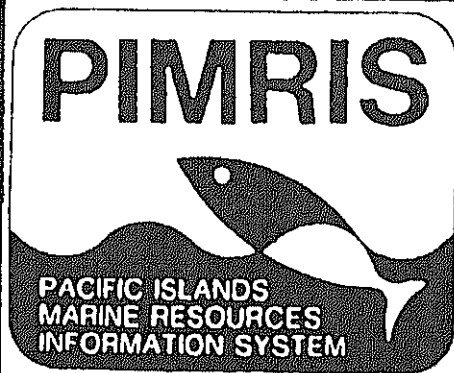


# PIMRIS NEWSLETTER



Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System  
 C/- Marine Studies Programme, The University of the South Pacific,  
 P O Box 1168, Suva, Fiji

Ph: (679) 321 2284 Fax: (679) 330 1490 Email: pimris@usp.ac.fj

PIMRIS is a joint project of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), South Pacific Commission (SPC) and The University of the South Pacific (USP) funded by Canadian International Development Agency. The SPC component is funded by the Government of France. South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is also another cooperating institution.

## Contact persons at the Regional Organisations Cooperating in the PIMRIS Network

PIMRIS Coordination Unit,  
 The University of the South Pacific:

*Ganeshan Rao*  
*Simione Kuruvoli*

South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission:  
*Sunita Prasad*

Secretariat of the Pacific Community:

*Jean-Paul Gaudechoux*  
*Rachele Oriente*

Forum Fisheries Agency:  
*Ben Hall*

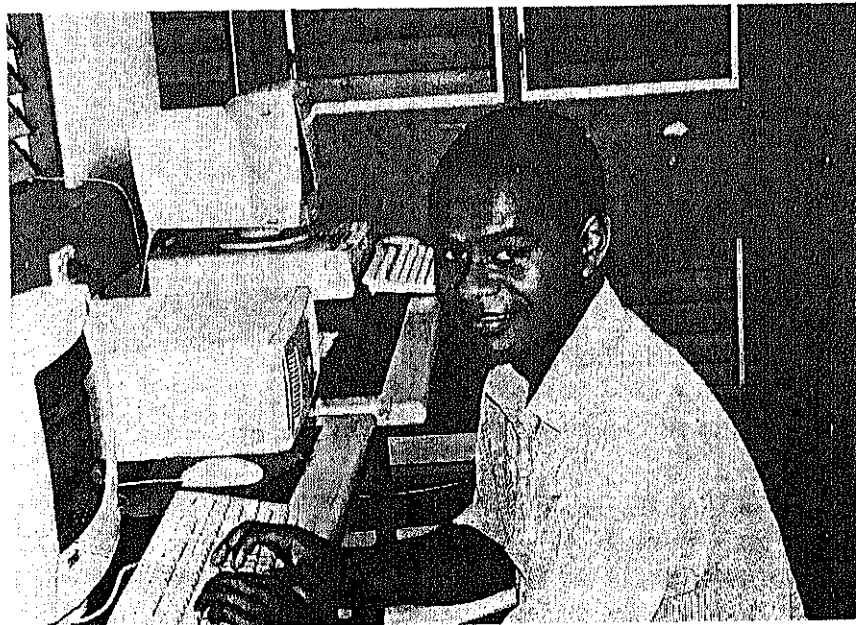
South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme  
*Satui Bentin*

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*(Views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the institutions cooperating in the PIMRIS Network)*

## FROM THE PIMRIS DESK.....



### CONGRATULATIONS SERU.....!!

Internet "Café" a service provided at the PIMRIS Coordination Unit. Seru Bainivualiku, is a regular user of this service and has been selected as *the 'Best Student Client of the Year 2003'*. He is completing his Bachelor's degree this year.

This issue of the Newsletter also provides some recent information releases and announcements.

*Ganeshan Rao*  
*PIMRIS Coordinator*

### REQUEST

This is a request to you to deposit copies of any of your publications (published or unpublished - reports, research papers, technical papers, etc.) with PIMRIS. The annual reports are especially important. The items will be added to the Pacific Collection of USP Library.

PIMRIS has been continuously soliciting for documents (published or unpublished) on Marine Resources (living as well as non-living), specific to the Pacific Island countries. This is essential in order to create a centralised location in the Region where most of the marine related documents could be found.

## PIMRIS COORDINATION UNIT

### **Integrated Approach to Teaching & Information Literacy**

A first time trial was done to integrate teaching and information literacy programme. This was organised by Ganeshan Rao (Coordinator of PIMRIS) jointly with Reuben Sulu (Coordinator of MS111 – Introduction to Marine Studies). Ganeshan taught two teaching weeks' of MS111 curriculum during Semester 1 within which special information literacy sessions were embedded. This proved to be a success in the sense that attendance was good and students could relate to the application of skills. It also formed part of the curriculum.

### **Liaison Librarian & Information Literacy Programmes(ILP).**

Sem 2 2003 (conducted by PIMRIS Coordinator.)

COURSE	ATTENDANCE
MS203	15 (24/7/03)
BI304 ( Biology)	13 29/7/03
PH202	90 (31/7/03)
CH301 (Chemistry) Chemical Abstracts	56 (3 sessions) (29/7/03)

### **PIMRIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

This meeting will be held during 11-12 November 2003. For the first time the meeting will be held using USPNet Satellite Communication Facility so that the participants can attend via USP centres in their countries.

### **PACESD**

The PIMRIS Coordinator provided assistance to Pacific Centre for Env and Sust Dev (arranged between Director of PACE and Dep Uni Librarian Ms Fong). The work is now complete. Basic library and information management skills were provided to the PACE staff.

### **PIMRIS Coordinator Resigns**

The Coordinator has resigned due to personal/family reasons. The Coordinator leaves on 17th January 2004. The position has now been advertised.

.....

### **NEW FIJIAN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP ADDRESSES REEF CONCERNS**

*- Mamanuca Environment Society.*

By Ingrid van Steenwyk

Over fishing, coral and reef harvesting, sedimentation, chemical pollution, improper waste disposal and agricultural run-off are just some of the concerns faced by the recently formed *Mamanuca Environment Society*.

The society was established to protect Fiji's beautiful Mamanuca Islands, of which the coral reefs are a main feature.

"We wanted to establish an ongoing organisation to protect the waters surrounding the Mamanucas," said the society's chairman Arthur Reed.

Formed by the Mamanuca Fiji Hotel Association, the society is concerned about what happens to the reefs.

"Worldwide, there is enormous degradation of coral reefs," said Mr Reed. "We wanted to make sure this doesn't happen in Fiji."

Mr Reed explained that it is important to understand what is physically damaging to the reef areas.

He cited coral and reef harvesting as one of the problems.

"Currently there are businesses chopping out bits of the reef and importing them overseas," said Mr Reed. The process is legal, but needs to be studied in order to determine the extent of the impact.

Mr Reed also pointed to the issue of run-off from mainland Fiji.

"Fertilisers from sugar cane areas wash down into the rivers and into the sea, eventually affecting the water of the reefs," he said. "The process may be unavoidable, but it's important to look at this issue and find out to what degree it is happening."

Currently Mamanuca Environment Society, with the help of University of South Pacific, is taking water samples from the mainland in order to identify sedimentation levels. Sedimentation, mainly due to deforestation is a main threat to the area.

"Prior to now, there has been no sustained program to monitor this kind of thing," Mr Reed said.

"The bottom line is that our work needs to be scientifically based, so that we understand what is happening to the area."

As well as a research programme, the Mamanuca Environment Society also conducts an educational programme for schools and villages.

Mr Reed explained that while the society was organised by members of the Mamanuca tourism industry, it also has significant involvements from local chiefs, landowners and stakeholders.

"We are all in this together," he said. "Protecting our environment is not only protecting our tourism industry and villages in the Mamanucas, but it is also helping to ensure our children's future. It is vital that we address environmental concern now."

*Reported in : PACNEWS - Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association  
News Services. Wednesday 06 August 2003.*

**ASIA/PACIFIC LOCALLY MANAGED MARINE AREAS NETWORK (LMMA)  
MEETING IN SUVA 11 August 2003.**

A comprehensive system of marine protected areas must be established to ensure successful biodiversity conservation, said Minister for Information and Media Relations, Simone Kaitani. "Various resorts and privately owned islands have established marine sanctuaries with the support of the customary resource owners, but these areas are not legally recognised," said Mr Kaitani, opening the Asia/Pacific Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA) Meeting in Suva.

Mr Kaitani said it is time that some of the regions' over-fished reefs are protected and closed to all forms of harvesting to act as seeding areas for adjoining reefs. However, he noted that policing these restricted areas would be problematic without adequate manpower and resources.

He said a solution would be to locate these seeding reefs close to communities to discourage poaching. He emphasised that strong leadership in the community is an ingredient to the success of marine conservation projects and cited the Veratavou project in Verata, Tailevu as an example.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa this year, Fiji was awarded an LMMA international award, demonstrating to the world that it recognises community partnership in biodiversity.

Last year, the Fiji LMMA won \$30,000 (US\$15,950), which has been used to establish a trust fund to help communities that do not have access to funding to advance their LMMA work.

*Excerpts from Source: PACNEWS, Tuesday 12 August, 2003*

**EXPERTS ATTACK FIJI'S TUNA PLAN AS UNSUSTAINABLE**

Fisheries experts with the Noumea-based Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) have labelled Fiji's Tuna Development and Management Plan (TDMP) "unacceptable".

In an exchange of letters between SPC fisheries experts and the Honiara-based Forum Fisheries Authority (FFA), the SPC has accused the Fiji government as being "an irresponsible harvester of the [tuna] resource" for setting the maximum allowable tuna catch at 15,000 tonnes per year.

Distancing itself from the Fiji plan, SPC fisheries experts said they had advised the Fiji government to set the limit at 7500 tonnes - 3000 tonnes of albacore, 2500 tonnes of yellowfin tuna and 2000 tonnes of big eye tuna.

Ignoring the advice of experts, the Fiji government today launched its Tuna Development and Management Plan (TDMP) aimed at ensuring the sustainable harvest of tuna fish within Fiji's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

*Excerpts from Source: PACNEWS, Thursday 01 Aug 2002*

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
(FAO) Publications - FISHERIES**

Report of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (GCP/INT/735/UK) and FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research Joint Working Party on Poverty in Small-Scale Fisheries. Promoting the contribution of the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Poverty Alleviation. Rome, 10-12 April 2002 FAO Fisheries Report No. 678 Rome, 2002, 28 pp. ISBN 92-5-104794-4 ISSN 0429-9337 TR/M/Y3910/E \$10.00

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- (i) share experience and knowledge on this subject;
- (ii) identify clearly how the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries could serve as a tool in poverty alleviation in fishing communities;
- (iii) identify critical knowledge gaps and research needs; and
- (iv) elaborate a project framework and research methodologies.

Costs of monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries in developing countries (The) FAO Fisheries Circular No. 976 Rome, 2002, 56 pp. TC/D/Y3780/E \$14.00 This report is a preliminary effort to establish the nature and range of costs of monitoring, control and surveillance in developing countries.

*(Excerpts from Source: URL: <http://www.fao.org>  
Catalogue / catálogo: <http://www.fao.org/catalog/giphome.htm>  
Statistics / statistiques / estadísticas: <http://apps.fao.org>  
E-mail: [Publications-Sales@fao.org](mailto:Publications-Sales@fao.org)*

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION  
PUBLICATIONS - REVIEWS**

<http://www.iirr.org/html/catalogdescription.htm#crm>

**Participatory Methods In Community-Based Coastal Resource Management. 1998. US\$10.00**

The sourcebook is a documentation of various tools and methods developed in the course of doing CBCRM as effectively and efficiently employed by field practitioners in the Philippines, Indonesia, India and other Asian countries. The main section of the sourcebook is the step by step description of various participatory methods field tested by the authors and their organizations. A simple outline was devised for most of the topics to include the definition, purpose, materials, suggested approach, outputs, strengths, weaknesses and variations. The sourcebook is designed for use by people working directly with coastal communities to help strengthen their capability to manage, protect and develop their local resources.

**Recording And Using Indigenous Knowledge: A Manual. 1996. US\$15.00**  
Indigenous Knowledge manual, as this book is popularly called, provides rural development workers with information and tools needed to integrate

indigenous knowledge (IK) into the development work. It contains an overview of IK-related issues, describes more than 30 methods of recording and assessing IK, discusses issues and methods for assessing the usefulness of IK in development, contains more than 20 question guides that outline content areas to be considered when recording IK and lists further resources that can be used when exploring the use of IK.

Source: *Publications & Communication Program*  
*International Institute of Rural Reconstruction Publications*  
 Y.C. James Yen Center  
 Silang, Cavite 4118  
 Philippines.  
 E-mail: [Publications@iirr.org](mailto:Publications@iirr.org) or [Bookstore@iirr.org](mailto:Bookstore@iirr.org)

There is no easy way of conveying the sense of loss that one feels at an untimely death, and Bob Johannes was an individual who touched the lives of very many people. His passing leaves a large gap.

The first that many of us knew about the event was through an email drafted by Bob himself, transmitted posthumously through his own email account. To receive a posthumous message from someone you respect, or love, is a shocking event. But it was typical of Bob's forthright, appropriate touch that this distressing message itself conveyed comfort.

He said: "I have had so much to be happy about in my life — everything that counts has been totally rewarding . . . everything, except some unidentified malfunctioning biochemical pathways."

In this, as in everything, he was able to cut to the heart of the matter, and to explain just why things are as they are. And to show us a way forward, even if he saw no way forward for himself.

Bob was an inspiration to many people, as you will see from tributes collected in this special issue of the bulletin. His ideas, and his inspiration, will live on.

**Tim Adams**  
 Director, SPC Marine Resources Division

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

# TRADITIONAL

Marine Resource Management and Knowledge

Special Edition - March 2003

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

Robert E. Johannes  
 1936-2002

This edition of the *Traditional Marine Resource Management and Knowledge Information Bulletin* is respectfully dedicated to the life and memory of our friend and colleague, Bob Johannes.



Bob listening to a representative, and a respected fisherman, from north Tarawa village communities, during the Co-Management Workshop held in Kiribati in 1994 as part of the USAID Tarawa Lagoon Management Project.

Bob and Bwere Eritua, from Kiribati, who helped him communicate with local fishermen in Tarawa, Kiribati (1994).



Helped by Bwere Eritua, Bob collects information from one of the local fishermen, Co-Management Workshop, Tarawa, Kiribati (1994).



Bob developing a research proposal for the Mekong Delta, April 1999, on the Mekong River, Laos.



Photo: Greg Johannes



## Japan signs up for more Pacific ocean research

A new agreement for deep ocean mineral exploration in selected areas within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati and Niue, was signed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2003, at the SOPAC Secretariat in Suva by representatives of those countries, the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), the Metal Mining Agency of Japan (MMAJ), and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

The new agreement covers surveys to be carried out over a three year period commencing in April of 2003. The 2003 survey cruise will be conducted in the EEZs of Kiribati and Niue from November 2003. The 2004 and 2005 survey cruises will occur in the EEZs of Fiji and FSM, respectively. The one month survey will use the Japanese research vessel *Hikawa Akashi*.

The Government of Japan has been conducting surveys of deep ocean mineral resources in the EEZs of SOPAC member countries since 1985. The last stage of this joint project comprised three, five year phases with surveys conducted within the EEZs of the eleven SOPAC member countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The primary objective of the last stage was to assess the marine mineral potential of these eleven countries.

The last three year phase of Stage 3, completed in March 2001, involved surveys within the EEZs of the Cook Islands, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands. Its objectives, and the proposed objectives for the recently funded second phase, seek to evaluate the resource potential of marine minerals in the prospective areas, listed during Stage 1. Unselected areas, as well as marine environmental



Hands held to seal the partnership. From left, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kiribati to Fiji, Meria Brabura, Director of SOPAC, Ali Simpson, Yoshiko Hasei, MMAJ's Deputy Director General of the Technical Development Department, representing the Government of Japan, and Tane Tapakohu, representing the Government of Fiji. The Federated States of Micronesia representative, Ambassador Kodoro Galan, who could not attend the morning signing session at the SOPAC Secretariat is seen on the right signing the agreement later at the evening, at a dinner function.

baseline data for use in environmental assessments in the event of future marine mining activities.

The overall project, since its inception in 1985, has obtained excellent results and identified numerous areas with potential marine mineral resources of manganese nodules, cobalt rich manganese crusts and polymetallic massive sulphides. The deep sea mineral resources contain valuable metals such as

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Secretariat of the Pacific Community

## Fisheries Education and TRAINING

Number 20 - August 2003

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Editor: Michel Blanc, Fisheries Education and Training Advisor, Training Section, SPC, BP 155, 98848 Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia (Phone: +687 263000; Fax: +687 263118; Email: MichelB@spc.int). Website: <http://www.spc.int>  
Production: Fisheries Training Section, SPC. Printed with financial assistance from the Governments of France and Australia.

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The issue of bycatch in pelagic longlining was thoroughly discussed at the recent Heads of Fisheries meeting in Noumea (18-22 August 2003). SPC and its member countries and territories have decided to take a proactive approach and to that effect the Fisheries Training Section has been asked to continue raising awareness of fishing vessel crew in the region. As part of this effort, and to complement recently produced materials, a training package will be developed and distributed to fisheries training institutions. This 20<sup>th</sup> issue of our bulletin is focused on bycatch issues in the Pacific, presenting the SPC initiative as well as providing an insight into the New Zealand perspective.

Several new training programmes are also presented: a Certificate in Aquaculture Technology from the New Zealand School of Fisheries, innovative hospitality crew training at the Vanuatu Maritime College and a Manage Vessel Condition course at the SPC Maritime Programme in Suva. Recent training activities in Samoa, FSM and at USP are also reported. For those who can afford training in Europe, an intensive course on fisheries management will be run in Holland later this year.

Readers and training providers, your contributions to the next issue will be most welcome!

Michel Blanc  
SPC Fisheries Training Advisor

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Marine Resources Division Training Section



Formerly called CASO/IKM A newsletter for Conservation Areas in the Pacific Issue No. 8 ISSN 1522-4935

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### Pioneering Pacific biodiversity programme comes to an end

By Joanna Axford

(Themes and excerpts are taken from the SPBCP Programme Manager's Terminal Report)

After ten years, the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) has come to an end. This was the Programme that successfully pioneered a concept and approach to biodiversity conservation at the community level in the Pacific. SPBCP has been the single longest-serving donor-funded conservation programme in the Pacific in more than three decades.

SPBCP was launched in 1991 to address the urgent need to conserve the region's biodiversity, threatened by rapid development, and lack of legislation and methods of protection. Recognising that Pacific governments often have limited capacity to protect biodiversity on customary owned land, SPBCP embraced the idea of empowering local communities themselves to protect biodiversity on their communally owned land and marine areas. The

creation of Conservation Areas was SPBCP's primary objective, "incorporating development activities, which respect and enhance the natural environment while providing for the economic well-being of the local resource owners and communities".

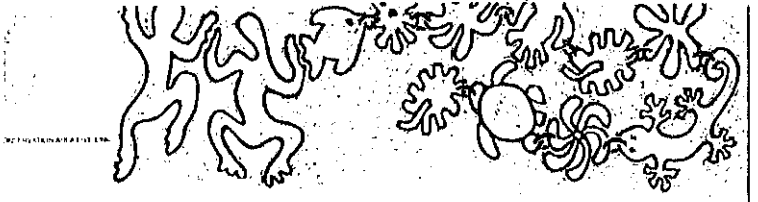
Community-based Conservation Area Projects (CAPs) were set up as pilot projects to protect areas of high biodiversity values that may be threatened by human intervention. The emphasis was on facilitating local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and government agencies to work together to establish viable sustainable management systems.

SPBCP's major achievements

The SPBCP has been hailed by many as a success. It has made a significant contribution to the protection of critical biodiversity in the region. The establishment



CASO officers with Project Manager Muallegale Jop Bell (center)



Formerly called CASO/IKM A newsletter for Conservation Areas in the Pacific Issue No. 8 ISSN 1522-4935

### Conservation Trust: long-term support for community-based conservation in the Pacific island countries

By Joanna Axford, taken from Pacific Island Conservation Trust: long-term support for community-based conservation in the Pacific island countries, a proposal to SPREP by Wren Green and Peter Hunnann, November 2001.

In 2001, the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) contracted consultants Wren Green and Peter Hunnann to prepare an *Issues and Options Paper* on the Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation. The proposal builds on earlier consultations and conceptual work to assess whether the rationale for a regional trust fund is still valid and relevant. It does so in a context where the importance of community based initiatives is now more widely accepted and at a time when environmental funds are proliferating worldwide. The idea of a regional trust fund was introduced at the South Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997, as a tool for gaining funding and building capacity. It is a legal arrangement designed to provide long-term funding support for conservation activities throughout the Pacific.

SPBCP, under the mandate received from its member countries in 1997, and with funding assistance from the Government of New Zealand, investigated the establishment of a Pacific Islands Trust Fund for Nature Conservation. Four reports, all supporting the

establishment of the Trust Fund have been produced in the last six years and a Trust Fund Steering Committee was established in October 1999 to advance work on this initiative.

In May 2000, the Steering Committee submitted a concept proposal to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeking funds for further development of the Trust Fund idea. Comments received from UNDP were not in favour of the concept but suggested amongst other things that there was a clear need for stronger justification for such a Fund, especially in light of the growing interest in national trust funds.

The Green and Hunnann report builds on and updates earlier proposals and conceptual work to suggest that "much more could be achieved for Pacific conservation at the local level by establishing an endowment trust fund in perpetuity". The report examines a range of questions concerning relationships with Pacific island governments, regional vs. national trust funds, and how to achieve national autonomy over decision making with a regional structure. The report reviews the rationale for a conservation trust fund in Pacific island countries and the issues to be addressed. It concludes that a trust fund is feasible and would be a valuable mechanism for delivering an appropriate type and level of support for nature conservation and natural resource management initiatives across the region.

The report contains a proposal to establish a Pacific Islands Conservation Trust (PICI). It outlines the draft



Tuvalu's pristine Funafuti Atoll, but for how much longer?



## IN-CITES

<http://www.in-cites.com/journals/FisheriesOceanography.html>

According to a survey of the ISI "Essential Science Indicators" Web product, "Fisheries Oceanography" achieved the highest percent increase in total citations in the field of Plant & Animal Science. The journal's editor-in-chief, Dr. Dave Checkley, a Professor of Oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, talks about the journal, its citation record, and how it has carved its niche in the field.

What is "*incites*"? Quoting from their website

<<http://www.in-cites.com/index.html>> "incites provides a behind the scenes look at the scientists, journals, institutions, nations, and papers selected by ISI Essential Science Indicators Web product. Read interviews and first-person essays about people in a wide variety of fields and professions. View selected overall and field rankings, pertinent statistics on the principles behind the data, the latest version of the database, including new entrants and most improved entities in the rankings, information on field definitions, citation thresholds, and graphing trends.

*Excerpts from Source: Joyce Shaw  
Gunter Library - Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-7000  
Aug 2003*

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*Airmail*

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*Return Address:*  
PIMRIS  
Marine Studies Programme  
University of the South Pacific  
P O Box 1168  
Suva  
FIJI Islands

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