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Editorial



Disasters come in various forms. Recent events in the Indian Ocean have focused attention on earthquakes and tsunamis, and the peoples of the Pacific are no strangers to these and other natural phenomena, like cyclones and volcanic eruptions. Man-made disasters have also occurred in the region, such as the spread of influenza to the islands in 1918 or nuclear testing after the Second World War. The most serious disasters for the island states might yet prove to be the slow but steady consequences of human activity on the planet, such as global warming or the too rapid exploitation of natural resources (pp.7-9).

Regardless of cause, humans have the capacity to prevent or diminish the effects of many disasters by planning for them in advance. Disaster planning is occurring on a global scale (pp.3-4), but we can all do so locally, too, and experience shows that this is important (pp.5-6). Local management of resources is proving to be another important step (pp.10-11). Sharing information about these and other issues is a key goal of PIMRIS, so we are pleased to include an article on the SOPAC Library (pp.12-13) as well as news from other participants (pp.14-15).

Planning for the future is also the aim of the 12th PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting, to be held at the end of May. We welcome all comments, suggestions and criticisms from any interested parties on our activities, since all feedback will assist us in determining our priorities for the coming years. Please do not hesitate to contact the Coordination Unit or any PIMRIS participant if you would like to contribute to this process. Tenkyu,

Chris Nelson, PIMRIS Coordinator

P.S. Please note our new telephone and fax numbers. (All USP numbers changed over Easter.)

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--- Opinions expressed in articles included in the PIMRIS Newsletter do not necessarily represent those of any participants. ---

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New Faces, New Places

Tony Chamberlain resigned from USP at the end of 2004, after more than 9 years of service. As Lecturer in Post-Harvest Fisheries in the Marine Studies Programme and a key resource person in many regional workshops & training programmes, Tony contributed much to the education of fisheries officers across the Pacific. His publications, ranging from scientific papers to children's books, demonstrate his desire and ability to share the enthusiasm he has for post-harvest fisheries with an even broader audience. We wish Tony and his family all the very best in future.



Temakei Tebano, who was awarded the first PhD in Marine Science from USP in 2004 for his research on the biology and community management of *Anadara*, is currently back on Tarawa in Kiribati, planning for the revival of Atoll Research Activities. Dr Tebano headed these Activities from 1992 to 2000.

Clare Ame recently visited the Coordination Unit with her family. At present Clare is working as a consultant for GPA (Gillett, Preston & Associates) at the National Fisheries Authority in PNG under the CFMDP (Coastal Fisheries Management and Development Project). She and **Priscilla Solomon** are currently enhancing the catalogue and digitizing key documents.



Until this year the NFA Library team included **Ovin Pawut**, who resigned after husband **Lamiller Pawut** acquired the post of Surveillance Operations Officer at the FFA. In this position he will take a lead role in regional enforcement projects.



Edward Narayan and **Mohini Lata** survived student work placements with the PIMRIS Coordination Unit in January. Their assistance with merging collections, lifting and shifting boxes, sorting donations, shelf-checking and numerous other tasks is much appreciated. In February they returned to their studies (no doubt with relief).

2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction a positive step forward for the Pacific Region

Kata Duaibe



The Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held in January in Kobe Hyogo, Japan. What started out as a small group of about 10 regional delegates heading to the Conference eventually amounted to over 50 from the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand, amongst a total of over 3000 people from around the globe. The SOPAC Secretariat delegation consisted of Dr. Langi Kavaliku (Head of Delegation), Dr. Russell Howorth (Deputy Director of SOPAC), Atu Kaloumaira and Kata Duaibe (Risk Advisor and Research and Planning Officer, respectively, with the SOPAC Community Risk Programme).

As a member of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Task Force, SOPAC has been involved in coordinating the Pacific review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (1994-2004) from the outset, as well as raising the profile of the region in terms of the unique vulnerabilities of its Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Pacific preparations for the Conference included a workshop in June 2004, in Sigatoka, Fiji, at which a regional position paper was developed by the participating representatives of 15 countries, disaster risk management partners of the Pacific, donors and other key stakeholders. This paper included a draft framework for action, based on 5 themes:

1. Governance – institutional and policy frameworks for risk reduction
2. Hazard Identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning systems
3. Knowledge Management and Education – enhancing the resilience of Pacific Communities
4. Development of risk reduction tools
5. Preparedness for effective response

The Draft Regional Position Paper was taken to the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, as a suggested way forward for the Pacific Region. The Pacific Regional Framework for Action 2005-2015 will be finalised at the 12th Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting to be held in Madang, Papua New Guinea, on 6-8 June 2005.

The Pacific team set out for Kobe with the intent of securing text in the conference outcome document that emphasised the extreme levels of vulnerability of the Pacific SIDS. The task was made easier by the fact that we had prepared the regional position paper, had been involved in earlier PrepCom meetings in Geneva and had continued networking with the United Nations/ISDR.

11 of the 12 Pacific countries initially registered from the Pacific attended. To assist the large number of regional delegates SOPAC set up a booth and the Community Risk Programme Research and Planning Office was on hand for the duration of the World Conference.

Kobe Hyogo had put in a lot of preparatory work to mark this event. Banners hung from streetlights declaring the event underway. The Emperor of Japan [right] opened the conference proper on 18 January. On the previous day, he had attended a ceremony to remember victims of the “Great Hanshin-Awaji” Earthquake. This was the 10th anniversary of that earthquake, which struck at 5.46am on January 17, 1995, and claimed the lives of 6500 people. Today Kobe Hyogo stands stronger and more resilient than it was a decade ago.



Side events ran alongside the main plenary session. These parallel sessions or clusters were based on the five themes mentioned above. Within each theme, a number of panels ran simultaneously that delegates could choose to attend. Combined, the Pacific delegation covered a broad section of the parallel sessions ensuring their attendance was worthwhile.

The Pacific participation at Kobe was heralded a success by the regional delegates who were present.



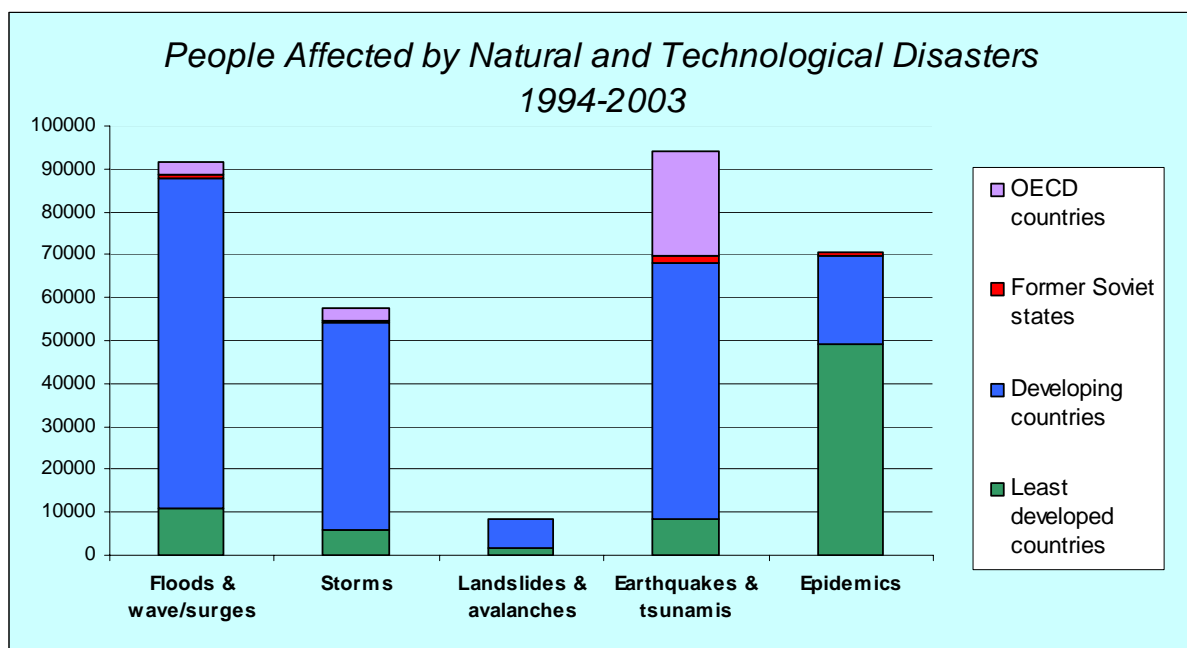
A key to this success was the negotiation of Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul [shown at left], the Permanent Representative of Mauritius and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), for the SIDS text to be included in the final outcome document, *Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters: Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015*. Negotiating as SIDS gave the Pacific a foot in the door, rather than negotiating as the “Pacific” and this also aligned the Pacific to other international commitments made at earlier international and regional meetings. (These include the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals, the Barbados Plan of Action for SIDS, the

Mauritius Strategy and the vision of the Pacific Forum Leaders in the Auckland Leaders Decision and Declaration 2004.)

A team consisting of Ambassador Koonjul, PNG’s Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, Sir Peter Barter, Niue’s Premier, Vivian Young and SOPAC’s Deputy Director Russell Howorth were part of the team that negotiated on behalf of the Region. Over raised voices, assertiveness and with a determination to ensure success, Ambassador Koonjul negotiated. With the exception of about two words, the three paragraphs were included in the outcome document. The Pacific representatives are grateful to New Zealand, which played a key role in ensuring the words were not diluted.

The SIDS text can be found in the following sections of the outcome document: Part III (B), section 2 (ii) (h) on page 10; Part IV (A) (24bis) on page 15, and Part IV (F) (e) on page 21.

The full text of the outcome framework document can be obtained on the web by downloading from: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf> or by contacting me at SOPAC’s Community Risk Programme (kata@sopac.org). The Programme’s website is at: <http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Community+Risk>



(This tabulation does not include droughts or heat waves, nor recent disasters such as the Indian Ocean tsunami. Country aggregates in the key follow the classifications used in the UNDP’s *Human Development Report*. Source: WCDR Press Kit, <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/media/wcdr-presskit/wcdr-press-kit.pdf>)

Disaster Planning for Libraries & Information Centres a brief overview

Many of us think *It'll never happen to me*, but disasters come in many forms, so a better attitude is to *Be prepared*. Preparing and testing a disaster plan before you need it is worth the effort.

What is a disaster plan?

A disaster plan is simply a record of what needs to happen (and by whom) before, during and after a disaster affecting your workplace. The amount of detail required will vary according to the size of the library or organisation you work in, but the basics are the same: identifying what risks you are most likely to face, what the consequences could be to the people and property in your workplace, and what you need to do prevent these risks from occurring or reduce the damage they cause if they do.

How do I prepare it?

First, identify potential threats to your workplace. There will be many of these. Most of us think of the sudden, dramatic events such as fire, earthquake, cyclone or tsunami when we hear of disasters, but relatively minor but persistent events, like theft, mould, or poor building maintenance can prove just as disastrous in the long term. You should plan for all of these possible events, giving priority to those you deem to be both most likely and most destructive. Water damage occurs in many scenarios, so a key element of your library disaster plan is likely to be how to salvage wet paper products.

Second, note what measures are already in place to deal with the risks you have identified. These will include normal security procedures, fire drills, cyclone shutters, etc. You may not be responsible for all of these, since many organisations allocate such tasks across staff or hire outside specialists (eg. fumigators). It is important to document, however, who *you* expect to perform particular actions when they are needed, since others might be expecting you to!

Third, record what else is needed to ensure that you are prepared for the worst. This list could be very long unless you make a realistic judgement of what resources (financial, physical or human) might be available to you. Widespread disasters such as cyclones or earthquakes can never be prevented and often stretch the capacity of nations to respond, let alone organisations or individuals – but you can still plan to mitigate such disasters and deal with lesser ones. This might include verifying that your workplace is structurally sound, that plastic sheeting and other emergency supplies are in store, that regular backups of essential computer files are being made (and stored in a secure location)...or that you actually know how to use that fire extinguisher on the wall!

Fourth, share your plan with other staff and have it approved by a person in authority. In practice, most organisations prepare disaster plans collectively to ensure that everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities in the event of a disaster occurring – but not all staff may be aware of the special needs of the library. New employees who have not participated in this process need to have disaster preparedness included in their induction, with training if necessary. The plan must also make clear who has the authority (in a variety of scenarios) to direct operations during a state of emergency, since not all staff may be present when disaster strikes.

What then?

Don't leave your plan in a drawer when it is finished. Regular amendments will be necessary. The best way to test that a plan is adequate is to stage a mock emergency. This will test all elements of the plan and may highlight actions, roles or responsibilities that are inappropriate or ineffective. Perhaps most important of all, it will show whether or not all staff are able to communicate and cooperate well under less than ideal conditions.

Useful resources for library & information centre disaster planning on the Internet include:

DP for Libraries & Archives	http://www.nla.gov.au/nla/staffpaper/lyall1.html
DP for Computers & Networks	http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/technotes/disasterplanning.htm
SoliNET leaflets [mid-page]	http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_templ.cfm?doc_id=71

Disaster Plans in Action: a case study

"This really brings home the importance and relevance of those disaster plans that we all put together when we are dry, clean and comfortable, never believing that decisions will have to be made so fast."
(Sara Rutter, Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii)

On October 30th last year, the Manoa campus of the University of Hawaii suffered sudden and severe flooding. Uncommonly heavy rains brought down trees and other debris, blocking a section of the nearby Manoa Stream and diverting floodwaters across the campus. The Hamilton Library suffered the worst damage, as a wave of water almost two and half metres high swept through the ground floor. Interior walls were destroyed and a class of library students had to break a window to escape water flooding their room. It was around 8:30pm. The following morning, the Governor of Hawaii declared the Manoa Valley a state disaster area.

Library staff arrived throughout the night and early morning to survey the damage. Losses were huge. The School of Library & Information Science and the Technical Services division of the Library were destroyed. A quarter of a million rare maps, aerial photographs, books and government documents, as well as more than 100 computers were soaked.



Work started immediately to save as much of the water-logged collection items as possible. Over one hundred staff and volunteers began sorting, cleaning and freezing materials. Since it is impossible to deal with so many items at once, the library's disaster plan followed established practice by calling for saturated items to be frozen. In this way they can be carefully thawed and treated by conservators at a later date. Another priority was to control humidity in the undamaged sections of the library, to slow the growth of mould.

Several months later, conservation experts were surprised at how much damage was prevented by this quick action. "It could have been much worse. Mould could have formed in the entire library from floor one to five," said University Librarian Diane Perushek. The university has hired several disaster management companies to assist with the clean-up and restoration work. BMS Catastrophe brought humidifiers into the library to keep stacks dry. Disaster recovery company Belfor USA is currently restoring about half of the water-damaged items at its Fort Worth, Texas, office and assisting UH staff with restoration of items being kept in Hawaii -- mostly unique Pacific maps and photos. The UH-based restoration process is expected to take years. Items remain frozen until they are worked on.

In mid-January, around fifty Hawaii library and museum staffers attended a workshop which offered disaster preparation tips from experts visiting to help with the restoration work. The experts' advice included having appropriate insurance policies, prequalifying disaster assistance contractors and generally taking disaster planning very seriously. Human health and safety should always take precedence, they noted, but protection of irreplaceable documents and artifacts should follow soon after.

The workshop attendees vowed afterward to work together more closely to prepare for disasters such as the one that hit the Hamilton Library. "We haven't done enough. Even if we think we have, we haven't done enough," Bishop Museum archivist Desoto Brown said after the event.

"We need a local network for disaster planning," he said as he sought commitments from fellow professionals to hold additional meetings soon. With disaster plans for each institution, others who want to help will have something constructive to do instead of "just milling around," he said.

(From: UH Library staff web postings, Oct. 2004; *ALA Online*, Nov. 2004; *Honolulu Star-Bulletin News*, Jan. 16)

Disasters, Natural & Man-Made

Marshall Islands: U.S. Rejects Nuclear Compensation Petition

Marshall Islanders are petitioning for more than US\$3 billion in additional compensation from the US Congress to pay for health injuries, hardships and suffering caused by the 67 nuclear tests conducted at Bikini and Enewetak from 1946-1958, as well as nuclear cleanups still required. But Congress was told in early January that there was no basis for extra compensation. The rejection was delivered in a 66-page report that took the Bush Administration nearly three years to produce after Congress' request for an analysis of the Marshall Islands petition, first filed in 2000.



The Bush Administration told Congress it should reject any consideration of funding beyond the \$150 million fund provided as part of a "full and final" settlement agreed to in 1983, and resettlement funds set up specifically for Bikini, Enewetak and Rongelap islanders. "The facts regarding radioactive fall-out do not support a request under the 'changed circumstances' provision of the Section 177 settlement agreement," the report says.

Although the report acknowledges that "some islands may never be suitable for communities or food gathering and should remain off-limits," it also says "most historically inhabited islands in the northern atolls could be resettled under specific conditions."

Marshall's Foreign Minister Gerald Zackios says "his government is deeply disappointed not only with the State Department's erroneous conclusions but also its lengthy delay in issuing the report." He says the Marshall Islands is pleased that the Congress will be holding hearings later this year on the nuclear petition, at which time the Marshalls will "vigorously press our case." The case hinges on a provision of the compensation package contained in a Compact of Free Association between the two nations that was approved in 1983 and came into effect in 1986. Known as the 'changed circumstances' provision, it allows the Marshall Islands to petition Congress to consider additional compensation if the Marshall Islands can show that damage to property or people was discovered after the effective date of the agreement that renders the compensation provided "manifestly inadequate."

The petition contends that since the compensation agreement was approved more than 20 years ago, US radiation protection standards have become more stringent, while numerous formerly top-secret US government scientific reports about radioactive fallout from the Bikini and Enewetak tests were declassified by the Clinton Administration in the mid-1990s. These reports, the petition argues, demonstrate that fallout exposure was not limited to the four atolls that the US acknowledges were contaminated by radiation. (Source: Article by Giff Johnson, *Pacific Magazine*, February 2005)

Tuvalu: Global warming threatens newfound wealth

In 1999, Tuvalu (population 11,000) was the third-poorest state in the world. But salvation was found in the form of Tuvalu's Internet domain name, "tv." An American communications company offered US\$40 million for the rights to this domain name and for Tuvaluans, with an average annual income of about US\$1000, this was a life-changing sum.

This sudden wealth was accompanied, almost concurrently, by a firm forecast of doom. Due to global warming, Tuvalu – with islands only 3m above sea level -- is likely to be the first state in the world to be submerged by rising water levels. According to scientific estimates, the islands will be severely flooded within the next few decades and by the end of the century, the islands will have disappeared from sight altogether. Signs of the catastrophe awaiting Tuvalu are already apparent.



Ponds of seawater appear here and there, stretches of beaches are swallowed by the waves, the roots of trees are rotting by the ocean. Cyclones, which used to hit the area as rarely as every 15 years, now appear a few times every season, and the rains they bring cause temporary floods, markers of bleaker days to come.

Paul Lindsay, a documentary filmmaker, visited the country to see how Tuvaluans are dealing with both their new wealth and global warming. He found them defiant in the face of the rising water, using the windfall to develop the land that is soon to disappear. Buildings are being raised, nightclubs, restaurants and hotels are being planned and built, and newly bought cars are cruising on newly laid roads. Modernisation is hitting the islands at the 11th hour. The residents do not think it is strange.

“Just because we are sinking, it doesn't mean we don't want to raise our standards of living,” Lindsay was told by Sam Teo, Tuvalu's minister for natural resources.

Of the US\$40 million raised by the Internet deal, US\$10 million was used to tarmac the islands' 19km of roads. Before 1999 there were four cars on the islands. The Tuvaluans used to walk or cycle everywhere. When the money arrived, soon enough Tuvalu was flooded by cars and motorcycles. The minister for natural resources, who was in charge of paving the roads, owns one of the two gasoline stations on the main island.

The motor revolution accompanied a wave of other imported foods and goods and soon had an unexpected consequence. Many Tuvaluans, having given up their daily exercise, were introduced to obesity, raised blood pressure and diabetes. Others discovered that the maintenance of their new vehicles was far beyond their means, and that the luxury itself is hardly necessary in a state that is just 26km². A huge area at the centre of the tropical paradise is now covered with abandoned cars and other rubbish. “I see it and feel disgusted,” said the disillusioned minister.

Other islanders speak of the loss of community solidarity. “People used to give you things you needed for free,” Eseta Penatuse said. “Now everything is worth money. People are ashamed to ask their neighbours for things they don't need any more.” For a while, vast amounts of money were spent in an attempt to raise international awareness of Tuvalu's predicament. Tuvalu joined the UN, at a cost of US\$1.5 million a year. In diplomatic terms, membership is not that expensive, but renting an office and secretarial services in New York is.

Former Prime Minister Koloa Talake pushed a plan to sue the world's two main polluters, the United States (the biggest polluter in absolute values) and Australia (the biggest polluter per capita) in an international court, for causing the global warming that is bringing about Tuvalu's precarious situation. Tuvaluans voted him out of power, concerned that Tuvalu couldn't afford the kind of legal representation that is needed to take on giants such as the US and Australia in court law.

“Many self-righteous people in the West would judge them for giving up the fight. But all the Tuvaluans wanted is what we all want: comfortable houses, cars, good lives,” Lindsay said.

All Tuvaluans know that they are not likely to die of old age on their islands. What to do otherwise is trickier. Australia is far from enthusiastic about letting Tuvaluans in, and New Zealand agrees to take them on the basis of an annual quota. The hope of keeping the tiny nation as one community after the flood is highly unlikely.

After the eight months he spent among the Tuvaluans, Lindsay is not sentimental about white sands and turquoise waters. “There are no more paradises. Tuvalu is struggling to keep its sense of social solidarity in the face of progress. Nowadays, even paradise comes with a price tag,” he said

(Abridged from an article by Daphna Baram, *The Guardian*, Mar 10, 2005)

Northern Marianas: Volcano Erupts

Anatahan's rumbling volcano spewed ash that reached an altitude of about 19,000 feet over March 26-27 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Emergency Management Office and the US Geological Survey reported on the 28th.

The agencies said the plume was monitored by the Air Force Weather Agency, which detected a "hot spot" on the island. "Plume height declined soon afterward to below 10,000 feet and extended to about 25 nautical miles to the southwest," the agencies said. They said, though, that the volcanic activity on the remote island continues to fluctuate, saying it had dropped significantly by the Saturday afternoon. "During the 24 hours prior to that, harmonic tremor increased over about 14 hours to a new high since mid-February," they said. Seismicity level on Anatahan had been very low.

The volcano was erupting for the third time this year since 18 March, spewing clouds of ash into the air just days after a scientific mission collected volcanic rock samples from Anatahan and measured emissions of sulfur dioxide, a major air pollutant. Anatahan's third historical eruption peaked on 26 Jan and 2 Feb, during which time the volcano sent ash as high as 15,000 to 20,000 feet locally and as far as 100 miles downwind, and volcanic smog nearly 600 miles downwind. Fresh lava covered the entire crater floor by up to about one kilometer in diameter some two weeks later, the agencies said.

Anatahan's volcano first erupted after centuries of dormancy on 10 May 2003, with ash plume rising to over 30,000 feet, covering over 1 million km² of airspace above the Pacific Ocean. That eruption, which lasted over a month, deposited about 10 million m³ of material over Anatahan Island and the sea. The second period of volcanic eruptions happened from April to June 2004.

(PACNEWS 3: Tues 29 March 2005)

Hawaii: Fishery Bodies Warn of Over-Fishing

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council ended its March meeting in Honolulu with a unanimous vote to undertake a series of domestic and international initiatives to address over-fishing of big eye tuna in the Pacific Ocean. Over-fishing of the species was recognised by the NMFS (US National Marine Fisheries Service) in its annual report to the US Congress in June last year. It notified the Council that it had to take action to end over-fishing of the species by June 4.

The Council recognised that any unilateral action taken will not stop the over-fishing of the species in the Pacific. The fisheries under its jurisdiction account for only 4-5 percent of the big eye tuna caught in the Pacific. Nevertheless, recognising its responsibility to work to reduce the over-fishing problem, the council unanimously voted to develop a plan that would require the Hawaii offshore, small-boat tuna handline fishery operating in the exclusive economic zone, where appropriate, to be federally permitted with mandatory logbooks, limited entry and observers.

The council also highlighted the urgent need for scientific research to better define the stock structure of big eye tuna to ensure implementation of appropriate management regimes. Likewise, the council recommended that reports be prepared on the status of the North Pacific albacore stock and on the potential impacts to Hawaii pelagic fisheries of international management measures for North Pacific albacore.

At its June 2005 meeting, the council will review alternatives of a phased approach for obtaining commercial and recreational catch and fishing effort data for all types of fishing on pelagic fishes. The members noted the progress already made in obtaining this type of information from commercial and recreational pelagic fisheries in American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

At the same time, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is requiring large-scale tuna long-line vessels fishing in the Eastern Pacific to limit their catch levels in 2004-2006 to 2001 levels.

(PACNEWS 2: Tues 22 March 2005)

Marine Conservation in the Solomon Islands

The University of the South Pacific's Institute of Applied Science has taken a leading role in helping communities in the Solomon Islands conserve their marine resources.

In partnership with the Solomon Islands Government and international non-government organisations (NGOs) this initiative has led to the creation of the Solomon Islands Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (SILMMA) which recently held its second meeting in the Central Province of the Solomon Islands. Forty-three representatives from a diverse range group were in attendance, including the government and NGOs. The majority of the participants in the four-day workshop were from various community groups who have been struggling to conserve their marine resources.



Solomon Islands Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources representative Mr Peter Ramohia said that government supports locally managed marine areas. He said, "The government views our country's marine resources as a sort of natural agriculture, and communities have a vital role to play in managing those resources. I hope that this workshop will strengthen the abilities of communities, and will also offer an opportunity to share the valuable lessons learnt from the diverse projects already underway."

SILMMA is the Solomon Islands' national network under an international association called the "LMMA Network," which was started in 2000 in Suva, Fiji, with much involvement of the Director of IAS Professor Bill Aalbersberg, and has since spread throughout the Pacific. The LMMA works as a guiding body to assist rural communities in taking responsibility for the care of their marine resources. They offer community groups training in basic marine monitoring and in using the results of monitoring to make informed management decisions.

In 2001, Mr Alifereti Tawake, a Scientific Officer with IAS, visited the Solomon Islands to introduce the concept of a locally managed marine areas network. Two years later the inaugural meeting of SILMMA was held. It brought together the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Solomon Islands (WWF-SI), the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT), the Environmental Concerns Action Network of the Solomon Islands (ECANSI), the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, World Fish Centre, the Tetepare Descendants' Association (TDA), and the Roviana and Vonavona Lagoons Marine Resource Management Project. This first meeting was largely an introduction to the LMMA Learning Framework, which is a tool the network uses to assist communities in marine resource management planning.

SILMMA's recent meeting offered a review of the information covered in the first meeting, as well as some practical training in marine monitoring and data collection. The meeting was facilitated by Mr Silvario Wale, of the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, who also works as the local coordinator for SILMMA, and by Mr Tawake.

Mr. Tawake was very pleased to see that many new groups had become involved since the first SILMMA meeting. He stressed the importance of looking after marine resources, saying coastal fisheries were the backbone of many communities in the South Pacific.

“More than 80 per cent of the population of this region live along the coast and depend on marine resources. However, in many areas, marine resources are being poorly managed and are being severely over-harvested,” said Mr Tawake. “LMMA is a strategy that advocates active participation of communities and other local stakeholders in developing, implementing and evaluating marine area management plans through adaptive management approaches. By adopting properly developed management plans, communities can help ensure that their precious marine resources will last and will continue to provide both food and important financial benefits into the future.”

The workshop offered an opportunity for participants to share their community’s experiences and aspirations about marine resource management. It also covered various simple ways that a community can monitor and evaluate the success of their tambu (taboo) area. This included a practical session in the water at the Maravaghi Marine Protected Area, where teams of monitors learned to lay transects to count important indicator species, such as groupers and parrotfish, as well as to estimate coral cover and to count other economically important species such as trochus and beche-de-mer. Mr. Tawake, Peter Ramohia, and Dr. Chris Ramofafia of the World Fish Centre helped to instruct the group in basic monitoring techniques.

Participants learned that tambu (taboo) areas such as the Maravaghi Marine Protected Area can have what is called a “spill-over effect.” This is when marine creatures are permitted to reproduce and grow to maturity in a protected area. Their offsprings will then begin to migrate to nearby areas of reef in greater numbers, where they may be harvested by resource owners. Workshop participants also learned about the life cycles of some of the important marine resources. This included information on the marine creature trochus which must reach a certain size before they can begin to reproduce. Participants were told that if some trochus did not have a safe area to reach maturity, the local population could very easily be over-harvested and eventually disappear.

“Most people are aware that this has already happened to the green snail throughout the Solomon Islands, and it could very easily happen to other species if we are not careful,” said Mr Tawake. This workshop was hosted by the locally-owned Maravaghi resort, where the meeting hall overlooks an MPA filled with a dazzling array of fish. The workshop included community groups and individuals from Choiseul, Isabel, Malaita, Western Province, Guadalcanal, Central Province, and Ontong Java, supported by organisations such as WWF-SI, FSPISI, The Nature Conservancy, and the International Waters Program. Also attending were representatives from established projects such as the TDA, Roviana and Vona-Vona, the Arnavon Islands Conservation Area, along with interested parties from The World Fish Centre (formerly ICLARM) and Dive Gizo.

(Source: USP Beat, v.5, no.4, pp.1-2)

For further information:

Institute of Applied Science

(<http://www.usp.ac.fj/ias/>)

LMMA Network

(<http://www.lmmanetwork.org/>)

Tetepare

(<http://www.tetepare.org/>)

Solomon Islands Development Trust

(<http://www.fspi.org.fj/affiliates/solomon.htm>)

World Fish Center

(<http://www.worldfishcenter.org/>)

Award to IAS Director

Professor William Aalbersberg, Director of the Institute of Applied Science, received a major award in March for work including his role in the LMMA network described here.

The Walter B. Jones Memorial and NOAA Excellence Award in Coastal and Ocean Resource Management was presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC, recognizing his Excellence in Promoting Diversity in Coastal or Ocean Resource Management.

Bill received his PhD in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley and was appointed a lecturer at USP in 1984.

His interests in the environment led him to become involved in SPACHEE (then the main non-government environmental organisation in Fiji), and to explore the use of participatory approaches in conservation.

As Director of the University's Institute of Applied Science since 1999 he has built up a team of young scientists assisting indigenous Fijians to develop management plans and monitor their inshore marine resources. As part of these efforts, community members work with government, industry and non-government organizations to identify threats to the coastal environment and take action to counter them.

The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission Library

Dorene Naidu



The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, most commonly known by its acronym SOPAC, is an inter-governmental, regional organisation promoting sustainable development in the region through three key areas:

- Ocean and Islands,
- Community Lifelines, and
- Community Risk.

In support of these programmes are an information technology unit, library and publication services, and technical and field services for specific project work.

The SOPAC Library's role is to acquire, disseminate and make accessible information that is found through work being done at the Secretariat and for the facilitation of projects undertaken by the Secretariat. It provides access to geosciences information for Secretariat staff, staff of the geological departments in the member countries, consultants, researchers with related interests and other users of this kind of information in the Pacific region. It offers current awareness services, reference services, acquisition of new books and journals (including material obtained via gifts and exchange) and interlibrary loans.

Regular Library users include SOPAC staff and staff of the Fiji Mineral Resources Department who have borrower privileges. Occasional users are staff from the geological departments in the SOPAC member countries, research scientists, consultants, USP lecturers and students, and visiting university students from abroad, for whom borrowing privileges are restricted. As an alternative, photocopying services are provided at a reasonable fee.

The Library maintains five databases, for aerial photographs; serials; maps and charts; monographs, reports and reprints; and slides. Regular current awareness lists or subject bibliographies are generated from each database for in-house circulation, and on request by other users. Most of these databases use WinISIS; all are used to search for requests made to the library. Subsequently the library fulfils most requests or redirects requesters to other libraries as alternative sources.

In 2000 SOPAC embarked on a Virtual Library project. This involves scanning and uploading of reports by an assistant, Elenoa Rokodi, who also assists with other work for Publications & Library Services. The Virtual Library is maintained on a Microsoft Access database and is accessible from the SOPAC website (http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-sopac_virlib.php) from which the reports can be downloaded. While all reports are listed, the full content of some reports dating back to the beginning of SOPAC is not yet available online as an extensive archive of reports still to be scanned and loaded into the Virtual Library exists. However, all new SOPAC reports are systematically scanned and loaded directly onto the Virtual Library, with hard copies making their way to the Library shelves.

Before each SOPAC Annual Session (in September/October), a complete listing of published and unpublished SOPAC reports, SOPAC maps/charts, and SOPAC Joint Contributions is produced with author, subject and geographic indexes as a reporting requirement to the SOPAC Council.

SOPAC Library is fortunate to be part of a network of libraries like those involved with PIMRIS; these, the Forum Secretariat and other libraries serve as important extensions to smaller libraries like ours and provide excellent document delivery services when it is too expensive to purchase materials from our limited budget. Assistance to member government libraries is also provided whereby the Library Officer visits to help set up the library and provide basic training for the library staff.

2004 saw long-serving library officer Sunita Prasad leave the SOPAC library after fourteen years with the organisation. She moved to Australia in August and I replaced her in September.

When I joined the SOPAC Library I didn't quite know what to expect apart from the regular library occurrences. It was however, quite an experience coming from a relatively large academic library at USP that was all organised and well maintained to a small but specialized library that was very well stocked with research material done by SOPAC. It had taken a couple of months to recruit a new library officer therefore I was now looking at the mountain of books/AV material, etc., waiting to be catalogued and processed, which I took on as a challenge.

First of all I had to get used to the library software. Never having used CDS/ISIS before, I wondered how I would begin my task. Then I found the manuals for these programmes and started reading them and slowly figured out how to work the database. This was a hugely important accomplishment because it helped to get me started on searching for materials requested by the Secretariat staff and then later by various people from the member countries. Although I started clearing the piles through cataloguing and processing, I am still working my way around the database learning new things daily.

Apart from this, my appointment to SOPAC was finalised during the Annual Session when people in the Secretariat frantically try to get everything organized for this hugely important event. So it was quite an experience in my first week at the Library to see the hard work and effort put in by the staff of the Secretariat to get reports completed and other preparations made for this event. It was again an invaluable experience meeting some, if not all, of the key people from the member countries that I might be working with in the coming years. Sitting in on the STAR (Science, Technology and Resource Network) sessions also gave me a greater understanding of the Secretariat's technical work, how it functions and the different roles it plays in translating its objectives into action.

The coming year will see my getting to be the skilled and more knowledgeable library officer as I learn and get more hands on experience with the different aspects of the library to ensure the SOPAC Library functions smoothly.



Library Assistant Elenoa Rokodi and the author display part of the SOPAC Library's map collection.

Agency News

Recent Changes at PIMRIS Coordination Unit



The PIMRIS Coordination Unit based in the Marine Studies Building of USP has witnessed significant changes since December. Several other collections have joined the marine materials and renovations were also required to permit a dozen new computers to be installed. Consequently, what had been known within USP as the PIMRIS Library is now known as the Lower Campus Library.



In late 2004 a decision was taken to transfer both the IJALS and PACE-SD special collections into the library. IJALS (the Institute of Justice and Applied Legal Studies) provides vocational legal education, research, technical assistance and publications. It works closely with the School of Law. Its collection consists of legal materials used primarily by students of the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice. All of these students have attained an LLB from the University's School of Law based in Vanuatu, but must also

complete this 6-month course before they qualify as practicing lawyers.

USP's Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) was relocated to Lower Campus in early 2005, when its collection was also transferred to the library. The Centre was established in 2001 and conducts training, research and workshops on relevant issues including the impact of climate change on Pacific nations, conservation and waste management in small island developing states. It works with many CROP agencies, regional and international organisations.

Another collection received at USPL in 2004 was the private library and working papers of the late Robert Johannes, donated by his wife, Christa. Bob's many career achievements, particularly those in traditional marine resource management, will be well-known to most readers and it will not come as a surprise to learn that he had an extensive personal collection. This will prove an invaluable resource to future generations of researchers and USP is very grateful to be given responsibility for it. The Johannes Memorial Collection is currently being catalogued by library staff.

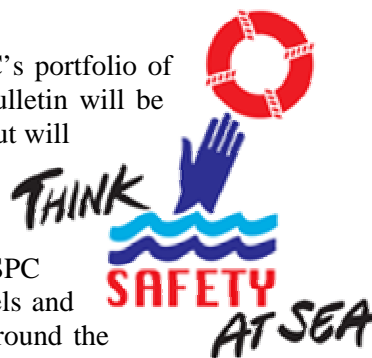
To accommodate all of these collections and the computers inherited from IJALS, considerable effort was expended over the semester break to renovate the library and reorganise space within it. Staff of PIMRIS and IJALS, assisted by colleagues from the Institute of Applied Science, the Marine Studies Programme, USP's Maintenance and ITS Sections, and several student workers, were kept very busy disassembling shelves, transporting boxes of books, rearranging furniture and restoring everything in order before the start of first semester.

Shortly thereafter the long-anticipated increase in Internet bandwidth to the entire University occurred when a link was made to the Southern Cross cable, allowing USP to join the Australian Academic Research Network (AARNET). This has increased the speed of access to electronic resources on the web (for staff and students on the University's Fijian Campus) by several orders of magnitude. It is now much quicker and easier to search online databases like ASFA, facilitating fulfillment of requests for information as well as real-time demonstrations of database search techniques during information literacy programme sessions.

The most recent change at the Unit was a disaster, albeit a minor one. On the evening of March 3rd, heavy rain and strong winds caused flooding across Suva, including a section of the Lower Campus Library floor. No collections were damaged, but the mop-up took much of the following day. We were lucky, but it was a timely reminder of the need for us to review our disaster plan.

SPC Launches New Information Bulletin

The first issue of *Sea Safety Information Bulletin*, the latest in SPC's portfolio of newsletters, appeared in February. Edited by Hugh Walton, the bulletin will be published twice a year in two formats. A print edition to be mailed out will be condensed from the full electronic version to be available from the SPC website or via email.



This new publication follows recommendations from the FAO/SPC Regional Expert Consultation on Sea Safety in Small Fishing Vessels and the 4th Heads of Fisheries Meeting. It aims to monitor progress around the region over time in the development and implementation of national sea safety strategies as proposed by the consultation. According to the editor, "the first task is the identification of "drivers" in each country. Who is out there that cares enough about sea safety issues to stand up and take on the work of promoting and implementing national strategies?"

The first issue as distributed via email includes articles on the Regional Expert Consultation; sea safety posters and other resource materials; sea safety and fisheries management in PNG; relevant courses offered in PNG and Fiji; EPIRBS; risks and dangers in small-scale fisheries; a survey of boating accidents in Australia; and advice on what to take to sea. Each electronic issue will include links to external websites, but mailed print issues will also include resource material, such as the text of a radio play on sea safety in the first issue.

The editor welcomes contributions and feedback on additional features or improvements you would like to see. Walton will also co-ordinate the activities of the Sea Safety Special Interest Group. He can be contacted c/o 9 Seymour Avenue, Nelson, New Zealand, by telephone (64) 21 153 9954 or via email: waltonz@paradise.net.nz.

FFA, SPC & SPREP receive EU funds to Implement New Projects



Fourteen Pacific Island countries will benefit from two new regional projects funded by the European Union. On March 7 at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat headquarters in Suva the Secretary General and Regional Authorising Officer, Mr. Greg Urwin, and the Acting Head of Delegation of the European Commission for the Pacific, Ms. Maria Ralha, signed Financing Agreements for both projects totaling €3.56 million (FJD7.5 million).

The "Development of Tuna Fisheries in Pacific ACP Countries" (DEVFISH) project will be implemented by the Honiara-based Forum Fisheries Agency in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Noumea. Its goal is to increase economic benefits to the 14 Pacific ACP countries through better management of its tuna resources. The project aims to increase indigenous private sector involvement in the management and development of the tuna fishery and to address important trade issues for tuna products. The € million project will be run over four years.

The other project, the "Pacific Environment Information Network" (PEIN), will be implemented by the Apia-based South Pacific Regional Environment Programme over a three-year period. The project builds upon earlier work to set up and establish environment information networks across all Pacific ACP countries. The network is used to share environment information so that countries may better plan environment strategies and initiatives. This phase of the project totals €60,000 (FJD1.2 million) and will focus on the Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Nauru. Phase one of the project received international acclaim by winning the environment category in the "Stockholm Challenge" in 2004. Mr. Urwin thanked the European Union for its continued support to the development of the region.

(Source: Joint European Union-Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Press Release, 7 March 2005)

Conference & Workshop Notices

2005

- May 9-13 World Aquaculture '05: International Annual Conference and Exposition, Bali Convention Centre, Indonesia
<http://www.was.org/Meetings/ConferenceInfo.asp?MeetingCode=WA2005>
- May 16-21 7th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Taipei, Taiwan
<http://www.ipfc7.org/title.htm>
- May 17-19 8th International Conference on Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Environments, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
<http://www.waterobserver.org/event-2005-05/>
- May 31 12th PIMRIS Steering Committee Meeting, Suva & USP Centres across the Pacific
Contact the PIMRIS Coordination Unit for more details; pimris@usp.ac.fj
- June 6-11 International Ocean Research Conference, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
<http://www.tos.org/conference.htm>
- October 23-27 1st International Congress on Marine Protected Areas, Geelong, Victoria, Australia
<http://www.impacongress.org>
- Oct 31 – Nov 3 Pacem in Maribus XXXI: Building Bridges towards Integrated Oceans Governance, Townsville, Queensland, Australia
<http://ioc.unesco.org/ioi/contents.php?id=123>

For information on more workshops, conferences and committee meetings of interest, visit the online webpages of PIMRIS members agencies (FFA, SPC, SPREP, SOPAC & USP) as listed on page 2

If undeliverable, please return to:

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