



SPREP Highlights are the monthly electronic briefs of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Through SPREP Highlights we aim to keep you in the loop with some of the events that the Samoa-based regional Secretariat was involved in a given month.

## Samoa rat eradication project showing signs of success: 6 April 2010

Six months after a rat eradication project began for the Aleipata Islands group in Samoa, a follow up visit after the operation reports no sign of the Pacific rat on Nu'utele Island.

The valuable native wildlife of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands was considered to be severely affected by the Pacific rat. For example, these islands are home to the last remaining Friendly Ground Doves, now one of the rarest birds of Samoa but which used to inhabit Upolu.

The rat eradication project budgeted at just over USD 200,000 was developed to help Samoa's natural heritage thrive.

In August last year a helicopter from New Zealand was deployed to drop brodifacoum rat bait on the two islands in the Aleipata group.

During the follow up visit in March a team of five from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Government of Samoa and SPREP visited Nu'utele Island taking a full boatload of gear. They divided into two groups to cover key areas, setting a variety of traps, baits, lures and tunnels and searching for rats, their feeding signs or footprints. Encouragingly no sign of the rat was discovered.

"This was very promising, although it's too early to be sure that the rat has been eradicated," said Dr David Butler, the project adviser. "Six months isn't a long time and there could be a pocket of animals somewhere that we didn't detect. It will need another visit in another six months or so to be more certain."

The presence of a large number of ground doves was also a positive sign.

"I'm very optimistic as there were lots of fruit visible on the ground which the rats would normally have eaten and lots of ground doves."

In 2009, just before the rat eradication operation, over 20 friendly ground doves, one of Samoa's rarest birds, were captured on Nu'utele and held in captivity in a temporary aviary. They were returned to the island once it was deter-

mined that the rat baits were no longer a risk to them on the island. The doves in captivity had leg bands placed on them to assist with future survey results.

"On this visit we could count how many birds we saw with and without bands, which gave us an idea that there are now over 100 doves on the island. They have also been breeding since the rat eradication operation as we saw one very young bird so it is looking good for them."

Due to rough seas the review team was unable to visit Nu'ulua Island this time however a visit is planned in a few months when a lizard survey will take place to discover the effects of the rat eradication on the lizard population.

"The rat eradication is a significant project with two key aims – firstly to show that we can safely remove rats from islands and secondly to show the response of wildlife and the forest to the absence of rats in the environment," said Dr Butler.

"People often say there are not a lot of rats and not much damage is done by them, but it isn't until they are gone that you see the dramatic increase in the birdlife, lizards and tree seedlings in the forest. Rats have a big impact and they need to be addressed."

### Notes:

**This project is managed by SPREP and implemented by Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Other partners are David Butler Associates, New Zealand Department of Conservation, The Pacific Invasives Initiative, Wellington Zoo and the Pacific Invasives Learning Network. Funding was provided by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) through Conservation International's Pacific Programme.**



## Rare Giant Box Crab reappears after 50 years

*Distributed under Pacinet, written by Randy Thaman, used with permission from Pacinet*

The Giant Box Crab is rare in most Pacific Islands. It is found in rocky and coral sand areas. It has two very distinct colour forms: one tan and one with many bright maroon or red spots. In Vanua Navakavu, just west of Suva, Fiji, the tan form is known as *Burebure matatolu* and the spotted form as *Burebure tavutonotono*. It used to be considered one of the most delicious of Fiji's seafoods. It, however, disappeared after the 1953 tsunami devastated the coastal area. In January 2009, both colour forms were finally rediscovered by master fisher Asakaia Balawa and his family. This was after the establishment of a marine protected area in 1997. Hopefully, the beautiful giant boxcrab will become common enough to once again grace the tables of Navakavu and other areas of the Pacific Islands!!



*Calappa callapa*

**Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) Reform transfers SOPAC functions into SPC and SPREP  
Adapted slightly from the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) Press Release**

30 March 2010: Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of SPC, Mr Kosi Latu, Deputy Director of SPREP and Dr Russell Howorth, Director of SOPAC, signed three Letters of Agreement which together comprise full implementation of substantive elements of the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) Reform agreed to by Pacific Island Leaders at recent Forum Meetings. The three Letters of Agreement are as follows:

1 *Between SOPAC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)*. It constitutes the record of full and effective transfer and integration of specific functions within the work programme of SOPAC into SPC upon the date this Agreement is signed and dated. The specific functions covered by this Agreement comprise the activities generally described in the SOPAC Work Programme as "Energy".

2 *Between SOPAC and SPC*. It constitutes the record of full and effective transfer and integration of specific functions within the work programme of SOPAC into SPC upon the date this Agreement is signed and dated. The specific functions covered by this Letter of Agreement comprise the activities generally described in the SOPAC Work Programme as "ICT Outreach".

3 *Between SOPAC and SPREP*. To record the transfer upon the signing of this Agreement of the following specific functions from SOPAC to SPREP • Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System (PI-GOOS) • Islands Climate Update (ICU) • Climate and Meteorological Databases (CMD) • Energy functions related to Climate Change, specifically monitoring and evaluation of Greenhouse Gas and the Clean Development Mechanism. **For the full article by SOPAC please visit:**

[http://www.sopac.org/tiki-read\\_article.php?articleId=200](http://www.sopac.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=200)

**Photo courtesy of SOPAC**



**WWD 2010!**

**World Wetlands Day 2 February was commemorated in Fiji, Palau and Samoa with the following activities -**

**Palau:** The Palau Conservation Society and the Bureau of Agriculture organised essay and drawing competitions. The winner of the essay competition in the Palauan language was Mr. Meruai Ngotel, an 8th Grade student from Ngchesar Elementary School. The winner of the Drawing Contest (right) was Spencer Remoket an 8th Grade student of Ngchesar Elementary School. Palau also held a "Native Tree planting ceremony" and speeches were made about the importance of Wetlands by Paramount Chief Reklai B. Ngirmang and Fred Sengebau the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture. Radio talk shows, articles in local newspapers and a 'soft' opening of the Visitors Center of the Ngardok Nature Reserve were also highlights of the day.



**Fiji:** The Department of Environment prepared a supplement spread in the Fiji Sun. Information in the supplement was contributed by the committee consisting of Wetlands International and Nature Fiji – Mareqeti Viti.

**Samoa:** The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment coordinated special events including news articles in the newspaper and on television; a television program introducing the Ramsar Convention, WWD and the Samoa Ramsar Site; presentations for schools on 'Mangrove forests in Samoa', 'Watershed Management in Samoa' and the 'Ramsar Project Site'; and a field visit was arranged for students to Moataa and Vaiusu Mangrove Areas.

**Meeting between the Secretariats of AELERT and SPREP.**

**Adapted from the AELERT Website: <http://www.aelert.com.au/?p=864>**

Mr David Sheppard is the recently appointed Director of SPREP based in Apia, Samoa.

Mr Sheppard visited Canberra in mid-March to meet with the Federal Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, the Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts, and other senior government officials.

Mr Sheppard met with the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network (AELERT) Secretariat to learn more about its current and future activities and to see how they related to those of SPREP.

Grant Pink, AELERT Secretary and Rose Webb, Australian Government AELERT jurisdictional representative, met with Mr Sheppard. The meeting was mutually beneficial, with AELERT and SPREP undertaking to maintain contact with each other, and look for opportunities for co-operation later in the year.

## **Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) in Tonga**

The PACC Inception Meeting was carried out on March 2 at the Moulton Hall, Free Wesleyan Church in Nuku'alofa.

The workshop was opened by Hon. Lord Ma'afu, the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. He indicated that Tonga is making the utmost efforts at all levels to address climate change and the PACC project is contributing to that endeavor in a considerable way.

According to the PACC Coordinator, Mr. Paula Taufu, the Inception Meeting was a success as a lot of critical issues such as implementation arrangements and funding were clarified.

"It is usually good to have a clear understanding of project details between the Project staff and the communities so that no misunderstanding creeps in," said Mr Taufu.

Key PACC stakeholders that attended the meeting included the Tonga Water Board, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Works, Meteorological Services Unit, District Officer of Hihifo, Town Officers from the six villages, Staff of Ministry of Environment, and the Non Government Organisation Sector

SPREP was represented at the Inception Meeting by the Project Manager, Mr. Nakalevu, and the Climate Change Adaptation Officer, Mr. Fine Lao.



### **Tonga forms the PACC Technical Team**

The first meeting of the Tonga PACC Technical Team was held on March 3 at the Office of Environment and Climate Change (OECC). According to the PACC Coordinator Mr. Paula Taufu, the Team will be assisting the Tonga PACC Project Management Unit by providing advice on technical issues related to the PACC project.

Since the PACC project is focusing on water in Hihifo district, quite a number of water experts have been invited to be part of the Technical Team.

The Technical Working Group members are:

Te'efoto Mausia - Ministry of Health

Kutusi Fielea - Tonga Water Board

Rennie Vaiomo'unga - Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources

Sione Faka'osi - Tonga Trust

Sione Talo Fulivai – Second National Communication

Sione Tukia Lepa – Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Lilieta Takau - Australian High Commission

'Onetoto 'Anisi - Ministry of Finance and Planning

'Ofa Fa'anunu - Meteorological Services

PACC Project Management Unit - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change



**For more on PACC visit:**

**[http://www.sprep.org/climate\\_change/pacc/index.asp](http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/pacc/index.asp)**

### **Solomon Islands:**

#### **New Staff for climate change project: 16 March With permission to use from the Solomon Star**

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock have signed a service agreement and witnessed the signing of contracts for project staff for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) Project.

The PACC Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented at a regional level by SPREP will increase the capacity of Solomon Islanders to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

PACC is the first project to be implemented in the region that responds directly to calls from Pacific Leaders for immediate and urgent action on climate change in their vulnerable island states and will be implemented in Solomon Islands by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, with the Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology as the focal point.

Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Mr. Rence Sore said that this project showcases the teamwork necessary to combat climate change.

"Climate change is affecting all Solomon Islanders in many different sectors," he said.

"We are small and we contribute very little to climate change but we are very vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"Let us not work in our individual capacities, in our small corners but let us work together in-partnership, as a team with joint responsibility to fight the evils of climate change.

Mr Sore congratulated the new staff, Project Manager Casper Supa Sikou and Assistant Project Manager Molina Wini Ziru, on their appointment and told them that they had a challenging but important job to do.

The PACC project is one way in which Solomon Islands Government is responding nationally to the need for urgent action on climate change.

The focus of the PACC in Solomon Islands is on agriculture and food security.

Activities undertaken in the PACC will include conducting vulnerability assessments, identifying salt resistant crops and providing water and food storage facilities.

The pilot site for demonstrating adaptation to climate change will be on Ongtong Java Island.

The technology demonstrated will be transferred to Sikaiana and in Fenualoa of Temotu Province.

**For the full story please visit**

**<http://www.solomonstarnews.com/news/national/3917-new-staff-for-climate-change-project>**

## Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on the Management of Sustainable Fisheries for Giant Clams (Tridacnidae) and CITES Capacity Building published

At its 14th meeting held in the Hague, Netherlands in June 2007, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted decision 14.80 that directed the CITES Secretariat to seek external funding to enable a workshop to be held in the Pacific, in collaboration with appropriate regional organisations, to initiate regional cooperation on the management of sustainable fisheries for giant clams (Tridacnidae).

From the 4th-7th August 2009, the Regional Workshop on the Management of Sustainable Fisheries for Giant Clams (Tridacnidae) and CITES Capacity Building was held to identify national and regional initiatives that could ensure the long-term ecological, social and economic sustainability of this important fishery.

This is particularly important as Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have now been supplying the world's aquarium industry for over 30 years with an increasingly diverse range of wild and cultured commodities, in particular, giant clams. Culture methods are also continuing to evolve for commercial production of giant clams for meat or the aquarium trade.

The four-day workshop involved technical consultation between a wide range of stakeholders, including the government, private and public sectors; and specialists who are active in the production of giant clams for the marine ornamental trade in the Pacific Region. Attendance included representatives from the American Samoa, Australia, the

Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), French Polynesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The workshop was organised with support from the Secretariat of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)), the Species Management Specialists (SMS, [www.speciesms.org](http://www.speciesms.org)), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC, [www.spc.int](http://www.spc.int)), and SPREP, ([www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org))

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Colourful *T. crocea* ready for export, Vanuatu - Antoine Teitelbaum

## Scoping Meeting held on “Communities and Coral Reefs: Managing for Resilience”

Climate change variability has emerged as a significant, overarching and very real threat to tropical marine ecosystems globally. Its potential to cause extensive mortality to coral reef ecosystems and impact the communities who depend on them for a range of vital services, including food and income, is now little disputed.

While this global phenomenon is largely beyond the control of local marine and coastal resource managers, meaningful action can be taken to respond to inevitable local impacts. Policy makers, conservationists, scientists and the broader community are increasingly calling for adaptive measures and actions to restore and maintain the resilience of tropical marine ecosystems to climate change, in order to avoid worst case scenarios.

As a result of these imperatives, International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN, [www.icran.org](http://www.icran.org)) developed a concept note entitled “Communities and Coral Reefs: Managing for Resilience”.

The concept is predicated on the understanding that preparing for climate change will be challenging. Vulnerable people will need guidance and support to anticipate the impacts of climate change and implement appropriate adaptation strategies if they are to sustain their livelihoods and quality of life in the future.

Widely shared, the concept note triggered significant interest within the international development and environment community.

With the logistical support of SPREP, ([www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)), who kindly hosted the meeting, and funding provided gen-

erously by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP, [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)), ICRAN and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN, [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)) Working Group on Climate Change and Coral Reefs, the workshop provided an important opportunity to debate the precepts of the concept note, analyze the successes and failures of existing adaptation and related projects and initiatives, and scope action to address comprehensively and systematically identified needs and gaps.

Specifically, participants discussed the needs and priorities of reef dependent communities and countries given the projected impacts of climate change in coming needs; and the processes and frameworks required to support the development of adaptive capacity and build resilience at local, national and international levels.

The workshop also explored how to enhance implementation of existing adaptation plans and actions to ensure that they remain grounded in the strengths and aspirations of communities while steeped in strategy and science.

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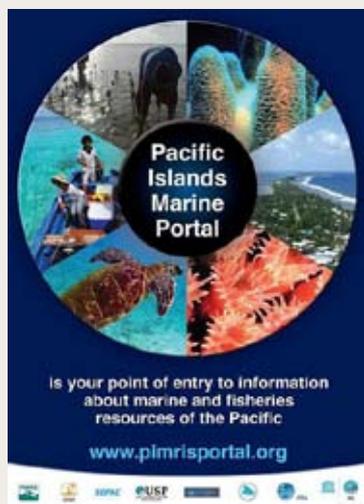


# SPREP Feature

## **PIMRIS Portal, the one stop website for all Pacific marine fisheries information**

By the end of March it will take as much effort as pushing a button for you to have access to a wealth of quality marine and fisheries information from the Pacific. Gone are the days of having to trawl through different websites and constant library visits as you search for information on Pacific marine fisheries and environment.

With thanks to the cooperation and contribution of all regional agencies who work in this area, the newly launched Pacific Islands Marine Portal (<http://www.pimrisportal.org>) has brought everything together in the one website, making life a lot easier when it comes to seeking information on Pacific marine environment and fisheries.



PIMRIS, the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System is a Pacific network consisting of agencies from the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), it has been in operation for the past two decades focusing on building capacity in knowledge management in fisheries departments throughout the Pacific region.

Taking it a step further, PIMRIS has engaged in a new project in partnership with the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO to provide an online gateway to all information available to the marine resource sector in the Pacific.

SPREP was instrumental in developing the portal structure and identifying resources and content to populate the portal and will continue to work in partnership with University of the South Pacific, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission and Forum Fisheries Agency to further develop the portal in 2010.

The success of this project relies heavily upon the input and ownership of the CROP agencies and partners. It calls upon the ongoing collaboration between regional agencies and national fisheries departments and will continue to do so in the future to ensure the information remains current and the portal is active.

“PIMRIS is a collaborative effort that is supported by all the Pacific Islands and their regional organisations. It is a testament to the value and strength of cooperation and partnership where the sum of the collective work is more than the sum of its individual parts,” said Dr Joeli Veitayaki, Head of the Division of Marine Studies, USP.

In 2008 and 2009, funding was provided by IODE to allow for several meetings in which the CROP agencies and partners involved could come together to discuss how this was going to work, and to develop the portal. The portal is hosted by the Project Office for IODE in Oostende, Belgium

The portal has been designed so that it is user friendly and will be helpful to a wide range of people. Policy makers will be able to visit it for data and information at regional level; school children will be able to visit it to for information for schools and those in the community will find it a useful access point for generic information. It contains information from the Pacific region and is available for use by all.

Our Pacific marine environment faces challenges which Year of Biodiversity has highlighted. The International Union for Conservation of Nature notes that 6 marine turtles out of 7 are all threatened with extinction, 75% of the world's fisheries are fully or over exploited and one third of reef-building corals around the world are threatened with extinction.

“We need to act fast to secure and provide our people with the resources and development activities that will allow them to have dignified and successful lives while protecting the integrity and health of the natural systems that support our lives,” said Dr Joeli Veitayaki.

“The best way to do that is to learn the lessons from the past and then use our best science and technology to formulate and implement sustainable development activities and resource management arrangements for use in all of our communities and countries. For that challenge, we need to have access to the best information we can get, which is what the PIMRIS Portal offers.”

Not only was the PIMRIS portal launched in Fiji but the acknowledgement of another information project under this portal. The PIMRIS regional repository is about ensuring Pacific islands countries and territories will be able to provide preservation in digital format and better access to their country documents. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa are involved in a pilot project developing the capacity of each of the country fisheries departments to manage their fisheries documents and to allow each country to be able to upload national documents in digital format to the regional repository.

**Notes:** *The University of the South Pacific (USP) through a partnership between the Library and the Division of Marine Studies coordinates PIMRIS activities. The PIMRIS Steering Committee consisting of representatives of all CROP agencies and national fisheries & marine resources departments serves as an advisory body on protocols for these activities.*

**Contact details:** *For further information please contact PIMRIS Coordinator ([pimris@usp.ac.fj](mailto:pimris@usp.ac.fj)) or SPREP Information Resource Centre Manager ([irc@sprep.org](mailto:irc@sprep.org))*

### **Va'a Gaulofa assists Coral Survey team:**

**11 March 2010**

Va'a Gaulofa has helped ensure smooth sailing of the coral survey undertaken in Fagaloa Bay, Samoa.

Since May last year, SPREP has worked with the Ministry of Fisheries of the Government of Samoa to carry out a year long coral reef monitoring project at Fagaloa Bay.

The project assesses the impact of the fresh water discharge into the Bay and is funded by the Asian Development Bank in response to complaints from residents in the area who allege that coral health and marine resources have been declining due to a power plant in the area.

"We did an extensive survey to assess the live coral cover and the fish population in Fagaloa Bay in July 2009 and since then, we have been doing more targeted surveys every 3 months to count the baby corals," said Caroline Vieux, SPREP's Coral Reef Management Officer.

"There's clearly a problem of coral dying in Fagaloa Bay due to sedimentation which we experience when we carry out the monitoring but the exact causes for it are still under examination as both natural factors such as cyclones and high water temperature as well as human factors such as the freshwater discharge from the power plant have to be considered".

The most recent surveying carried out in March worked in partnership with the Samoa Voyaging Society and Va'a Gaulofa.

A crew of seven helped sail the team to the survey area at which three SPREP staff carried out the coral reef monitoring.

Recommendations are currently being prepared in a report based upon the findings of the different surveys which began in May last year.

**The full story can be found at: [http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=749](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=749)**



### **Samoa Voyagers to be Environment Ambassadors:**

**19 March 2010**

Crew members of the Va'a Gaulofa from the Samoa Voyaging Society are Environment Ambassadors to celebrate the Year of Biodiversity.

SPREP and the Coral Reef Initiative for the South Pacific (CRISP) are working in partnership with the Samoa Voyaging Society to help spread regional awareness about protecting our environment.

Over the next few months, it is planned that seven of the Va'a Gaulofa crew will sail to French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Samoa and Tokelau as part of a Pacific voyaging expedition.

During the Pacific voyage the Va'a Gaulofa crew will act as observers by documenting all rubbish, oil spills or any forms of marine life that they sight upon a geographical information system. They will take images of their sightings and mark their findings on a map to explain and show their results while the va'a is docked in the different harbours throughout the region.

The crew members will also carry out a visual survey asking the question - "What has nature done for you today?" to people they meet during their regional voyage, hoping to record the survey to video camera, the results of which will be downloaded to a website.

The third activity carried out by the va'a crew is that of an interactive environment learning exhibition to be shown at each stop they make.

CRISP have produced short educational videos about Marine Protected Areas, Coral Gardens and safe Aquarium fishing practices filmed throughout the Pacific region. These short awareness films will be on show during an interactive learning exhibition at each stop that the crew makes.

As part of the interactive learning exhibition the crew will share the findings of their voyage sightings which will have been documented as well as carry out their visual survey of "What has nature done for you today?"

In March at SPREP in Apia, Samoa the crew members of the Va'a Gau'alofa underwent a one day environment orientation to help strengthen their knowledge of our Pacific environment.

Karl Steffany aged 25, is an excited member of the crew that will be sailing as part of this voyage -

"I learnt that I had to be more aware of my environment and protect it, how fragile our environment is and how you damage it without being aware of it such as the ways we dispose of our waste. I am looking forward to sharing it with other people, I will try to be the best ambassador I can to convey the message of good conservation and being environmentally friendly."

CRISP and SPREP are funding USD 6,000 as part of the partnership between the Samoa Voyaging Society and the crew of Va'a Gau'alofa. It is hoped that this will be the start of a successful relationship that will flourish as the Va'a travels with Environment Ambassadors sharing awareness on nature conservation.

**For the full story please visit:**

**[http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=750](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=750)**



### **Solid Waste Management Training in Solomon Islands**

The Solomon Islands has benefited from basic training in solid waste management techniques, which was delivered to a wide cross-section of participants, during a training workshop in Honiara from 22-25 June 2010. This assistance was delivered under the JICA-funded Solid Waste Management Project in Oceania Region (SWMPOR). The Solomon Islands is one of the successes of SWMPOR, having first received assistance under the project to develop and finalize their National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS). Endorsed by the Solomon Islands Government in 2009, the NSWMS identified capacity building as a priority area, and through the coordinated approach of SPREP and JICA, the 4-day solid waste management training workshop was held in Honiara. This training covered areas such as the semi-aerobic landfill system; methods for collecting and analysis of data from household waste audits and time & motion studies; basic criteria for identifying new landfill sites; and strategies for resource mobilization. Evaluation of the workshop by participants was positive overall and there was a call for further hands-on training over a longer period. As a result of this workshop, the participants now have a better understanding of some basic considerations for successful waste management in Solomon Islands. This will serve as a useful foundation for further in-depth, hands-on training.



**Esther Richards, SPREP's Solid Waste Officer E:estherr@sprep.**

### **Niue Reviews National Waste Management Plan**

The Niue Waste Management Plan (NWMP) has undergone the first phase of a review involving initial stakeholder consultations over the period 1-4 March 2010. The NWMP was initially developed in 2000 and addresses a multitude of waste management issues on Niue including solid waste, wastewater/sewage sludge and hazardous waste such as asbestos. Despite the NWMP being endorsed for almost 10 years, the human and financial resource limitations facing Niue means that only a few positive steps have been taken such as the implementation of a container deposit scheme for aluminum cans and minor improvements to the waste collection system. Therefore, the aim of the review of the NWMP is to identify practical strategies and attainable targets that can work and be sustained, given the capacity constraints in Niue. This will be backed up with resourcing strategies to improve chances of obtaining the necessary resources for implementation. The next steps in this review process, will involve further consultations with key stakeholder groups, preparation of the revised NWMP, and finally endorsement of the revised NWMP.

### **Strategic Planning for Waste Management in Vanuatu**

Following the development of the Vanuatu Waste Management Policy in 2001, Vanuatu has embarked on a crucial stage in the waste management cycle, which is to develop a National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS) that implements the National Policy. A stakeholder consultation workshop was held in March 2009, attended by key groups including representatives from each Province, during which the key priority issues and actions for implementation were identified. Recently, in March 2010, this information was consolidated and refined based on further consultations to produce the first draft NSWMS for Vanuatu. This first draft was presented to the main stakeholders during a one-day workshop, and it is expected that the draft will be further refined before being finalized and endorsed. Developing a national strategic plan for waste management is a fundamental concept and Vanuatu has been supported in the development of their strategic plan by SPREP and JICA under the umbrella of the Solid Waste Management Project in Oceania Region (SWMPOR).

### **Winners of the "Vision Pasifika: Climate Change"**

**Media Award: 30 March 2010**

Three Pacific Journalists have been commended by SPREP, having won awards in the very first "Vision Pasifika: Climate Change" Media tribute to recognise the role of Pacific reporters in raising awareness in environment issues. The award is part of the media outreach by SPREP that encourages partnerships with Pacific media to help strengthen their role in raising awareness in sustainable environment concerns. Mr. Anish Chand has won the television category for his news story "Pacific Politics and Climate Change" which was broadcast on Fiji One's Close Up. He has also won the best overall category.

Mr. Moffat Mamu has won the print category for his news story "Our Final Chance", printed in the Solomon Star News. Ms. Rachna Lal and Ms. Kalpana Prasad have won the student category for their story titled "Coral reef destruction continues unabated" printed in Wansolwara which is published by students of the USP Journalism Division.

No entries were submitted for the Radio award.

"I think all the entries were good in their own right but since it was a competition, we needed to pick the best entries," said Espen Ronneberg SPREP's Climate Change Adviser. "Congratulations to the winners and also huge commendation to those who submitted entries." Over 30 news items were entered in the competition for judging before a panel which consisted of a member from the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and PACNEWS; WWF South Pacific Programme Office; and SPREP. The "Vision Pasifika: Climate Change" Media Award was a partnership between SPREP and WWF, supported by PINA and PACNEWS. Winning entries receive USD 500 each, including USD 500 for the best overall category. While this is the first award, it is hoped that future awards will promote Pacific media to cover more environment stories in their countries.

**To read the full story and meet the winners please visit [http://www.sprep.org/article/news\\_detail.asp?id=754](http://www.sprep.org/article/news_detail.asp?id=754)**

## IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation

The third meeting of the Lead Authors for this special report was held in Oxford UK, 1 - 5 March 2010. Attending this meeting was SPREP's Solomone Fifita, Project Manager of the PIGGAREP, who is a Lead Author in this report. The meeting discussed external review comments on the first order draft of the report and for chapter authors to agree on a process towards the second order draft.

The special report is a result of the recognition that carbon dioxide from energy conversion processes is the largest driver of the anthropogenic greenhouse effect strategies for reducing the use of fossil fuels. One of the major options for such a strategy is the wider use of renewable energy sources, which in a normal IPCC Assessment Report is treated very generally and briefly. These considerations and the demand voiced by many member countries of the IPCC have led to this special report on renewable energy sources and their role in climate change mitigation.

The final meeting of the lead authors is planned for September 2010 and the final report is expected to be released by mid-2011.

**Solomone Fifita Project Manager PIGGAREP**

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### American students learn about Pacific environmental issues at SPREP: 18 March 2010

10 students from different universities throughout America came a long way to learn about environmental issues in the Pacific and how they affect the lives of those who live here. Their visit to Hawaii, Samoa, American Samoa and Fiji was part of a 15 week programme coordinated by the School for International Training. It was while in Samoa that the students spent an afternoon learning about how the Pacific region is affected by climate change, marine pollution and marine species from staff of SPREP.

"It was a good session," said Taito Nakalevu, the Programme Manager for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project. "There were a lot of questions asked by the students – they were interested about the funding that is coming into the Pacific, whether it is enough or not and how we'll be using it for adaptation to climate change impacts."

The third year University students spent a week in Hawaii before coming to Samoa on the 12th of February. They have spent 10 days living in a local Samoan village learning about the different kinds of environmental issues that affect the community. The students also visited American Samoa and Fiji before returning back to the United States. They are led by Jackie Faasisila, the Director of the study abroad programme by the School for International Training.



### Presentation by SPREP at Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue

SPREP made a presentation at the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue in March. Mr. Kosi Latu the Deputy Director spoke to over 100 Emerging Leaders on climate change. The opening plenary sessions of the second EPLD took place in Samoa over two days with the theme "EPLD2010 is Navigating our Future Together."

Mr Latu's presentation touched on key regional environment issues, climate change impacts, regional responses and governance and leadership. The presentation highlighted the following messages -

- Impact of climate change will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities of small islands developing states in the Pacific region
- Climate change is much more than an environmental or developmental issues.
- Greater focus on environmental issues is needed more now, than previously .
- There are other key environmental priorities other than climate change.
- We need environmental champions.

The talk was held at Aggie Greys Resort on the 11th of March, with the EPLD2010 held from 11 – 23 March this year.



#### Farewells:

Ms. Anne Trevor has completed her contract as the Associate Turtle Database Officer. She has been with SPREP since 2004 and has completed two contracts with SPREP.

Ms. Ruta Tupua the Personal Assistant to the SPREP Director. She has been with SPREP since 1994 working in various sections of the organisation as Divisional Assistant from 1994 to 1996, Secretary to Programme Manager from 1996 to 2001 and as a Personal Assistant to the Director since 2002 (pictured left).



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