

TRIP REPORT VANUATU

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by

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PURPOSE

Visit the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

- Maximise the investment of the equipment procured under the EC-funded LOME III Marine Resources Program.
- Ensure that the equipment was integrated into the existing infrastructure
- Provide an Information System for the Department through integration of software and hardware and prepare a forward plan
- Provide clear and concise documentation to describe the Information System
- Identify new areas of SOPAC assistance and determine existing areas where modification is required.

REPORT

The majority of the work involved training staff in the use of the new software and upgrading existing equipment within the Department. It was necessary to upgrade one desktop from a 286/16 to a 486SX/33 which required demonstrating the unacceptable performance of Windows applications on a 286, obtaining competitive quotations from suppliers in Port Vila identification of funding and arranging the actual upgrade.

There are now three 486 desktop computers, one for the secretarial unit connected to a Laserjet IIIP and the other two in the computer room. In addition to the two 486 computers in the computer room there are two 286 units which require upgrading or replacing. The four computer in the computer room are connected to a variety of peripheral devices which include a Laserjet 4, HP500C colour printer, HP 7475 plotter, Summagraphics digitising tablet and a data logger interface.

The wiring, both power and data had become complex with the inclusion of a serial and parallel switch box and two UPS and was further complicated by the HP 7475 being 110 volt. The wiring was rationalised and a bench on three walls was designed using 20 mm plywood to replace the assorted furniture.

Any 486 running DOS 5.0 was upgraded to version 6 and hard drive capacity increased through the double space utility and the standard set of software included with the EC equipment was installed on all computers.

MapInfo

MapInfo was upgraded from 2.0 to 2.1 on the EC-funded computer and installed on the second 486 in the computer room. The baseline coastal data was copied from my notebook computer to both computers under directory C:\DAT and a workspace was created which displayed the Vanuatu EEZ and relevant surrounding features. A layout was established from output which showed a 5 degree grid, notional EEZ boundaries, coastal outlines and bathymetry data. A legend provided appropriate acknowledgements. Output was made to both the Laserjet 4 and the HP 550C colour printer. A copy of this output is attached. Training was provided in use of MapInfo using the supplied MapInfo data as well as that from SOPAC. It was understood that several government departments in Port Vila were using MapInfo and that onshore baseline data had been established. It was recommended that Geology approach these departments, in particular Forestry, to investigate sharing of this baseline data. The advantages of establishing a GIS were outlined.

Library

The staff member, Serah Douglas, who had been responsible for organising the library and maintaining the CDS/ISIS database had been transferred to administration and accounting due to staff cuts. The database was non operational due to damage to the AUTOEXEC.BAT file and use of this application was restored. The data appeared to be intact and Serah advised that she

would continue to carry out updates when time permitted. Stanley advised that a staff member would be recruited later in the year who would be responsible for the library and that training would be provided by Serah. There was, however, the possibility, that a request for training assistance may be made next year. As in most places where CDS/ISIS is used, only the librarian is able to perform queries due to the poor user interface of this application. Unless the authors of CDS/ISIS radically improve the interface, which is something that would have to be done if a Windows version was released, then SOPAC should investigate a Windows replacement unless there is some compelling reason to keep CDS/ISIS. This would have to be undertaken in consultation with other regional organisations who have participated in the PIMRIS program as well as the USP library.

Recommendations

The recommendations are detailed in the Recommendations for Upgrade of the Information System (SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 156) which should accompany this trip report. This document as well as the User Manual was stored as on-line documents in the directory C:\DAT\DOC of the EC funded Compaq desktop computer.

SUMMARY

There are two major sections within the Department which are Water Resources and Seismic (Vulcanology) and a small Economic Minerals section. There is a possibility of Australia providing funding assistance to strengthen the Minerals section.

I mainly dealt with Water Resources and in particular Derrick Deplidge. This is an active section and Derrick is committed to training of national staff. It is anticipated that there will be continuing requests for assistance from this Department. In particular, training and information system development.

The EC funded equipment has been a timely addition to a Department who have a firm commitment to using an information system to assist in the operation and planning of the organisation.

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