

SOPAC NewsUpdate #021, 25 November 2003

1. EU-SOPAC Project delivers Tonga mapserver

Technology and utilities developed for the new web-based map server launched in a pilot study at the Secretariat in July has been transferred to the Kingdom of Tonga. The MapServer for Tonga is the first to be delivered to the eight recipients of EU assistance through the EU-SOPAC EDF8 project. Delivery was made in October to the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources and available at www.lands.gov.to. Staff of the Ministry of Lands will maintain the equipment and offer the collaborative platform to other ministries, organizations and private companies, using the Internet. Staff from the Tongan Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Fisheries, Tonga Communication Corporation, Tonga Water Board, Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry were at the Secretariat mid-October contributing layers of geographical information under their responsibilities directly to the MapServer. The delivery to Tonga concludes the pilot phase of the MapServer installation, and will be followed over the next couple of years with similar equipment installation and training to the other Pacific ACP countries. §

2. Water and Climate Management in the Pacific

UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) for the first time recently convened an IHP Steering Committee meeting in the Pacific. In conjunction with it, SOPAC co-hosted with UNESCO a conference on "Water Resources Management in Climate Extremes and Natural Disasters," during the last week of October 2003. SOPAC's collaboration with the UNESCO/IHP has been in the field of hydrological science, in strengthening hydrological services in the PICs and increasing awareness outside the region of the challenges and needs facing PICs in freshwater resources management. §

3. Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI) Country Updates

EVI country profile reviews for Pacific countries are currently circulating in the countries for comment. The country profile reviews provide details on all data holdings for a country, data gaps that exist and advise on action necessary to ensure 100% data coverage for each EVI data profile by the end of 2003. The EVI Team continues to move forward towards the goal of completing the finessing of the EVI tool in time for its submission for consideration at the 10-year review of the Barbados Plan of Action scheduled for 2004. To this end, the Team's work is cut out to review all collaborating countries' data profiles to ensure they are all 100% up-to-date to the end of 2002, by the end of this year. §

4. Palau & Tokelau Delegations Visit the Secretariat

A delegation from Tokelau made time to visit the SOPAC Secretariat, on 11 November, during their participation at SPC's CRGA that recently concluded in Suva. Senior professional staff from the three main SOPAC work programmes presented current work to the delegation. They were followed by a visit from a delegation headed by the Director of Foreign Affairs of the newest member of SOPAC, Palau, on Friday, 14th November. The Secretariat presented the SOPAC programmes, showed them around the offices and hosted them to tea. The Republic of Palau became the 20th member country of SOPAC at its 32nd Session hosted by Niue at the end of September. §

5. SOPAC News & 32nd SOPAC Session Proceedings

Use the following link <<http://www.sopac.org.fj/Data/virlib/reportsindex.html?ss=type&vv=SN>> to get to the archives for SOPAC News. Also the Proceedings volume for the SOPAC 32nd Session has been published. You can download an electronic copy directly from the link below or request it from the Secretariat. Hardcopies are on a slower boat to subscribers and participants. §

<http://www.sopac.org.fj/Data/virlib/reportsindex.html?ss=type&vv=PS>

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