REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT THE 9TH CONSULTATION OF PACIFIC NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

07 – 11 July 2003 Raffles Gateway Hotel, Nadi, Fiji Islands

SOPAC Trip Report 322

Rupeni Mario Energy Project Officer Community Lifelines Programme

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GENERAL

Mr Rupeni Mario of the SOPAC Community Lifelines Programme (Energy Section) attended the 9th Consultation of Pacific National Commissions for UNESCO as an observer.

The 9th Pacific Consultation of the Pacific National Commissions for UNESCO is a preparatory meeting to the UNESCO General Conference scheduled for 29 September – 18 October.

SOPAC's presence in the consultation meeting provided the opportunity to inform participants about some areas of SOPAC's activities relating to UNESCO – Apia Office's work programme. These include:

- Capacity Building
- Water
- Natural Disasters
- Renewable Energy
- Management of Coastal Areas
- Information and Communication Technology

SOPAC also provided clarification on the process leading to the preparation for the Pacific UN Prepatory Meeting for Barbados +10 to be held in Apia, Samoa, 4-8 August 2003. In addition, SOPAC highlighted the progress and current status of the partnership development with respect to the Type II Initiatives. SOPAC also highlighted and welcomed UNESCO to indicate their interest in becoming partners to relevant Type II Initiatives. The Type II Initiative information provided to the meeting is appended in the Annexes.

The consultation meeting concluded with the identification of the following priority areas to be highlighted at the UNESCO General Conference.

Education

- Numeracy/Literacy
- Teacher Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Drop outs
- Vocational Teaching

Culture

- Regional Cultural Policy Framework
- Protection/Promotion of Tangible/Intangible Heritage including emphasis on Indigenous Language
- Legislation
- World Heritage
- Capacity Building

Communication

- Fundamental High Costs of Access
- Pacific Archives/Libraries
- Capacity Building (Media)
- Community Radio/Television Access
- Cultural Diversity

Social Sciences

- Migration (urbanisation)
- Youth
- Human Rights/Responsibilities
- Governance
- Ethics

Science

- Water
- Management of Coastal/Marine Areas
- Renewable Energy
- Waste Management
- Natural Disaster Preparation

Inter-sectorial

- Local and Indigenous Knowledge
- Barbados +10
- Poverty Alleviation
- Application of New Information Technologies
- Small Islands Voice

Additional details on the discussions in the 9th Consultation and UNESCO activities are appended to this report.

OTHER ISSUES

In addition to the meeting proper other discussions also transpired. These are as follows:

SOPAC-UNESCO Collaboration

Mr Hans Thulstrup, Science Adviser, UNESCO Apia Office suggested that perhaps it would be favourable to have a partnership agreement between SOPAC and UNESCO Apia Office. This would further enhance future collaborative work between SOPAC and UNESCO Apia Office.

Tokelau Membership to the SOPAC Council

Mr Falani Aukuso, Director, Office of the Council of Faipule stated that Tokelau is still interested in becoming a SOPAC member country. Mr Aukuso also suggested that should an opportunity arise for SOPAC to visit Tokelau it would be ideal have a presentation to generate discussions on the benefits of Tokelau becoming a member of SOPAC.

Invitation for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) – International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Meeting

The letter on the joint invitation for the RSC-IHP Meeting scheduled for 27–31 October 2003 in Sigatoka was finalised following discussions between SOPAC and UNESCO – Apia Office.

ANNEXES

AGENDA

9th CONSULTATION OF PACIFIC NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

for UNESCO

7 - 11 JULY 2003

RAFFLES GATEWAY HOTEL

NADI, FIJI

Monday 7 July

9.00 – 9.30am	Welcome Official Photograph		
9.30 – 10.00am	Item 1	Electi	on of Officers
	Item 2	Adop	tion of Agenda
10.00 – 10.30am	Morning tea		
10.30 – 11.00am	Item 3		ew of 8 th Consultation rt Recommendations
11.00 - 12.30	Item 4	(a)	Reports from UNESCO Office on programme work since 8 th Consultation
12.30 – 2.00	Lunch	(b)	Participation Programme
2.00 – 3.00pm	Item 5	Repo	orts from Executive Board Members
		Visit o 2004	of the DG to the Pacific, January,
3.00 – 3.30pm	Afternoon te	a	

3.30 – 4.30pm	Item 6	Barbados + 10: - 10 year review of UN Programme of Action for Small Islands Developing States, by Mr Dirk Troost CSI, UNESCO Paris Discussion	
	Item 7	World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)	
		introductiondiscussion	
7.00 -	Welcome Co	ocktail Party	
Tuesday 8 July			
9.00 – 10.30am	Item 8	Preparation for Pacific UN Prepatory Meeting for Barbados + 10 to be held in Samoa 4 – 8 August 2003 - introduction Mr Dirk Troost - discussion	
10.30 – 11.00am	Morning tea		
11.00 -12.30pm	Item 9	World Congress of the Associated Schools Network 4- 8 August	
		introduction : New Zealanddiscussion	
	Item 10	National Commissions : developments, difficulties, support required general discussion	
12.30 – 2.00pm	Lunch		
2.00 – 3.00pm	Item 11	UNESCO General Conference (29 September – 18 October) dates, organization and work of General Conference elections for Executive Board elections for other committees support for Pacific delegates any other matters	

speakers for Commissions

3.00 - 3.30 p.m.

Item 11 continued

Pacific twice weekly morning meetings

 possible UNESCO speakers from sectors in Headquarters to the Pacific morning meetings

- any other matters

Evening:

Free

Wednesday 9 July

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Item 11 continued

Item 12 Barbados + 10

 Pacific input into the interregional and global process via the 167th Session of Executive Board (10 – 24 September) and General Conference

Item 13

Invited guests comments

10.30 -11.00 a.m.

Morning tea

11.00 - 12.30 p.m.

Item 14

32 C/5 2004 - 2005

programme discussion

12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

Lunch

2.00 - 300 p.m.

Item 14 continued

3.00 - 3.30 p.m.

Afternoon tea

3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Item 15

ASPAC Medium Term strategy

Review

Evening

Free

Thursday 10 July

9.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Item 16

Barbados + 10 Forward Looking

Item 17

Forward Planning for General

Conference and the new

Biennium

10.30 - 11.00 a.m.

Morning tea

11.00 - 12.30 p.m.

Item 18

Consultation

Item 19

Conclusion

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9TH CONSULATION of NATIONAL COMMISSIONS for UNESCO

Nadi, Fiji Islands

7 – 11 August 2003

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DRAFT MEETING RECORDS

Ninth Consultation of Pacific National Commissions for UNESCO

7 - 11 July 2003

Raffles Gateway Hotel

Nadi, Fiji

Monday July 7

Mrs Edna Tait, Director, UNESCO Apia office, opened the meeting and a prayer was offered by Hon. Paula Bloomfield, Minister of Education, Tonga.

Edna Tait then welcomed delegates to the meeting noting that there was representation of all sectors of the UNESCO organisation: Education, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Communication and Culture. She introduced members of the Apia office and also welcomed Mr Dirk Troost from Paris headquarters whose programme contributed funding to make the meeting possible. An apology was offered from Ms Tarja Virtanenen, along with her good wishes for a successful meeting. Edna Tait continued by introducing the meeting chairman, Hon. Baron Waqa, Minister of Education, Nauru; Professor Kenneth Wiltshire and the Hon. Jaques Sese, Executive Board members; Hon. Paula Bloomfield, Minister of Education, Tonga; and the Hon. Margaret Austin, Chairperson of the UNESCO National Commission. She noted the wealth of experience that these people brought to the meeting. Also welcomed were SOPAC, Forum Secretariat and other Pacific organisations. National Commissions are well established in the Pacific and each country now has a working commission. This has taken time but is an admirable achievement.

Baron Waqa, Chairperson, then welcomed delegates, dignitaries and Pacific organisations to the meeting and thanked the Government of Fiji for their hospitality. He also thanked CSI and Dirk Troost, Paris, for their financial support for the meeting, along with Nauru. The Apia office was given credit for their work in the organisation of the meeting and he concluded by wishing all participants a pleasant and fruitful week.

The official photograph was taken.

[b] Participation Programme

Ken Wiltshire made the point that reports must be completed for PP's before a new PP is approved. The meeting began a list of possible Pacific PP requests. Ken Wiltshire spoke about UNESCO's role in the eradication of terrorism. UNESCO's part is to address the causes of, and breeding grounds for, terrorism. UNESCO has been given the leading role to address the education of these issues. Inter cultural understanding is paramount. A 5/6 day workshop would be initiated to begin the work of designing a curriculum to foster inter racial and religious understanding. ASP would have an important role in this work. Dirk Troost noted that Caribbean small islands countries intend to submit a PP request to host a second inter-regional Small Islands Voice [the first one was held in Palau in November 2002]. In the next biennium the Pacific could possibly join this initiative with the help of a Pacific PP.

Item 5. Reports from Executive Board Members

Hon. Jacques Sese introduced Kenneth Wiltshire who presented the Executive Board Members' report.

Points made:

- The Pacific should meet with Caribbean Small Islands States.
- UNESCO has a strong presence in Afghanistan and will also have a post conflict role in Iraq.
- Reform in UNESCO is proceeding slowly but satisfactorily. The regional office situation is rather a grey area.
- DG's visit to the Pacific is being planned.

He spoke to overhead projections and responded to questions from delegates.

Visit of the DG to the Pacific, January 2004

Edna Tait brought the meeting up to date with the arrangements being made for the DG's visit. It is hoped that there will be a meeting of Education Ministers during this visit, to be held in Samoa. This meeting will be followed by a Forum Secretariat Ministers meeting. The visit itinerary is still being finalised and Edna Tait expected to have more information following her visit to Paris in July.

Problems for the DG's attention were raised by participants

- · remoteness of small islands states
- shortness of visit does not give him a true picture of the Pacific

Innovative ideas to showcase the Pacific:

- power point presentation to show problems.
- representatives from countries to go to Samoa for country presentation.

Item 6. Barbados + 10. Ten year review of UN Programme of Action for Small Islands Developing States, Mr Dirk Troost, CSI UNESCO, Paris

Dirk Troost spoke to the paper contained in the folders and clarified various points of interest. Further document information was also available.

Item 7. World Summit on the Information Society

Edna Tait, on behalf of Tarja Virtanen, spoke to, and expanded on, three papers contained in the folders. Elizabeth Rose distributed a paper on the Pacific regional position developed as a side event to WSIS Asia Pacific Regional Conference [January 2003] and at regional ICT Consultation [April 2003] and identified four basic issues

- Cultural diversity
- Equal access to education
- Universal access to education
- Freedom of expression

7.00pm A Welcome Cocktail Party was hosted by the UNESCO, Apia office.

Tuesday July 8

The Chair berson

Baron Waqa welcomed Mr Paul Fairbairn, Manager Community Lifelines, SOPAC, Fiji, and Mr John Low, Resource Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Fiji. Ms Brenda Maddison, Marshall Islands, was also welcomed to the meeting.

Item 8. Preparation for Pacific UN Preparatory Meeting for Barbados + 10 to be held in Samoa 4 - 8 August 2003

Dirk Troost introduced the session

Dirk Troost referred, and spoke, to papers included in folders and Circular No: /03. John Low gave additional informative background and comment. A Regional Platform must be developed for the Pacific. Countries must identify their needs, constraints, gaps and priorities and these reports are imperative for the Apia meeting as it is essential to be able to present a Pacific overview for the Mauritus meeting. At the present time these assessments are not ready.

Paula Bloomfield asked if small islands were sustainable. The same rhetoric is being repeated but where is the action? Who is responsible for the Small Islands Project? Where has money gone over the past ten years? Meetings are held, reports not produced.

What is happening to small islands? There have been meetings for ten years with nothing to show to date. Water rising, islands disappearing, cyclones, internal wars. It is time for action and the Small Islands Voice may be the answer. Paul Fairbairn responded to the question by saying that the islands energy and water sectors have progressed in the region. There are Oceans and Energy projects progressing well. Governments will choose the representatives to attend the Apia meeting. John Low agreed that action is imperative and stressed that UNESCO has a large part to play in ensuring that assessments are made and presented. He also agreed that the consultation could have a representative at the meeting

A 30 minute video 'Small Islands Voice' was shown. Participants were invited to send comments on the video as it was a first draft

Item 9. World Congress of the Associated Schools Network 4 - 8 August

Elizabeth Rose distributed the draft programme for the congress. Margaret Austin outlined the history, background and organisation of the congress and said that it was a credit to the Pacific ASP network and UNESCO Office, Apia, that the event is being held in Auckland. Finance is proving difficult and additional funds are required. The expected number of participants is 200-250. Elizabeth Rose commented on the programme. Edna Tait reminded the meeting that the Pacific ASP network started eight years ago and is very strong. UNESCO, Apia can fund one ASP coordinator from each country. In some Pacific countries, however, ASP coordinators have found ways and means to enable teachers and/or students to attend. Edna Tait outlined the work that the ASP network has done and the contribution that Pacific countries will be making to the conference.

In the discussion which followed a number of points were made.

- UNESCO and the NZ Government were thanked for their ongoing commitment to ASP
- ASP profile needs to be rejuvenated within the UNESCO organization.
- Gratification that Quality Education is the thrust of congress.
- Emphasis on how ASP can assist Quality Education.
- Essential that Small Islands and Youth are represented at the congress.
- Congress to determine the pathway for future ASP.
- Important that sectors work together rather than compartmentalising.
- SOPAC 'Type 2 projects' www.pacificssp.com.

Item 10. National Commissions: developments, difficulties, support required

Ken Wiltshire began the session with the issue of Secretaries General and practical training. He noted the many pressures on secretaries general and asked about having opportunities to learn how to prepare PPs and other documents. A training/awareness programme is essential, what is currently provided?

Edna Tait indicated:

- Some Secretaries General go to Paris for intensive training, but every second year only
- Pacific PPs allow for the training of National Commission Secretaries General.
- Edna Tait does in country training in full.

Some difficulties included: people become knowledgeable and then move on/out, programme funding is required to run an effective training scheme. Edna Tait does not have the time or money to be able to visit 17 countries twice a year.

There was unanimous endorsement of the incomparable work done by Edna Tait, Director of the Apia office, as well as her staff. Also made were the following points

- Training for Director Generals of National Commissions is a priority.
- Existing resources could be better used. Attachments to other National Commissions/Apia office could be used.
- Country visits by the director and staff are much looked forward to and appreciated.
- Funding for country visits by UNESCO staff is essential
- What is important is the number with whom the Apia staff work [Ministers, officials] not the country's population size
- The Pacific totals a third of the world's surface and it is important with 17 Member States.
- National Commissions must be businesslike, organised and efficient. Reports on their activities could be a consideration for future consultations.

Item 11 UNESCO General Conference [29 September - 18 October]

Ken Wiltshire gave an overview of General Conference, finger walking delegates through the document provided. Elizabeth Rose noted that NZ offered the use of an office, adjacent to the New Zealand office in the Miollis building, for the Pacific Delegations for the duration of the General Conference. The office would be equipped [with Australia's assistance] and human resourcing provided for part of each day.

Ken Wiltshire made the following suggestion: That Pacific delegations should meet with:

- The Director General.
- Head of the Bureau of Field Coordination.
- Caribbean and Indian Ocean Small States National Commissions.
- IIEP International Institute for Educational Planning.

Other suggestions were

- Sector ADG's
- Head of Participation Programme.
- Head of World Heritage Programme.

Possible draft resolutions

- Importance of the coasts of small island states
- ASP
- National Commissions capacity building

Ken Wiltshire then explained the Executive board elections. Jacques Sese noted that the Pacific should show that it is serious in its wish for a third seat by having a candidate in 2003. In 2005 the Pacific will be contesting the two seats it currently holds. The issue of a third Pacific seat was debated. It was noted that UNESCO's own rules suggest one seat for every three countries. Thus the Pacific should have five.

Resolution. Moved: Margaret Austin. Seconded: Jacques Sese
The Pacific will support the candidate, Palau, in the Executive elections in 2003.
This was carried unanimously. The Palau Government has pledged its support for the candidate.

Wednesday July 9

Item 11 continued

Ken Wiltshire continued his presentation, explaining bodies with elections at General Conference.

Pacific possible candidates:

- NZ [election] on MOST
- NZ [re-election] IFAP
- NZ [election] World Heritage Commission
- Fiji expressed interest in HEP IBE

It was agreed that it was important that the Pacific has a high profile in the commissions where possible.

Lead speakers for each commission were identified:

Natural Sciences

Palau

Social Sciences

Tonga

Communication

Solomon Islands

Education

Vanuatu

Culture

Fiji

Administration

Samoa

Item 12 Barbados + 10

Dirk Troost reminded delegates of the variety of material available at the meeting for their use. Ms Brenda Maddison outlined the work being done with the Barbados Action Plan in the Marshall Islands. The consultation considered a draft resolution for General Conference concerning the Barbados Programme of Action. Ken Wiltshire suggested that the Caribbean and Indian Small Islands States could also be signatories and that the resolution should be presented to all commissions.

Item 13. Invited guests comments

SOPAC

Made the observation that it is obvious that Pacific countries work as a family.

• Thanked UNESCO for their support in gomes activities goppe activities and UNICEF

Has a new Director and sends apologies.

Item 14. 32 C/5 2004 - 2005 Programme and Budget discussion

Social Sciences. No money has been offered to the Apia office for the new biennium.

Education. It has been proposed that Apia receives \$US350.000. Edna Tait outlined the work areas requested. Delegates discussed the possible programmes and budget 2004 -5 giving special attention both to regular programme and extra budgetary possibilities. Specific points included:

- Possible 1-2 year secondment in the Apia office of a statistics expert.
- A proposed Human Rights conference in 2004 organised by New Zealand.
- Apparent funding discrepancies in the draft 32/C5 were noted

Science There would be no indication about funding until later in the year.

Culture The budget level would be approved later in the year.

Dirk Troost spoke about the cross cutting project embracing cultural and biological diversity, referred to in the ecological section of the consultation papers.

Ken Wiltshire pointed out that the discussion highlighted UNESCO's budgetary process and spoke in detail about how the process worked. Initially the UNESCO, Apia office proposes a draft budget and awaits the result. There is no secrecy with regard to the draft budget and it could be tabled. Margaret Austen reiterated the importance of the discussion. The consultation suggested that there should be a resolution on behalf of small islands states about financing.

The meeting took the opportunity to highlight issues that need to be addressed at commission interventions.

Item 15 ASPAC Medium Term Strategy.

Delegates were reminded of the strategy which was recommended during the 2002 consultation. Mali Voi distributed a culture contribution to the strategy and reminded delegates of the matrix in the document that should be completed.

Thursday July 10

Item 16. Barbados + 10- Forward Looking.

Dirk Troost identified ways to contribute to General Conference considerations for Barbados + 10. He then discussed small islands: looking forward and the paper SICF There was a discussion regarding the desirability of rejuvenating Vaka Moana

Item 17. Forward planning for General Conference and the new biennium.

- Edna Tait gave an overview of Participation Programme procedures and responded to questions. Delegates agreed on Pacific PP's each country would submit for 2004 - 5
- Pacific priorities for 2004 5, sector by sector, were agreed upon.

Item 18. Consultation

Consultation resolutions were approved. The draft report, as amended, of the consultation was approved.

Item 19. Conclusion

EdnaTait thanked all delegates for their work during the week and said she looked forward to working with everyone again during General Conference. She thanked everyone in the UNESCO team for the report and thanked Dirk Troost especially for his funding support and valuable contribution to the consultation. She wished all a safe journey home.

Paula Bloomfield closed the consultation with a prayer.

UNESCO APIA OFFICE REPORT

REPORT

TO THE

9TH CONSULTATION OF PACIFIC NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

AND

MEMBER STATES

NADI, FIJI

7 - 11 JULY 2003

Introduction

This report has two parts:

- 1. Overview of the Office
- 2. Sector Reports

These are brief as details are reported fully in the three monthly reports from the office.

1. The Office

Since the report to the special Consultation in November 2002, there have been some changes.

Staff

- The promised P-3 post for Communication (Informatics) has been cancelled and the post will be re-advertised.
- ❖ a P-3 Education will be advertised this year
- the Social Sciences post remains unfilled
- an AO is promised for the next biennium
- no decision has been made in Paris about the National Programme Officer
- currently volunteers carry very important workloads:
 - Australian Youth Ambassadors in Education and Culture, each with us for one year, and
 - Austrian volunteer for three-four months;
 - the Danish volunteer has completed his term and returned to Denmark
- In summary, the staffing situation is difficult: as the programme workload has increased, staffing has decreased.

Physical amenities

We will soon move into extra space on the ground floor of our building, occupying it all except for the bank at one end and the medical centre at the other. Chief use of this space will be Library, files and computer/technology centre.

Programmes

Sector details follow but a general concern is that we have too few funds to meet our programme needs. Already in Education we have a nil balance and no money was provided for Social Sciences. The other sectors will have their remaining funds obligated by the end of June. We recognize that funds are limited but note the number of countries (17) we serve, the geographical size of our area (1/3 of the globe) and the irregular, indirect and expensive airlines Pacific people have to use. When funds are distributed according to population size, we are disadvantaged because no office works with populations. We all work with Ministers, their officials, National Commissions, NGOs etc. Most cluster offices have 3 – 4 countries ie. 3 – 4 Ministers of all sectors, 3 – 4 National Commissions etc. We work with 17 Ministers, National Commissions etc. The Pacific Office serves its region as well it can, with some remarkable results.

2. Programmes

For the biennium we have provided support for projects in all five sectors of UNESCO's mandate and the cross cutting project LINKS.

Education 2002 – 2003

Chief Activities

Education for the All (EFA)

- Workshops (3)
- all plans well-developed
- work has involved NGOs and Donors
- synthesis of plans 2002 completed, 2003 update in progress

Educational Statistics

❖ Workshops (2)

Associated Schools Network

- ❖ Workshop (1)
- in-country projects eg. Papua New Guinea
- ioint project with Communications to produce Media Education book for schools
- participation planned for World Congress in Auckland
- schools database established
- Two PPs not submitted has seriously hindered work

Directors Network

- Consultations (1)
- second consultation to be held in August
- draft Pacific Qualification Framework
- Pacific consultants database

Ministers

- financially supported second Forum Meeting
- endorsed EFA synthesis
- * key feature has been high turn over

Pacific Regional Initiative for Development of Education (PRIDE)

- Director on Advisory committee
- we declined major execution role because of lack of staffing

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

workshop with COL (PATVET) (1)

Pilots

- FRESH in Samoa
- CLC in Samoa

Millennium Development Goals

Pacific Workshop Participation

Social Sciences

Human Rights

- ❖ Pacific Workshop (1)
- follow-up National workshops (2)
- participation in Paris, special meeting, January 2003.

International Council for the Study of Pacific Islands (ICSPI)

- secretariat services
- established library
- canvassed for members
- **Executive Board meetings (2)**
- organizing full conference for December

Other

❖ ANU seminar in 2002

Head of Office and other Office Activities

- Development of ASPAC sector plans for 2004 2005 (2 meetings)
- Training for AOs (1)
- Note: all funding and programmes for the Pacific are settled now by the appropriate bureaux:

Education

Bangkok

Science

Jakarta

Communication

New Delhi

- SHS

Adviser in Bangkok

- 5115

Adviser in Bangkok

- Culture : Adviser in
 National Commission Consultations (2)
- Visit by Director General to Pacific planning with New Zealand, Samoa and Headquarters
- Participation Programme
 - the responsibility for six countries passed to Apia

- task: collect overdue reports
- implementation of current biennium PPs and collect reports
- ❖ FABs SISTER are not working for us yet

Pacific Cooperation

- The office continues to collaborate closely with all major Pacific organizations. The list includes SPC, SOPAC, SPREP, PIMA, PINA, IOE/USP and, a special cooperation with the Forum Secretariat. The office also works closely with all UN agencies, particularly UNDP, UNICEF and WHO.
- Pacific tertiary institutions, museums, media outlets, NGOs and many other bodies are valued partners in the work of the Office.
- A special thanks goes to Pacific National Commissions, their Chairs and Secretaries-General for all the independent and joint activities they have shared with us.
- Funding for Official travel is too little to visit each Member State each year.

Donor Cooperation

increasing cooperation (3 meetings)

Culture

In spite of the increased in the number of countries, Culture Sector, as are other Sectors represented in Apia, with only one professional and one general staff continue to get on top of work including backstopping for a number of projects in Culture Sector Divisions or Units.

The activities are listed in bullet points below:

- Cross-cutting project for poverty alleviation in urban areas
- Promotion of linguistic diversity
- Completion of Regional Law for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture
- Providing technical assistance for the implementation of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture
- Produced two research documents regarding minority people who, through colonization, were removed from their places of origin
- Conducted International Arts Education Meeting for the Pacific Region
- ❖ Continue to focus on moribund language of the world: Melanesian Language Project

The following activities involved administrative and organizational backstopping role for HQ Divisions or Units:

- Technical assistance for Kuk archaeological site, considered the world's oldest irrigational agriculture in Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea for a proposed World Heritage Listing
- ❖ Variaratta National Park proposed for MAB Listing
- Levuka Island proposed for nomination for World Heritage site
- ❖ World Capacity Building Workshop for the Pacific conducted in February 2003 at Apia
- The processing of World Heritage nomination consisting of marine and terrestrial protection areas in the Line Islands within the territories of France, Cook Islands, Kiribati, and the United States of America

- Pacific Region Training for Heritage Managers in close collaboration with ICOMOS Australia and Deakin University
- ❖ World Heritage Education Kit for the Pacific in close collaboration with New Zealand

Propose economics of culture to be explored and addressed for the next 4 years.

- Cross-cutting project for poverty alleviation: Development of Cultural Industries for youth at risk in urban areas
- Heritage Tourism as to generate employment opportunities (paper included in folders).
- Continue to pursue Arts Education.

Natural Sciences

Under the key Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and in Small Islands Platform (CSI), support was provided for the participation of Pacific Island field project representatives from Papua New Guinea and Samoa at a CSI regional workshop on the advancement of Wise Practices Agreements held in Thailand, December 2002. A set of interactive primary and secondary school mangrove field study materials were completed as part of the Saamapu-Sataoa CSI Field Project (Samoa), and a full inter-project assessment of the Trobriand Islands Field Project (PNG) was carried out with the final report forthcoming during the coming weeks.

As Follow-up to the World Conference on Science held in Budapest, 1999, a partnership was entered with the Center for the Public Awareness of Science, Australian National University, establishing the Pacific Science Exchange. The Exchange - an e-mail based forum for information sharing mutual support for Pacific Island scientists - has received enthusiastic support and responses from scientists across the region, and will enter its second phase with the establishment of a website within a few weeks. (Detailed report available on request). CPAS-ANU furthermore provided one of the facilitators at the CI PEIN journalists' workshop held in Apia in May 2002, and presented a paper on the UNESCO-led Pacific Science Communication activities at a Science Communications conference held in South Africa. December 2002.

Within the Basic and Engineering Sciences Programme, priority has been given to a UNESCO-UNDP partnership for the advancement of integrated, science-based activities to maximize the benefits of renewable energy in small islands. Work under this programme has been carried out primarily by UNESCO-UNDP Renewable Energy consultant Mr. Thomas Jensen, and has included technical contributions to the UNESCO-UNDP-France-New Zealand-funded Tokelau Power supply project; the publication of regional teachers' and students' physics manuals using renewable energy examples (by USP Suva); provision of training course travel grants for young energy scientists and technicians from Samoa and Tokelau; contribution towards a wind energy feasibility study in Rarotonga (Cook Islands); undertaking of an energy audit of the UN agencies based in Apia; publication of an energy conservation and efficiency booklet for use in homes and schools; technical assistance for a study on grid-connected wind energy in Niue; and a feasibility study for provision of 24-hour power supply to Apolima Island (Samoa). An additional three UNDP-funded renewable energy projects are expected to take place over the remainder of the biennium in Samoa, Tokelau, and the Cook Islands, respectively. (Detailed report available on request)

Under the *Hydrological Sciences Programme*, the main focus has been on the advancement of the Catchments & Communities project in Vanuatu, implemented by the Department of

every *

Water

Waten*

Geology, Mines and Water Resources in partnership with the Wan Smolbag Development Theater and supported by NIWA (New Zealand) and SOPAC. Additionally, a water education study and capacity building project was carried out in Samoa in June 2003. (Detailed reports available on request)

The main activity of the Ecological Sciences / Man and the Biosphere Programme has been implementation of the ASPACO Japan Funds-in-Trust project for the advancement of Biosphere Reserves and similarly managed areas in the Pacific, with field projects ongoing or planned in Palau (Ngaremeduu), Papua New Guinea (Variarata), Samoa (Savaii), and Tonga (Eua) (Detailed report available on request). Work has recently begun on the development of a Pacific Rim Biosphere Reserve Education Kit and Atlas, intended to raise awareness of the MAB programme across the region. It is still possible to request funds for implementation of activities under the ASPACO programme, and all countries are very much encouraged to do so.

Under the Earth Sciences and Natural Hazards Reduction Programme, two main activities have been carried out; development of volcanic hazards educational resources in the island of Niuafo'ou, Tonga; and development of community-owned natural disaster preparedness plans in the island of Ambrym, Vanuatu. Please also note that a student from the island of Niuatoputapu, also in Tonga, won the Jury's Special Prize in the 2002 UNESCO Space Education Essay contest (Detailed reports and essay available on request)

In addition to the above Natural Sciences programmes, two intersectoral crosscutting projects were coordinated by the Science Programme in Apia, as follows:

The first major interregional meeting of the global *Small Islands Voice 2004* initiative was hosted by Palau in November 2002 with participation from countries in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean. Field activities, including surveys, establishment of Internet-based Youth Forums, as well as public awareness activities and debates have taken place in Palau, the Cook Islands, and Fiji, with additional activities being developed in other countries in the region. (Detailed reports available on request)

Activities under the Local and Indigenous Knowledge (LINKS) initiative have centered on the development of a CD-Rom based interactive learning resource on traditional Pacific voyaging and navigation. The final product is expected to be ready for distribution by the end of the year. Support was provided for two indigenous New Zealand delegates to present papers at the LINKS side event at the WSSD in South Africa in August 2002, and for a representative of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre to present a paper at the Pacific Science Congress in Thailand, March 2003. Finally, an activity has been initiated for the finalization of a new edition of the Marovo Dictionary of Environment and Resources as well as for initial work on a planned LINKS activity focusing on local knowledge relating to the coastal and marine environment, Solomon Islands.

Finally, backstopping and support from the Natural Sciences programme was provided towards key *World Heritage* activities, in particular the *World Heritage Capacity Building* workshop held in Samoa, February 2003 and the *Line Islands World Heritage Project* planning meeting held in Honolulu, June 2003, as well as other activities associated with this project.

INPUT TO DG'S REPORT TO EX BOARD ON 18 FIRST MONTHS OF 2002-3 APIA CI SECTOR

V.1.1. F<u>ormulation of principles, policies and strategies to widen the access to information and knowledge</u>

MLA1. Establishing an international framework for narrowing the digital divide through the "Information for All" programme

UNESCO commissioned its second survey on "Internet Infrastructure and e-Governance in the Pacific" which was published in March 2002. The survey is the most comprehensive data collection in this field in the region, and has been widely distributed and used as a tool for ICT development planning and decision-making.

MLA2.Addressing ethical and societal challenges of the Information Society

Together with regional IGOs and NGOs, UNESCO has actively facilitated the participation of the small Pacific island countries in the WSIS process through the Asia-Pacific preconference (Tokyo, January 2003), PREPCOM2 (Geneva, February 2003), and the Pacific ICT meeting (Suva, April 2003). As result, preparatory documents recognize the special circumstances of the small Pacific island developing states (SIDS).

MLA3. Global and regional portals and other tools

The **Pacificforum portal** (www.pacificforum.com/) is a Pacific specific portal. It has been developed by Taholo Kami (Tonga) with support from UNESCO and UNDP's ePasifika project and it offers links to news, reports and learning materials on IT, including the UNESCO supported "Training Modules on IT for Pacific Decision-Makers".

V.1.2. <u>Development of infostructure and building capacities for increased participation in the knowledge society</u>

MLA1. Promoting wider access to information in the public domain and Memory of the World

MLA3: Reinforcing the role of libraries, archives, information services and networks

An initial step was taken to reinforce the role of libraries and archives as gateways to information and knowledge, through the 'Pacific Pathways' expert consultation (November 2002), which was hosted by the New Zealand National Commission. In preparation of the Pacific Pathways, the Apia Office commissioned a survey on "Digital Community Services: Pacific Libraries and Archives. Future prospects and responsibilities" (Esther Williams, Fiji/USP, October 2002).

The survey concludes that the libraries and archives in the Pacific islands suffer from poor perception and lack of awareness of their importance for education and sustainable development. Their role in the emerging Knowledge Societies is still unclear. The expert consultation therefore made a recommendation to promote awareness and raise the visibility for libraries and archives, through PP and other initiatives.

In order to facilitate national projects to digitize cultural (documentary and print) materials, the experts invited UNESCO, through a desk survey, to identify the main Pacific cultural (documentary and print) collections in the islands countries, and the Pacific cultural collections which have been digitized in other countries and could be made available through Internet in the region. The survey is now underway.

The work in this fields is still in its initial phase.

MLA2: Strengthening public broadcasting and local content

As per UNESCO's "Pacific Islands TV Survey", conducted for UNESCO by James Bentley, the local content production in most Pacific Islands countries is still very limited. However, other examples show that it is possible for a small country to generate local content, provided that the political support and innovative approach is there.

UNESCO's support to the Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) and local content development in the region has been delivered among others by raising awareness of the concept of PSB; supporting the access of national radios to global knowledge resources; training; linking traditional and new media; and training in TVs and video production. Its many activities, including the UNESCO-SPC's Pacific Women's TV Workshop and Exchange project and the Pacific Way, have raised awareness of the importance of local production for small counties.

MLA4: Developing human resources and capacities

In order to promote media literacy, UNESCO has now published the "Media Education in the Pacific. A Guidebook for Secondary School Teachers". The book is the first ever media education book which builds on the needs of the Pacific islands educational systems, cultural context and local media environment. It is based on a wide consultation with the Pacific ASP network since March 2001 and was launched in the regional ASP meeting of June 2003. The project aims to empower students to participate in the media and understand the diversity of the media which – by some researchers – is called the children's "first curriculum". The Directors of Education have given their support to the project.

V.2.1. Freedom of expression, media and democracy

MLA1: Freedom of expression, media and democracy

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration in the Pacific, a national workshop on democratic media legislation and 'freedom of information' was supported through the Pacific Islands Media Association. in

- 14.3 also resolved to raise these issues during the meeting of Pacific delegations with the Director-General during the 32nd General Conference.
- 15. called on the UNESCO secretariat to reconsider the dependency of small islands states on regional allocation of Regular Programme funding through bureaux.

INFORMATION FOR THE 32nd UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2003

UNESCO General Conference 2003

The 32nd General Conference of UNESCO is to be held from September 29th to October 17th 2003.

There is to be a Youth Forum just before the Conference from September 26-28 and all countries will be asked to include a young person in their delegation. Some funding will be available for Less Developed Countries. The themes the young people will be discussing include Education for Sustainable Development, Preventive Education, Communicating with Youth, and also a practical training session with computers on accessing UNESCO documents information and networks.

The Conference will also feature two Ministerial Roundtables

- A Ministerial Roundtable on "Promoting the Quality of Education", October 3-4.
- A Ministerial Roundtable on "From the Information Society to the Knowledge Society", October 9-10.

The General Policy debate will be held in Plenary from September 30 to October 7 (including Saturday morning). The Director-general has requested that the name and position of the person taking part in this debate, as well as proposals for two optional dates at least 48 hours apart for a speaking time, should be submitted to him as soon as possible. (The speaking time in this debate is 8 minutes and written speeches can be distributed.)

The dates for the different Commissions are:

Administrative Commission: September 30-October 6 and the afternoon of October 8

Commission I: (General Questions and Programme Support) October 7-13 and morning of October 15

Commission II: (Education): September 30-October 2 and the morning of October 6

Commission III: (Natural Sciences and then Social Sciences) October 3-9 and the morning of October 11

Commission IV: (Culture) October 9-14 and the morning of October 16.

Commission V: (Communication) October 6-9 and the morning of October 11

ELECTIONS:

Elections for the Executive Board will be held on Friday October 10 with, if necessary, a second ballot on Saturday October 11. Elections to most other bodies will be held on October 13-14. The elections to the World Heritage Committee will be held in that meeting during the time of the Culture Commission i.e. October 9-14.

The bodies to be elected during the time of the General Conference include:

- Executive Board
- Legal Committee
- Headquarters Committee

- IBE Council of the UNESCO Bureau of Education
- CIGEPS Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport
- MAB International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere
- IHP Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme
- MOST Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations Programme
- IGBC Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
- Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation
- Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo
- IPDC Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication
- IFAP Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme
- UIS Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics
- World Heritage Committee

NB. Apart from the Executive Board most of these bodies meet once a biennium, sometimes once a year, and only a few pay travelling costs or per diem mainly for Bureau members.

The Pacific is currently represented as follows:

Executive Board - Australia and Vanuatu IFAP - New Zealand IPDC - Fiji MOST - New Zealand

CREDENTIALS

To take part in the Conference each country must be paid up financially (please check this before the Conference) and must submit its Credentials. The Credentials contain the name of all your Delegates to the Conference and they must be submitted by the start of the Conference at the latest but ideally one week before i.e. by SEPTEMBER 26th (see the example of Credentials in the Annex to this paper.)

The Credentials must be received as originals although a copy can be faxed in advance to: Secretary UNESCO General Conference - Fax: (Int) + 33 1 45685701. This is recommended.

The easiest way is for the Delegation to bring the Credentials to the General Conference but they could be posted, or couriered in advance. The address:

Secretary
UNESCO General Conference
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
F-75352 Paris 07-SP
FRANCE

The Delegation of each country can include up to 5 Delegates (including the head of Delegation), 5 Alternate Delegates, and as many advisers and experts as necessary. Only Delegates or Alternate Delegates may vote.

The Credentials must be signed by either the Head of State, Head of Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs. However another Minister (e.g. Education) can sign them but only if the Minister for Foreign Affairs has filed a statement with the Director-General of UNESCO advising that that Minister is authorised to issue Credentials. (This is very important or Credentials could be refused if they have been signed by the wrong Minister).

If your country is not able to attend the General Conference you can still prepare Credentials which authorise a non-national to act on your behalf including voting - their name would simply appear as part of your Delegation on the Credentials.

If your Delegation is unable to stay for all of the Conference you could include the name of a non-national in your Credentials as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate. Or during the Conference the Head of your Delegation would simply write to the Secretary of the Conference saying "in my capacity of Head of the Delegation of..... I have the honour to inform you that there is an amendment to be made to the Credentials of my country. The name of..... should be added to these Credentials in the capacity of (Delegate or Alternate Delegate). This is best done on letterhead so bring lots of letterhead with you. This person can then take part on your behalf including voting.

Voting is very important if the voice of the Pacific is to count so it is important to ensure the Credentials are in order.

Pacific Delegations will be meeting regularly during the Conference. These meetings are crucial for collaborating on interventions, Draft Resolutions, Participation Programme funding requests, planning meetings with the Director-General and the Secretariat, and meeting with key officials and experts. They will normally be from 08.30-09.45 a.m.

The first meeting is TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th at 08.30 a.m. The Secretary of the General Conference has allocated the following rooms for Pacific meetings:-

Miollis Building Room XIV (level - minus 2 Bonvin) September 30, October 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 13

Room XVI (level - ground floor) October 17

The web site of Unesco is < www.unesco.org > then click on "General Conference".

Looking forward to seeing you all at the General Conference.

Ken

Professor Ken Wiltshire AO Representative of Australia Unesco Executive Board.



WHEREAS it is desired that Australia be represented at the Thirty-First General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, to be held in Paris from 15 October to 3 November 2001:

NOW THEREFORE THESE PRESENTS CERTIFY that the twenty persons whose names appear hereunder have been duly named, constituted and appointed by the Government of Australia to represent Australia at the said Conference in the capacities indicated:

Delegates:

RICHARD MATTHEW PEEK
KENNETH WILLIAM WILTSHIRE
ROBERT DRAKE HORNE
GEOFFREY JAMES SPRING
JENNIFER MAY BOTT

Alternate Delegates:

JOHN MARK WEBB
MERLE CALVIN RICKLEFS
JOHN BENJAMIN JANSSEN
ANDREE LOUISE LAWREY
ANNE SIWICKI

Advisers:

DIANE ELLEN BOOKER
PAUL BERNARD COWAN
ELIZABETH ROBIN GREGG
LEXIE CHRISTINE MINCHAM
HELEN MARY MOLNAR
NICHOLAS MORAITIS
FRANK GILMORE MORGAN
SUSAN MARY PASCOE
MADELEINE MARY WOOLLEY
JOHN WILLIAM ZILLMAN

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ALEXANDER JOHN GOSSE DOWNER, Minister for Foreign Affairs, have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal.

this

day of October

Two thousand and one.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

UNESCO AND SUPPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES (January 2002 – June 2003)



UNESCO and Support to the Promotion of Sustainable Energy in Pacific Island Countries in the period Jan 2002 – June 2003

1. Background

1.1 UNESCO's Strategic Objectives on Renewable Energy

In order to meet the Millennium development targets and in line with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy, efforts will be made towards human resources development geared to promoting large scale use of sustainable and renewable energies, energy diversification and efficiency with emphasis on improving the living conditions in rural areas of poor countries, especially in the developing countries and small islands states.

Priority will be given to capacity building and development of co-operation in renewable energy sector through the implementation of the GREET Programme and its regional component with particular emphasis on its African Chapter. This will involve the design and field implementation of training platforms, the elaboration and dissemination of learning/ teaching materials, introduction of training programmes at all educational levels, setting of educational standards and certification of centers of excellence to serve as a catalyst. Concurrently support will be given to the definition of national energy strategies and experimentation of pilot projects aiming at developmental purposes.

The promotion of renewable energies in addressing developmental issues will be pursued in association with intergovernmental scientific programmes: water resources with IHP, ecosystem with MAB, use and applications of renewable energies in small islands states with CSI project, economic and social development with MOST and so on. Reinforced consultations with relevant and competent United Nation agencies and programmes will be carried out and through active participation in the United Nations Ad hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy and in co-operation with competent regional and national NGO's as well as with relevant UNESCO's programmes in the Education, Social and Human Sciences, Communication and Sciences Sectors, concerted actions will be taken to stimulate the use of renewable energies to meet sustainable developmental goals (social, environmental and productive) and improve living conditions in rural areas. Priority will be given to Africa, LDCs and small island states and extra budgetary resources will be mobilised to extend the scope of activities.



1.1 UNESCO, Renewable Energy and the Pacific

As an element of its natural sciences programme, UNESCO Apia operates a programme platform targeting training and research in renewable energy for the PICs. Focus in this effort is placed on engineering science and technology, in particular renewable energy applications and appropriate community technology. UNESCO Apia works closely with UNDP Samoa in this effort. The field of renewable energy and appropriate technologies remains a high priority for UNESCO's work in the Pacific.

2. Overview of UNESCO Apia Assistance to Renewable Energy in the Pacific

Below an overview of the major activities that UNESCO Apia has supported in the area of renewable energy in the period January 2002 to date:

Activity	Implementing Agency	Period
Tokelau Power Supply SPPD Project. This consists among others of three preparatory activities (feasibility/technical specifications; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and tender management) of an integrated Grid-connected Photovoltaic Electricity Supply on Tokelau project.	UNESCO Apia and UNESCO Apia consultant	Ongoing
Compilation, editing, type-setting and printing for Pacific Islands booklet on energy, transport and the atmosphere in connection of Earth Day	SOPAC	September 2001
Teacher's Workshop on Renewable Energy Issues in Physics Curriculum, Suva, Fiji	USP	28 January – 1 February 2002
Participation of two representatives (Samoa and Tokelau) in Advanced Technical Training for Trainers and Supervisors in Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Home Systems (SHS), Suva, Fiji	Solar Energy Company (SEC), Kiribati and rural energy expert	5-14 May 2003



3. Overview of UNESCO Apia & UNDP Samoa Joint Assistance to Renewable Energy in the Pacific

Below an overview of the major activities that UNESCO Apia and UNDP Samoa jointly have supported in the area of renewable energy from January 2002 to date:

Activity	Implementing Agency	Period
Combined feasibility study/project proposal for grid connected wind power on Rarotonga, Cook Islands.	UNESCO/UNDP in cooperation with Alpa Wind Energy (AWE), Denmark.	September 2001 to March 2002
Energy Audit of four UN Offices in Samoa (UNESCO, UNDP, FAO and WHO).	SOPAC	May 2002
Editing and Printing of Energy Conservation and Efficiency Booklet.	SOPAC	August 2002
Technical assistance to grid-connected wind power on Niue	UNESCO Apia and UNDP Samoa	August 2001- October 2002
Renewable Energy Advisor position at UNESCO Apia & UNDP Samoa.	UNESCO Apia and UNDP Samoa	August 2001 to present
Feasibility study for power options for 24-hours power for Apolima Island, Samoa. Prepared in cooperation with the Government of Samoa and the Electric Power Corporation (EPC).	Regional energy expert	February-March 2003
Technical Assistance to increase the utilisation of renewable energy technologies in the Cook Islands Energy Supply	UNESCO Apia and UNESCO Apia consultant	July-December 2003



4. Overview of UNESCO Headquarter Assistance

Below an overview of the some of the major activities that UNESCO Headquarter has supported in the area of renewable energy from January 2002 to date:

Activity	Implementing Agency	Period
UNESCO Pacific Renewable Energy Project. Initial emphasis will be on the production of information and teaching materials on renewable energy in the Pacific. E.g. updating of previous teaching material for PV SHSs (final draft available) and the production of a broadcast quality video/TV programme and associated teaching material (final version available).	UNESCO, SOPAC, Pacific Forum, SPC, SPREP, UN agencies, USP, University of PNG, PNG University of Technology	