NEWSLETTER IV

January 2005

Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

IN THIS ISSUE (follow hyperlinks below):

NEWS UPDATE

Facilitator leaves Pacific Partnership

WHO organises Water Quality Workshop

GEF approves first phase of Pacific IWRM programme

ADB supports Pacific Partnership Coordination Unit and Water & Climate Resource Centre

EU approves Programme for Water Governance

EU launches call for proposals for ACP-EU Water Facility

Mauritius hosts SIDS summit

Sanitation Park Opened

Japan Water Forum hosts conference on Integrated Water Resources Management

Harvesting the Heavens: Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Project Finalised

NZAID support to the Pacific Regional Action Plan

East West Centre follows-up on Leadership Seminar for Water Utility Managers

BACKGROUND on WATER IN SMALL ISLANDS COUNTRIES

ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PACIFIC TYPE II PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

PACIFIC WATER AGENDA 2005

SELECTED WATER WEBSITES

31 January 2005

Dear Colleagues,

This is the fourth official mail-out of the **Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management**. As mentioned in the first mail-outs (released in June, December 2003 as well as July 2004) we would appreciate it if you could forward this to colleagues who may be interested in this initiative so that it reaches the widest possible audience.

NEWS UPDATE

Facilitator leaves Pacific Partnership

The Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management regrets to have lost her Facilitator, **Ms Rhonda Bower**. She left the following message for inclusion in this newsletter:

"I would just like to advise everyone that I have left SOPAC and the region to pursue further studies for a year. I have been given an opportunity to undertake a Master of Environmental Management and Development Programme at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia... after which I will return back to the region.

It has been a privilege to have been a part of the process from the infant stages of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management to the ever growing Partnership itself.

All Partnership related matters will now be taken over by the other Partnership Facilitator Marc Overmars and I wish you all every success."

Likewise we wish Rhonda much success with her studies and trust she will stay in touch with the Pacific islands.

WHO organises Water Quality Workshop

The Regional Office for the Western Pacific of the World Health Organization (WHO) is organizing a workshop on **Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring** for Pacific Islands Countries in Nadi from 7-10 February 2005. Expected outcomes are identified common water quality issues and innovative approaches; a review of the 3rd edition of the WHO Guidelines Volume 1; and proposed practical approaches for national water safety plans for the Pacific.

GEF approves first phase of Pacific IWRM programme

Pacific Island Countries through the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) have signed an agreement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a regional programme on **Integrated Water Resources Management** based on the Pacific Regional Action Plan.

The call for improved water resources management was given prominent attention at the twelfth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12). Pacific Island Ambassadors to the United Nations based in New York advocated strongly for action on sustainable water management in conjunction with the Global

Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The discussions held in New York resulted in the approval by the GEF/UNDP of PDF-A (Project Development Fund) to advance a Pacific IWRM programme. It is expected that a draft concept and PDF-B proposal can be submitted to the Global Environment Facility in May 2005 aiming for a Full Project to commence in 2007.

ADB supports Pacific Partnership Coordination Unit and Water & Climate Resource Centre

Following their commitments towards the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management the Asian Development Bank has agreed to support the **Coordination Unit** of the Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management as well as continuation of the Pacific Dialogue on Water and Climate through a **Water & Climate Resource Centre.**

Details of both support programmes are currently being worked out and more information will follow soon.

EU approves Programme for Water Governance

The European Union has agreed to finance a **Programme for Water Governance** (PfWG) from the 9th European Development Fund for a number of countries in Africa and the Pacific.

The Pacific component has been developed in collaboration with SOPAC and will address the key messages identified under Theme 5 of the Regional Action Plan on Institutional Arrangements. The Pacific Programme for Water Governance will initially focus on 3 Pacific island countries and it is expected that the programme can start in January 2005.

EU launches call for proposals for ACP-EU Water Facility

The newly established **ACP-EU Water Facility** aims at reducing poverty and at sustainable development through the achievement of the water related MDGs and WSSD targets on water and sanitation in ACP countries. The specific objectives are improved governance in water and sanitation, integrated management of water resources and increased access to safe, affordable and sustainable water and sanitation services.

The facility will cover three components as follows: co-financing of the improvement of Water Management and Governance; co-financing Water and Sanitation Infrastructure; and co-financing of Civil Society Initiatives. The deadline for submission of proposals to the Facility was 31 January 2005.

The Pacific Islands regional needs for both water and sanitation are well articulated in the Pacific Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Sustainable Water Management. The ACP-EU Water Facility provides an excellent opportunity to assist Pacific Island Countries in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan at the national level and achieving the MDG targets on water and sanitation.

Two thematic areas of the Regional Action Plan (i.e. Water Resources Management and Island Vulnerability) specifically call for increasing water resources management capacity, in particular with respect to the intrinsic vulnerability of small island states to climatic extremes (both droughts and flooding), ENSO events and cyclones. Both themes explicitly state that the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS) project should be implemented as a priority. Furthermore Pacific HYCOS was also agreed as one of six priority actions to be implemented by all SIDS, at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003.

SOPAC on behalf of its Member Countries have submitted the HYCOS project proposal as well as a proposal on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to the ACP-EU Water Facility for their consideration. Both proposals will complement the programme on Sustainable Integrated Water Resources Management that is being developed in agreement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Mauritius hosts SIDS summit

The International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Port Louis, Mauritius 10-14 January 2005 made important references to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the EU "Water for Life Initiative" as important mechanisms to assist in the implementation of the Joint Programme for Action for Water and Climate (JPfA) and the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Actions.

The text of the Freshwater Chapter (V) of the Mauritius Strategy is provided below:

27. Small island developing States continue to face water management and water access challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, pollution of water resources, saline intrusion (which may be exacerbated, *inter alia*, by sea-level rise, unsustainable management of water resources, and climate variability and climate change) and leakage in the delivery system. Sustained urban water supply and sanitation systems are constrained by a lack of human, institutional and financial resources. The access to safe drinking water, the provision of sanitation and the promotion of hygiene are the foundations of human dignity, public health and economic and social development and are among the priorities for small island developing States.

28. Small island developing States in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions have demonstrated their commitment to small island developing States-small island developing States cooperation with the Joint Programme for Action for Water and Climate. The international community is invited to support the implementation of this programme, and the proposal to broaden it to all small island developing States regions.

29. Further action is required by small island developing States, with the necessary support from the international community, to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development 2015 targets on sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, hygiene, and the production of integrated water resources management and efficiency plans by 2005.

30. The international community is requested to provide assistance to small island developing States for capacity-building for the development and further implementation of freshwater and sanitation programmes, and the promotion of integrated water resources management, including through the Global Environment Facility focal areas, where appropriate, the World Water Assessment Programme, and through support to the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and the EU "Water for Life Initiative".

31. The Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, and its preparatory process will be an opportunity for the small island developing States to continue to seek international support to build self-reliance and implement their agreed priority actions as submitted to the Third World Water Forum Portfolio of Water Action, namely: integrated water resources management (including using the Hydrological Cycle Observing System); water demand management; water quality capacity-building; water governance; regional water partnerships; and inter-small island developing State water partnerships.

Sanitation Park Opened

A genuinely grassroots undertaking with full community involvement, the **Sanitation Park** project was designed to provide support to communities in Fiji in identifying and solving their sanitation problems by examining and selecting from a range of appropriate, affordable wastewater treatment options housed at a demonstration park located at the Fiji School of Medicine, Tamavua Campus. The project Team including the World Health Organization (WHO), Fiji Ministry of Health (MoH), Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) worked together to implement the project with funding provided by WHO and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID).

Three rural communities namely Keiyasi (Sigatoka), Balevuto (Ba) and Nadelei (Tavua) were selected through pre-project surveys as suitable locations for project implementation which included a practical hands-on training for the construction of a composting toilet in May 2004 involving district health workers and community members, and also 3 community workshops under the WHO "Healthy Islands Initiative" also with the same three selected communities.

The Sanitation Park was officially opened at its Fiji School of Medicine, Tamavua Campus on the 18th of November 2004 and attended by beneficiaries of the project including the communities of Keiyasi (Sigatoka), Balevuto (Ba) and Nadelei (Tavua), District Health workers from the three above-mentioned communities and FSM students from various faculties.

Japan Water Forum hosts conference on Integrated Water Resources Management

From 6-8 December 2004 the Japan Water Forum (JWF) organised jointly with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the World Water Council (WWC) and UNDESA, an **International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management** (IWRM) in Tokyo, Japan.

Recommendations from this 3-day conference include:

- 1. All countries should be fully engaged in the preparation of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans (IWRM Plans) as committed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- Plans should be completed by 2005 focusing on the following:
 A. The ways in which the country will change water development and management
 B. The first-step actions that the country will take towards their version of IWRM;
- 3. Emphasis should be put on strategic planning, financial mobilization and capacity building, and ensuring the participation of various stakeholders.

The plans prepared by countries need to be put into action on the ground, and the international society should take a firm role in ensuring this. At CSD 13 in April 2005 governments should agree on the contents as well as the next steps in IWRM planning as recommended herein. IWRM is essential in achieving the MDGs and therefore should be addressed along with them at the MDG Review Meeting to be held in September 2005.

Furthermore, the 4th World Water Forum to be held in Mexico City in March 2006 should be recognized as the place for each country to report on their progress, to share and learn from their experiences, and to further refine their implementation strategies.

It is expected that the Pacific region will collaborate with the Japan Water Forum as well as our Caribbean counterparts to prepare for the 4th World Water Forum.

Harvesting the Heavens: Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Project Finalised

As part of a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative to promote **rainwater harvesting**, SOPAC and the Tonga Community Development Trust (TCDT) implemented a pilot project in the Pacific from 2001-2004. After a long consultation process in the identification phase it was agreed that the two communities of 'Utungake and Matamaka in Vava'u, Tonga would host the project that has been funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Besides the construction of 38 rainwater harvesting systems in both communities, the rainwater harvesting demonstration project resulted in the following outputs:

- Guidelines for Rainwater Harvesting
- A Manual on Participatory Tools for Rainwater Harvesting
- A Video documentary based on the project in Tonga to promote rainwater harvesting in the Pacific (jointly with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)

Copies of these products will be distributed throughout the region and will be available from the SOPAC Secretariat.

Building on the demonstration project and its outcomes SOPAC has agreed to become one of the founding members of a partnership on rainwater harvesting jointly with leading partner UNEP.

NZAID support to the Pacific Regional Action Plan

To date **NZAID support** for the Pacific RAP and its associated Type II Partnership Initiative has been well demonstrated. Activities supported by NZAID have been outlined in the various articles above.

NZAID recognises the centrality of effective water management in efforts to achieve sustainable development in the Pacific and look forward to continuing their engagement in the Pacific Type II Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management.

Besides the continued support for the Pacific Island Climate Update (NIWA/SPREP/SOPAC) and for the Pacific Hydrological Training Programme (WMO/UNESCO/NIWA/SOPAC), NZAID is considering support for a regional water quality monitoring programme (IAS/USP/WHO/SOPAC), a regional water demand management programme (PWA/SOPAC) and a regional hydrology support programme (NIWA/SOPAC).

East West Centre follows-up on Leadership Seminar for Water Utility Managers

As part of the "Building the Foundation Program", the East-West Center organised a Follow-up **Leadership Seminar for Pacific Island Water Managers** from September 22 –24 September 2004 in Sigatoka, Fiji. The course was held in conjunction with the SOPAC Annual Session and the Pacific Water Association (PWA) Annual General Meeting.

The Leadership Seminar provided Pacific Island Water Managers with further training in practical, applied tools and strategies designed to enhance leadership and team building capabilities, critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills, and utilisation of strategic planning and job-task analysis techniques to further organisation goals and objectives. The water managers applied these tools, strategies and skills to develop Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plans for their utilities or organizations.

The seminar was organised with support from the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs (USDOI) and was sponsored by the Pacific Water Association (PWA) and SOPAC.

BACKGROUND ON WATER IN SMALL ISLANDS COUNTRIES

The global water community acknowledged the special vulnerability and particular needs of small islands by the inclusion of "Water in Small Islands Countries" as a special theme at the 3rd World Water Forum that was held in Kyoto, Japan from 16-23 March 2003. SOPAC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly led this Water in Small Island Countries session as well as its preparation through a regional consultation in the Pacific (Sigatoka, Fiji Islands, 2002).

A major outcome of the Pacific regional consultation was the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management (Pacific RAP), which details priority actions of the water sector in the region. This action plan, endorsed by 18 island countries, 14 at ministerial level, (and 16 countries at Head of State level including Australia and New Zealand) has been incorporated into the Type II Water Partnership Initiative and was submitted by the Pacific Island Countries to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in Johannesburg during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in August 2002.

The objective of this Partnership Initiative is to implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, inclusive of its sister strategies, the Pacific Wastewater Policy Statement and the Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action, as effectively as possible.

Over 200 participants were involved in the regional consultation and the Water in Small Islands Countries session and they form the core of the Partnership. Now, over 750 individuals have joined this network. Hardcopies of the Regional Action Plan have been distributed to all attendees of Sigatoka and Kyoto. In addition you can obtain more information from the following website:

http://list.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum/index.html

ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PACIFIC TYPE II PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

The overall aim of the Type II Initiatives is to ensure coordination and increased partnerships in meeting the WSSD goals through its Plan of Implementation.

The Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management is coordinated and facilitated by the intergovernmental organisation SOPAC (South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission), which has the regional mandate to support the Pacific Island Countries in water & sanitation. SOPAC is assisted in this task by a deputy facilitator, the University of the South Pacific (USP).

The Partnership has a Facilitator (based at SOPAC) who is responsible for implementing the core functions of the partnership: liaising between the regional stakeholder groups and their sub-networks; researching and receiving stakeholder information on on-going and planned water activities; tracking donor and development agency programmes; identifying areas requiring implementation; and coordinating proposal submissions and project implementation. The Facilitator is also responsible for high-level advocacy of the strategic approach.

Monitoring and evaluation are carried out using a matrix inventory of previous, existing, planned and proposed activities, including details of the stakeholders involved, the intervention objectives, implementation duration and status, and anticipated impact.

The Facilitator enables countries and development agencies to: identify successful previous activities and therefore improve the sustainability of subsequent interventions; reduce and prevent duplication of activities; link country requirements to development programmes (and vice versa); and augment existing and proposed activities nationally and regionally.

A working group of CROP agencies (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific) and NGO representatives has been set up to act as the overall coordinating body of the Pacific Type II Initiatives. Facilitators are asked to report to this Sustainable Development Working Group on a regular basis.

If you have comments on this Partnership Initiative or would like to make contributions and be further involved please do not hesitate to contact us on the following e-mail address: <u>marc@sopac.org</u>.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

Marc Overmars Facilitator Pacific Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Water Management

SCPAC South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission Postal Address: Private Mail Bag, GPO, Suva, Fiji Islands Street Address: Mead Road, Nabua, Fiji Islands Tel: +679 338 1377 Fax: +679 337 0040 E-mail: marc@sopac.org Web site: http://list.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3rd_world_water_forum/index.html

PACIFIC WATER AGENDA 2005

Timeline	Event	Purpose	Discussion Points & Actions Required
10-14 January 2005 BPOA+10 CSD/UNDESA Port Louis, Mauritius	UN Sustainable Development for SIDS, Barbados +10 Mauritius	10 year Review of progress on the plan for SIDS sustainable development	Review of Actions undertaken on the Joint Programme for Action (JPfA) and the South-South Partnership established between Caribbean and Pacific.
7-10 February 2005 WHO Nadi, Fiji Islands	Workshop on Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries	 Identify common water quality issues Review WHO WQ guidelines Propose practical approaches for National Water Safety Plans 	Recommendations for and Design of Regional Water Quality Monitoring Programme (WHO/USP/IAS and SOPAC).
TBC March 2005 PWA Apia, Samoa (tentative)	Pacific Water Association Board Meeting, PWA		Further Development of Regional Water Demand Management Programme (PWA and SOPAC).
22 March 2005 SOPAC / Live & Learn Pacific region	World Water Day 2005	"Water for Life" Awareness Campaign	Raise awareness on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Pacific island countries and prepare for the "Water for Life Decade" (2005-2015).
11-22 April 2005 UNCSD New York, USA	13th Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD13)		Governments to agree on contents as well as next steps in IWRM planning. Water & Sanitation to be addressed at MDG Review Meeting in September 2005.
4-22 April 2005 SOPAC/WMO/UNESCO/N IWA, Suva Fiji Islands	2 nd Course Hydrology Training Programe	Training on Surface and Groundwater Hydrology and introduction on the use of Climate Information and Integrated Water Resources Management	Review of the 1 st course and identification of contents of the 3 rd course. Preparations for the development and implementation of the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS).
TBC September 2005 SOPAC Apia, Samoa	SOPAC Council Annual Session & Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Water Working Group	SOPAC Work Programme Review and Approval	Reporting to Member States on Pacific RAP review meeting, CSD12 and Barbados + 10, and implications for regional and national support. Identification of priority actions.
TBC September 2005 SOPAC Apia, Samoa	Science & Technology and Resources Network (STAR)	Presentations on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Identification of best practices and lessons learned.
TBC November 2005 UNESCO IHP RSC Bali, Indonesia (tentative)	13th RSC Meeting International Hydrological Programme (IHP) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific	Reporting on Pacific progress on Hydrology (Theme 1 Water Resources Management and Theme 2 Island Vulnerability)	Review of Actions undertaken and contributions provided to the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

TBC 2005	
WMO, RCD/RAP	
Suva, Fiji Islands	
(tentative)	

4th Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in RA V (South-West Pacific)

EPA meeting region IX

Reporting on Pacific progress on Hydrology (Theme 1 Water Resources Management and Theme 2 Island Vulnerability)

Presentations on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Review of Actions undertaken and contributions provided to the Operational Hydrological Programme (OHP).

Review of Actions undertaken on Environmental Health and Water Management.

TBC 2005 EPA

SELECTED WATER WEBSITES

ADB Water in Small Island Countries www.adb.org/Water/theme3.asp

AOSIS Alliance of Small Island States www.sidsnet.org/aosis

AUSAID www.ausaid.gov.au

Australian Water Portal www.developmentgateway.com.au/water/index.html

Barbados +10 www.sidsnet.org/Mauritius2004/

CSD12 www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm

Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate <u>www.waterandclimate.org</u>

East-West Center www.EastWestCenter.org/climate

ESCAP www.unescap.org/esd/water/activities Pacific ENSO Update http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/subdir/update.dir /update.html Pacific Water Association www.pwa.org.fj

SIDSNET www.sidsnet.org

SOPAC Water http://list.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Programmes/H2O/3r d_world_water_forum/index.html

UNEP http://freshwater.unep.net/

UNESCAP www.unescap.org

UNESCO www.unesco.org/water

UNU www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh

WHO http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/

European Union

www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/publicat/water/en/fron tpage_en.htm www.euwi.net http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/index.html

Gender and Water Alliance www.genderandwateralliance.org

Global Water Partnership www.gwpforum.org

GWP Australia www.gwpaustralia.org

Island Climate Update www.niwa.cri.nz/NCC/ICU

NZAID www.nzaid.govt.nz

USGS http://hi.water.usgs.gov

USP www.usp.ac.fj WMO www.wmo.ch/web/homs/index.html

World Bank www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/water

World Summit on Sustainable Development www.johannesburgsummit.org

World Water Council www.worldwatercouncil.org

World Wide Fund for Nature www.wwfpacific.org.fj

WSSCC http://www.wsscc.org/

NIWA www.niwa.co.nz

SPC www.spc.int

--- Please let us know if you think other websites are worth mentioning here! ---