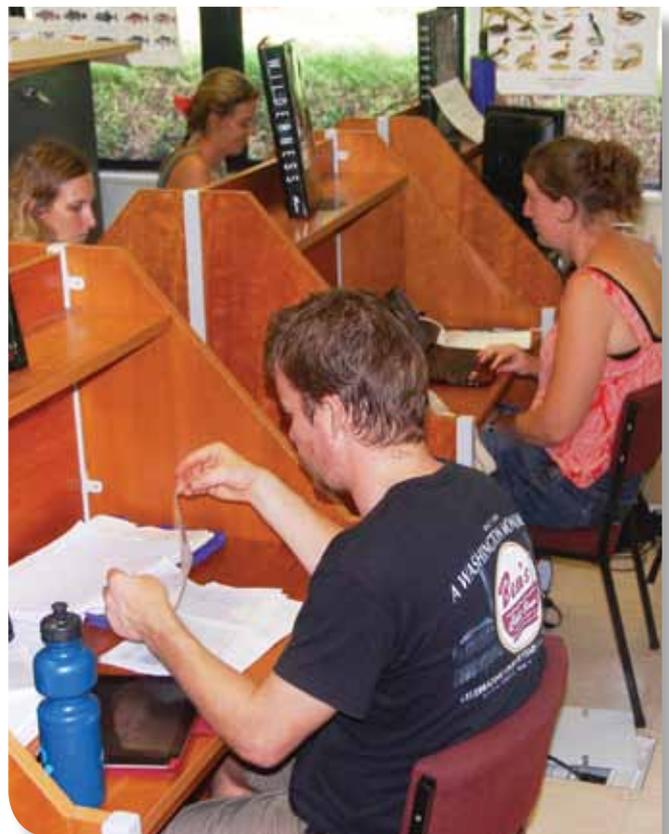


New-Look Website

Websites are the virtual face of organisations. How a website looks and navigates can be a metaphor for the professionalism of the organisation. The recruitment of a web applications developer specialist set into motion the redesign of the new SPREP website. Consultations and input from members provided direction for the development of the new website.

With a new modern look and design that is more intuitive and user friendly, the website, currently being trialled, will be launched in February 2012. One important feature we have included is a section that provides information on each SPREP member country or territory.

Please visit www.sprep.org to experience our new website.



Knowledge Management

IRC and Library

The Information Resource Centre (IRC) and library has continued to strengthen access to its online and hardcopy literature through its online library database. The library secured a free subscription to an additional online journal archive service called HINARI. This is mainly related to the health area but it is an opportunity to access relevant information on environmental health, chemical waste and related topics.

Various information and publication requests were received by the library throughout the year. The library completed two bulk mailings of complimentary publications to CROP and institutional, academic and government libraries around the region and abroad.

A special addition to the library service was the availability of the first Wi-Fi reading room. This is particularly important for researchers, SPREP staff and meeting participants, who can now continue their work from within the library.

The amalgamation of the Registry/Records area to the library was another major activity during the year. One of the positive outcomes of this amalgamation is the continuing work on the SPREP archives by registry staff.

Information Network

E-resources available via the Pacific Environment Information Network (PEIN) virtual environment libraries were reviewed during the move from SPREP's old website to the new and current one. New resources have been added and are organised in a more user-friendly way on the new website. PEIN is also available on Facebook, which has proven to be an excellent complement to the SPREP website.

We continued to strengthen our collaboration with the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS) network with the SPREP librarian attending the 15th PIMRIS Executive Meeting in Fiji in March. There is still much work to be done, including updating the Pacific Islands Marine Portal.

Some of the challenges faced by the CROP libraries during this period were due to the resignations of librarians at the three major organisations: SPREP, SPC and PIMRIS at the same time.



Corporate Services



The cog that keeps the wheels turning at SPREP is our Corporate Services team. Encompassing human resources, finance and administration, information technology, as well as the information resource centre and archives, and the communications and outreach team, Corporate Services is a vital part of the SPREP team.

The year has been a challenging one for the team, with the organisational restructuring, several recruitments, the introduction of a new performance development system, compliance with an increasing number of donor audits and a European Union institutional assessment.

Human Resources

The new Performance Development System (PDS) for staff of the Secretariat was implemented on 1 January. The new system shifted from the traditional personal evaluation assessment on anniversary dates to a performance-focused, results-oriented process aligned to the Performance and Monitoring Evaluation period. Major changes involved establishing specific annual targets, a mid-year performance review and feedback to managers and supervisors. The SPREP Meeting approved that the same system should be applied to the Director General.

The new salary banding model adopted by all CROP agencies and approved by the SPREP Meeting also took effect on 1 January. This banding model has strong links to the new PDS, where salary progressions are strictly based on performance. The strengthening of the performance culture within the Secretariat was a key highlight of the year.

On-going development and revision of HR policies and procedures led to the Senior Management Team approving key policies and procedures. These included recruitment and selection, performance development, learning and development. Staff policies supporting terms and conditions of employment in line with the staff regulations and responding to market conditions were also approved.

The new organisation structure saw the realigning and streamlining of a number of Secretariat functions to support the Strategic Plan priorities. A full Job Evaluation exercise was carried out that revised all job descriptions, which now also include performance indicators and, most importantly, reflect the organisational values and code of conduct for all Secretariat staff.

The Staff Satisfaction Survey was conducted for the third time to monitor progress and address staff issues, with 53 per cent of staff taking part (up 1 per cent from 2010). The 2010 survey showed a significant increase in overall staff satisfaction, with 74 per cent of staff rating their morale as high or very high. However, the survey cautioned that this surge may be a reaction to a new management team and recent initiatives rather than long-term changes or trends. In 2011, high to very high morale was 55 per cent, with 32 per cent at satisfactory level. Almost all staff who completed the survey commented that staff morale had greatly improved from two to three years ago.

The Secretariat continued to play an active role in the CROP Harmonisation Working Group. Work began on implementing the Human Resources Information Systems, starting with the design and planning phases for the replacement of the existing payroll system. Selection for the consultant for the 2012 Triennial Review for Internationally Recruited Staff also took place, with organisation-wide consultations undertaken in the latter part of the year.



SPREP Finance team meeting

Administration

The alignment of all information resources functions was further strengthened by the relocation of the Registry and Archives Unit to the Information and Resources Centre. The Administration section continued to provide management and maintenance of the Secretariat's compounds and assets, including reassigning and relocating certain sections to cater for the growing number of staff and partners.

Staff Numbers

The number of staff positions rose to 69 in 2011, up from 64 in 2010: 46 at the professional level and 23 at the support services level. At the end of the year, 57 of the positions were filled and eight were under recruitment, and the remaining were programme positions awaiting funding confirmation. A total of eight new staff (programme level) joined SPREP. One short-term intern opportunity was made available to provide assistance and to strengthen the work of the Communications Unit, mainly in the media and publications area. Four staff, all at the programme level, left the organisation during the year. One completed their contract, while the rest left for personal reasons.

Staff distribution in terms of nationality and gender remained similar to the previous year. For programme positions 73 per cent were from Pacific island countries, 19 per cent from metropolitan member countries and 8 per cent from non-member countries; of these 35 per cent were females and 65 per cent males. However, for programme and support staff combined, there was an equal proportion of females and males.

Information Technology

Data centres and computer networks usually account for a high percentage of the total energy consumption of many companies. Here at SPREP, the IT department has introduced "Green Lab" technology. SPREP currently houses a computer training lab that boasts both cost effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

Green Lab uses technology called "desktop virtualisation", which is an infrastructure that shares the resources of one computer over several workstations through a local network connection.

Using only one computer significantly lowers the amount of energy needed to run the lab. On average, one personal computer needs 300 watts to run, whereas each workstation in the Green Lab uses only between one and five watts. SPREP's energy consumption has gone from around 4800 watts needed for 16 computers, to less than 192 watts for the same number of virtual desktop workstations.

Energy consumption is reduced further because the virtual desktop environment produces less heat than a computer, which means less air conditioning is needed to cool the lab.

A very important point about this model is that it also produces very little e-waste, which is a growing concern in the Pacific region. We will also be implementing this same model in the SPREP library.

SPREP is recommending Green Lab as an alternative cost-effective and environmentally friendly IT solution, and can provide assistance in terms of procuring and installing equipment provided funds are made available by member countries for this. The greening of the SPREP IT lab is part of a wider exercise undertaken by the Secretariat to ensure that the SPREP compound becomes a Green compound including being energy neutral.

Finance

EU Institutional Assessment

The EU undertook an institutional assessment of SPREP in June 2011 and issued a positive result for all areas. The assessment focused on the Finance and Human Resource functions of accounting, auditing, internal control, and procurement. The successful outcome was a major boost to the Secretariat. The result reflects improvements that were put in place after SPREP was unsuccessful in passing the EU assessment in 2009. SPREP and its members are now well positioned to receive funding from the EU.

Another key achievement in financial reporting was the compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). For many years, the financial statements did not fully comply with IFRS owing to financial regulations adopted by SPREP's governing body. In 2011 Finance revamped financial reporting to comply with IFRS, which included re-stating the 2009 accounts as the comparative figures to the 2010 accounts.



Palau Rock Islands PHOTO © S.CHAPE/SPREP

Finances 2011

Donor Funds							
DETAILS	Balance 01-Jan-11	Actual Funds Received	Total Funds Available	Programme Support	Expenses	Other Adjs	Balance 31-Dec-12
AusAID Extra Budget	243,462	1,279,094	1,522,556	(134,049)	1,352,810	10,056	45,752
AusAID Extra Extra Budget	216,742	1,815,214	2,031,956	(94,214)	(1,166,197)	(11,023)	760,522
British High Commission	22,860		22,860	(873)	(8,733)		13,254
Bishop Museum	(234)		(234)				(234)
Commonwealth Secretariat	14,045		14,045				14,045
Conservation International	111,756	40,557	152,313	(3,712)	(60,165)		88,435
European Union	51,841	2,764	54,605		(1,305)		53,300
Finnish Institute of Meteorology	(747)	112,811	112,064	(8,033)	(103,054)		977
Food and Agriculture Organization	36,308	35,000	71,308	(408)	(4,083)		66,816
Government of Canada	2,180		2,180				2,180
Government of France	(113,002)	513,714	400,712	(11,834)	(116,552)		272,327
Government of Japan	8,397	704	9,101	(160)	(1,600)		7,341
Government of Switzerland	(25)	169,950	169,925	(15,433)	(154,333)		159
International Maritime Organization	16,449	89,251	105,700	(5,247)	(55,210)		45,244
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	(21,806)	979,945	958,139	(88,602)	(857,642)		11,895
NZAid Extra Extra Budget	23,989	154,172	178,161	(7,958)	(90,509)		79,694
Pacific Development & Conservation Trust	919		919				919
Parkard Foundation	(209)		(209)				(209)
People's Republic of China	10,298		10,298				10,298
Other Funds	575,165	354,840	930,005	(53,495)	(454,845)	968	422,633
Ramsar Secretariat	12,014	84,985	96,999	(9,743)	(97,431)		(10,175)
The Nature Conservancy	(31,539)	68,018	36,479	(4,382)	(43,819)		(11,721)
The Christensen Foundation	11,568		11,568				11,568
United Nations Development Program	193,226	3,697,163	3,890,389	(188,255)	(3,163,533)		538,601
United Nations Environment Program	233,466	952,794	1,186,260	(103,902)	(797,453)		284,906
United Nations Institute for Training & Research	127,856	40,000	167,856	(15,757)	(168,278)		(16,179)
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	1,439		1,439	(131)	(1,347)		(39)
US Dept. of State	121,274	60,000	181,274	(303)	(7,557)		173,414
US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration	(81,592)	124,900	43,308	(2,382)	(23,661)		17,265
US Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council	(134)	71,166	71,032	(6,726)	(67,262)		(2,956)
World Health Organization	2,456	2,456					2,456
TOTAL	1,834,473	10,647,044	12,481,517	(755,601)	(8,797,378)	(0)	2,928,538

Finances 2011

Member Contributions	(USD)
American Samoa	10,184
Australia	185,106
Cook Islands	10,154
Federated States of Micronesia	10,184
Fiji	20,360
France	134,202
French Polynesia	20,360
Guam	-
Kiribati	10,159
Marshall Islands	12,492
Nauru	10,159
New Caledonia	24,936
New Zealand	134,202
Niue	12,492
Northern Mariana Islands	-
Palau	-
Papua New Guinea	-
Samoa	20,360
Solomon Islands	20,360
Tokelau	10,184
Tonga	-
Tuvalu	21,421
United States of America	200,000
Vanuatu	-
Wallis and Futuna	12,943
TOTAL	880,258

Parties to the Noumea Convention	
Australia	3,598
Federated States of Micronesia	450
Fiji	450
New Zealand	11,754
Samoa	450
TOTAL	16,702

Parties to the Waigani Convention	
Australia	21,595
Federated States of Micronesia	982
Fiji	982
New Zealand	16,196
Samoa	982
TOTAL	40,737

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	880,258
Programme Management Charge	755,601
Programme/donor funds income	8,797,378
Other Donor funds income	254,450
Amortisation of deferred income	108,234
Other income	96,416
TOTAL INCOME	10,892,337

Expenditure	
Executive Management & Corporate Support	2,637,884
Island Ecosystem Programme	2,169,977
Pacific Futures Programme	6,627,401
Depreciation expense	155,818
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,591,080

**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, 2011, the statement of financial position as of that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's responsibility for the Financial Report

Management are 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 to them 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, 2011, and of its statements of financial performance, changes in reserves, and its cash flows for the year ended on that date;
 - b. give 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.

Audit Report Cont'd

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 31 December 2011 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- b) There are no matters to report which affect the completeness and accuracy of the accounts.
- 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.

A. Betham F.C.A.
BETHAM & CO.
 Certified Public Accountants
 Apia, Samoa
 17th May, 2012

Publications

Reports	SBN/ISSN	Pages
An asbestos-free Pacific: a regional strategy and action plan/David Haynes ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0419-9 (print) 978-982-04-0420- (online)	26p.
Contribution to the biological inventory and resource assessment of the Chesterfield reefs = Contribution à l'inventaire biologique et à l'évaluation des ressources sur les récifs des Chesterfield / Jonathan Werry ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0417-5 (print) 978-982-04-0418-2 (online)	256p.
Dugongs: Respect and Protect: dugong profile for range states in the Pacific Islands	978-98204-0435-9 (print) 978-982-04-0436-6 (online)	24 p.
Good coastal management practices in the Pacific: experiences from the field / Hugh Govan	978-982-04-0427 (print) 978-982-04-0428 (online)	42 p.
Pacific Island biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change adaptation : building on nature's resilience / Terry Hills ... [et al.]	978-982-04-0425-0 (print) 978-982-04-0426-7 (online)	48 p.
Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 (2nd edition)		52 p.
Plan Strategique : 2011–2015 (SPREP)	978-982-04-0400-7 (print)	36 p.
Strategic Plan : 2011–2015 (SPREP)	978-982-04-0400-7 (print)	36 p.
Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands : 2011–2013	978-982-04-0415-1 (print) 978-982-04-0416-8 (online)	
Value island biodiversity – it's our life	978-982-04-0421-2 (print) 978-982-04-0422-9 (online)	19 p.
Series		
SPREP Annual Report 2010 – Value island biodiversity – it's our life	562-675X	48 p.
Rapport annuel du PROE 2010 – La biodiversité insulaire – un gage de vie	1990-3561	48 p.
Factsheets	Pull-up Banners	
Pacific Dugongs Working together to save dugongs Pacific seagrasses	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Food Security Food Production Coastal Zone Management Water Resource Management Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) SPREP General (Eng, Fre)	
CD/DVDs		
Toolbox for ecosystems, biodiversity and climate change adaptation in the Pacific islands: tools and case studies Version 1. July 2011 Renewable Energy in the Pacific Series : success stories and lessons learnt		
Posters		
Respect and Protect Dugongs and the Coastal Environment		

Meetings/Workshops Reports

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention, 3 September 2010, Madang, Papua New Guinea

Report of a meeting of the marine sector working group (MSWG) in association with the Pacific Islands Roundtable Meeting of 5–7 July 2010, Apia, Samoa

Report of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya, Japan 18–29 October 2010

PACC Multipartite Review Report

Report of the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention, 2 September 2010, Madang, Papua New Guinea

Technical meeting of the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC)

Report of the Twenty-first SPREP Meeting, 6–10 September 2010, Madang, Papua New Guinea

Report and Recommendations, Socioeconomic Assessment for Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SEA-PACC) Training Workshop, Kosrae, 20–23 September 2010

Training Summary Report Socioeconomic Assessment for Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SEA-PACC) Training Workshop Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands 15–19 November 2010

Training Summary Report Socioeconomic Assessment for Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (SEA-PACC) Training Workshop for Food Security Country Teams Koror, Palau, 13–17 December 2010

Implementing the Nagoya Outcomes: Review and Planning - report of the Pacific post CBD COP 10 Meeting, Nadi, Fiji 16–20 May 2011

SPREP Logo guidelines

SPREP Work Programme & Budget for 2012

Online Resources

Links

Bionesian Blog

<http://bionesian.blogspot.com>

Climate Pasifika Blog

<http://www.climatepasifika.blogspot.com>

Multilateral Environmental Agreements:
Pacific regional clearinghouse mechanism

<http://www.sprep.org/Multilateral-Environmental-Agreements/pacific-regional-clearinghouse-mechanism>

PACC on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pacific-Adaptation-to-Climate-Change-Project/138318312894166>

PEIN on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network-PEIN/101762106535767>

PEIN on YouTube: Videos about the Pacific environment directory

<http://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/youtube-environment-videos-directory>

PEIN Regional Frameworks and Strategies directory

<http://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/pacific-environment-information-network-pein-country-profiles-directory>

PEIN Virtual Library of Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Environmental Management

<http://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/lessons-learned-and-best-practices-in-environment-management>

Environment Management directory SPREP Corporate Documents online archive

<http://www.sprep.org/Publications/Corporate-Documents/>

Articles/Newsletters/Brochures/Stickers

PEIN Newsfeed

PACC Project pamphlet

Pacific Wasteline Newsletter

PACC 2011 Calendar

International Pollution Regulations – Prohibited sticker

PACC Country Newsletters

Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) Strategy 2010-2014: summary for policy makers

PACC Snapshot

World Wetlands Day 2011 insert

STAFF LIST AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

Staff Member	Designation	Country	Contract Expiry Date	
Executive Management				
1	David Sheppard	Director	Australia	05-Oct-12
2	Kosi Latu	Deputy Director	Samoa	20-Jul-14
3	Stuart Chape	Programme Manager	Australia	04-Aug-14
4	Netatua Pelesikoti	Programme Manager	Tonga	29-Nov-12
Island Ecosystems				
5	Seema Deo	Education & Social Communications Adviser	Fiji	12-Mar-12
6	Easter Galuvao	Biodiversity Adviser	Samoa	11-Apr-13
7	Alan Tye	Invasive Species Adviser	United Kingdom	29-Jun-13
8	Tim Carruthers	Coastal Management Adviser	Australia	5-Jun-14
9	Gillian Key	Capacity Development Adviser	United Kingdom	27-Sep-13
10	Lui Bell	Marine Species Officer	Samoa	02-Oct-14
11	Paul Anderson	Marine Conservation Analyst	USA	17-Mar-12
12	Vainuupo Jungblut	Ramsar Officer Oceania	Samoa	22-Feb-12
13	Posa Skelton	Pacific Invasives Learning Network Coordinator	Samoa	29-Jun-13
14	Bruce Jefferies	Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Officer	NZ	10-Jan-14
15	Catherine Siota	Associate Turtle Database Officer	Solomon Islands	12-May-13
16	Vacant	GEF Project Facilitator		
17	Vacant	CMS Pacific Officer		
18	Vacant	Coral Reef Management Officer		
19	Vacant	Ecosystem-based Adaptation Officer		
Pacific Futures				
20	David Haynes	Pollution Prevention & Waste Management Adviser	Australia	03-Jun-13
21	Anthony Talouli	Marine Pollution Adviser	Fiji	20-Apr-13
22	Espen Ronneberg	Climate Change Adviser	Marshall Islands	28-Oct-12
23	Taito Nakalevu	Project Manager - Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change	Fiji	05-Apr-12
24	Sefanaia Nawadra	Sustainable Development Adviser	Fiji	26-Feb-14
25	Esther Richards	Solid Waste Officer	St Vincent the Grenadines	11-Aug-14
26	Diane McFadzien	Climate Change Adaptation Officer	Cook Islands	12-Nov-13
27	Tepa Suaesi	Environmental Officer	Samoa	27-Jun-13
28	Makelesi Gonalevu	Knowledge Management Officer	Fiji	30-Mar-14
29	Peniamina Leavai	Project Officer - Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change	Samoa	30-Jun-13
30	Nixon Kua	Climate Change Mitigation Officer	Solomon Islands	29-Jun-13
31	Sili's Kilepoa Ualesi	Project Manager - Pacific Islands Greehouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	Samoa	12-Jun-14
32	Philip Wiles	Pacific Islands - Global Ocean Observing Systems Coordinator	NZ	06-Aug-14
33	Vacant	GEF Support Adviser	Samoa	
34	Vacant	Pacific Islands - Global Climate Observing System Officer	Samoa	

STAFF LIST AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

Staff Member	Designation	Country	Contract Expiry Date	
Corporate Services				
35	Clark Peteru	Legal Adviser	Samoa	12-Feb-13
36	Alofa Tu'uau	Finance Manager	Samoa	23-Jul-14
37	Kapeni Matatia	IT Manager	Samoa	31-Dec-11
38	Christian Slaven	Database Developer & Administrator	Samoa	09-Apr-12
39	Epeli Tagi	IT Network & Systems Support Engineer	Fiji	06-Jan-14
40	Simeamativa Leota-Vaai	HR & Administration Manager	Samoa	07-Jan-13
41	Nanette Woonton	Media & Public Relations Officer	Cook Islands	5-Sep-13
42	Billy Chan Ting	Web Applications Developer Specialist	Samoa	13-Feb-14
43	Makereta Kaurasi-Manueli	Project Accountant	Fiji	14-Apr-12
44	Vacant	Publications Officer		
45	Vacant	Information Resource Centre Manager		
46	Vacant	Management Accountant		
Support Staff				
1	Rosanna Galuvao	Executive Assistant to Director	Samoa	30-May-13
2	Apiseta Eti	Executive Assistant to Deputy Director	Samoa	31-Dec-12
3	Maraea Slade-Pogi	Assistant Accountant	Samoa	13-Sep-12
4	Luana Chan-Jamieson	Personnel Officer	Samoa	11-Aug-14
5	Lupe Silulu	Registry Supervisor	Samoa	31-Dec-12
6	Petaia I'amafana	Property Services Officer	Samoa	11-Jan-12
7	Makerita Atiga	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoa	02-Aug-14
8	Joyce Tulua	Secretary to Programme Manager	Samoa	29-Jul-13
9	Pauline Fruean	Conference & Travel Officer	Samoa	07-Sep-13
10	Miraneta Williams	Assistant Librarian	Samoa	31-Mar-14
11	Ioane Iosefo	Finance Officer	Samoa	02-Mar-14
12	Leilani Chan Tung	Finance Officer	Samoa	27-Apr-12
13	Theresa Fruean	Programme Assistant	Samoa	13-Apr-12
14	Pulemalie Habiri	Programme Assistant	Samoa	03-Oct-13
15	Helen Tuilagi Ah-Kuoi	Records Management Assistant	Samoa	27-Apr-12
16	Monica Tupai	Receptionist/ Fax Operator	Samoa	30-Dec-12
17	Faamanatu Sititi	Driver/Clerk	Samoa	05-Dec-14
18	Silupe Gafa	Groundsman	Samoa	31-Mar-14
19	Amosa To'oto'o	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-13
20	Tologauvale Leaula	Cleaner/Teaperson	Samoa	31-Dec-12
21	Vacant	Assistant HR Officer		
22	Vacant	Assistant HR Officer		
23	Vacant	Finance Officer Accounts Payable		

Acronyms and Abbreviations

5Cs	Caribbean Community Climate Change Center	IRC	Information Resource Centre
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	IT	Information Technology
ABSCDI	Access and Benefit Sharing Capacity Development Initiative	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific (countries of the Lome Convention)	IYOB	International Year of Biodiversity
AFD	Agence française de développement (French Development Agency)	J-PRISM	Japan Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management
AMOSC	Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	JNAP	Joint National Action Plan
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CI-CEPF)	MFATTEL	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour (Tuvalu)
CI	Conservation International	MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa)
CLAIM	CROP Library, Archives and Information Management	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	MSWG	Marine Sector Working Group
COP	Conference of the Parties	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CRISP	Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	NIEP	National Integrated Environment Policy (Kiribati)
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia)	NMS	National Meteorological Services
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	NMSA	National Maritime Safety Authority (Papua New Guinea)
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand)
EBSAs	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas	NMS	National Meteorological Service
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan (Cook Islands)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	NSEAF	National Environment Strategic Action Framework (Cook Islands)
EU	European Union	ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
FIST	Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce	PACPOL	Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Program
GEF	Global Environment Facility	PAS	Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (under GEF)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Development Agency)	PASAP	Pacific Adaptation Strategy Assistance Program
HR	Human Resources	PAWG	Protected Area Working Group
IEA	Integrated Environmental Assessment	PCCR	Pacific Climate Change Roundtable
IMO	International Maritime Organization	PCCSP	Pacific Climate Change Science Project
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization	PDS	Performance Development System

Acronyms and Abbreviations

PEEL	Pacific Emerging Environment Leaders	RMSD	Regional Meteorological Services Directors
PEIN	Pacific Environment Information Network	Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012)
PIF	Project Identification Form	SDWG	Sustainable Development Working Group
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change	SBSTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
PIGGAREP	Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	SIG	Special Interest Group
PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network	SOE	State of the Environment
PIMRIS	Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System	SOPAC	Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (of SPC)
PIP	Pacific Invasives Partnership	SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
PIRT	Pacific Islands Roundtable (for Nature Conservation)	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PMC	Pacific Meteorological Council	UN	United Nations
PMI	Pacific Mangrove Initiative	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
PMPD	Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership	UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
PoWIB	Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organisation	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PoWIB	Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity	USP	University of the South Pacific
PREL	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning	WCU	Wildlife Conservation Unit
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



The Pacific Islands Region

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

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





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

