

Mike Batty takes up a new challenge at FFA

Mike Batty left SPC in December 2013 after five years as Director of SPC's Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME). This period saw continued expansion of the work of the fisheries programmes, as well as some changes recommended by an independent review in 2009. These changes included adding economics and export facilitation to the work of CFP; and a new emphasis on electronic reporting from fishing vessels in the work of OFF. Outside of work he is a keen angler, and could often be seen in the evenings fishing at Anse Vata from a kayak.

Mike was recruited to SPC from the Forum Fisheries Agency in Honiara, and now returns to FFA to take up the position of Director of Fisheries Development. For most of his career he has worked in the area of fisheries development, and has spent a number of years in Solomon Islands on different fisheries projects — both national and regional.

Coming from Penzance in the southwest of England, he has worked for much of his 35-year career in the Pacific Islands, starting as a fisheries adviser in Tuvalu in 1982 (where his former counterpart is now Minister of Fisheries). Outside the region, his assignments have included periods of employment in Sudan, Namibia and Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic, as well in Britain, where he worked as a commercial fisherman.

Mike will continue to engage with SPC, particularly in the development area, with the joint FFA/SPC DevFish 2 project. One of his first tasks is to develop a proposal for EU funding for a comprehensive fisheries programme involving both agencies, which will build on the good results of both the DevFish 2 and SciCOFish projects.



Moses Amos, new Director of SPC's FAME Division



In March 2014, Moses Amos joined SPC as the new Director of the Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems. Moses is from Vanuatu and speaks fluent English, Bislama and Melanesian Pidgin, and is conversant in French. He has a Master of Science degree in Biological Science from the University of Auckland and a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from Otago University, both in New Zealand.

Moses was the Director of Vanuatu's Department of Fisheries for 12 years from September 1997 to December 2006 and from September 2010 until February 2014. From January 2007 to March 2010 he was Director of Fisheries Management at the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in the Solomon Islands.

Moses has worked both regionally and nationally, and is quite familiar with the economic, political and cultural dynamics of the region, as well as regional and country-specific policies, infrastructure and programmes relating to fisheries. His strong background in the development and management of fisheries policies and their implementation — at both the national and regional level — and his familiarity with and understanding of key fisheries issues (particularly from the perspective of SPC's island members) is a welcome asset.

Moses' previous role as a member of FFA's management team will further strengthen the relationship between SPC and FFA in fisheries, which in turn will strengthen the collective effort of both organisations to serve their mutual membership better.