

Tok Blong SPPF

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photo by Elaine Monds

At the village of Ebungfa on Lake Sentani, West Papua

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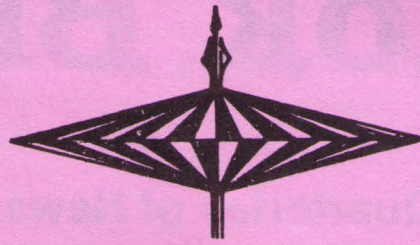
SPPF UPDATE

Beginning on the page opposite is a speech by the Canadian Minister responsible for International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry. For a number of reasons we believe this is an important speech for understanding the direction that Canadian international development assistance will be taking in the months to come.

Most importantly, in this speech Madame Landry recognises that the concept of sustainability must be an integral part of international development. Systems of national accounts and development economists have had in common an inability to factor environmental costs into project balance sheets. The recognition that this must change is long overdue. And on these questions of finite resources and fragile environments, Pacific Islanders often have a clear understanding of the consequences of ignoring environmental impacts.

Secondly, Madame Landry recognizes the important interconnections that make the concept of a global village more than just a cliché. She explicitly recognises the links between the demands our consumer society makes on the planet and the question of sustainability in the developing world. Finally, her speech recognises the broad nature of the concept of sustainability - that development must be politically and socially sustainable as well as environmentally. This is the approach to development that has always guided SPPF.

Madame Landry has set high goals for Canadian Official Development Assistance. It will be up to all Canadians, in government and non-government



organisations alike, to see that we reach those goals, and sooner rather than later. We all applaud the first steps toward sustainable development taken by CIDA, but we must all remain aware of the distance we have yet to go.

Making sure that Canada's international weight is clearly behind sustainable development is not just a question for CIDA and development organisations. I would like to commend Madame Landry's speech to her colleagues in Cabinet. In particular, a good next step would be to make sure that the principles of sustainability apply to the activities of the Canadian Export Development Corporation, an agency which to date has been exempted from environmental review.

Sustainable development in its broadest and most humanitarian sense will continue to be the focus of the development education work of SPPF. We welcome the support of the Minister on this important question.

Randall Garrison
Executive Director

About this newsletter...

TOK BLONG SPPF is pidgin, a language used in many parts of the Pacific. It might literally be translated as "this talk belongs to SPPF" or SPPF newsletter. **TOK BLONG SPPF** is published four times per year in English by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada. Partial financial support for this newsletter from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is gratefully acknowledged.

SPPF's major aim is to promote awareness of development, social justice, and other issues of importance to the peoples of the South Pacific. Through this newsletter we hope to provide Canadians with a window on the Pacific that will foster understanding and promote action in support of Islanders in their struggles for development.

We welcome readers' comments on the newsletter, as well as suggestions for articles, selections of clippings, or notices of development education materials of interest. We reserve the right to edit material. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of SPPF or of CIDA.

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"Development and Environment"

Notes for remarks by The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, to a national consultation of the Association of Community Colleges of Canada, January 18, 1991. (Edited to omit only material specific to the ACCC consultation.)

...Back in the 1950s and 1960s, at the dawn of international cooperation, development seemed to be a relatively simple undertaking that had mainly to do with building modern factories and infrastructure.

One early theory held that development success hinged essentially on the increasing national savings and investment. It even pin pointed the precise condition needed to kick-start development. That magical take-off point came when countries were able to save 15 to 20% of their GNP. That meant that the role of aid was to provide additional funds needed to push cash strapped countries up over that all-important line and, of course, to provide the funds needed for large infrastructure projects.

We've come a long way since then. Decades of experience have taught us that development is never that simple, nor can it ever really be addressed in such narrow economic terms. We've learned many lessons along the way- about the need to balance infrastructure with human resource development and institution-building...about the links between poverty and population growth...and about the essential role of women in development.

One of the most fundamental lessons we've learned is that the unquestioning 1950's style belief in straight ahead economic growth, with no serious thought about limits to growth, was not only dead wrong, but dangerous as well. Global warming, the pollution of our waters and the destruction of our planet's forests and soil have brought home in dramatic fashion the need to re-think our most basic notions about development.

Now, as we enter the fifth development decade, we are undergoing a revolution in our thinking, one in which the notion of sustainable development is front and centre. The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as seeking "to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future". That's a useful starting point perhaps, but not one that provides us with much practical guidance.

The fact is, we don't yet have a single recipe for sustainable development. Nevertheless, the common elements of a broad-based definition are emerging, and it's clear they go far beyond the environmental

dimension and include economic, political and social and cultural factors as well.

In the economic realm, sustainable development requires sound macro-economic and sectoral policies that encourage efficiency and initiative and minimize waste. Political sustainability includes respect for human rights and pluralism, and wider participation in decision-making, especially on development issues. And, in the social and cultural arena, sustainable development calls for policies that control population growth, meet basic human needs, and respect cultural diversity within and among nations.

It is, of course, the environmental dimension of sustainable development that has received the most attention... That's understandable, because there are few other issues where so much is at stake.

We are living in an era, where, for the first time ever, we are placing the Earth's life-support systems - clean air, pure water, healthy soils - at risk. Perhaps nowhere are the devastating effects of ecological degradation on daily life more apparent than in developing countries. There, environmental crises often translate into basic daily preoccupations - food, fuel and shelter - and have immediate, sometimes deadly, impacts on human health. Ultimately, they threaten to undermine the economic and social progress of the past few decades.

Against this backdrop, what the international community does in the 1990s will be critical. This will be a pivotal decade - one where we choose between continuing on our present destructive course or embarking on a new path based on the concept of sustainable development. By acting now, we can ensure the environmental security of current generations and offer a legacy of hope for generations to come. The challenge is enormous, but not insurmountable. It requires nothing short of massive transformations in social and economic policies, and action will have to be taken at every level of human society - from the personal to the global.

At a minimum, we must stop looking at the environment as an add-on or an afterthought- as something that is separate from rather than integral to our decision-making. Environmental objectives cannot be met through environmental action alone. They must be part of our overall decision-making in development.

In the economic realm, this means doing away with the false dichotomy between "environment" and "economics" and recognizing that the two are inseparably linked...that environmental damage and resource depletion are not cost-free... that the state of

the environment is a crucial indicator of economic health... and that economic growth ultimately depends on the wise use of our natural resources.

Bringing about this revolution in thinking will be difficult enough in the industrialised world. The task may be even harder in developing countries where sustainable development and environmental protection are just two of many urgent priorities competing for attention, and where the true priority is so often just survival.

When the poor are already forced to destroy the resources they will need tomorrow, in order to stay alive today, it isn't very realistic to expect them to show what we would consider to be proper enthusiasm for the latest thinking about sustainable development - and it's certainly not helpful to give them condescending lectures about the folly of short-term thinking.

And here is where the notion of our common responsibility comes in. The issues we will have to deal with, if we are going to make sustainable development work, transcend national borders. Some are global in scope. In an interdependent world, we all have a stake in finding the answers to these problems. So those of us who have the luxury of making choices can play a useful role by doing our best to think through the implications of sustainable development, by launching the process of conversion in our own society, and perhaps, most importantly, by helping the Third World to do the same... before we pass some unknown global point of no return.

Simply stated, we need a new alliance for the environment - an alliance between South and North, between government and nongovernmental organisations and institutions, and between the public and private sectors. The efforts of all of us will be essential.

Obviously, the role of the Third World will be crucially important, especially in dealing with local and regional issues. The solutions to these problems will come mainly through the efforts of developing countries themselves. But assistance from the industrialised world has an important role to play as well, if it focuses on poverty - which, along with population growth, is a major cause of environmental degradation in the developing world - and if it is used in environmentally sustainable ways.

Poverty alleviation is the first principle of Canadian assistance. Canada has also made environmentally sustainable development a top priority of its aid program. We tackle the environmental challenge in five main ways - impact assessment, environment enhancing projects, institution building and support, awareness promotion, and data collection.

Two points in particular are crucial - building indigenous capacity in the developing countries, largely

through human resource development... and treating the environment as a cross-sectoral priority built into the design of all CIDA projects, while also financing a limited number of projects specially designed to meet environmental objectives.

In 1986, we introduced systematic measures to assess the environmental impact of our bilateral projects, and to build mitigating measures into project design. Canada's aid program is also subject to the environmental assessment legislation the Government tabled in Parliament last year.

And, to plan for today and prepare for the future, we help developing countries build the institutions they need to better manage their natural resources. One of the best examples is our Environmental Management Development project in Indonesia (EMDI). This project, which is being implemented by Dalhousie University, is strengthening the environmental management capabilities of that country's Ministry of Population and Environment. The project also provides training in environmental and resource management and promotes stronger ties between Canadian and Indonesian institutions.

Now in its third phase, it has become a highly successful initiative and is used as a case study by international organisations of how to help a developing country gain the capacity to manage its own environment.

Beyond this, CIDA has supported a wide range of other activities, including projects designed to improve or restore the environment, such as one in Senegal that has seen the planting of trees over a 20-kilometre stretch of coastline. Some 9,000 people benefited from the project, which has helped protect crops from sand washed up by the sea. And since sound environmental management depends to a large extent on accurate information, CIDA is helping Third World countries improve their data bases. One forestry survey project in Zaire is helping that country better manage the development of the Congo Basin, an area containing about half of Africa's timber.

Canada has also been a leader in the international arena, in supporting the work of major environmental initiatives, such as the World Commission on Environment and Development and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled for 1992 in Brazil. We have also been instrumental in moving international organisations, such as the World Bank and the OECD, towards policies that better reflect environmental concerns.

Clearly, there is a lot that aid can do. But aid alone is not sufficient to tackle global environmental problems, so there is a critical need to mobilize the broadest range of forces at our disposal...

...Enormous challenges lie ahead. Now is the time for action, for translating rhetoric into reality. Nature has provided us with a one time bonanza of non-renewable resources. This is the inheritance of our generation and of generations to come. We owe it to the present and future generations to marshal these resources carefully, to ensure that our children and their children's children inherit a world where nature provides them with the bounty needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives...

...Our global security depends on our commitment to fundamental change, to improved cooperation, and on a renewed sense of partnership among all peoples of the world. As Madame Brundtland wrote in her foreword to *Our Common Future*: "In the final analysis, this is what it amounts to: furthering the common understanding and common spirit of responsibility so clearly needed in a divided world."

CIDA'S Mission Statement [from CIDA President's Committee report, March 1991]

The mission of CIDA is to support sustainable development in developing countries.

Framework for sustainable development

Sustainable development is an integrating concept. It provides a framework for putting Sharing Our Future into effect.

Sustainable Development Framework

Environmental Sustainability	Economic Sustainability	Cultural Sustainability	Political Sustainability	Social Sustainability
Ecosystem Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate economic policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity to cultural factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanrights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved income distribution
Biological diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient resource allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of values that are conducive to development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equity
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equitable access to resources including gender equity • Increasing productive capacity of the poor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in basic health, education • Emphasizing participation of the beneficiaries

These aspects of sustainable development require further review and refinement. This process will involve consultation with CIDA staff and our partners.

Beware the Pitfalls in Smallholder Surveys

by Bryant Allen, George Collett and Scott Yarbro

Commonly used survey methods have their pitfalls when used to gather information about subsistence farmers. A project in Papua New Guinea assessed what information can and cannot be gathered through surveys, and also provided some valuable insights into the country's smallholder coffee and cocoa growing.

Coffee, cocoa and copra tree crops account for one third of the export income of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Smallholders, that is villagers growing trees on their own land, produce up to 75% of the country's coffee, 70% of its cocoa and 50% of its copra. So it is surprising to learn that very little is known about the smallholder sector, or how it produces this significant contribution to the national economy.



photo by Elaine Monds

Sorting coffee on the trail to Yamok, East Sepik, PNG

When the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) commissioned a project in 1983 to test low-cost survey methods that would assist in understanding the smallholder sector, experienced surveyors knew they faced a daunting task. In most villages the numbers of trees are known only roughly; their ages can be guessed at, but nothing is known of the production history of a PNG smallholder

coffee or cocoa tree. Guesswork also applies when answering such questions as the ages of the growers, the role of women in coffee, cocoa and copra production, the costs of production, labour inputs, or the distribution of income from the sale of these crops. Nor is much known about the marketing practices of independent buyers, the responses of growers to price changes, or the influence of price stabilisation schemes.

Cheaply and regularly monitoring the range of key indicators in the smallholder sector needed to gain a clear picture, however, presents great difficulties. Growers are mostly accessible by road, but their crops are cultivated in blocks of 500-1000 trees, which are widely scattered amongst crops and other vegetation across tribal land accessible only by foot tracks.

Many smallholder blocks of cocoa and lowlands *robusta* coffee are located in thick secondary forest, which makes them difficult to find and measure. Cocoa is commonly inter-cultivated with bananas and coconut, and coffee is shaded with *Casuarina*, *Leucaena* or *Gliricidia* trees, which again make them hard to see on aerial photographs. The blocks themselves are irregular in shape and size, the density of tree spacing differs considerably within and between blocks and the age of trees may also differ within blocks.

The quality of management also differs widely between growers. Many growers are illiterate or only barely literate, and they rarely keep records. Production is closely integrated with subsistence tasks.

Buying of the crop is commonly undertaken on the roadside by independent middlemen who sell to major processing factories in the towns. Nevertheless, growers may transport their product direct to a factory, and the state in which growers sell their products varies. Coffee producers, for instance, may sell unprocessed cherry (the freshly picked coffee fruit), or they may remove the flesh, soak and ferment the beans to remove the slimy coat, and sun-dry them before selling them as parchment. Even within families, different family members may sell the crop from the same block of trees at different stages of processing. Buyers also do not keep records of individual purchases and rarely issue receipts.

So all of these factors make apparently simple tasks such as accurately counting trees, assessing labour inputs or costs of production, or even estimating the income growers receive, extremely difficult.

Survey methods studied

ACIAR's Export Tree Crops Study, begun in 1983, involved the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and the PNG Department of Agriculture and Livestock. This project aimed to develop and test a low cost survey method and an analytical framework for an agro-economic study of both the smallholder and largeholder sectors of the cocoa, coffee and copra industries. Although this project completed a study of the largeholder sector, the difficulties of working in the smallholder sector proved too great. In 1987 ACIAR approached the Department of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific Studies of the Australian National University (ANU) to undertake a less ambitious investigation of methods which would allow the smallholder sector to be monitored. The Department had a lot of experience working at the village level in PNG and had been involved in an advisory role in the earlier project.

It was decided that the scaled-down project would work through the PNG Agriculture and Livestock Department to the commodity boards of the PNG cocoa and coffee industries. It was originally planned that one ANU collaborator would travel back and forth between the Cocoa Board in Rabaul and the Coffee Industry Board at Goroka. However, a Coffee Board contribution to the project enabled two ANU collaborators to be based in PNG for 12 months, one in each place in free accommodation. The Boards also seconded staff - three expatriate economists and four Papua New Guinea staff plus other Papua New Guinean staff for short periods - and the Agriculture and Livestock Department seconded a Papua New Guinean staff member based in Rabaul to the project.

In the case of the large cocoa survey an ANU expert in database management was employed for a short term to assist with data analysis. During his period in Rabaul he also assisted the Cocoa Board to put their fermentary records into a computer database.

ACIAR and the ANU researchers were primarily concerned with research into methods of data collection rather than in actually carrying out surveys. The Industry Boards on the other hand urgently needed information about their industries. A compromise was reached whereby in the coffee sector a number of possible monitoring methods were assessed, while in the cocoa sector a single sample survey was carried out in a number of cocoa-growing areas. Further funding, made available during the project, enabled investigation of whether images from satellites could help analysis of the problem. The major areas of investigation are listed in the box opposite.

Major subjects investigated

Within village communities:

- Information about the growers and their families, the quantity and quality of their trees, and the area of land occupied by their trees.
- Labour inputs of growers and their families, relative to production.
- The ownership of village processing facilities.
- The determination of yields per tree and per hectare through direct harvests, and of production and income by using village-based reporters to monitor sales.

Outside village communities

- The determination of regional production through the analysis of processing factory records.
- The monitoring of price paid to growers at fixed roadside locations.
- The assessment of the movement of product within the country by road blocks at provincial borders.
- The use of satellite imagery to monitor changes in area and quality of coffee and cocoa.

What can be achieved

The survey approaches used largely confirmed the already known snags with rural surveys in PNG. Village surveys are time-consuming and expensive, and the level of training of the data collectors and field supervisors is critical to the accuracy of the information collected.

Nevertheless, some questions over which there had not been previous agreement were settled. For example, with proper training, data collectors can accurately measure garden areas using a tape-and-compass traverse. However, defining households and families, the ownership of blocks and who has rights to the production is a source of gross error in surveys. Also, if gardens are distant from the village, small or unweeded, growers tend not to disclose their existence. Furthermore, and not surprisingly, after a period of physically onerous survey work, data collectors are also likely to avoid visiting distant or difficult-to-reach blocks, and to manufacture data.

The project employed a range of data collectors - public servants, Board employees, students from local agricultural colleges, university students and local area youth groups. It showed that it is possible to collect the following 11 types of information with acceptable levels of accuracy:

- walking time from owner's dwelling to the block
- the number of trees
- the height above sea level of the garden
- the existence and condition of fencing

- pig damage
- weed height and cover
- species of shade trees planted and shade evenness and intensity
- pruning methods used
- the depth and spacing of drains
- whether inter-cropping occurs and the species inter-cropped
- the existence of coffee rust and the level of defoliation.

Recording of many management practices depends on farmer recall.

Project staff also tested a number of survey techniques, including the use of spray paint and sticky labels to assist in counting trees. They also used a lap-top computer spreadsheet program to draw out while still onsite the boundaries of blocks from measurements taken during tape-and-compass traverses. This meant that the boundaries could be checked immediately, and any block resurveyed if the measurements contained large errors.

The tape-and-compass plus spreadsheet method was tested against other methods which involved sampling by triangle and measuring tree densities. It proved faster and more accurate than all other methods, even on small scale blocks.

The project showed that where management practices such as fencing, pruning, drainage improvement, planting densities of cocoa, coffee and other crops, or the numbers of trees left remaining on blocks can be directly observed, the quality of the information depends on the data collector's ability to record it and on the suitability of the survey form. However, during a survey, a grower is usually visited only once for a visit that lasts only an hour or two. Thus recording of many management practices depends on farmer recall.

When collecting information about growers' use of pesticides and fertilizers, the project found grower recall is not specific enough. They can rarely detail the types that have been applied, or the application rates. Accurately assessing the impact of weedicides, fungicides and fertilizers requires the correct trade name (so that the active constituent can be identified), and the concentration and application rate used by the grower. Obtaining the concentration and application rates used is particularly difficult.

All approaches to collecting information on labour inputs and costs of production proved problematical. These approaches included using literate village-based school leavers as observers, and drawing on grower recall through survey questionnaires filled in by the

data collectors, and through group discussions. The accuracy of information collected about labour invested and the costs of clearing blocks which had been planted some years previously is questionable, and the contribution of family labour was also extremely difficult to assess.

The overall conclusion of the project is that in the absence of direct observation by adequately trained data collectors, information must be viewed as qualitative only and treated with caution. The collection of good quantitative information on labour inputs and costs of production will require detailed and repeated visits to a small sample of growers over a 12-24 month period.

Some general observations

Nevertheless a number of general statements about labour and production costs can be made. In the coffee sector, the studies confirmed, women's work is concentrated in subsistence while men's work is more diverse and is spread across coffee, subsistence, wage employment and leisure activities such as card playing. This means men have greater access to cash from coffee sales, as well as leading more interesting lives. The men also own the coffee processing equipment which means that they can sell coffee in the more valuable dried (parchment) state, with the result that they receive more money from buyers for their coffee than can the women, who, in general must sell low-priced fresh coffee cherries.

Twenty-five per cent of coffee growing families hire labour for some coffee production activities, most commonly for picking and weeding. Two-thirds of the growers who hire labour are larger smallholders who possess more than 1 ha of coffee. They comprise only a small minority of all growers.

All growers surveyed expressed enthusiasm for the work of CDA and wanted to learn better methods of care for their coffee.

While 24 per cent of smallholder cocoa growers use paid and unpaid family labour for grass cutting they use paid labour less often and for shorter periods than coffee growers. They use it mainly to clear bush to establish a new block and to cut grass in established blocks. Eleven per cent of growers rely totally on paid labour for grass cutting.

Estimates of production costs for smallholders in the cocoa and copra sectors are complicated by the inter-cultivation of the two crops which affects management practices like grass cutting and fertilizer application. Project results indicated, however, that the downturn in international agricultural commodity prices is influencing grower management practices.

example, a large portion of growers had planted new cocoa claimed they could not afford to purchase newly developed hybrid varieties, and had used locally available seeds. The outcome, however, is lower yields per tree and significantly higher costs of production per hectare than those experienced by growers who purchased the higher yielding, disease resistant hybrids.

The arrival of coffee rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*) in PNG in 1987 resulted in an improved coffee extension program. Formerly under provincial control, coffee extension work has been largely taken over by the semi-autonomous Coffee Development Agency (CDA), which is partly funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). In a survey of the Benabena District in the Eastern Highlands Province in November 1988 more than three-quarters of the gardens observed were rust infected and

it was found at all altitudes up to the limits of coffee 2100m above sea level. The Benabena survey showed that the impact of the CDA program at that time was significant but geographically uneven. Slightly more than half of the growers had been contacted by CDA - a number more than once - but some villages had received no visits. Nevertheless, all growers surveyed expressed enthusiasm for the work of CDA and wanted to learn better methods of care for their coffee.

Help from on High

During the project, additional funding became available from ACIAR to enable assessment of satellite-image technology as a survey for the coffee and Cocoa Boards. The potential advantage of satellite imagery is that images of land areas up to 160 x 160 km are available approximately every two weeks, assuming there has been no cloud cover. Satellite imagery captures the amount of infra-red and visible light reflected from the earth's surface in the form of numbers. The numbers can be manipulated to enhance a coloured image of the earth on a video screen or on a photographic print.

The project set out to see what characteristics of tree crops could be identified in images from the Landsat TM satellite, the more modern and more sensitive Landsat MSS satellite, and the higher resolution French SPOT satellite. To analyse the satellite images the project used the services of Mr Richard Croome, who did this with assistance from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology at Lae using the Australian-developed Micro-BRIAN system. MicroBRIAN, which is a commercially available system, was originally developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for analysing images of the Great Barrier Reef.

Analysis of the Landsat TM data for an area near Goroka showed that it was not possible to distinguish coffee from secondary forest on land over 20 degrees of slope. When sloping areas were masked out, however, smallholder coffee plantings could be distinguished from other land used. Coconut plantation could be clearly identified at a site near Madang, but it was not so easy to identify what was growing beneath them. The *Gliricidia* shade used in young cocoa plantations, however, was easily identifiable.

An analysis of SPOT satellite imagery from the Gazelle Peninsula near Rabaul revealed that for the large holder estates it was possible to identify and measure areas of run down cocoa recently rehabilitated, areas of young cocoa shaded by *Gliricidia*, areas of mixed coconuts and cocoa, and areas of pure cocoa with and without shade. Smallholder blocks, which are smaller and mixed in with fallow vegetation and subsistence gardens cannot be observed, unless growers have planted a large area in one place.

Project staff concluded that considerable potential exists for mapping large holder production of cocoa in PNG using SPOT imagery. Specifically SPOT data may be used to obtain the area under cocoa as well as the cocoa variety planted and the growth stage of the crop. The recurrent nature of satellite information means that large holdings can be monitored regularly. Satellite imagery alone presently remains an inappropriate tool for monitoring smallholder cocoa, but does have potential if used in conjunction with aerial photography and ground surveys.

The big get bigger

The project also confirmed that across the whole smallholder sector, some growers are becoming significantly larger producers than others. In the Benabena District, for example, the 5 per cent of growers with an average block size of 1 ha or more own 24 per cent of the total area under coffee, while the 20 per cent of growers with average block sizes of 0.1 ha own only 3 per cent of the total area under coffee. Similarly, in some villages in the district, the average size of coffee blocks is significantly larger than in other areas. The same trends were found in the cocoa sector.

Within villages a few families are emerging as 'large growers' while the majority remain 'small growers' and some localities are emerging as significantly larger producers than other localities. These localities are situated on good quality land with better road access to major highways and towns.

Estimated returns to labour from smallholder cocoa growing are above the government minimum rural wage level in East New Britain and Oro Provinces, but well below it in Madang and the East Sepik. One reason advanced for this situation is that Gazelle Peninsula growers in East New Britain get better prices for wet beans because of the higher demand created by the larger number of fermentaries there to which they sell direct. Other factors are better roads in the area, and the relatively shorter distances over which the product has to be transported. Elsewhere roadside buying predominates, fermentaries are fewer, roads poorer and distances greater.

Fermentary licences are issued by the Coca Board and fermentaries are inspected in an attempt to maintain the quality of cocoa exported from PNG. Of the 547 fermentaries registered, 363 are on the Gazelle Peninsula. One hundred forty-six of the 258 registered dealers in PNG are also located there.

The establishment of areas of relative wealth and relative poverty must have long term significance for social and political stability in rural areas. Nevertheless, unlike many other parts of the developing world, the bigger growers are not emerging at the expense of the smaller growers. Rather, the larger growers are taking up more of the fallow and uncleared land to which their families have claim and are bringing it into production. So the larger growers have become bigger by bringing additional land into production.

Benefits

The history of attempts to survey and monitor the smallholder tree crops sector in PNG has been one of repeating the same mistakes over and over again. The major mistakes involve asking inappropriate questions (such as the application rates used for weedicides, to which most growers would not know the answer), and increasing the scale of the inquiry to the point where it becomes impossible to properly manage and supervise the data collection stage. The inevitable outcome is poor data, frustration and disappointment. Some of these mistakes were encountered during the project.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the project has been the experience gained by the Papua New Guinean collaborators - particularly those who continue to work with the commodity boards. The boards have a critical need to know what is happening in their industries. The four Papua New Guinean collaborators have now had the valuable 'hands-on' experience of

framing small research questions, devising ways of collecting the necessary information with which to answer the question, collecting the information, analysing it and writing up the result. By so doing they have discovered for themselves that certain approaches give consistently poor results, while others give consistently good ones.

Gaining good results depends on constructing clear and sensible questions, planning carefully, providing extensive training and motivation for data collectors and observers, and supervising them very closely in the field. Any attempt to short-cut the training and supervision will result in a poor outcome and a waste of resources and time.

All of the PNG collaborators gained a great deal of confidence from the supervised experience of planning data collection, training data collectors and overseeing them in the field, and of making their own mistakes and learning from them. This on-the-job training better equipped them for regular duties such as compiling commodity price reports and monitoring factory and fermentary production, since they continued with their normal duties during the period of the project.

The project also resulted in an upgrading of the computing facilities of the commodity boards. Two IBM standard personal computers with up-to-date word processing, spreadsheet and database software were purchased and the Papua New Guinean collaborators trained in their use. Boards staff continue to use the improved facilities to manage and analyse their data and write up their research reports, as well as to improve the efficiency of their everyday work.

Thus although the PNG smallholder tree crop grower remains something of an enigma, the project has left behind a small cadre of people in key positions in the industry who know that it is possible to approach the smallholder for the answers to limited and realistic questions with some confidence in the outcome. They have learned that as far as smallholder monitoring and surveys in PNG are concerned, 'small is beautiful'.

[Reprinted from *Partners in Research for Development*, No 4, April 1991]



TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

By Annette Lees, Associate Director,
Maruia Society

The forests of the tropical Pacific, 42 million hectares in total, are renowned for their high numbers of endemic plants and animals and their diversity. In Papua New Guinea there are 9000 species of flowering plants, 90% of which are found nowhere else, in the Solomon Islands, 44% of the bird species are unique. New Caledonia/Kanaky is remarkable for its diversity of very primitive flowering plants and southern conifers related to New Zealand's kauri and podocarps. Half of Fiji's plant species are endemic and its forests are the only place where the most primitive flowering plant family in the world is found.

More than 80% of the land in the South Pacific is custom-owned by indigenous village residents. Pacific people still use their forests to supply local timber needs for housing and canoes, materials for thatching and weaving, wild plants for medicines and foods, and for hunting birds, pigs and other animals. In many places forests contain important ancestral sacred sites and feature in myths and history. The Melanesian and Polynesian people of the Pacific are not forest dwelling people, however. Forests are cleared for food gardens and village sites.

Forests are also important as a source of hard-to-come-by cash when they are sold to logging companies or logged by the villagers themselves. Desire for cash frequently overrides villagers' concerns about the effects of logging. Large-scale logging and forest clearance has caused extensive environmental damage, silting rivers, killing off-shore reefs, and initiating soil erosion. For the developing economies of the Pacific, logging is seen as an important revenue earner. The export of whole logs has been used as

emergency economic relief in more than one Pacific nation.

Plantation forestry is present to varying degrees but in itself will not necessarily lessen the rate of indigenous forest loss. In Samoa, waiting for exotic plantations to mature has in fact accelerated the loss of native forests to feed local mills. In most of Melanesia the driving force behind indigenous forest logging is the desire of each individual land group to generate

development and cash income from its own land. A large "national" plantation will not address that need.

Papua New Guinea

About 80% (34 million hectares) of rainforest in the South Pacific is situated in PNG where 75% of its land remains covered in tropical forest. Only 2.3% of the forests are formally protected. Existing reserves include an innovative conservation category known as Wildlife Management Areas where landowners continue to use forest products from their land but protect the forest from clearance.

Logging, mainly directed at log exports to Asia, is conducted on an uncontrolled and unsustainable basis and has been rapidly escalating. At least 20,000 hectares per year of forest are completely lost with 2.5 million cubic metres of logs exported annually. A large proportion is used for concrete boxing for building construction in

Japan. Concerned about widespread corruption in the timber industry, the PNG Government set up a commission of enquiry into the industry's operations in 1987. The final report of the commission, which was chaired by Judge Thomas Barnett, revealed an industry which had expanded without control, and where there was extensive dishonesty and corruption at all levels.

In 1989 PNG participated in the Tropical Forests Action Plan (a global country-by-country review of tropical forestry administered by FAO and the World Bank).



Subsequently, PNG prepared its own National Forest Action Plan in which it announced its intentions to pursue sustainability for its forestry industry, to establish a moratorium on the issuing of new timber licences, to create World Heritage Areas and other protection categories for over 15% to 20% of its forests, and agreed to a far-reaching programme of institutional strengthening and reform to deal with corruption in the industry.

Solomon Islands

Eighty per cent of the Solomon Islands is still forested, with a total natural forest area of about 2.2 million hectares. The forests are scattered over 10 or so major islands and several smaller islands (the country has 992 islands in total). Logging has been occurring in the Solomons for more than 40 years but in the past 10 years it has rapidly accelerated. The Ministry of Forests estimates that within 15 years all the accessible forests will have been logged. There are no protected forests of any significance. In 1987 logging provided the Solomon Islands Government with a revenue of SI\$33.4 million and annually provides around a third of the total national export earnings.) Some 400,000 cubic metres of whole logs are exported from the Solomon Islands each year.)

Other countries

The remaining significant tropical forests of the Pacific are found principally in Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia/Kanaky, and Samoa. Other Pacific nations may have small remaining pockets of forests which are frequently of significance to local people only.

Natural forests in Fiji cover about 800,000 hectares (about 40% of the total land area) of which about 200,000 hectares are classified as production forests. Sixty per cent of that is under logging licences and concessions. There are several small reserves.

In Vanuatu 75% of the country retains its natural forests although there is fast-expanding land clearance for agriculture with some log exporting and sawmilling.

Western Samoa supports several key protected forests, although only 25% of its land remains forested, New Zealand aid money has supported logging of remaining indigenous forests as well as the development of plantation forestry.

Solutions

Solutions to the problem of escalating forests loss in the Pacific will lie in answers that are appropriate to the distinct cultural,

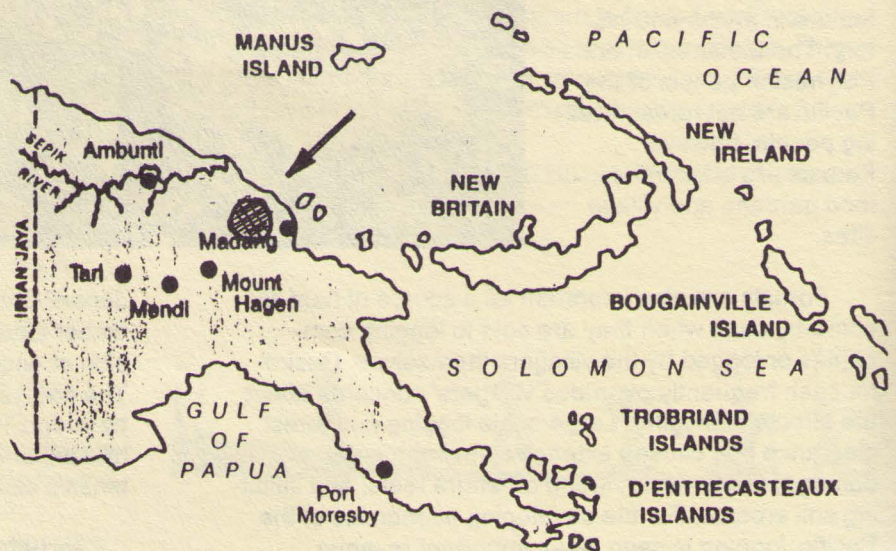
socio-economic and political factors that characterise the region. For example, creation of protected forests has not and will not succeed by government proclamation. Instead, effective reserve creation in the Pacific has included development options for the village forest owners and taken their desires for land use into account.

Conservation of forests is something that the developing Pacific economies cannot afford on their own. Announcing conservation measures for Papua New Guinea's forests, the Prime Minister of that country appealed to developed nations to back these plans with funding through their aid and development programmes. Assistance from richer nations will be essential to ensure wise management and protection of forests. Technology and research into sustainable forestry operations, and funding to help establish protected areas are two critical areas that New Zealand could assist with.

Further Reading

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[A reprint of *Pacific Issues*, No. 7, June 1991, Centre for Peace Studies, University of Auckland, New Zealand]



Hatched area denotes Gogol Naru valley, near Madang, Mandang Province, PNG.

PNG's Gogol-Naru Valley: The Bitter Legacy of Japanese Logging

In 1971, when the Jant company, a subsidiary of Honshu Paper of Japan, began logging its 165,000-acre timber concession in Papua New Guinea's Gogol-Naru Valley (see map opposite page), it became the first timber operation in the world to clear cut tropical forest.

Twenty years later, Jant is still at it. It has clearcut more than 120,000 acres in the Gogol-Naru, and to this day it is the only mill in the world that converts tropical hardwood to chips for the production of paper and disposable cardboard.

The valley itself is an environmental nightmare, and its residents have risen up against Jant in a last-ditch effort to salvage their traditional life and receive compensation for the destruction of their natural resources. Rainforest Action Network's Colleen Murphy-Dunning, who recently returned from PNG, reports:

When Jant first gained its Gogol-Naru concession, it said it planned to cut forest timber for twenty years, then switch to plantation timber. Jant estimated it would need a 48,000-acre plantation, but by 1989 it had reforested only 10,277 acres. Consequently, Jant now intends to expand even further into the virgin forest. The environmental and economic implications for the local people are terrifying.

As the locals tell it, back in the colonial days, when their fathers made the agreements that led to the concession, they had no knowledge of the consequences of clear-cutting. Since then their homeland has been devastated and their way of life seriously altered. Meanwhile, through a clever bookkeeping manoeuvre called "transfer pricing," Jant has managed always to show little or no profit on paper, so the royalties promised to their fathers have amounted to little more than a dollar per person.

The valley has suffered tremendous physical damage. The topsoil is badly disturbed and erosion is rampant, which means a sharp diminishment of traditional subsistence agriculture. The river suffers from severe sedimentation and turbidity, which along with oil, diesel, and gasoline spills has depleted the fishing grounds. The water itself is unsafe for drinking and bathing. Birds and animals have fled, so fresh meat is no longer a daily dietary staple. Standing water in the clearcuts triggered an increase in the mosquito population, which in turn lead to fears of increased malaria, and the health department resorted to spraying DDT. Meanwhile, such infrastructural improvements as

roads, schools, and aid stations have not been delivered as promised.

The valley residents have not stood still. On at least three occasions over the years they have shut down Jant's logging operations. This past October 12, they presented the PNG government with a 25,000-signature petition calling for an immediate renegotiation of Jant's contracts and \$15 million in compensation for environmental damage and failure to deliver promised services. The petitioners gave the government fourteen days to respond. On November 6th, having received no response, they blockaded two roads into the valley, shutting down Jant's operations for five days and causing an estimated \$50,000 loss.

Subsequently, government officials agreed in principle to the demands, but a breakdown in negotiations has led to re-establishment of the blockades. Meanwhile, Jant is set to expand its operations into another 145,000 acres of rainforest.

[From World Rainforest Report, (Rainforest Action Network), January March 1991]



Photo from World Rainforest Report

"Stop work": Japan's Honshu Paper has ruined a way of life.

The Wokabout Portable Sawmill: The First Real Hope For Sustainable Forestry?

A team from Australia's Rainforest Information Centre recently finished a three-month "ecological audit" of a small portable sawmill, the Wokabout, in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The team concluded that the mill can be an important step toward truly "sustainable" forestry in the tropics, but only if model harvesting programs and guidelines are developed.

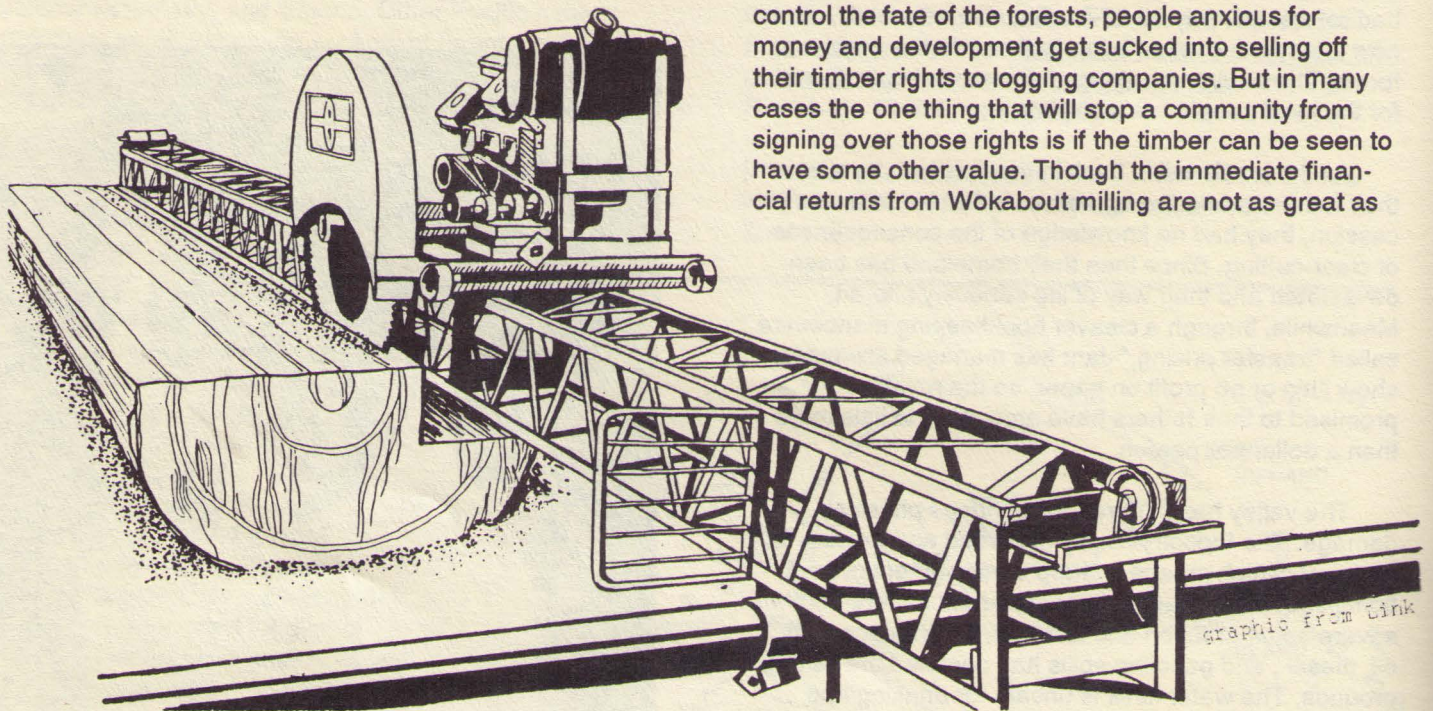
Rainforest Information Centre's John Seed reports:

When the International Tropical Timber Organisation studied sustainability in tropical forestry, it concluded that less than one-eighth of 1 percent of such forestry could be so defined. But even the small amount it did identify was based on definitions developed in Queensland, Australia, whose old foresters were notorious for cooking the books to back up their claims. The ITTO's conclusions have been vigorously attacked by Dr. Aila Keto and Professor Len Webb, among others, and we conclude with them that there is not a single example anywhere in the world of sustainable logging of a tropical forest.

Which makes all the more compelling the findings of a three-person Rainforest Information Centre team that earlier this year visited Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to conduct a three-month ecological audit of a small portable sawmill, the Wokabout. Because four men can carry the mill to a log and then carry the planks out, the Wokabouts theoretically require no roads or heavy machinery, which is usually the most damaging part of logging in the tropics. The mills are relatively inexpensive, so they can be locally owned by the people who live in the forest. With the right training and a sound management plan, the mill can be a viable alternative to large-scale industrial logging.

As part of our audit we searched out places where we might create models of sustainable forestry, or ecoforestry. Although there are already more than 300 Wokabouts in PNG, the absence of suitable guidelines for their use means that a lot of needless destruction is taking place.

Also, because customary land ownership in the Pacific means that local indigenous communities often control the fate of the forests, people anxious for money and development get sucked into selling off their timber rights to logging companies. But in many cases the one thing that will stop a community from signing over those rights is if the timber can be seen to have some other value. Though the immediate financial returns from Wokabout milling are not as great as



what the logging companies offer, many communities will spurn the companies if they can just get some return from their forests.

We have developed guidelines for sustainable forestry using the Wokabout in three sites in the Solomons and in PNG. These sites are described below, as are our funding needs to initiate them. The United Kingdom's Ecological Trading Company has agreed to buy all the timber produced under our guidelines for about 25% above what could be obtained by selling it anywhere else, and they've budgeted funds for monitoring our timber to be sure it actually does come from sustainable sources.

If we can launch our program and it works, it will be a true alternative economic scenario, and the communities that receive Wokabouts can become training grounds for sustainable forestry programs elsewhere. A 24-page report covering our evaluation of the Wokabouts and our overall Ecological Management Plan (each village will have its own) is available from the Rainforest Information Centre Pacific Ecoforestry Project, Box 368 Lismore, Australia 2480.

Briefly, these are our proposed sites. The Papua New Guinea project is funded already, but we are still seeking funds for the Solomon Islands.

Papua New Guinea

To save 54,000 hectares of the last intact coastal rainforest in Morobe Province from certain destruction by the PNG Forest Products Company (which has already worked through the rest of the coast), we hope to provide the Zia tribe with three Wokabout mills and a management plan for the villages of Salwarra, Popoi, and Sapo. Each mill will cut mainly timber that needs cleaning up after clearing gardens and plantations. We believe sustainable logging is possible here on a fifty-year rotation, requiring just 150 hectares (three per year) per mill.

The Wokabouts will be owned by the Village Development Trust and in possession of the villages as long as they adhere to the ecoforestry management plan.

Solomon Islands

A Korean logging company, Eagon Forestry, has recently obtained logging concessions on the south-side of the island of Choiseul. Choiseul is covered with lush tropical forest, most of it pristine, and supports small villages dependent on the sea and the forest for survival.

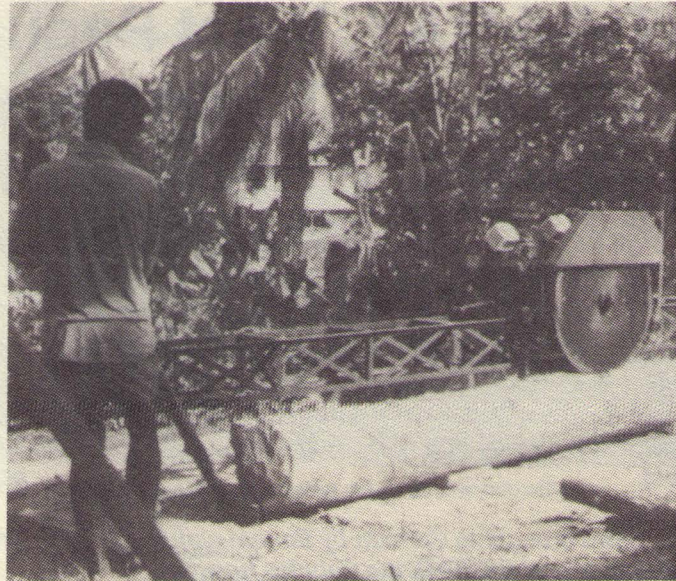


photo from World Rainforest Report

The wokabout in action in Papua New Guinea.

So far only one village has signed over rights to Eagon, but Eagon devastate the village, relocating it to a smaller island offshore. Serious outbreaks of malaria followed the heavy machinery, water supplies were polluted, the company desecrated sacred sites, and disputes over land boundaries erupted. Eagon is aggressively negotiating to expand its operations. The Rainforest Information Centre team held meetings in eight villages. None have signed with Eagon, but all felt a need to develop, and were considering offers. All agreed that a Wokabout sawmill would secure their forests from Eagon and enable them to manage their own resources.

The Rainforest Information Centre believes that three mills strategically placed in the region of the Solomons would not only protect the forests and villages, but would probably result in a moratorium on all new logging contracts as communities realized there was an alternative. \$45,000 is needed for these three mills.

[From World Rainforest Report (Rainforest Action Network), January-March 1991.]



BINTUNI BAY, West Papua: An UP-TO-DATE Interview with Two Indonesian Activists from SKEPHI

by Malia Southard

The unique tropical forests of West Papua are being threatened anew. West Papua is now the heart of the Indonesian government's new program of intensive exploitation of the forest and mineral wealth of the Eastern islands of the archipelago with foreign aid and investment.

This is the news brought to Canada by Bintoro and Anung, delegates from SKEPHI, the Peoples Network for Forest Conservation in Indonesia, to a recent Vancouver conference of Canadian environmental, student, and international cooperation groups, sponsored by the British Columbia Environment and Development Working Group.

Bintoro, with help from CUSO has recently returned from a month's travel and investigative research in West Papua. He visited Bintuni Bay, Manokwari, Biak island, Sorong, and Jayapura, the provincial capital, the north shore, and the area of Freeport Mining in the central highlands.

Threat to the unique mangrove forests

"I am deeply concerned about what is happening to the mangrove forests of Bintuni Bay," Bintoro said. "They are the most extensive mangrove forest in the world. They hold the land together. [They protect] the beaches against the pull of the sea, and they shelter a rich variety of plants and animals- shrimp, crabs and fish- and they protect the prawn breeding grounds, and the nesting places of rare crocodiles. The mangroves maintain the strength and balance of the whole northwest Papuan ecosystem."

"And it's home to some 9,000 native people," added Anung. "They're seeing their land disappear, almost from under them. And their livelihood's disappearing, too. Sago from the sago palms, the shellfish from the bay- their main traditional foods- are being shipped elsewhere."

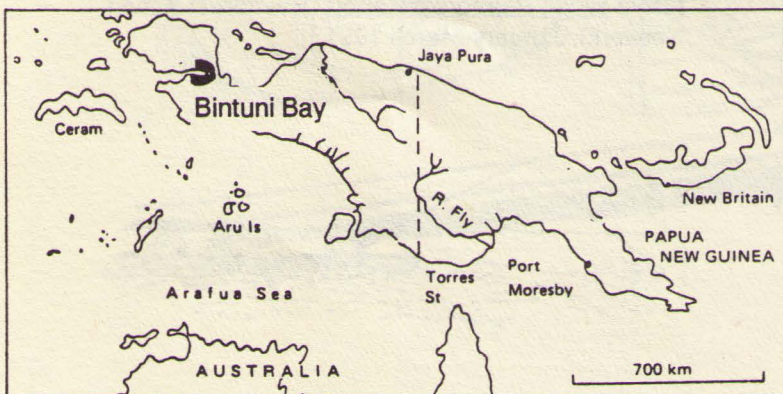
The 1980's Assault

The assault on Bintuni Bay by Indonesian companies and their foreign partners has a muddled history. In 1982 the mangrove forests, some 450,000 hectares in extent, were declared a Nature Reserve-off-limits to commercial logging. But in 1986, the cutting

down of the forests began: first by two subsidiaries of the large national conglomerate, the Djanti Group--PT Agoda Rimba Irian, which felled the forest in its 180,000 hectare logging concession; and PT Sagindo Sari Lestari, which chopped down some 15,000 hectares of lowland forests to supply its sago factory.

"The most controversial question in the Bintuni Bay area is the operations of the PT Bintuni Utama Murni Wood Industries (BUMWI). It's their logging, and their mangrove wood chip mill," Bintoro said. In 1988 PT BUMWI was granted cutting rights to 137,000 hectares of mangrove and mixed forest around Bintuni Bay, to feed the wood chip mill it planned to construct. A substantial part of the US\$7 million cost of the chip mill project was put up by the Japanese firm, Marubeni, which signed a ten-year contract to buy annually 300,000 tonnes of chips. Some \$3.5 million was furnished by a military business association in Jakarta, the Pirngadi Group.

In 1989 and 1990 bad rumours about the company's activities became hard facts. Environmental groups in both Indonesia and Japan investigated the operations, and found that PT BUMWI had invaded the Bintuni Nature Reserve, and destroyed 40,000 hectares of national forest. The Indonesian government, embarrassed by the international concern, began to act. PT BUMWI was fined for violation of Indonesian forestry regulations, and for failure to replant. It was ordered to suspend operations until the fines were paid.



Bintuni Bay: site of mangrove logging and wood chip mill.

Bintuni Now

According to Bintoro's interviews in April with people at the provincial forestry office in Jayapura, and the branch office in Manokwari, it is still uncertain whether PT BUMWI has paid its fines - even though the fines were reduced, and could be paid in instalments--or that it had ever really ceased operations.

"Our SKEPHI observer who recently visited area of the wood chip plant, reports that it is clearly operating as usual. We can't be sure whether tree-felling is still going on, since it's now the rainy season," Bintoro said.

Visit to Amutu Besar Island

In April, together with a representative of JATAN (Japan Tropical Forest Action Network), Bintoro did field research along the shores of the Bay. The military authorities forbade any trips to the island of Amutu Besar. Later, he was given petrol for his boat by official journalists, on condition that he not visit this particular island. Why?

"It was because of what we found when we decided - in spite of all the warnings - to go to Amutu Besar," Bintoro said. "PT BUMWI doesn't want people to see the way their wood chip mill is destroying the land and waters of Bintuni Bay. My Japanese colleague from JATAN and I took photos of Amutu Besar Beach. It's strewn from one end to the other with blackened wood chips to a depth of ten centimetres. Even the ocean lying off the beach is turning black."

The local people are growing more and more upset because this heavy logging and chip waste from the mill are scarring the land, and gradually destroying the fish and shellfish, once plentiful in the Bay. Now, they say, it's getting more and more difficult to catch enough fish for their families- especially when big fishing trawlers are allowed to ply the waters traditionally theirs. Beset by the trawlers, the clearcuts, and the blackened shores, the people find their world diminished, and their livelihood threatened.

Discrimination against Local Workers

"There's another problem," Bintoro reported. "The local young men who manage to get work in another woodchip plant in the area, operated by an offshoot company of PT BUMWI, the PT Bina Mandah Pratama Chips Industries, get less pay than the transmigrant workers brought in by the company from East Java. The Javanese get 200,000 rupiahs (US\$100) a month, but the local workers get only 85,000 (US\$45)--and this lower pay without any health or accident insurance."



JATAN representative demonstrating depth of chip mill effluent.

photo by Wishu Bintoro

Intimidation

What can the people of Bintuni Bay do? "It's very difficult," Bintoro said. "I talked with one of the tribal chiefs, and he said when they complained to the local authorities about the wage discrimination, they got threats from the military police. At one time when the transmigrant and local workers got together, and went on strike, the military threatened to kill them and their families if they continued the protest."

While regency (one level below provincial) officials- the bupati- may express concern for the distress of the local people, the governor of the province, Bas Suebu, is committed to the Indonesian government's program of industrial forestry for all of West Papua.

Skephi's Role

What SKEPHI is doing, Annung said, is to bring to the indigenous people whatever information about the companies and their operations Bintoro and others have collected. With this evidence of violation of tribal rights, inadequate compensation, or prejudicial hiring and payment of local workers, they can write to regency authorities in Manokwari, and Sorong, as well as to provincial officials in Jayapura. Letters can also be written to the press in West Papua, and to newspapers and periodicals in Jakarta.

And ultimately, if the people want to press further, delegations can be organized to present their case in local and regional centres. Such quiet but determined protest from the people involved has met with considerable success in both Java and Sumatra.

Rape of the Sago Palms

"Another urgent concern of the people in West Papua is felling of the sago palms--and commercializing of the sago, their staple food," Bintoro reported. "PT Sagindo Sari Lestari, a subsidiary of the Jayanti Group, a very large conglomerate, partly owned by Suharto himself, has a 270,000 hectare concession of sago palm swamp in Manokwar. And it has established

a sago flour mill which can produce 36,000 tonnes of sago flour every year. The sago flour is shipped to Java and other islands, and some goes to Hongkong, Taiwan, and Japan.

"Again, most of the workers in the whole operation are transmigrants, whom the company has brought in. And, as always, the local people complain that they are paid much less than the newcomers"

The Tourist Threat

"Let's Go the Archipelago!" That's the new battle-cry of the Indonesian tourism industry, with its grandiose plans to attract millions of tourists, especially from Southeast Asia, but also from Europe and North America, to Indonesia. According to Bintoro, the tourism campaign will affect West Papua. The government is especially promoting the Three B's--Batam island off Sumatra, Bali, and Biak island, off the Papuan north coast.

"They are planning hotels, golf course, and casinos for Biak and nearby islands," Bintoro said. "The bupati (regency official) doesn't want tourism. He feels it will damage the land unalterably, and nothing will be offered to the local people. They'll be shoved into the background, or given the usual low wages for menial work."

Another aspect of the tourist push into West Papua is, of course, the Indonesian government's determination to counter international concern and protest about its questionable policies toward the West Papuan peoples, and their continuing efforts toward self-determination, both through the armed struggle of the OPM (Papuan Freedom Front), and diplomatic presentations by Papuan exiles in various forums of the United Nations.

The Biggest Plywood Mill in the World

Last but not least of the present and ongoing threats to the forests of West Papua is the huge plywood mill under construction in Sorong. According to Annung and Bintoro, this plant and the timber-cutting to feed it is an operation of the Henrison Iriana Group, a subsidiary of PT Kayu Lapis, one of the biggest timber conglomerates in Indonesia.

"This operation is a big threat to the forests," Bintoro said. "This mill--the biggest in the world, with some 28 assembly lines, operating with the most advanced equipment, will devour the trees on some 175,000 hectares of Bintuni forest. And here is where Canada enters the West Papuan picture. It is Lavalin International, a large Canadian engineering firm, which has provided the feasibility studies for the plant, including an environmental and social assessment of how the plant and its timber-cutting methods will affect the land

and the people. Lavalin's enterprise has been partially financed by a \$270,000 grant from CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency.

Background for SKEPHI activists

BINTORO, Wishu P.

- Student of Journalism, Faculty of Communication, Institute of Social and Political Science, Jakarta
- started work with SKEPHI in 1988 in documentation and information unit
- in 1989, project officer for advocacy on the golf course case--invasion of the National Park--in Camacan, West Java
- in 1990, investigated forestry case in Java and Sumatra, including the government's plan to deforest Mentawai Island in West Sumatra for a palm oil plantation; established contacts with indigenous people of Mentawai
- in 1991, in Irian Jaya for a month's investigation of forest destruction
- in Bintuni Bay, transmigration for plantations in Manokwari, construction for tourism in Biak, and also Freeport mining.

ANNUNG Nur Rachmi

- Graduate, English department, Faculty of Letters, University of Indonesia
- 1984-85 vice-chair of Student Senate
- 1985-86 researcher on domestic servants
- 1986-89 worked in women's movement workshops in Jakarta with theme:"Women in Social Change", worked on translations of Indonesian and Chinese literature and worked as freelance investigative journalist for several Jakarta publications
- since July 1991 SKEPHI administrator, specializing in Resource Development.



A CLOSER LOOK AT PT Kayu Lapis

by Malia Southard

"PT Kayu Lapis is one of the ten largest timber processing companies in Indonesia," said George Aditjondro, delegate to the seventh conference of the International NGO Forum on Indonesia (INGI), held in early May in Washington, D.C., and attended by about 40 Indonesian and 40 European, North American and Japanese delegates.

George Aditjondro has been tracking PT Kayu Lapis for some time. He is a former vice-president of the Indonesian environmental organization, WALHI, and one of the founders of Irian Jaya Rural Community Development Foundation (YPMD). He is now a PhD candidate, and a lecturer at Satyawacama Christian University in Salatiga, Central Java. He is also one of the Asian board members of CUSO.

"PT Kayu Lapis has a large plywood mill in the Kendal district of Central Java. The mill is fed by logs imported from the company's huge forest concession in Kalimantan," Aditjondro said. "The plywood mill was built in the subdistrict of Kaliwungu, near the Tapak river, without the required Environmental Impact Assessment (EPI)."

The construction and operation of the plywood mill turned out to be a near disaster for the people in the two fishing villages along the Tapak river. "The roads the company built changed the course of the river, and the people got flooded," Aditjondro continued. "Effluent from the mill, and chips polluted the water, and often the village boats, fishing off the coast, got smashed by random logs. People also felt cheated because mill employees were imported from other parts of the country--no jobs for young men from the villages."

After appeals to local authorities proved futile, the villagers took their complaints to the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI), formed by 13 non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to assist rural Indonesians whose land and livelihood were being threatened by the invasion of large industrial enterprises. With the Legal Aid Foundation's help, the villagers sued the company for damages, and for ignoring the required Environmental Impact Assessment before starting operations.

"Suing a huge company like PT Kayu Lapis in Indonesian courts is something new for village people," Aditjondro indicated, "and of course, the chances of success are minimal. But the people got publicity, there were debates in the local press, word got to the bigger newspapers- and the company doesn't care for that sort of public image."

"Actually, in the typical Indonesian way," he added with a smile, "the company, after winning the case publicly in court, privately paid some compensation to the fishermen of the two villages."

An interesting sequel to the case has been PT Kayu Lapis' effort to cast itself in the new role of public benefactor. It has offered shares in the company to ten student cooperatives in several universities, among them Semarang, Ponogoro, Metaram, and Cendrawasih (West Papua). The aim is to neutralize the support student activists have been giving to the struggle of village people to maintain their lands, their right to take part in decisions about industrial projects on traditional lands, and the right to just compensation, and to employment.

"In plain language, they want to buy off the students," Aditjondro said. "We're working to inform the students about what is really going on, to conscientise them about the destruction of forests, and the invasion of the traditional lands of village people throughout the archipelago. "We want them to understand, and then to feel responsible, and to act responsibly- after all, they're shareholders in something much bigger than PT Kayu Lapis. They're shareholders in their whole country, and in the kind of future they want for it."

PT Kayu Lapis' newest project- the largest plywood mill in the world- is now beginning to take shape in Sorong, West Papua. In operation this mill will consume thousands of hectares of mangrove, sago and hardwood forest.

Since the Canadian consulting firm, Lavalin International, has been working on feasibility studies for the mill and the timber-cutting, George Aditjondro hopes that joint monitoring can be taken up by Indonesian and Canadian organizations, concerned about the onslaught on the original mangrove forests, and on the rights of the indigenous peoples who live in them.

ON THE ROAD WITH EPI

by Campbell Smith

Cambell Smith was associated with SEI! theatre from 1988 through June 1991. He was sent to the Solomons Islands by CUSO to work with the Solomon Islands Development Trust, a Solomon Islands non government organisation.

One evening in the village of Ligara in the Solomon Islands a woman steps into the light of a gas lamp, her pikinini in her arms, and says: "Now I have seen your *nila* (immunization) play, I understand. The people in the clinic tell us nothing. Our minds are dark, but now we know and we will not forget."

This past year has been the year of EPI (Expanded Program of Immunization) in the Solomons. A program funded by the Canadian government's **Miracle in the Making Program through Save the Children Fund-Canada/Australia**. Its aim- to immunize the majority of the infant population against the seven main childhood diseases -TB, whooping cough, polio, diphtheria, hepatitis B, tetanus, and measles.

Recently because of the low immunization rate on the remote Weather Coast of Guadalcanal Island, the Health Department decided to launch a special campaign. For the first time joining forces with SEI! - an educational theatre team that tours - by foot, by ship and by dugout canoe - to remote areas of the Solomons. SEI! presents actions (participatory plays) on development issues including land use, environmental conservation, population awareness, resource management, urban drift and family health. All to engage village people in the development process/debate.

DAY ONE: The boat belongs to Fisheries, the engine to Health. It is loaded down with vaccine, disposable needles, dressings, projector, generator, films, food, guitars, pots, petrol, and personal baggage. The seas are rough, the sun full, and the engine slow. The driver decides to follow the shoreline for safety. Our destination is Marau Sound at the eastern tip of Guadalcanal and jumping off spot for the Weather Coast.

En route a giant leatherback turtle swims leisurely by oblivious to the fact that several people on board are preparing to dive in and catch it for supper. Suddenly it disappears beneath the waves. A few minutes later the boat narrowly avoids ramming a large shark- not an unusual sight in these water. Shark fins and turtle shells are important sources of income for Solomon Islanders, the fins used by the Taiwanese in aphrodisiac potions, the shell to make custom

jewellery. Greenpeace is lobbying the Solomon Islands government to protect sea turtles but so far with little success.

At sunset we enter Marau Sound where we meet a commercial fishing ship come to take bait fish. The driver circles the ship, banter exchanges and we are rewarded with two hefty bonito (tuna) for the evening meal. There has been considerable debate in this area about bait fishing. Coastal tribes signed contracts with National Fisheries Development Corporation (now owned by Canada's BC Packers), but now many are not happy. Because of the bait fishing the larger fish have moved further out to sea and so become less accessible to local fisherman.

That evening we bed down in the local clinic.

DAY TWO: Setting out in the early morning it is tractor all the way to Balolawa Clinic over a road constructed in 1978 and not maintained since. There is no money- the national economy squeezed by erratic export prices on primary commodities and ever increasing import costs. We work our way slowly across a number of rivers. In times of heavy rain (the norm on this coast) the rivers become torrents, washing trees, boulders and hillside gardens seaward. Using a loud hailer, the team stops at villages to announce the immunization campaign.

At Balolawa we set up base camp. This is not a provincially run clinic but one built with Australian aid and run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. A father arrives, his young son on his back. The boy's legs are paralysed from unattended ulcers. But it is Saturday, the SDA Sabbath and so no nurse. He turns and sets off home.

That evening we are warned by the local people against venturing out alone at night. This is the area of the "VeLe", a traditional figure which SEI! has incorporated into its immunization action. According to customary belief the "VeLe," secreting his power in a small woven basket dangling from a telltale crooked finger, searches out his victims after nightfall. SEI!'s "VeLe" swoops through the audience spreading deadly disease. "I can fly through the air, swim under water, make myself so small you can't see me." Thrusting his magic basket at the children, he shrieks with delight, "I'm going to make you all sick and die!" Because "VeLe" is still very much a part of this culture the image is very persuasive.

DAY THREE: Off to the Nagho village, half the team by boat, the other half hiking the four kilometres. We pass through plantations of coconut and betel nut. On the surrounding hills gardens perch precariously, hacked from thick green forest. Cockatoos and parrots start out from the bush, along with foraging pigs. The pigs will eventually be consumed at customary feasts or used to buy a new bride. We ford clear, cold rivers. Logging has yet to hit the Weather Coast, not that foreign companies haven't tried.

That night at Nagho village films are shown on malaria (widespread in the Solomon Islands), immunization and family planning (a 3.5% birth rate), along with Jesus of Nazareth, the last a special crowd pleaser in this devoutly Christian nation. The films are all narrated in English, understood only by the educated elite. Yet the people are all rapt, especially at the sight of camels and elephants. An exotic tribal dance to exorcise disease brings the house down.

The evening however ends in a row. The youth group had been gearing up for a dance, a fundraiser for the primary school. But eh "olos" (elders) prefer to see the films. The youths disconnect the generator, bounce stones off the roof but the films keep rolling. The dance cancelled.

The next day all is forgotten. Throughout the morning, in the shade of a giant cut nut, the health workers check child health cards and nila pikinini. SEII presents its immunization and nutrition actions and is well-received. Total nila, 85.

That night we are served up baked taro and kumara (sweet potato) cooked in coconut milk for the evening meal. No greens. Blight has wiped out the entire crop of "cabis" for the past two years along the entire coast. In some areas it is considered taboo to give children greens. Hence an inordinate amount of nutrition problems on the Weather Coast.

We sleep in the primary school under a full moon that turns night to day.

DAY FOUR: Makaruka, a large immaculately kept village (despite wandering pigs) surrounded by low black stone walls, the houses all similarly stone terraced, a style particular to this area. Here the nila total is a healthy 130.

After the actions the village Chief, wearing a red baseball cap "America USA" sits down and "stories",

"What does it mean, development? Is it a good thing or not?"

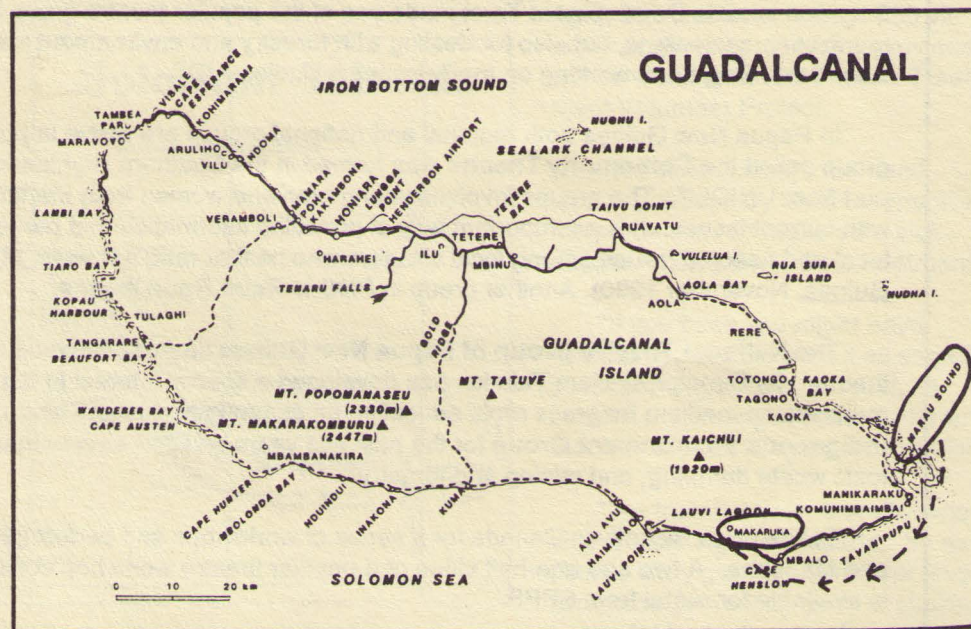
SEII: "What do you think?"

"I don't know. If we Solomon Islanders start to think too much about money--"

SEII "Would that be good?"

"I don't think so. It's not our custom. A man must share what he owns. I think it's enough if we can buy some clothes, tobacco, rice a few things. Why do we need more? If we start to worry too much about money we will forget our culture. It's already happening."

Walking back to Balolawa we reach Komuvaolu, home of Moro, founder of the Moro movement and formerly one of the most influential chiefs in the region. Moro's primary teaching is a return to customary values and a rejection of European ways. The movement, of which Makaruka was the centre, appears now to be in disarray, with Komuvaolu the last loyal village. Here kabilato and grass skirts are standard dress. Passing through it feels as if we've stepped back to the edge of time. One is reminded of the old values



THE WEATHERCOAST ON GUADALCANAL: SEII travelled from Marau Sound west along the coast to Makaruka.

map from South Pacific Handbook

Solomon Islanders still uphold, and how tenuous and fragile those values have become.

DAY FIVE: Back in Balolawa there's a problem. The boat has been swamped trying to come ashore in heavy seas. The generator is soaked. That night families turn out en masse for a night at the movies. But no power. So much for whiteman's technology. Total nila, 81.

DAY SIX: Up before dawn to get to the final village of Rabore. Once again the loud hailer as we pass villages and bush gardens. At Rabore the Chief explains his people will soon be moving to another site to escape the nearby river that continually threatens to flood the village. Also the water supply is a problem. Villages upstream use the river as a toilet (although they deny it). The Chief has tried talking with them but no one is willing to cooperate. The government surveyed the area some years ago to locate an alternate water source yet nothing has been done.

There is little shade in this village so SEII has to play in the full sun. One of the team has come down with malaria, not unusual. Total nila, 93.

And so the EPI Guadalcanal campaign ends. 394 children vaccinated. Yet the health staff admit it is

virtually impossible to achieve sufficient coverage on this island. Too many problems. Clinic boats crack up on stony shores. Engines break down and no spare parts. Iceboxes run out of kerosene spoiling vaccine. In the bush it is even more difficult. On a recent tour the Chief medical officer was so exhausted from two days of climbing up and down ridges he had to be airlifted back to town. As for head office, inadequate staff, too little money where it is needed most, the bosses always away on overseas training courses.

The big worry now is Bougainville, an island just to the north of the Solomons, but part of Papua New Guinea. For the past two years a civil war has been raging, with all food and medical supplies cut off. Only recently has a very tenuous ceasefire been declared. As a result there has been no immunization program, so now the rate of communicable childhood diseases- especially measles- is very high. With Solomon Islands children possibly next in line.

As the Assistant Nursing Officer on the Weather Coast tour said: "For years I have wanted to run away from this work. There are too many frustrations, too many problems. But then I ask myself-If I leave who is going to replace me? Who is going to serve these people? Somebody has to."

POPULAR THEATRE TAKES OFF

Popular theatre has become an important tool for development groups in the South Pacific. The Solomon Islands Development Trust made use of the popular theatre group SEII not only for immunization campaigns, but also for dealing with forestry and environment issues. In Vanuatu **Wan Smol Bag** tours working on many issues including AIDS.

In Papua New Guinea both regional and national groups are active in popular theatre. A drama group called the **Community Theatre** was formed in the Southern Highlands last November with support from UNICEF. The groups involves young men and women from Mendi in productions dealing with current issues. It is an important way of providing information and participation in the debate on local and national issues among local villagers who neither read nor write. (Times of Papua New Guinea, November 1990). Another group in PNG is **Raun Raun** theatre.

The **National Theatre Group of Papua New Guinea** has also become involved in popular theatre. Its Director, William Takaku, has developed a special interest in the use of drama as a communications medium for grass roots education on community issues. Takaku has worked with PNG's **Indigenous Environment Group** for the past two years on PNG environmental issues including toxic waste dumping, and mining and forestry.

Takaku was recently in Canada for a series of workshops and performances in British Columbia and Manitoba. A two and one-half video of a popular theatre workshop conducted in Victoria in June is available for rental from SPPF.

Malaria - the Curse of the Solomons

Malaria kills, malaria makes people sick and malaria loses the country money. But every year the number of people made sick goes up - about 375 people in every 1,000 can expect to get malaria, almost double last year's figure. What is being done?

"I can't even count how many times I've had malaria," says school-leaver Jennie who nearly died during one recent attack. Her friend Eddie sympathised: "Everyone got malaria at school and then they couldn't manage their exams. They were the ones who ended up as school dropouts."

Malaria is increasing everywhere in the world, except for China. Scientists say it is because any place which has a lot of people and traffic moving through it will increase the number of outbreaks. Particularly vulnerable are indigenous people who were not effected before, like the Indians of the Amazon forest now living beside logging camps.

Resistant strains of malaria are also a problem. Many patients do not respond to chloroquine treatment as well as they used to. Some people also blame the halting of the DDT spraying programme.

In the Solomons high risk malaria zones are Malaita, Guadalcanal and Central. The peak time for attacks is during the wet season.

Daniel Ho'ota, permanent secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Health, would like to change the date of Christmas in an attempt to cut down the number of people who are made sick by malaria then.

"December is the start of the rainy season and it is holiday time too. People sing carols outside which makes the mosquito happy. He goes for a feast and malaria shoots up," says Ho'ota, "If only Christmas was in June or July when there is less rain."

Peak mosquito biting time is 6 - 7 pm. About 90% of malaria carrying mosquitoes take their blood meal from the ankle.

At Solomon Islands Plantations Ltd. on Guadalcanal, Joseph Tema, senior nursing officer, treated 624 malaria patients in January. That is about twice as many as were sick in November.

"Malaria is the number one enemy of the people of the Solomon Islands," Tema says.

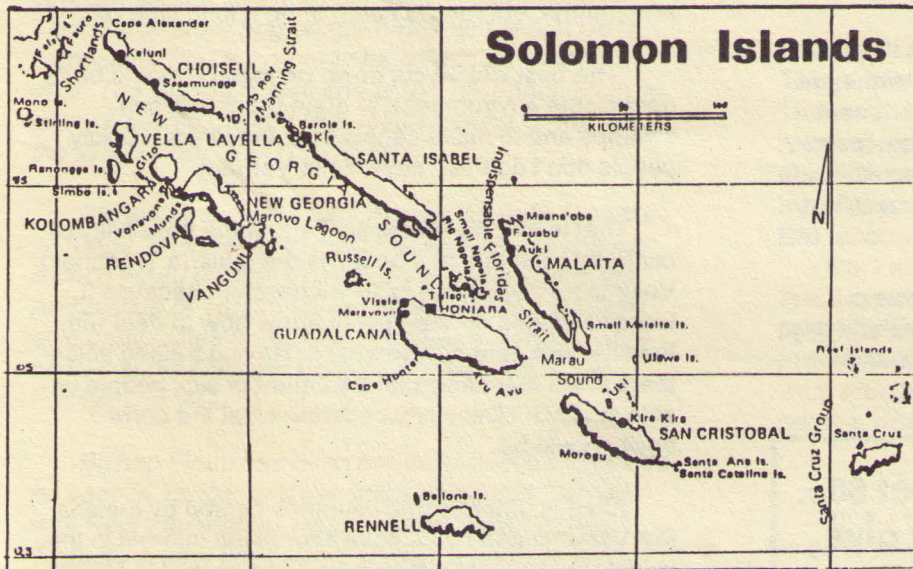
"Sick people can be easily treated by we need co-operation to control malaria."

A project building on co-operation to try and check malaria is going ahead on Makira. By April, 80 volunteers, living in 50 villages scattered around the province, will be working for the Malaria Treatment Volunteer Project.

The Makira village men and women, chosen by their communities, have one aim - to make sure sick people receive immediate treatment.

"If you think you might have malaria you should treat it as soon as possible," says Hans Verhoef, associate entomologist seconded from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"We train the volunteers to recognise clinical signs of malaria," he explains, "they give two points for fever; two points for feeling cold, or shaking; one point for feeling weak; one point for headache; one point for sweating and one point for back, or joint, or muscle pains. If they add all the points



together and get two point or more, then they treat for malaria."

Most people realise the risks malaria carries, says Hans, and know that babies, young children and pregnant women need to have extra careful attention.

"If you like life, it is best to be tested," warns Haston Faale who checks the results of blood slides in a Honiara clinic.

At the Malaria Research Institute, a two-year study on the amount of productivity lost by the country through people sick from malaria, put together by director, Dr. Nathan Kere, is due to be published soon.

Armed with these figures the Ministry of Health hopes to boost the malaria budget (currently \$11,680,000 plus) and to develop a new approach to dealing with malaria.

"Malaria effects everyone," says PS Daniel Ho'ota, "so everyone must be concerned and take measures. If we all co-operated malaria could finish."

His aim is to get people to stop thinking of the anti-malaria programme as belonging to the government. "People need more education. It will take time - especially as communication is hard and the mosquito (which spreads malaria) is such a cunning insect," he adds.

In a recent parliamentary meeting, Minister of Health, Nathaniel Supa, announced that a malaria day will be introduced, designed to improve knowledge about malaria.

**Malaria treatment costs about 60c.
Clinics around the country give
out the medicine free but it is
also sold in the Pharmacy
for more than \$10.**



photo from Link, #20

'The best way to cut down on malaria would be to destroy the environment.... Luckily people don't do this'

"There is a trend nowadays to evaluate the damage malaria causes in economic terms, but I think you should evaluate it on the human suffering level, the sickness and death," says one malaria staff worker.

One alternative would be an immunisation programme, but results seem to be a long time off.

"The best way to cut down on malaria would be to destroy the environment; to drain the mangrove swamps and to make canals from the rivers. Luckily people don't do this," says Hans Verhoef.

That is why he is sceptical about the possibility of controlling malaria and believes the Malaria Treatment Volunteer Programme is so successful - because it teaches people on-the-spot to know how to deal with the sickness, and how to treat it. Having trained volunteers stops any delays for treatment of sick people unable to reach clinics or wondering what the correct dose should be.

Already other Pacific countries cursed by malaria, like Vanuatu and PNG, have expressed interest in the volunteer approach which is working so well in Makira.

[From Link, #20, March/April 1991.]

'ONE DAY OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL LAUGH AT HOW FOOLISH WE ARE'

Tongans are coming of age and should be given more power, believes Tonga's Bishop Finau. It is ridiculous, he says, to have only nine People's Members of Parliament representing 100,000 people, while nine Nobles Members represent 33 nobles, and the other 12 Members of Parliament are appointed by the King. But the tyranny in the system begins in the family, the Bishop says, and this is where change belongs.

by Pesi Fonua

Tonga's Bishop Patelesion Finau has recently been appointed as the Chairman of a Commonwealth Task Force preparing programmes for the first Commonwealth NGOs Forum to be held in Harare this year. The Bishop is also one of the 12 representatives of the Catholic Church to a Joint Working Group with the World Council of Churches.

Bishop Finau heads the Roman Catholic Diocese in Tonga. It differs from others in the region because Bishop Finau reports directly to the Pope who is the Archbishop of Tonga. However, the Tongan Diocese also participates in regional organisation and is represented at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Pacific, CEPAC.

Bishop Finau has been outspoken about injustices he sees in Tonga, and this has led him into clashes with King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and Crown Prince Tupouto'a, who have accused him of being a marxist and an agent of the Pope.

An ardent pacifist, Bishop Finau disagrees with the UN Western Coalition going to war with Iraq.



photo from Matangi Tonga

Bishop Finau

It appears that the Gulf crisis could become a religious war. Do you think there should be a religious solution to the conflict?

"By saying that it is a religious war Saddam Hussein is trying to get the Arab world behind him to fight the Americans whom he claims are evil. So, it is not really a religious war, there is politics in it.

Last April a group of New Zealanders were in Tonga, predicting that a coup would take place. They said they were inspired to come here after reading a comment you made in New Zealand about how Tonga was on the verge of a civil uprising, unless a drastic political change takes place. Did you make such a remark?

No, I do not think I gave people a cause to fear that there will be a revolution in Tonga. I think our people are very patient, and Christianity has something to do with it. Revolution in the heart, yes, please, we want that; but as for violence, I do not believe in it. I never advocate it.

In my honest opinion, I do not see physical violence. I suppose because I am a pacifist. If I am told to go to war, I won't go. I think it is a certain attitude you reach after following the Lord. I used to box, and play hard games but I always liked not to take advantage of people.

On a number of occasions you publicly expressed your concern about the well-being of the poor and the oppressed, do you notice any change in the attitude of the people in power toward these less fortunate members of the community?

I am sorry, but for me some of those in power are using their power unwisely, just to show off that they have the power. I would say though that the people are better informed on what is going on; I think it is their right to know. But then letting out this kind of information means there is a danger of physical violence. However, that is not a good reason either for people not to be informed or to keep them in ignorance.

On the other hand the churches should step up their teaching of non-violence. I know some theologians believe in violence, but that is where we part company.

I see it is something like this; say in our family unit, are we going to give young people responsibility or are they going to be physically adults but only infants as far as exercising any power? He will do what he is told, he has no contribution in decision making.

Our people are coming of age and they should be given more power. Our system now with nine Members of Parliament, representing 100,000 people, and nine Nobles Representatives representing 33 nobles, and 12 MPs appointed by the King is just ridiculous. One day our grandchildren will laugh at how foolish we are. I mean, I just laugh at us now. If our King and nobles were *palangis* we would not let this happen, but we have been fooled by the fact that they are Tongans, our own people.

The King has labelled you as a Marxist, what do you think sparked off such a remark?

It could be that he was wrongly informed, but I am surprised that he believed it. He took a cheap type of approach. It has been done in so many countries and once a church person speaks out against the government they say that he is a communist but, of course, today it does not work because communism is finished.

It is like what a South American Bishop said, that when he gives food to the poor they call him a saint but when he asks the hungry why are they poor, they call him in a communist. We have to be concerned about the root causes of the problems, not just bandaging wounds.

I said what I believed in, and I consider myself a person who is very loyal to the people of Tonga and its King. I think we can have a very beautiful system, if they work for service, but when they use their power not to serve the people but to get all the good things of life then that is wrong. I think there is a tremendous split between our culture and the teaching of Christ. If there will be a test of what is closest to our hearts I am

afraid that poor Christ will come down and our culture will come first.

Is there a particular area in our culture where you see the Tongan culture and the teaching of Christ clash?

For example, power, and it is not only in government, but is in the structure of the church, down to the village level, and the family level. This kind of domineering attitude, there is no consultation, even in family, I am the boss. This is not the way Christian power is meant to be and there is a clash between our cultural way and Christian leadership. Like the Fahu and that sort of thing it is domineering, they force people. For example, our marriages, some people do not want to marry but they are forced to marry. We have a lot of Christianisation to be done, begin with our family. And when it comes to property, sharing, I think we were more Christian in the old days than we are today.

Regarding church unity. I know that the Roman Catholic church does not belong to the World Council of Churches, but in Tonga the Catholic Church is very much involved in the Tongan Council of Churches, what is the situation there?

In Tonga and in most countries in the Pacific each diocese is a member of local national groups. We are always a member of any of these groups in the Pacific, the Catholic Bishops Conference is a member of the Pacific Council of Churches. So in the Pacific we are members of national groups and a provincial group.

The World Council of Churches and the Catholic Church work together. For example, they have a joint Working Group, 12 members from the Catholic Church and 12 from the WCC, and I have been asked this year to be one of the 12 representing the Catholic Church. It is a seven-year term. I have accepted it and I will be a member of this working group.

The WCC and the CC work together, but still there is a technical difficulty. Pope Paul VI visited the World Council of Churches in Geneva some years ago and while he was there he asked, "And what are you going to do with Peter?"

Because the Pope, according to the Catholic Church, is the successor of Peter, the first apostle who was in charge of the church after Christ there is an ecumenical difficulty because other churches do not recognize the Pope as the successor of Peter.

The other thing is a question of numbers, if we join the Pacific Council of Churches as Dioceses and not as a Conference, we will be the majority in the PCC. It will be too overwhelming, and some may think that the Catholic church is trying to take over, so we are trying to find ways where we can work together and when the

time comes theologians may have worked out what they are going to do with Peter.

How does the Catholic Church view Peter?

Peter, we call him the vicar of Christ, the promise of Christ, "I will build my church on you, and upon this rock I build my church", and that is Peter. And when Peter died, his successor was the Bishop of Rome. He is the centre of unity. It is a historical thing, and the Eastern Patriarch after the 9th century, recognised that the Bishop of Rome is the successor of Peter. Four hundred years later the West divided under the call for Reformation, it started with Luther, then in England where there was a complete rejection of the power of the Pope. But, really, it should not have divided the church, because the gospel is so clear that there was only one church. And that is why the World Council of Churches recognises that we should strive for Church unity again, but this is the kind of unity that some people fear.

You were involved with the First Pacific Regional Seminar of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, January 8-18, is it not rather unusual that a Roman Catholic Bishop is allowed to speak not once but a number of times in a Methodist gathering, and do you see this as a drive closer to church unity?

I interpreted it to mean the we have a common understanding, we do not fear one another. It does not mean that we share everything, but we have something in common, the gospel. The Bible is our treasure. It is sad that other churches do not want to work together.

Some people think that they can have a perfect church here on Earth, and that is impossible, only in heaven will we have a perfect church. The church on earth suffered because of sinful members whether it is the Pope or members, but that does not mean that the church is wrong, it is people that make false witness.

Do you think that the majority of the Tongan population over the years are beginning to understand the bible better?

They read the bible more, but they are very private Christians, with very little social conscience. We are very backward on that, as if being Christian is something between me and God, for me to get to heaven. Instead of something which is relevant for me and the community as a whole, the people of Tonga.

The popular quotation which has been wrongly interpreted is, to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. It is a question of paying tax. Now, what they are trying to say is that church should have nothing to do with politics. It is a funny interpretation.

Using the teaching of the Bible in a social context rather than a private thing between you and God, is it a new idea?

It is not new, but it can be new because we have been blinded. But today the Church has rediscovered that it was here for the poor and the oppressed, that was the decoration of Jesus, and was why he came. The church, in the past has associated itself with the rich and the powerful, because it was patronized by those, but it has just rediscovered, and I think it has to confess that it has left the poor and the oppressed. So if you like, it has rediscovered its mission.

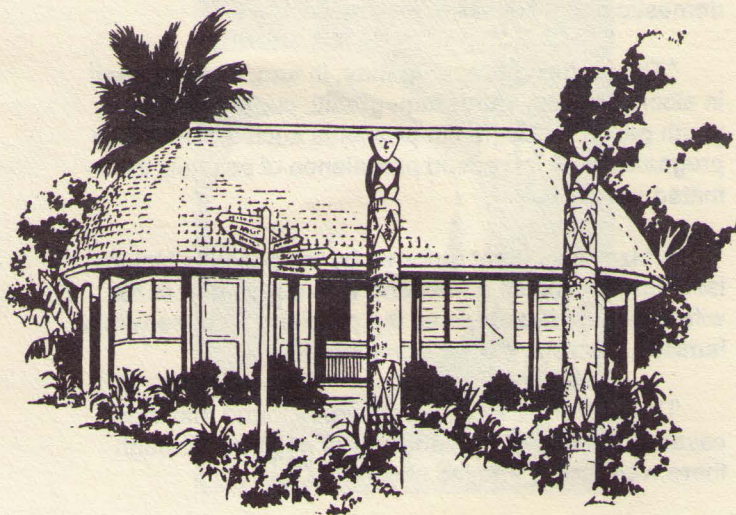
I spoke to the Methodist Evangelism Seminar this afternoon. I said that is about time they tell their ministers to preach in the new testament, every time I listen to preaching from their church it is always in the old testament. What about some of the issues in Tonga. They laughed and said it is alright with me, but when they get up to preach and see all the *Hou'eikis* sitting there, all they could talk about are the heavenly things. And so really they are not faithful to Christ and to the people.

Is this what is referred to as liberation theology?

Liberation theology as Pope John Paul II says, if it is not already discovered it must be invented.

Liberation theology is a particular theology worked out by South American Churches in response to the awful condition that so many people live under. The domination by the rich, the degrading poverty, and inhumanity. But then the question of violence comes in, but the teaching of the official church is not violent. This is the difference between theologians and the official churches. And this is where the Christian church and the liberation theology clash."

[From *Matangi Tonga*, January-February 1991]



Tonga Visitors Bureau
Vuna Road, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

MODERNISATION SPAWNS CHILD, WIFE ABUSE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Majuro, Marshall Islands (Depthnews) - Child and wife abuse in the Pacific Islands is a growing concern to health officials who recently met in the region's first child protection conference.

Child abuse, in particular is a growing problem in the Pacific island states although officials say that cultural differences from island to island make it difficult to apply the same definition uniformly in every country.

In the Marshall Islands, abuse of family members is a growing problem, said the Health Services Secretary Marie Maddison who is working with a local committee to develop guidelines for intervention and protection of children and wives. It is just one of many initiatives around the region to begin dealing with this problem.

Child abuse and neglect in the Marshalls was first documented in 1985 when the Micronesian seminar, a Jesuit research group based in Truk Island, conducted a survey, said Secretary Maddison.

The Marshalls has a population of 43,000. More than 65 percent is concentrated in two small urban areas that have a total of less than three square miles of land area.

As a result of the rapid increase in population density and cultural changes, secondary economic and social effects have emerged," Secretary Maddison said in a report on the problem. These include inadequate housing and sanitation, poverty, overcrowding, limited recreational opportunities, and lack of traditional, domestic and work skills.

"The resulting boredom may, in turn, express itself in alcohol abuse, vandalism, graffiti, curfew violations, youth gangs, or as health problems such as unwanted pregnancies or increased prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases."

A bizarre incident reported by the police in Majuro last March involved a husband who cut off part of his wife's tongue. It underlines the problem of abuse within families, Secretary Maddison said.

The Micronesian seminar survey found that most cases in the Marshall Islands were neglect, although there were some abused children.

"It's a growing problem," she said, but one that is sometimes hard to pinpoint. It is often difficult to get

spouses and children to talk about abuse within their families.

An ad hoc committee had been established to investigate the problem. It will be reporting to a Health Services Advisory Board, which includes the mayors of the two urban centres - Majuro and Ebeye - as well as the secretaries of health, education and social services.

Ms. Maddison and several other Marshall Islands representatives delivered a report to the recent Pacific Islands conference on child protection documenting abuse and neglect problems in the Marshalls.

In 1986, there were 51 reported cases of abuse and neglect, including 19 physical abuse cases involving drowning, locking a child in a confined space, and repeated beatings by hitting or kicking.

Conference participants found the definition of physical abuse complicated because of differing cultural attitudes, said Secretary Maddison.

However, "the conclusion of the conference was that if a child is hurt, then it's abuse," she said.

The conference comes at a time when more attention is being focused on children's rights, with the expected adoption this year of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention, for example, stresses the State's obligation to protect children from all forms of maltreatment perpetrated by parents or others responsible for their care, and to undertake preventive treatment programs in this regard.

The Convention, supported by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), includes the right to have a name from birth, non-discrimination, freedom of thought, protection of children without families, the rights of refugee children, and so on.

"We also talked about emotion and sexual abuse. It's happening all over (the Pacific). I think it's on the increase in the Marshall Islands. It's not just child abuse but family/wife abuse," she said.

She said that nearly every island country represented at the conference attributed the rise in abuse and neglect to the breakdown in the traditional family unit.

On the issue of wife abuse, Secretary Maddison observed that in the traditional family unit in the Marshalls, the husband lived in the home of the wife's family.

"There was always someone to step in and prevent physical abuse," she said. "Now the woman lives with the husband and is in his total control. Once the system changes, the control is less or gone."

Under the direction of Health Services staff, college students in the Marshalls are preparing to conduct a survey of people's attitudes about child/spouse abuse in the two urban centres.

The immediate focus of the committee in the Marshalls is to define "abuse" and "neglect" in legal terms so there will be a basis for preventive action in the future, and to survey the extent of the problem, said Secretary Maddison.

BOOK REVIEW

The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty: A Critical Assessment

Michael Hamel-Green. Peace Research Centre. Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University. 1990. 196 pp.

As the last major nuclear free zone treaty to be signed, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty remains of great interest to those concerned with curbing the spread of nuclear weapons. Hamel-Green's book provides a useful study of how a nuclear free zone treaty can come about and of the many pitfalls along the way. Hamel-Green provides an excellent overview of the process which led to the signing of the Treaty in Rarotonga in 1986, of the provisions and limitations of the treaty itself, and of the role of the SPNFZ Treaty in international peace and security.

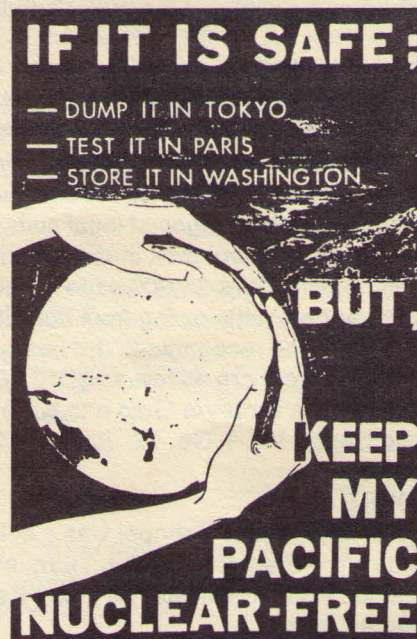
Hamel-Green finds the origins of the idea of a southern nuclear free zone in the Australian and New Zealand Labour Parties in 1970's. Unlike many, he recognises the important role of peace movements and indigenous people groups in promoting the nuclear free zone idea and in keeping the necessary pressure for action on national governments in the region.

Most interesting is Hamel-Green's explanation of the seemingly paradoxical role of the Hawke government in becoming the major promoter of idea at the South Pacific Forum in 1983. He suggests that Australia took a lead role precisely "to protect US, Australian, and ANZUS nuclear policies against more comprehensive denuclearisation arrangements" sought by peace movements, the NZ Labour Party, and Pacific Island governments.

This helps explain the limitations of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty as signed. While the treaty prohibits nuclear testing and land-based storage of nuclear weapons, it allows transit of nuclear weapons, port visits and storage, support facilities, and training exercises involving nuclear weapons. In other

words the treaty presents no real obstacles to existing US nuclear policy in the Pacific, nor to Australia continuing its close military ties with the US.

Let us hope that Hamel Green is correct in his conclusion that in the long run the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty may generate momentum toward more comprehensive arrangements rather than simply permitting the US and Australia to carry on as always. That, of course, requires continuous pressure on the two major nuclear powers in the region, the US and France, who both still refuse to adhere to the Treaty.



Reproduction of a prize winning poster designed by Charles Manata, Solomon Islands.

BOUGAINVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRY

The government of Papua New Guinea has promised to appoint an independent inquiry into human rights violations on Bougainville. Prime Minister Namaliu stressed, however, that the commission would not be appointed until conditions on Bougainville are such that the commission could properly carry out its investigations.

The promise of an inquiry was made after the firing of Colonel Leo Nuia, Commander of PNG Defence Forces on Bougainville. In an interview with an Australian Broadcasting Company television crew, Col. Nuia confirmed that allegations that the Defence Forces had executed a Bougainville church leader and five villagers and dumped their bodies at sea were true. The PNG Cabinet concluded that Col. Nuia lied either in the interview or in his report to Cabinet on the incident and thus relieved him of his command.

Meanwhile Deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro has been automatically suspended from office after the Public Prosecutor filed 76 charges of corruption and misconduct in office against him. The charges flow from the Barnett Inquiry into corruption in the timber industry in PNG. In the interim a mysterious fire has destroyed many of the records of the Barnett Commission.

(From Pacific News Bulletin, June 1991 and Pacific Report, Volume 4 No 12, June 26, 1991.)

FIJI CONFUSION

The muddle over how to return Fiji to some sort of democratic government continues. The electoral Commission has announced that it will not be possible to have electoral boundaries and machinery ready before July of 1992. Prime Minister Mara insists it is his intention to retire and he has recently been in New Zealand for medical treatment.

In mid-April Mara asked Major-General Rabuka to join his cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister, a job he was to share with current Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica. This would have required Rabuka to leave the military. Finally on June 1st Rabuka announced he was definitely not going to enter politics and instead would remain as Commander of Fiji's military forces.

A few days later, on June 9th Rabuka called for the Interim government's resignation and began a call up of the reserves, a action that preceded the coups of 1987. Rabuka criticised the government's handling of labour unrest and the economy, including tax hikes and a proposed value added tax.

Yet another reversal of course came on June 12th when Rabuka apologised for calling on the government to resign. He offered President Ganilau a traditional, and unconditional apology, including a tabua, a whale's tooth. There is speculation that Rabuka found he could not count on universal support among his officers for a third coup.

(From Pacific News Bulletin, June 1991, and Pacific Report Vol 4, No 8, May 2, 1991 and Vol 4 no 11, June 13, 1991.)

FIJI CONFRONTATION

The Fiji Trade Union Congress has called a general strike for July 16th in an attempt to force the Interim Government to withdraw harsh new anti-labour legislation introduced by decree in May. The new law provides for 14-year jail sentences and fines of up to \$F10,000 for anyone convicted of interfering with the operations of the sugar, coconut, tourism, transportation, telecommunications, electricity, or civil aviation industries. The government has also threatened to remove union protection against legal suits by employers for damages arising out of strikes.

The Interim government took these actions in an attempt to intimidate cane farmers and workers on strike at Emperor Gold Mining. Fiji's 23,000 cane farmers have begun a boycott of this year's harvest in a dispute with the government over payments owing from the 1990 harvest. Miners at Emperor Gold have been on strike since February in a dispute over union recognition. The company fired 440 of 700 striking workers and has refused to talk to union officials. Wages for miners are as low as \$F12.50 per week while the company recorded profits of more than \$F4.6 million in the last fiscal year. Emperor Gold has been non-union since a ten-week strike was broken in 1977.

(From Pacific Report Vol 4, No. 12, June 26, 1991 and Evening Post 25 June 1991.)

NEW LEADERS

Senator Bailey Olter of Pohnpei was elected as the third President of the Federated States of Micronesia on May 11th... Former Vice-President Teatao Teannaki was elected the new President of Kiribati on July 3rd... Former Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea has been appointed to succeed Philip Muller as Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency.

(From Pacific Report, Volume 4, No. 8, May 2, 1991 and No. 13, July 11, 1991. and The National Union (FSM), Volume 12, no. 9, May 15, 1991.)

TE AO MAOHI UNCERTAINTY

Uncertainty over the future of the Flosse government in "French" Polynesia comes from two quarters. Flosse took office again at the end of March after three years in opposition with support from maverick politician Emile Vernaudon's Ai'a Api, giving Flosse a two-seat majority in the 41-seat Territorial Assembly.

Harsh new economic measures, including sharp tax increases on fuel, alcohol, and tobacco, resulted in a week-long blockade of the roads leading into the capital, Papeete, by striking workers from seven unions and a call for a General Strike later this month. Three platoons of riot police have been shifted from New Caledonia to Papeete to deal with the labour unrest.

Meanwhile Territorial President Flosse has been ordered to stand trial in Paris on December 18th on charges of using his political office for personal gain during his previous term. A conviction would result in the loss of his seat in the Territorial Assembly.

(From Pacific Report, Volume 4, No 12, June 26, 1991 and Washington Pacific Report, Volume 9, Number 19, July 1, 1991.)

Resources

Books

Conflicts of Interest: Canada and the Third World. Edited by Jamie Swift and Brian Tomlinson. 340 pages. Index. Bibliography. \$21.95 paper. \$39.95 cloth. Between the Lines Press. June 1991. Conflict of Interest brings together the work of ten activists, scholars, and writers who analyse and critique the latest development issues linking Canada and the Third World, including: Canadian development assistance (through government aid programs and the role and practices of NGOs); the environmental crisis; the foreign debt; the role of women in the development process; a Native person's view of development; and how theory is related to action and opinion through the uses of media, language and ideology. It introduces a broad range of current concerns in international development and provides an in-depth critique of Canada's role in perpetuating poverty in the nations of the South. For individual and bulk ordering information, contact Between the Lines at 394 Euclid Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6G 2S9 Canada. Tel: (416) 925-8260

Canada and the Pacific Island Nations: A Directory of Specialists, Businesses, Non-Government Organizations & Government Agencies. Donna Winslow, editor. Centre for International Studies, Simon Fraser University. 1991. 148 pp. Ppbk. Includes maps, tables and figures and a chapter accounting Canadian activities by year to 1988. \$Cdn10 from the publisher c/o Dept. of Political Science, SFU, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada.

West Papua: Plunder in Paradise. Anti-Slavery Society, Indigenous Peoples and Development Series: #6. London, UK. 1990. 96 pages. Chapter headings include colonisation, occupation, transmigration, guerilla war and refugees and foreign presence. Bibliography, maps and list of periodicals regularly covering West Papua. Available at SPPF, \$10 plus shipping or direct from publisher.

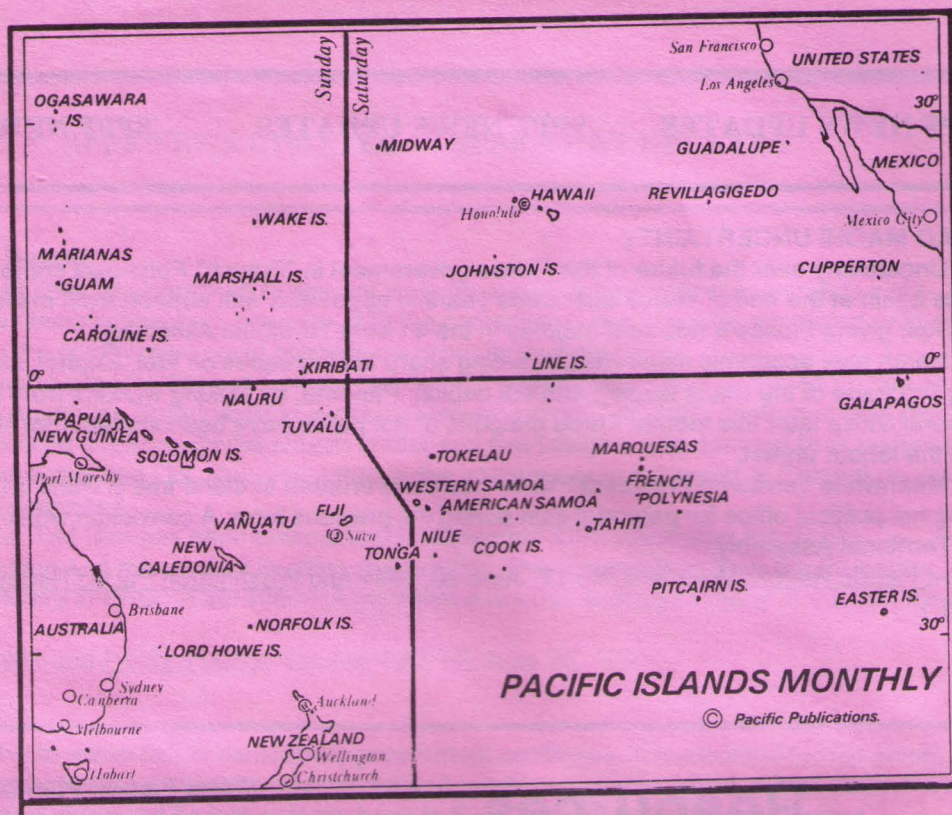
IWGIA Yearbook 1990. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Copenhagen. 1991. 282 pp. PPbk. Focuses on environmental issues and resource management from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Covers Australia, Aotearoa, West Papua, East Timor and Bougainville, Philipines, Forest Peoples' Charter, indigenous women, environment and sustainable development.

AUDIO VISUALS

Pitcairn: a Gem in the Pacific. 72 min. 1990. VHS/NTSC. TIBI Productions. Filmed in 1989 and 1990. Narrated by a Pitcairner, this excellent video depicts current life of the 60 or so people who live on Pitcairn Island.

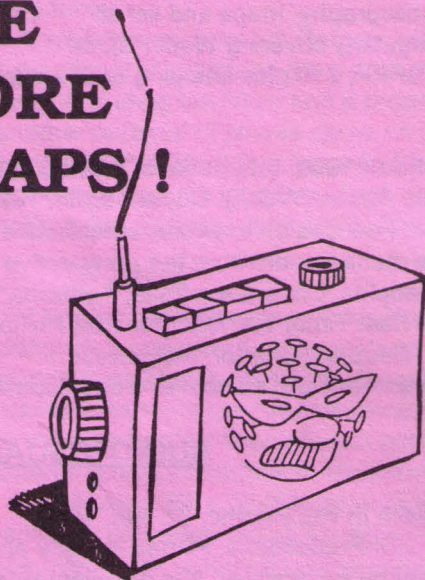
CONFERENCES

1991 International Peace Festival in the Philipines. September 4-17, Manila. BAYAN-initiated project. Sponsored by 27 democratic and solidarity associations including GABRIELA, NFIP-Phil., etc. Further information from Organizing Cttee, IPFP '91, Ste 66 FNP, G/F Cosmopolitan Tower Condominium, 134 Valero St, Salcedo Village, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. TELFAX: (6-32)999-437.



USED WITH PERMISSION

USE MORE SOAPS!



The South Pacific Commission in conjunction with AIDAB and WHO launched the first edition of Pacific AIDS Alert Bulletin in May 1991. The following article was one of many useful original ideas complete with graphics and charts presented in this excellent 12 page publication produced by Steven Vete, SPC Health Information Officer.

Radio soap operas (dramatised radio stories) have been used successfully in some countries to promote AIDS and STD prevention. In a popular Filipino soap opera, the consequences for one family of the father being tested HIV-positive were discussed. The following week, the number of people who visited STD Clinics for tests doubled. In an episode of an African radio serial, a younger girl learnt she had AIDS. Listeners were shocked. When it was revealed that she had been infected by a student who had just returned from overseas, the status of students studying abroad dramatically declined. According to Cook Islands health educator Frances Topa, 'After we broadcast a dramatised radio spot on AIDS, we had so many requests for information that we are definitely going to produce more'. In February, the SPC Media

Centre produced a series of dramatised radio plays on different subjects including AIDS, nutrition and alcohol abuse. For further information, contact the Radio Broadcasts Officer, SPC Media Centre, South Pacific Commission, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.

Know someone who would be interested in TOK BLONG SPPF? Send us his/her name, address and interest in the Pacific Islands and we will send a complimentary copy. Let us know if we can use your name as a reference. Send to SPPF, 415-620 View Street, Victoria, B.C., CANADA V8W 1J6.