

Tok Blong Pasifik

News and Views on the Pacific Islands

September/December 1997 Vol. 51 No. 3/4

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**SOUTH PACIFIC
PEOPLES FOUNDATION**

Featuring

Cashing in on
Samoan Rainforests

Adventure &
Culture Fiji Style

Cultural Tourism:
A Love-Hate
Relationship

Special Reports:

Global Warning &
The Greenhouse Crisis

Showdown in the Park:
Pai 'Ohana vs. the USA



Rethinking Tourism

Focusing on the Environment and Culture

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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

Tok Blong Pasifik is a phrase in Pidgin, a language used in parts of the Pacific. A rough equivalent would be "News from the Pacific". **Tok Blong Pasifik** (ISSN: 1196-8206) is published by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada (SPPF). Our aim is to promote awareness of development, social justice, environment and other issues of importance to Pacific Islanders. Through the magazine, we hope to provide readers with a window on the Pacific that will foster understanding and promote support for Pacific Island peoples. SPPF gratefully acknowledges support for this publication from the Canadian International Development Agency.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions to **Tok Blong Pasifik** and readers' comments. A priority is placed upon contributions from Pacific Islanders and others living in the Islands. As an issues focused magazine, **Tok Blong Pasifik** often includes material that is contentious. Views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of SPPF or financial supporters of the magazine. We reserve the right to edit material.

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Tok Tok



Cartoon: SPPF Board member Michael N. Yahgulanaas

Pacific Islanders greet the first of many tourists to the region

This issue of *Tok Blong Pasifik* looks at the changing face of tourism in the Islands as Indigenous communities and individuals challenge the traditional fantasy enclave approach to Pacific tourism with approaches that are community based, culturally sensitive, environmentally sensitive and economically beneficial at the local level.

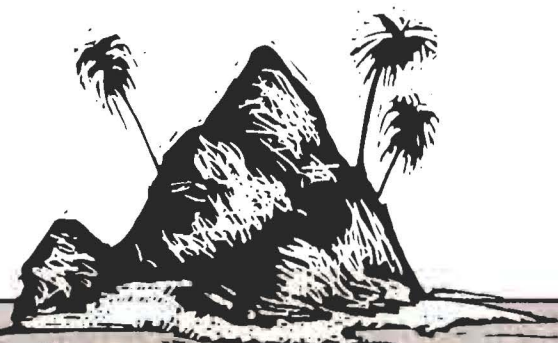


SPPF in action

The early Summer had a Vanuatu feel at SPPF. We hosted several visitors from Vanuatu: Noa Saksak of the Vanuatu Credit Union League, Ralph Regenvanu of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and Francis Hickey, a CUSO cooperant working with the Cultural Centre. Phase II of our support to the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People was also well under way.

Fiji is looming larger on the SPPF horizon. Our project supporting the development of *Ecowoman* in Fiji and the region has begun (See Pages 24-25) and we are developing a project to support *Wainimate*, a women and traditional medicine organisation in Fiji.

As we headed into the Fall, the focus shifted to our ambitious programme of activities around Canada's hosting of APEC. Our 1997 Pacific Networking Conference focused on the Pacific's place within the emerging "Asia-Pacific" and we supported a strong Pacific delegation to the APEC People's Summit, the first time the Pacific has been well represented. The March *Tok Blong Pasifik* will focus on the conference and summit.



PACIFIC NEWS UPDATES

Regional

28th Pacific Forum Meets in Rarotonga

The 28th South Pacific Forum took place on Rarotonga in the Cook Islands September 17-19. Noel Levi of PNG was appointed the new Secretary-General. Delegates praised the work of outgoing Secretary-General Ieremia Tabai. Delegates applauded efforts to restore peace in Bougainville. Forum members also supported Canada's bid for a UN Security Council seat.

[From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Sep/97]

Climate Change Issue Produces Rift at Forum Meeting

Leaders at the 28th South Pacific Forum disagreed strongly over their views of global climate change. The Smaller Island States (SIS) wanted a strong endorsement of legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries. Australia, which has a national policy opposing binding targets, argued for differentiated targets. While New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and others were somewhat sympathetic to the Australian position, there was general resistance to differentiation by Island Forum members. Australian Prime Minister John Howard wanted to protect 90,000 jobs in energy export industries which could be threatened if

Australia were forced to reduce emissions. The SIS countries — Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Niue and the Cook Islands — believe that low lying islands could disappear if global warming raises sea levels. They pressed Australia to support a 20% cut from 1990 emission levels globally by 2005, a standard which Howard adamantly rejected. He characterised their fears as "exaggerated and apocalyptic". Said a frustrated Bikenibeu Paeniu, prime minister of Tuvalu, "It was just no, no, no, no. Australia dominated; it was one against 15." Leaders extended their discussions in an attempt to reach consensus. Their compromise statement "recognised and endorsed the deep concerns" of the low lying islands, called on all countries to meet commitments on emission reductions and expressed concern about "insufficient progress". The statement also urged the December Kyoto conference on climate change to establish an instrument to legislate "the highest level of net reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions," though it acknowledged Kyoto delegates "can be expected to adopt different approaches". Island leaders spoke out about their dissatisfaction with the discussions. Some described the statement as "watered down". The Forum ended without the customary official media briefing. [From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Sep/97; *Pacific Report*, Sep 26/97; *The Economist*, Sep 27/97]

US Plans to Continue Chemical Weapons Burning

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced plans to issue the Army a new permit to continue operation of its chemical weapons destruction facility on Johnston Atoll. JACADS, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, is being used to destroy the US's huge stockpile of chemical weapons. The EPA first issued a 10 year permit for JACADS in 1985. The facility became operational in 1990 and has since been plagued with a variety of problems that have seen the release of small amounts of toxic waste into the atmosphere. It has been opposed by Pacific Island governments and many non-governmental organisations since its inception. The US Army applied for a new permit in 1995, but has continued operating pending renewed EPA approval. To date, 67% of the chemical weapons on Johnston Atoll have been destroyed, about 6% of the total US stockpile. Following a period of public comment up to October 31, the EPA proposes to issue a new 10 year permit. [From: EPA Notice; unpublished sources]

France Dismantles Nuclear Test Site

France has dismantled two-thirds of the Moruroa nuclear weapons test site and expects to complete the job by next July. A small team of French legionnaires will remain for 5-10 years to look after the site and monitor for radioactivity. [From: *Pacific Islands Report*, Sep 18/97]

Petition Says 'No' to Nuclear Storage and Shipments

The Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior, arrived in Rarotonga and presented a petition to the South

Pacific Forum. With more than 40,000 signatures from around the Pacific, the petition called for a ban on nuclear waste imports and plutonium shipments.

[From: Press release, Sep 16/97]

APEC to Focus Liberalisation Efforts

Reports suggest that APEC countries will initially focus trade liberalisation on 4-6 "critical mass products" where APEC member economies represent a high percentage of global trade. As over 70% of the global fish trade takes place within APEC, it is likely to be one of the chosen sectors. While Pacific Island countries other than Papua New Guinea are not members of APEC, they are thus likely to see a significant impact from the APEC action on fisheries.

[From: Unpublished sources]

Indonesian Police Attack Labour Group

Police raided and broke up the second congress of the major independent trade union federation (SBSI) in Indonesia. The Indonesian government doesn't accept independent trade unions and SBSI President Muchtar Pakpahan is serving a 4 year jail term for treason. Over 100 people were crowded into the SBSI office after police denied them a permit to meet. Following the raid, police detained 7 SBSI members, 2 Australian trade unionists and 2 Dutch journalists. International observers challenged the arrests, eventually obtaining the release of everyone the next day.

[From: *South China Morning Post*, Sep 19/97; unpublished sources]

Melanesia

Bougainville Truce Signed

On October 10, after ten days of peace talks at Burnham Army Camp near Christchurch, New Zealand, officials from the warring factions on the PNG island of Bougainville announced a truce. The agreement brings hopes for an end to the nine-year civil war. The PNG Government, the official Bougainville Transitional Government, the secessionist Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) and its military arm, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), participated in the signing. All parties committed to stop armed conflict, respect human rights, resume normal services, restore freedom of movement, and work toward reconciliation. They recommended the agreement be monitored by a neutral regional group. BIG leader Francis Ona was not present, leading some to fear that implementation may face difficulties. The agreement is to be ratified by January.

[From: *Radio Australia*, Oct 10/97; *Pacific Report*, Oct 13/97;]

Bill Skate Heads New PNG Government

In July, the 106 members of PNG's parliament voted Bill Skate as their new Prime Minister. Skate received 71 votes to 35 for Sir Michael Somare, originally expected to win the post. A week before the vote, Sir Michael appeared to have the People's National Congress (PNC), the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), Melsol and some independents behind him. However, a last-minute realignment led to Skate convincing those groups to join the People's Progress Party-Pangu Pati coalition in supporting him. Skate promised

transparent government and a Commission of Inquiry to investigate and clean up corruption.

[From: *The Independent*, Jul 25/97]

Fiji Rejoins Commonwealth

Fiji has been readmitted to the Commonwealth 10 years after it left over concerns about two 1987 military coups. The coups led to a new political arrangement and constitution that discriminated against non-Indigenous Fijians. A new constitution, recently approved, returns Fiji to a multi-racial political system similar to the pre-coups arrangement. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and Opposition Leader Jai Ram Reddy wrote to Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku asking to be readmitted. After consulting with the 53 Commonwealth member governments, Anyaoku has confirmed Fiji's readmission. Canada supported the Fiji bid.

[From: *The Economist*, Aug 16/97; *Victoria Times-Colonist*, Sep 26/97; unpublished sources]

Polynesia

Tonga Bans Beche-de-Mer Exports

The Tongan government has imposed a 10 year ban on beche-de-mer exports, effective December 31. The seafood delicacy is particularly popular in Asia, creating a profitable market that has led to over-exploitation and decline of beche-de-mer stocks in much of the Pacific.

[From: *Pacific Islands Report*, Sep 19/97]

Micronesia

Marshalls Nuclear Waste Dump May Yet Happen

Secret documents obtained by the Sydney Morning Herald have revealed that the Marshall Islands government may now be obligated to proceed with development of an international nuclear waste storage facility in the islands. Legal advisors have told the government that a "one-sided" agreement between the government and US company, Babcock and Wilcox Nuclear Environmental Services, likely obligates the Marshall Islands to develop the storage facility. This casts doubt over a freeze on the waste facility plans announced by President Imata Kabua in June, as well as assurances that only a feasibility study had been agreed upon, and puts the Kabua Government on a collision course with other Pacific Island governments, the US government and many Marshallese critics of the proposed facility. [From: *Pacific Islands Report*, Sep 18/97]

US & Northern Marianas Clash Over Labour Issues

The continuing battle between the US government and its wayward dependency, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, over labour issues is boiling again. CNMI has developed a dynamic local economy based on exploitation of large numbers of temporarily resident alien workers, mostly from the Philippines and China. The workers are paid much less than the US minimum wage, allowing the development of a large export garment industry. The cheaply made garments gain duty free access to

the US (and Canada through NAFTA), carrying "made in USA" labels and status despite being manufactured almost entirely by alien workers and companies. There have also been reports of extensive abuses of worker rights and sexual abuse of women workers. The legislation establishing Commonwealth status for CNMI provided a waiver on certain US labour and immigration laws, ostensibly to protect Indigenous rights and promote economic development. However, US authorities in the Clinton Administration and Congress have become increasingly critical of CNMI labour practices and impatient about the CNMI government's continuing negative response to their concerns. President Clinton wrote to CNMI Governor Froilan Tenorio in May, indicating that US "immigration, naturalisation and minimum wage laws should now be applied to the Commonwealth". The letter was followed in July by a critical Clinton Administration report on CNMI labour, immigration and law enforcement. Steps are now underway in Congress to legislate extending US minimum wage and immigration coverage to CNMI. [From: *APC Focus*, Jul-Aug/97; *Pacific Islands Report*, Aug 24/97 & Sep 19/97]

Canada

Inco to Develop New Caledonia Mine

Inco, Canada's giant nickel mining and smelting company, has announced plans to develop its large Goro nickel deposit in New Caledonia. Inco has had a smaller presence in New Caledonia for many years. The Goro decision follows two years of feasibility studies and an environmental impact assessment that Inco conducted

despite the French administration's willingness to waive any requirement for an EIA. The US\$840 million project would include a smelter, port, electricity substation and roads at Goro in the south of the main island. The smelter could produce 30,000 tonnes of nickel per year by 2003, eventually rising to 60,000 tonnes per year.

[From: *Maclean's*, Sep 29/97; *Pacific Report*, Apr 14/97; unpublished sources]

Canada to Import Plutonium

The Canadian government has given its approval for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) to import US weapons grade plutonium for test burns to confirm the viability of plutonium as a fuel for CANDU nuclear reactors. The announcement angered critics of nuclear power and communities along the proposed shipping routes, especially in light of recent announcements that many CANDU reactors will be shut down due to numerous safety problems. The test burn is intended to pave the way for Canada to burn about 100 tonnes of plutonium from dismantled US and Russian nuclear warheads. Critics are also angry that the Canadian government has waived any environmental review for the plutonium shipments and burning; a US environmental review will only cover risks up to the Canadian border, leaving no review of Canadian shipping routes or actual burning. With Japanese plutonium shipments already a major issue in the Pacific, it seems that the controversy is about to spread to Canada.

[From: *Maclean's*, Sep 22/97; unpublished sources]

Global Warning

Climate Change in the Pacific Islands

by Patrick D. Nunn

To many people from outside the region, the Pacific seems problem-free. Even its name exudes tranquillity, engendering visions of gently swaying coconut palms, golden sand beaches and barefoot islanders living simply in harmony with their environments. Sometimes potential aid donors wonder if they are being deceived into funding solutions to environmental and social problems exaggerated by cash-hungry governments.

However, the Pacific that most see is the stuff of fantasy. Behind this veneer lies another reality. These environments are under considerable stress, the worst symptoms of which have been created by resource mismanagement and the never-ending search for export dollars. One problem looms particularly large over Pacific Island nations as they struggle to sustain themselves into the 21st century — global warming.

We have overwhelming evidence that our planet's surface has been warming for the past hundred years or so. Critics of global warming say the substantiating data are concentrated in industrialised countries, not in small Pacific islands with minuscule industrial sectors. There seems little reason to doubt that the Pacific has been warming at a similar rate to the rest of the world, but sceptics abound and in the Pacific never fail to find listeners eager to avoid committing scarce resources to a seemingly intangible problem.

Because the Pacific has few long term, regularly monitored climate stations and their data quality is often suspect, some doubt that global warming has affected this vast region. Yet Fiji, Hawai'i and New Zealand — the three best sites — all show a rise in surface temperature over the past century, confirming a Pacific warming rate similar to most



Low lying atoll nations are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise

other areas of the world. Data from Government House in Suva, Fiji, show a net rise of around 0.5°C from 1884 until 1986, when the recording station was relocated.

Sea Level Change

The most powerful corroborating signals of recent warming in the region are data about sea level change. Throughout Earth's history, ocean surfaces have altered in response to changes in climate. The connection is twofold. Just as water expands slightly when heated, so does the upper part of the ocean when its temperature rises. Sea level does not change when floating ice melts, but it does increase when ice which melts on land runs into the sea. When temperatures increase, sea level rises through both thermal expansion of ocean water and land-ice melt.

Sea level in the Pacific has been rising for at least 100 years and probably twice as long. The few long term tide-gauge records suggest it has been rising around 1.5 mm per year, which may not sound very threatening. Yet a rise of about 15 cm — which has occurred during this century — can cause shoreline flooding of tens of metres on a

gently-sloping coastline.

In the Pacific, this story is depressingly common. Several times over the past ten years, my students (who come from twelve Pacific Island nations) have conducted interviews with elderly residents of long established coastal settlements about how their coastlines have changed since they were youngsters. Except for a few islands that are rising faster than sea level, the results demonstrate widespread inundation over the past 60-70 years, at least in the South and West Pacific.

Admittedly, hard evidence (the only kind palatable to some scientists) for sea level rise in the Pacific is not as good as that for temperature. Much of it is inferential. Some tide-gauge records do not show a clear pattern of sea level rise, since either they go back less than 30 years or the place the gauge is located is itself moving. Sceptics latch onto these records. Sitting in their offices, some government planners deny the reality of sea level rise, not wanting to recognise a problem which demands more dollars than they can afford. Yet back in their home village drinking kava with relatives, they hear about the receding shoreline and look worriedly at the foundations of their



Photo: Elaine Briere

High island nations concentrate much of their population and economic activity along the coasts

grandfather's house poking out of the water 100 metres from shore.

The UN commissioned some 700 experts in 1987 to sit on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in order to estimate future temperature and sea-level rise. Their sophisticated computer models suggest these rates will themselves speed up three to five fold in the next hundred years, dwarfing the effects of temperature and sea level changes over the past century. To understand what this means for the Pacific Islands, we need to know how they vary physically.

Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu have small land areas. All their land rises less than four metres above mean sea level. Their islands are composed largely of sand and gravel chucked up during large storms onto the surrounding reefs. Traditionally, the people of these islands have depended on what they can catch from nearby reefs. However, population has increased and some reefs are becoming over-exploited. For example, parts of Kiribati's Tarawa atoll have a population density similar to Hong Kong's. Islanders also grow root crops in pits sunk into the shallow freshwater lens beneath the island surface. Sea level rise is eroding these islands, and inland flooding is also increasing because the sea level sur-

face controls the freshwater lens.

Since most other Pacific nations are primarily high islands, their governments commonly perceive that sea level rise is "not our problem." Still, 90% of their people live along the shores, using coastal resources in ways similar to low island dwellers. Many of their coastal plains have equivalent problems of erosion and freshwater flooding. The flooding is even worse when rivers burst out of their channels at the same time as high tides are raising water-table levels.

Most economic activity in high-island nations is located along the coasts. For example, Fiji's sugar cane — the third biggest foreign currency earner — is usually grown on flat coastal areas or in low-lying river deltas where it is easier to harvest. In the last 50 years, falling sugar content in cane has been linked to increasing seawater penetration of coastal aquifers. Current research seeks to develop more salt-tolerant strains of sugar-cane and other crops.

Tourism is an increasingly important source of revenue throughout the Pacific. Most tourists are attracted by sun, sand and sea, but sea level rise is eroding many beaches. Some resort owners spend huge amounts simply maintaining a beach which maintained itself 50 years ago.

In the past, colonial governments of many island nations reclaimed land extensively for industrial and commercial developments, especially the occupied flat land around capitals. Then, no-one knew about sea level rise and later developers have continued to underestimate its effects. Ambitious schemes seek investors' dollars to build Pacific tourist resorts on reclaimed land, oblivious to the IPCC estimates. Not all such developments go forward. A Fiji proposal planned to put a new post-coup Parliament building in the middle of the Suva lagoon. Sensibly it was shelved and an elegant building atop a 30-metre hill now overlooks the harbour.

Threats To Reefs

Coral reefs surrounding most tropical Pacific Island groups provide both sustenance for many islanders and physical shore protection. Huge waves whipped up by storms or driven across the ocean by undersea earthquakes would cause massive coastal damage were it not for the buffering effects of offshore reefs. I remember an old man telling me about the 1953 Suva earthquake and tsunami. When the second wave — the big one — hit the barrier reef, it was as tall as a coconut tree; yet when it reached the shoreline it was only the height of a tall man.

The human-associated stress on many coral reefs will increase if ocean temperatures and sea level rise as predicted. As a result, entire reefs might die or at least become much less effective buffers. Not only will sea level rise drown reef surfaces, denying sunlight to photosynthetic reef organisms, but also rising temperatures will combine with other stressors to cause widespread coral death by bleaching. When the water surrounding a coral is heated beyond 32°C, if it is under sufficient stress, that coral will tend to eject the symbiotic algae living within which give reefs such glorious colours, become 'bleached' and die. Incidents of coral bleaching have

already been recorded in French Polynesia and on Aitutaki, Cook Islands. If temperatures continue to rise, such incidents will soon become commonplace.

Optimistic but unrealistic observers have assured Pacific Island governments, "If sea level does rise as fast as the IPCC contend, don't worry. All your reefs will grow upwards just as fast."

This will not happen. Although some Pacific reefs did grow upwards in the past, their fast growth rate was not — for oceanographic reasons — a Pacific-wide phenomenon. It happened long before people entered the picture and created such high levels of stress in these fragile ecosystems.

Official Responses

Many Pacific Island governments have been led to believe global warming does not pose serious problems to their nations. Several have thus adopted a 'wait and see' policy, arguing that they should have some concrete evidence of this problem before they commit scarce resources. Moreover, many Island decision makers believe that, since the problem of global warming was created by the countries of northwest Europe and the Pacific Rim, they should bear the costs of mitigating the effects of their profligacy. This view has already recruited aid money in compensation for alarming deforestation rates and choking pollution along Pacific roads.

In fact, the US, Japan and Australia have funded detailed impact surveys of future climate change and sea level rise on the Pacific Islands. Beneficial projects include artificial shoreline protection structures such as the magnificent seawall protecting Nuku'alofa, capital of the Kingdom of

Tonga, designed and funded by Japan. Yet politics and ignorance have also played roles in the responses to global warming.

A multimillion dollar Australian project for state-of-the-art tide gauges in Pacific Forum nations promised to measure whether sea level is actually rising. In the hullabaloo, politicians said nothing about requiring at least 30 years of data to produce useful results. The last gauge was installed just a few years ago. Now we hear distant rumblings that the Australian government, wary of overstressing aid budgets for little manifest return, will withdraw funding.

Island governments with limited funds for rural infrastructure encourage communities to build artificial structures to protect eroding shorelines. When I spoke to a planner from a government department intended to help rural dwellers do this, he described all the materials he advised people to use and where they should purchase them. I asked what he advised them about seawall design, and he looked askance.

"A wall is a wall," he said, gesturing

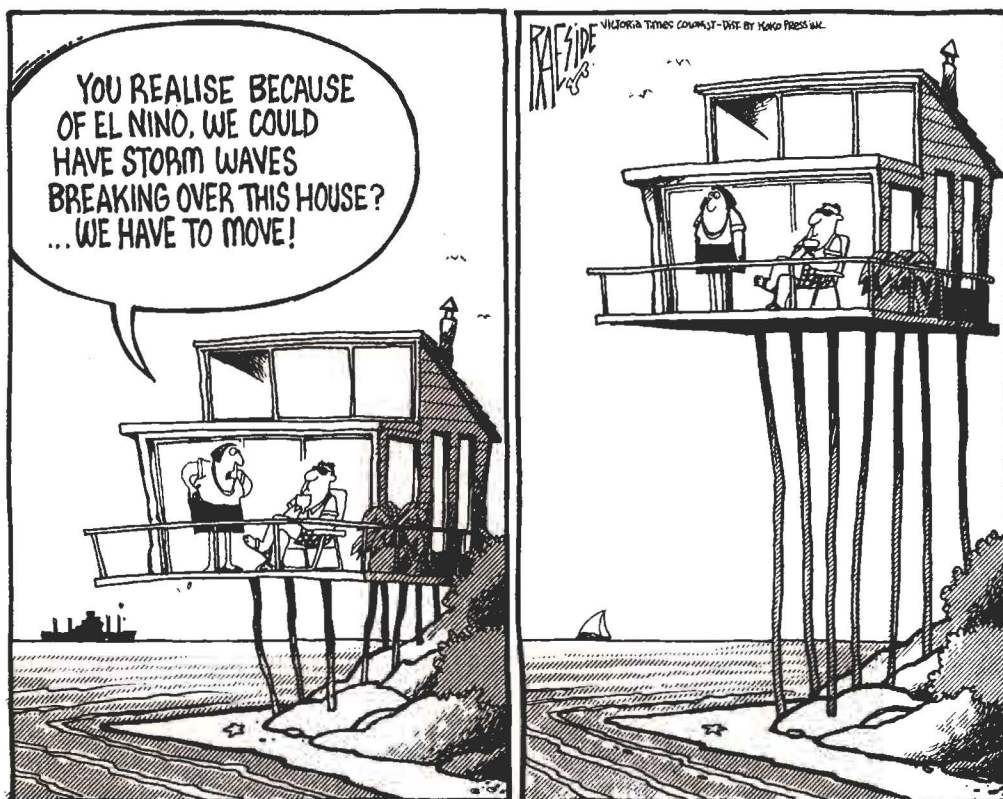
to the side of his office.

To me, the incident encapsulates the futility some have felt in trying to help. Seawalls built like house walls cause more problems than they solve, and invariably collapse after a couple of years.

If the future holds what the IPCC believes is the most probable scenario for global warming — as most other countries in the world are assuming — then Pacific Islands are going to be among the most adversely affected parts of our world.

*Patrick Nunn is Professor and Head of Geography at the University of the South Pacific. He has been involved in climate change research in the Pacific Islands for over a decade. His book **Oceanic Islands** (Blackwell, 1994) provides more detail on this subject. A version of this article appeared in the June 1997 *New Internationalist*.*

See also article on Pages 17-19.



Rethinking Tourism

Cashing In on Samoan Rainforests

by Lumaava Sooaemalelagi

“Wow, I can’t believe I’m really here! I had only seen this on videos,” exclaimed Susanna from Sweden as she kayaked up the Saanapu mangrove estuary.

“I will never forget my time in this family-run beach-side resort. I will return to Savaii Island one day,” promised Riitta after her first night in a Samoan eco-village, learning about rainforest conservation.

While many South Seas Islands are being deforested, Samoa has decided to cash in on its forests by not logging them. Samoa has banned export of rainforest logs and prohibited logging on the island of Upolu. Nature tourism is the fastest-growing sector of the global travel market and nature travellers are more likely to be culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible. With its new National Ecotourism Programme, Samoa is poised to capture this boom opportunity and recruit tourists to help protect its forests and culture.

Logging contracts and timber-processing projects have been stalled, denied, abandoned or modified to suit the new Samoan forest conservation policies. High-ranking negotiators have been turned away from council-of-chief meetings on rainforest conservation strategies.

The idea of a National Ecotourism Programme started in the early 90s. Many villages needed funds to build schools and hospitals and were considering logging operations. However, local conservationists convinced villagers that the rainforests could attract tourist dollars. The Visitors Bureau, Environment and Conservation Division, and SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme) worked together to set up Samoa’s National Ecotourism Programme, helped by local tour operators and Mike Parsons, an Australian who develops ecotourism ventures for Indigenous peoples.

Chiefs of remote Samoan villages, as the new ‘national park rangers’, have taken personal responsibility for the programme. They are establishing custom-owned rainforest preserves, planting useful tree species and declaring their village lands sacred, never to be logged. These chiefs are finding that their cash income is increasing and they still have their forests.

By protecting natural resources and conserving wildlife habitats, Samoan ‘eco-villages’ provide an excellent array of nature tourism destinations. Samoa has been called the Ecotourism Capital of the South Pacific. Ecotourists love to come to the Samoan archipelago, with its mountains, tropical forests and remote white-sand beaches.

The Samoan Ecotourism Trust Fund has been established to enhance the well-being of villages in remote areas. The fund has helped enterprises like Tanumatui Beach Resort, located on the very western tip of Savai’i, the last place in the world to see each day’s sunset. According to the resort’s proprietor, Chief Seumanutafa

Gisa Tiitii, a composting toilet from Australia arrived recently thanks to the Trust Fund and AUSAID.

More travellers to the Samoan islands are spending a few nights living in a traditional manner with their hosts. In some locations, traditional living means no air-conditioning, imported foods, plates or cutlery. Instead, guests get kava ceremony welcomes and five-star hospitality.

Archetypal tourists with yesterday’s values still come looking for luxury. They must have two changes of towels and bed linen daily, despite water shortages and the effects of imported high-phosphate detergents on our coral reefs. They must have hot water, though they are in the tropics, and air-conditioning, irrespective of its costly consumption of imported fossil fuels.

“We heard you loud and clearly,” a Samoan ecotourism operator responds politely. “Don’t worry. For hot water, we recommend showers with tepid (never scorching) water from a 200 litre drum. You can dry off in the sun. We use God’s version of air-conditioning, cool breezes from azure lagoons. Hot lava rocks in our *umu* ground ovens cook tastier food than any restaurant.”

Unlike many in the world, we only have our forests and our fish to trade with. We need cash to pay for housing, health and education services, imported foods and fuels, and transport. There is much evidence of over-exploitation of our mangrove forests, coral reefs, water catchments and minuscule soil reserves. Farmers are cutting down our forests to expand their plantations for export,

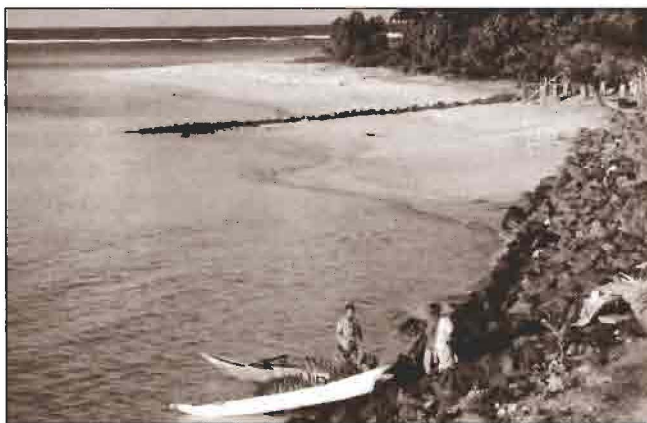


Photo: Janice Prokay

Eco-Visitors experience Samoa's culture and natural beauty

but local Indigenous peoples rely heavily on an intact forest system. Non-sustainable logging of our tropical forests is sinful in God's eyes, as these forests are Her creations.

Green economists say, "No point making a \$4 million profit selling agriculture and forest exports if it doubles our current deforestation rate and costs more to repair the damage. Only when sustainable forest and agricultural industries can meet the needs of future generations and produce in excess should we consider exporting these products."

We still seem unable to make the best long-term decisions for management of our natural resources. Recently, the Samoan Ecotourism Trust Fund considered assisting a local environmental society with the legal costs of fighting subdivision of the local mangrove forest — the largest in Western Samoa — for industrial and residential purposes. It was inconceivable to see such development threatening my islands just four years after the UN Conference on Environment and Development — islands that my children will inherit. I was also ashamed to see fishermen dynamiting our coral reefs during the palolo weekend. Such practices are being condoned by some of our elders, *matai* (village chiefs) and *pulenuu* (village mayors). What has happened to the *faamatai* (the chiefly

system)? Have we now left the wolves to take care of our sheep? If nature travellers show us an alternate source of cash, maybe then our elders will listen to us.

To make the rainforest conservation programme successful in Samoa in the short term, two things must happen: Firstly, the non-sustainable logging on the island of Savai'i should be curtailed, or in five years all its accessible, millable rainforests will be gone; Secondly, the number of nature travellers to Samoa must increase. More income from ecotourists may help convince our decision-makers that all our mangroves must be protected, that no more virgin tropical rainforests should be logged and that tourism is more environmentally friendly than our current exploitative economic practices.

Without our rainforests, Samoa will not be a nature traveller's destination. And without nature travellers, Samoa may be left with no rainforests.

Lumaava Sooaemalelagi and her husband, Dr. Steve Brown, are Directors of Eco-Tour Samoa, which won the 1997 South Pacific Ecotourism Award.



Do You Want to Be an Eco-Traveller?

by Lumaava Sooaemalelagi & Steve Brown

Samoa's 169,000 people, 9 islands, 300 villages and 300 volcanoes stretch over 160 km. To see it the way Samoans do, you need an interest in nature, empathy for Indigenous cultures and a spirit of adventure. You can swim in pristine waters, learn about medicinal plants from traditional healers and watch carvers make talking sticks, bowls, and canoes. And you can help enhance cultural integrity and protect tropical rainforests.

If you have research interests in ecotourism, environmental management or other tourism issues, then Samoa's National Ecotourism Programme may be an option for your next project. This fledgling programme has supported an anthropological study of ecotourism potential, an ecological survey of biological resources and an ethnobotanical study of the relationship between humans, forests, bats and medicinal plants. Permaculture designers, eco-workers and eco-travellers can assist in projects at the recently opened 150 acre Rainforest Ec lodge, under the guidance of ecologists, ethnobotanists, sociologists, environmentalists and economists.

The Rainforest Lodge is near Apia, high in the surrounding hills. National Ecotourism Programmes range from 2-8 weeks at the Rainforest Ec lodge (US\$70/night single, \$90/night double, bed & breakfast,



Photo: Janice Prokay

Eco-travellers stay in basic village accommodations

assistance with projects and travel plans). Ecovillage stays cost approx. \$40 per day, including meals. Guided safaris, sea kayaking, etc., start at \$137/day and include meals, accommodation, ground transport, sea kayaks, etc.

Contact: Samoan Ecotourism Network, PO Box 4609, Matautu-uta, Apia, Samoa. Tel/Fax: 685-22144. Fax: 685-26941. E-mail: ecotour@samoa.net WebSite: www.samoa.net/ecolodge.html

In Canada, contact: Janice Prokay, Tel: 250-652-5183. Email: jprokay@direct.ca

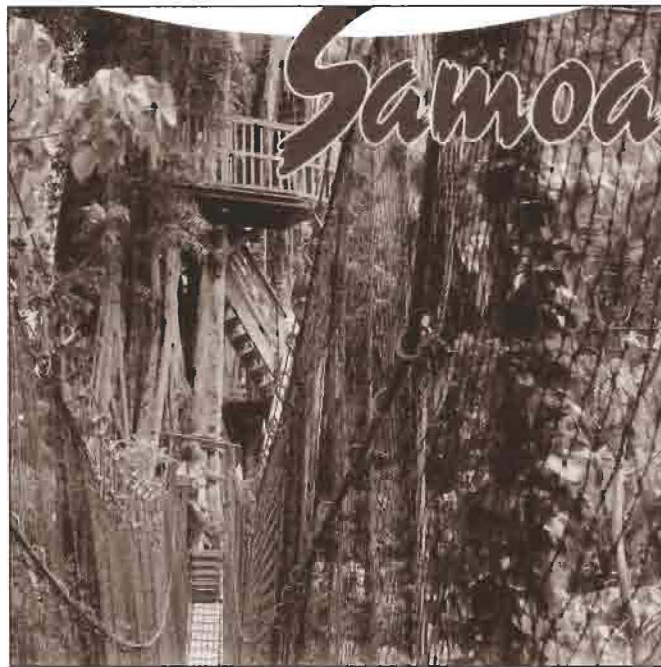
Aerial Walkway Saves Samoan Rainforest

Dignitaries gathered in Western Samoa on May 6, 1997, to dedicate the Falealupo Rain Forest Canopy Aerial Walkway, the fruition of a unique project to save a community forest. Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alisana and his Cabinet, Members of Parliaments, and international journalists were on hand for the occasion. Steve Lund, Executive Vice President of Nu Skin International, represented the walkway's major donors.

Representing Falealupo village, orator Fuiono Mase'ese'e announced that the village would extend its 50 year covenant to forbid logging and take from the forest only cultural products like medicinal plants or wood for canoes. Now, the village promised, the rainforest would be protected forever.

The aerial walkway was constructed by Arbonaut Access of Victoria, Canada, in such a manner that not a single tree was damaged. Three stories of platforms ascend a Garuga floribunda tree to a suspension bridge spanning a 30 meter gap to a large banyan tree. Then the walkway climbs another five stories to a large platform high above the rain forest canopy.

Seacology Foundation presented the walkway to Falealupo village to help generate revenue from



Falealupo Forest Canopy Walkway, Savai'i, Samoa

Photo: Noel Bartley, Samoa Visitors Bureau

ecotourism. The vision of this small organisation includes raising international awareness about Indigenous peoples who want to protect their rainforests and working with businesses on innovative conservation projects.

"We hope by this project to demonstrate that villages can generate income by keeping their rainforest standing, rather than cutting it down," said Seacology President Ken Murdock.

The village presented Nu Skin and Seacology officials with fine mats and baked pigs. Speeches by Prime Minister Tofilau Eti and Seacology Chairman

Nafanua Paul Cox were broadcast on radio throughout Samoa.

Speaking in both Samoan and English, Cox noted, "Just as the tropic bird cherishes its beautiful tail feather, so must Samoa cherish and protect its precious rain forest."

Article adapted from the Seacology Foundation Newsletter, Summer 1997. Contact Seacology at: PO Box 4000, Springville, UT 84663, USA. Tel: 801-489-1728. Fax: 801-489-1700. Website: www.seacology.org

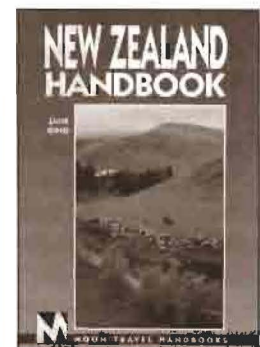
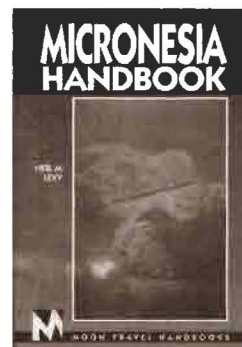
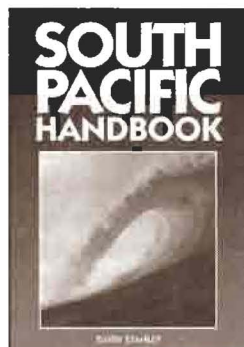


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"If you can't find it in these books, it is something you don't need to know." ~Rapa Nui Journal

Creating Environmentally Sound Resorts

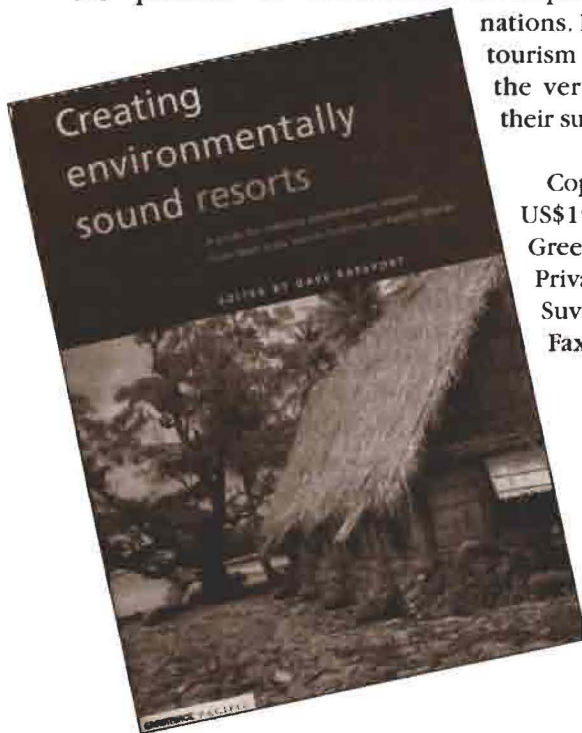
by Alison Gardner

Greenpeace Pacific has recently unveiled a 60-page reader-friendly guide to reducing the environmental impact of small scale tourist facilities on their surroundings and local populations. Edited by Dave Rapaport and tailored to the Pacific Islands context, **Creating Environmentally Sound Resorts** walks community-based land holders, potential entrepreneurs and government decision-makers clearly through ecologically sound strategies for tourism development with creative spinoffs designed to provide the greatest benefit to the host country and local region.

The tourism industry has long been considered by Pacific Island countries as their great hope for economic development. However, the frequently identified negative effects of international tourism have led to increased grassroots criticism and resistance in recent years. Giving hope for a viable solution to such a dilemma, this practical publication describes technologies and practices which may be used with minimal environmental impact in the planning, construction and operation of small scale resorts and tourist facilities. Its well illustrated pages cover in detail the essential topics of sustainable design, clean energy, environmentally friendly sanitation and waste/garbage disposal.

As a former director of Greenpeace USA's toxic campaign and Greenpeace Pacific's pollution prevention program, and as the current director of the Centre for Clean Development in Oregon, USA, Dave Rapaport is well grounded to edit and contribute to this worthwhile publication. Used together with other resources (many of which are listed), this guide will help small scale, locally controlled tourism realise the promise of sustainable development for Pacific Island nations. By doing so, it encourages tourism deliverers to stop eroding the very foundation upon which their success depends.

Copies are available at US\$15.00 each from:
Greenpeace Pacific,
Private Mail Bag,
Suva, Fiji. Tel: 679-312861.
Fax: 679-312784.



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Active holidays are no longer just for the 'young'. A unique New Zealand adventure travel company — Mid Life Adventures — caters specifically to over 35's who want to experience outdoor activities among some of the world's most spectacular scenery. Mid Life is owned and operated by Diane and Alex Parton, who are in their 50's and have many years of outdoor experience. Motivated by their love of New Zealand's 'great outdoors,' they offer more active holiday for people in their middle years.

"Our itinerary includes bush walking, keelboat sailing, rafting through glow worm caves, visits to thermal areas, hiking to the crater of an active volcano, sea kayaking, white water rafting, glacier walking and much more," says Diane. The 13 day guided tour takes in the North and South Islands, five National Parks (two of World Heritage status), two maritime parks, a Maori *marae* and a high-country sheep station.

Age isn't a barrier as long as you enjoy good health and are walking fit," says Diane.

So if you enjoy the outdoors, and prefer small group travel to places unseen by large tours, try a holiday with a difference.

Adventure and Culture Fiji Style

by Kathy and Erich Mueller

During our stay in the village of Abaca (pronounced *Ambatha*), nestled in the mountains east of Lautoka on Viti Levu, it was difficult to remember this was 1997 and Fiji's Nadi International Airport was a mere 30 kilometres away. We were clearly in a different time and culture. Abaca has much to offer potential travellers or those wishing to learn how ecotourism can be developed by and for Indigenous peoples

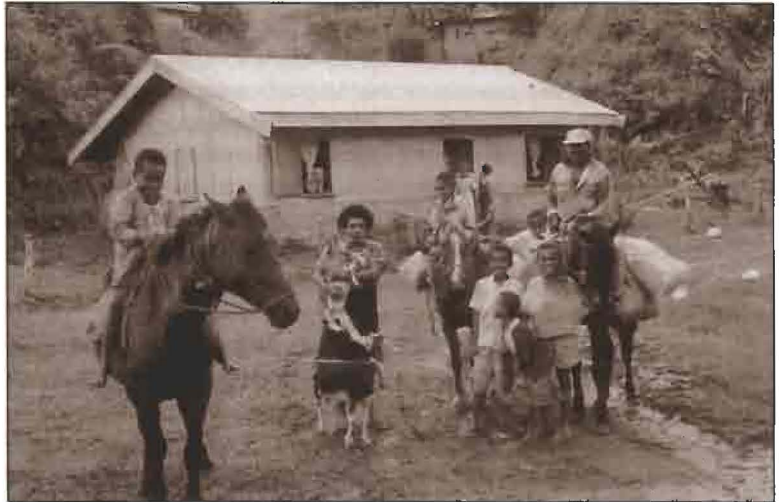
After arriving at Nadi Airport, we were shown the stop for the daily bus to Lautoka. We threw our backpacks into the open cartage on the side of the bus and found separate seats among Indians and Fijians returning home with their produce and shopping bags. Our 45-minute ride took us near our hotel and cost only \$1.06.

The next morning, Abaca representative Mereoni Robe and a driver took us on another 45-minute trip into the highlands of Mount Koroyanitu National Park. The unpaved winding road with its deep red-brown volcanic soil is a picturesque contrast to the infinite greens of the towering volcanic cliffs, grazing land and rainforest. At the end of the rainy season, its deep slippery ruts also present challenges, hazards and added expense for Abaca villagers. They must maintain the 4WD 'carrier' that transports 15 children daily to the Methodist school in Lautoka, as well as occasional tourists.

We knew little of what to expect in Abaca. All we had were two faxes — a brochure sent by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation and some information from Mereoni. From these we learned we'd be staying with one of ten village families in exchange for volunteer community work and a reasonable accommodation fee. The work might be helping with the family garden or fishing for prawns in the waterfall, but most important was simply taking part in village and family life.

The people in the small village expressed tremendous friendliness and sincerity toward us. The Chief's official welcome and blessing insured further acceptance, and may also have provided protection from Cyclone June, which threatened for our first two days in Abaca. Even so, high winds and torrential rains kept us mainly indoors by the radio!

Abaca is the first of four villages in the Koroyanitu Development Project, which works towards establishing sustainable livelihoods. Navilawa Village, part of the programme's second phase, is now also ready for tourism. The project's ecotourism component provides additional, but still marginal, income. Communities provide unique cultural experiences: a village homestay, indepen-



Abaca villagers in front of house where Muellers stayed

Photo: Erich Mueller

dent living in the forest lodge and guided walks or horse treks in the rainforest.

Abaca is in the recently established Koroyanitu National Park. This, Fiji's first and only national park, now covers about 8000 hectares. A 1995 development report projects that the park will include 24,000 hectares and 2399 residents in 13 villages.

Abaca has an interesting history. In 1931, a mudslide buried the original village. Only three young men survived to re-establish a community; the village was named Abaca, using the first three letters of the alphabet to signify its three founders. Now about 80 villagers live in Abaca. It is small compared to the average Fiji village size of 200.

Kalesi, our host mother, said preserving their forest area is especially important for research and use of traditional medicinal plants. Her commitment to "save the forests that save lives" is evident in the knowledge she willingly shares. She and other village women are learning about medicinal therapies from the Chief's wife, from Lautoka YMCA courses and through an organisation called WAINIMATE. Western medicine is not affordable and is regarded as less effective. For example, she told us about teas which serve as reliable birth control if drunk on four critical days of a woman's cycle.

As Secretary to the Abaca Ecotourism Project, Kalesi has a busy life. Yet she still had time to arrange for our needs, put us up in her household, prepare three large meals each day and accompany us on a trip to town. Bose, her husband, helps her by sharing child care and maintaining the family garden. When Kalesi saw a need for emergency repairs to the water system in the forest lodge during our stay, Bose was the first one she called on.



Photo: Erich Mueller

Kalesi (left) and a relative prepare dinner

Kalesi told us how the Abaca Project began. In 1991, some logging had begun on their land and the villagers were under pressure from sawmills and gold mining companies. Jale Baba, Timber Resources Manager from Fiji Pine, arranged a visit for Chief Iliesa and some villagers to a Nausori Highland village, where the benefits and negative impacts of logging could be witnessed. The group visited a nearby fish farm and the women toured handicraft centres. As a result, the community decided logging was unacceptable, stopped their small scale operations and formed the Abaca Ecotourism Cooperative Society Limited.

We learned more from Mr. Baba's 1995 report, written after he became Community Development Advisor for the Koroyanitu Development Project. His report says that successful community development uses and strengthens traditional structures of Fijian society because they have stood the test of time and are well-rooted in the Fijian psyche. The project emphasises community participation at every stage. Progress may sometimes be slower and less organised, but only with a sense of ownership will the process produce change while preserving traditional values and systems.

Hunting and gathering have long been the villagers' main forms of support. But now they must go further afield and often have less success. We looked forward to a feast of wild pig to commemorate naming a newborn boy, but had to settle for freshly killed beef. Thus part of the project involves villagers improving grazing land for their 200 cattle, as well as horses which bring heavy loads of cassava and kava root from the distant gardens.

Ecotourism and its simple lifestyle are not for everyone. The traditional way of life, idyllic as it may seem, could have drawbacks for some tourists. A homestay provides an opportunity to form new understandings and friendships, but no electricity or indoor plumbing. One outhouse serves the entire village. Windows have shutters, not glass, so houses are usually quite dark on stormy

days. Stormy weather did keep everyone indoors during most of our stay. Since there were no chairs, this meant sitting cross-legged on the floor for long periods — not a position everyone finds easy! Our hosts encouraged us to rest and we could sprawl on the floor of the one room home or lie in a double bed behind curtains. We felt comfortable, but sometimes quite useless.

After three days in Abaca, we had planned to visit a smaller island for the remainder of our week in Fiji. Due to the cyclone, we decided to stay two extra days in the nearby forest lodge.

On our way there, we passed logged and replanted areas which, we were

told, provide wildfire buffer zones and wildlife corridors for the forest. Since no one else had booked the lodge for that time, we felt as if the entire forest were ours alone.

Koroyanitu is the only unlogged tropical montane forest in Western Viti Levu. After visiting the rainforests of New Zealand and the Daintree World Heritage area of Australia, we were equally fascinated by Abaca's less known but highly significant forest. Biodiversity surveys have collected 594 different plant species, some very rare, and identified 8600 plants and 132 species per hectare. The King Fern which towered over our heads there is the oldest and largest fern species; its fossils have been carbon dated to 240 million years.

The forest lodge experience had different conveniences and drawbacks. It had a sofa, chairs, tables, a kitchen with counters and a toilet. However, a visiting mongoose stole our soap, and an industrious horde of tiny ants found their way into a loaf of bread we thought was securely stored.

Next time we'll be better prepared. We plan to sit on the floor a lot ahead of time, carry a rain poncho and be more assertive about helping in the kitchen and garden! We'll also buy groceries before going to the forest lodge to save the cost of hiring the carrier for a return trip to Lautoka. Maybe we'll even take an ant trap or two!

Kathy and Erich Mueller are SPPF members who live in Prince George, BC, Canada.

For information about the Abaca Cultural and Recreation Park, contact:
Mereoni Robe, PO Box 5107, Lautoka, Fiji,
ph (679)661-511, Fax (679)661-784.



cultural tourism: a lo

by Alison



Photo: Joe Segal

Tjapukai Dance Theatre

As people in developed countries move toward a similar daily routine of dress, diet, work habits, and home- and community-based leisure activities, the human impulse remains strong in many to sample cultures which are colourful and distinctive. A clear manifestation of this has been an increasing demand for engaging, often interactive cultural tourism. Indigenous cultures are particularly attractive in this regard since they are frequently perceived as being endangered, or at least under siege, as homogeneous 20th century values cast a spell on so many who are exposed to them.

As an editor and writer whose travel journalism assignments almost always include an all-too-brief introduction to the cultural traditions of countries I visit, I have sampled some memorable, genuinely moving experiences along with some of the most confused and disrespectful exhibits of cultural tourism currently on the global menu. Arguably, the greatest challenge in tourism delivery today is to effectively balance the demonstration of complex tribal beliefs and practices with the needs and expectations (however ignorant) of perfect strangers.

Making the effort to educate and sensitise visitors can bring abundant rewards — both financial and personal. However, it is an investment which international tourism's ambassadors are only just beginning to recognise not only as their responsibility but as the formula for an enthusiastic clientele whose word-of-mouth endorsements will quickly send other clients their way.

On the flip side, it is equally important that local governments and the grassroots deliverers of cultural tourism understand their visitors' perspective. Such awareness encourages hosts to be somewhat forgiving of shortcomings based, not on deliberate perversity, but on the self-centred nature which even the best educated visitors

sometimes exhibit in exotic settings. Most people from the developed world are not sensitive observers of cues which might seem obvious to more attuned cultures. For example, taking photographs indiscriminately, wearing inappropriate clothes, or gesturing and talking when respectful attention is required may cause embarrassment, anger and cynicism in both camps. Many such misunderstandings will be avoided when each party learns from uncomfortable mistakes and takes responsibility for communicating and planning more effectively with future encounters.

Indigenous tourism is fast becoming one of the most enriching features of travel to Australia, Fiji and Aotearoa/New Zealand, in large part because the Indigenous people themselves are gaining a foothold in development and management of the tourism package, alone or in partnership with outsiders. While there is no insurance against grassroots tourism which exploits both the native community and the visitor, the opportunity for direction and possibly full operation of a successful tourism business is more of a reality than ever before. Having made up their minds to tame rather than try to repel the invader, many Indigenous groups and enterprising individuals in these countries are taking advantage of business assistance and advice from governments, NGOs and private consultants to improve their chances of success in the competitive and often confusing tourism market.

A prime example of tourism teamwork that has never compromised its cultural integrity was the creation of the Tjapukai Dance Theatre ten years ago in Kuranda, Queensland. Always an entrepreneurial venture free of government capital or loans, it is a partnership of equals between the local tribes, Australian investors, and the North American husband and wife theatrical team who provided the vision. The project is credited with a cultural and linguistic revival among the Indigenous people of the area. Over 1,200,000 visitors have flocked to the Atherton Tablelands to share this dramatic celebration of culture and provide the funding for stage two of this ongoing dream — a recently opened 25 acre showcase and performance centre on tribal lands just outside Cairns. With 85% Aboriginal staff at every level of operation and a 51% equity partnership comprising the Tjapukai, Yirrgandyji and Djabugay people, the \$9 million Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park is the largest private employer of Aboriginal people in the entire country.

Across the Tasman Sea in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Maori are developing a powerful cultural tourism in keeping with the highly political profile and confidence which comes with representing a significant portion of that

love-hate relationship

Gardner

country's population, particularly on the North Island. Much of the enterprise revolves around the tribal marae or traditional meeting place. This is causing some problems, according to David Beattie, General Manager of Naturally New Zealand Holidays, which includes a number of Maori specialties under its umbrella.

"With a tradition of marae labour being unpaid and shared by all families of the hapu (subtribe), decision making and workloads associated with the highly structured demands of tourism have become somewhat confused. Some groups are being redesigned to accommodate families and individuals who want to take the initiative as well as reap more of the rewards."

Like it or not, tourism is here to stay in the South Pacific, and for all its potential pitfalls, cultural tourism will be a significant component. The impact of visitors will always be unsettling to the routine of all whose paths they tread upon. Yet there are increasingly innovative ways to lead the giant carefully along without being crushed by its footsteps.

Alison Gardner is a former Board member of SPPF and a freelance writer and editor living in Victoria, British Columbia.



Maori woman and child in traditional dress

Photo: Rotorua Tourism

Native Guide Safari Tours, Cairns, Australia

Hazel Douglas and her full day introduction to Queensland's Mossman Gorge, Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation provide an interesting model of creative Aboriginal entrepreneurship and a clear understanding of her international clientele. Working closely with the Queensland government on a business plan and initial financing, this outgoing Aboriginal



Hazel Douglas

Photo: Queensland Tourist & Travel

woman in her middle years unveiled Native Guide Safari Tours early in 1993. The tourism awards soon started rolling in, and her business is now well established in the Cairns/Port Douglas area.

Hazel's mission is simple — to give visitors an authentic introduction to the Gugu Aboriginal culture and

ecology of the region through the eyes of one of the original inhabitants. However, recognising the significant European impact in the region, she has cleverly interwoven that perspective into the tour as well, providing what she calls "a black and white Australian combination". Thomas, her white driver-guide, delivers interesting facts and anecdotes about the British arrival and settlement while expertly navigating the backroads in their unairconditioned, elderly 4WD van whose shock absorbers deliver every bump and pothole with great authenticity.

Hazel highlights herbal remedies and bush foods, cultural and spiritual landmarks of the area, European and Aboriginal relationships, and current policies on various Indigenous issues. She answers all questions with grace, thoughtfulness and many personal anecdotes. A homemade picnic lunch beside a stream full of turtles and fish provides a nice bonus. While many operators offer tours of this ecologically spectacular route, Native Guide Safari Tours has carved out a unique niche for travellers searching for a relaxed, personal brand of cultural tourism.

Window On The Arts

Shells in Traditional Tuvaluan Handicrafts

by Anna Tiraa-Passfield

Shell handicrafts have a strong traditional significance for the people of Tuvalu. Shell jewellery used to be considered a prized possession on Vaitupu. On special occasions the men of Niutao would wear a headband woven from woman's hair decorated with six or seven cowrie shells. Today, shell handicrafts are given mainly as gifts to friends and family, to guests at special functions and to visiting high-ranking officials. They are worn by men and women when performing the *fatele* (a local dance).

Handicraft production has become a major income generating activity for the women of Tuvalu. Seventeen per cent of women over 15 years of age earn a significant income from handicraft production. Fifteen per cent of all income generated by women is derived from handicrafts.

Pule kena, *pule uli* (cowrie species) and *misa* are the common shells used for handicrafts. Items such as necklaces are most common, but the shells are also used to decorate items such as napkin rings.

Misa, collected by women and children on Funafuti, is a land gastropod found in shady moist areas under coral rubble and debris. The *misa* are killed by pouring hot water on them or burying them until the meat is eaten by insects. After about a week, the shells are cleaned in the sea, then rinsed in diluted bleach to remove any smell. Holes are made in the shells with a nail attached to a piece of wood. The shells are then threaded with nylon fishing line or local

material such as *taa* (processed coconut leaves).

Pule kena and *pule uli* are collected on the island of Nukufetau. *Pule kena* are collected at low tide from beneath coral rocks in intertidal pools on the reef. *Pule uli* are normally collected on an outgoing tide on the outer reef. Instead of being rinsed in bleach, these shells are soaked in a bucket of fresh water.

The National Government has no regulations covering the collection of shells. However, in 1994 the Nukufetau Maneapa (Council of Elders) placed a verbal ban on the export of unworked *pule* and *pule uli* from Nukufetau. Although no fines are imposed, an offender can expect to be called to the Maneapa to receive counselling from the elders.

Few tourists visit Tuvalu. Thus Tuvaluans are the major buyers of shell handicrafts, with necklaces being the most popular items. The Tuvalu Women's

Handicraft Co-op is the main sales outlet. The women of Nukufetau also commonly send goods on the inter-island ship to relatives in Funafuti who sell them on their behalf. The export of shell handicrafts is limited and most leave the country as gifts.

Adapted from an article in SPC Traditional Marine Resource Management and Knowledge Information Bulletin #7. Anna Tiraa-Passfield is a Cook Islander active in Ecowoman.



Photo: Anna Tiraa-Passfield

Tuvaluan woman (Senitenati) making a tui fafetu (star)

The Greenhouse Crisis

by The David Suzuki Foundation

The world is heating up. The primary cause is our use of fossil fuels, like coal and oil, that emit heat-trapping 'greenhouse' gases. In the last century, human production of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has upset the delicate balance of earth's energy exchange. Like the glass in a greenhouse, these gases collect in the atmosphere, creating a barrier that prevents the earth's excess heat from escaping. A landmark Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report predicts the average global temperature will increase 1-3.5 degrees Celsius by 2100.

Climate change will affect not only the Pacific Islands, but also countries like Canada. Canadians don't realise that global warming will have a profound impact on them, or that Canada has one of the worst records in the world in contributing to the problem.

Since much of Canada's population wrestles with punishing winters, an increase in the earth's temperature might seem like a good thing. But climatologists tell us global warming will alter weather in unexpected ways, severely disrupting patterns of life. Human health, socioeconomic structures and ecological systems are all sensitive to climate changes. Many effects of global warming will be irreversible. Even if ecological systems can adapt, it may take centuries to reach a new ecological balance.

Canada will not escape the effects of global warming, including arrival of diseases from warmer climates, increased insect infestations, more frequent and severe storms and forest fires, vast areas of melting permafrost, widespread coastal flooding and greater mortality from heat and smog.

This looming temperature change is expected to be almost as large as,

and to occur more quickly than, the temperature increase that ended the last Ice Age. The IPCC estimates that global warming could cause:

- sea level rise of up to one metre over the next century;
- increased mortality from heat-related illnesses like malaria;
- widespread drought;
- extinction of many plant and animal species;
- more frequent severe hurricanes and storms;
- flooding and eroding of shorelines and beaches, wetlands and lowlands;
- higher estuary salinity, threatening freshwater supplies and impairing water quality.

Canada has one of the worst records in the world in contributing to the problem of global warming

Forests Will Die Off

Forests currently cover almost a quarter of the earth's land surface and play a crucial role in regulating the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide; scientists believe they absorb a quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted from fossil fuel combustion. Deforestation contributes to climate change by releasing this stored carbon into the atmosphere and by reducing the earth's ability to absorb new carbon dioxide emissions. Unfortunately, climate change will cause more deforestation.

The first degree rise in temperature could wipe out 9% of our forest cover. In the worst case, one-third of all forests and two-thirds of the boreal forest (covering 17% of the earth's land surface) could die off and be

replaced by grasslands. Forests will be unable to spread northward quickly enough, even in regions where the soil will sustain growth. Surviving forests would be compromised by an increased range of pests and diseases, and by the heightened threat of fire. Losing the world's forests means much more than the loss of vital carbon storage. Rising temperatures and shrinking forests would result in a significant change in species composition and an irreversible loss of biodiversity.

Fisheries and Agriculture Will Be Disrupted

Global warming and the resulting change in ocean temperature and currents will disrupt reproductive patterns, migration routes and relationships within marine ecosystems. Fish are extremely sensitive to temperature and current changes. Species such as salmon, which spend part of their life in fresh water, will be hurt by changes in rainfall, river flow and estuary salinity. About 70% of global fishery resources depend on habitats in estuaries at some point in their life cycle, making them especially vulnerable to salinity changes from sea level increases.

Production in Canada's vast prairie grain-growing areas already thrives or slumps depending upon the weather. Hotter, drier summers with more extreme weather would stress these large, fertile agricultural areas.

Global Warming Will Compromise Human Health

Scientists predict that great threats from global warming will be the worldwide redistribution of infectious diseases, such as malaria, and disease 'vectors' — animals, insects, microorganisms and plants that transmit disease to humans. Changing weather patterns such as drought and heavy flooding can

produce environmental conditions ideal for the outbreak of infectious diseases.

The Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection reports that a global mean temperature increase of 3°C by 2100 would double the epidemic potential of mosquitos in tropical regions. Ecological conditions conducive to the spread of malaria would exist in 60% of the world — currently only 45% of the world's regions are afflicted. NIPHEP estimates a million more people could die of malaria annually over the next 60 years as a result.

Higher temperatures could enhance blooms of toxic phytoplankton (red tide) and blue-green algae in surface layers of the oceans, which would increase cholera risk in coastal Central and South America.

Heat alone aggravates existing medical problems, particularly for the old, the very young, the chronically ill and outdoor workers. Limited freshwater supplies, lack of nutritious food in some areas, and increased air pollution will have serious human health consequences.

But Isn't Global Warming Just a Theory?

The IPCC's 1995 report represents an overwhelming endorsement of the current understanding of global warming. A few critics — often quoted in the press — have challenged the notion of global warming, but the clear majority of the world's foremost climate scientists have agreed that "there is a discernible human influence on global climate." In a comprehensive review, their findings were accepted by more than 2,500 scientists, economists and risk analysis specialists from over 60 countries.

The ten warmest years since we began keeping records in 1861 have been recorded since 1982, with 1995 the warmest year on record. In the last 100 years, global mean surface temperatures have risen 0.3-0.6°C, while Environment Canada records

show a full degree of rise in average Canadian temperatures. By comparison, global temperature has risen only 5°C since the last Ice Age. According to Professor Ellen Mosley-Thompson of Ohio State University, ice cores from the Dundee ice cap in eastern Tibet have shown that the last 50 years were the warmest in recorded history. In the Peruvian Andes, the Qori Kalis glacier which retreated by four metres per year from 1963 to 1970 is now retreating at 30 metres per year.

Isn't It Already Too Late? Why Don't We Just Learn to Adapt?

It's true that we have already begun to change our climate, but that is no justification for making the problem worse. The ecological, social and economic costs of continued inaction are too great. Greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced at little or no cost and could even improve the economy. As for adapting, the pace of change already promises to test human adaptability and may wreak havoc in ecological zones such as the boreal forests which regenerate in cycles that cover centuries, not decades.

As for economic impact, the IPCC estimates the annual cost of global warming at 1-2% of GDP for developed countries. In Canada, that's \$8-16 billion each year. Those costs are incurred by everything from disruption of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to increased insurance costs. According to Worldwatch Institute, during 1990-95 the insurance industry's average annual payout for worldwide weather-related damage claims was over \$11 billion, compared to \$1.7 billion annually during the 1980s.

Authoritative and credible groups have suggested that breaking even is possible if the efforts to resolve global warming are intelligently directed. Immediate benefits arise from reducing energy consumption and using and developing new energy-efficient technologies. The Worldwatch Institute has documented that the

widespread use of just three new technologies — heat reflecting windows, electronic ballasts for fluorescent lights, and variable capacity supermarket refrigeration systems — developed with total subsidies of \$23.7 million, will save \$8.9 billion in fuel costs over their lifetimes. The Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development estimates that for every million dollars invested in energy efficiency, 20-100 more jobs are created than if that money were spent on traditional energy supplies. Considerable savings also result from reduced spending on the automobile infrastructure and cutting oil and gas industry subsidies.

While Europe Inches Forward, Canada Slides Back

Some European countries — Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany, for example — have matched promises with policies and reduced their emissions of greenhouse gases. No country outside Europe will meet its greenhouse gas stabilisation targets. Canada agreed to stabilise its carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. Yet emissions, now close to 10% above 1990 levels, are not expected to improve before the century's end.

The cornerstone of Canada's climate change efforts, a largely symbolic voluntary program calling on Canadian businesses to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, has had a negligible impact to date and cannot be expected to make a serious contribution to solving global warming problems. Companies are asked to commit resources toward achieving lower greenhouse gas emissions without market incentives that make energy efficiency and pollution reduction good business. While most companies strive to act responsibly, marketplace pressure forces them to respond to shareholder demands for short term profits. Major emission sources like homes and automobiles fall outside the scope of the program.

To achieve its goals, Canada must adopt sound policies to encourage all businesses, rearranging incentives and rewards to favour energy efficiency and discourage pollution.

'No Regrets' Opportunities

Many studies point out 'no regrets' options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, where economic benefits are equal to or greater than the costs of reduction:

- The IPCC report says energy efficiency can be improved 10-30% at no net cost and 50-60% reductions may be possible with appropriate technologies and financing.
- The Canadian Options for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (COGGER) report states Canada could meet its stabilisation commitments, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2010, without negative economic impact.
- Over the next two decades, global conventional energy source subsidies will total \$5-6 trillion if current practices continue, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council. Studies cited in the IPCC report pointed out that fossil fuel subsidies reduce the price of fuel \$50 per ton below real costs, encouraging overuse. Phasing out these distorting subsidies could reduce global emissions 4-18% and real incomes would increase.
- The IPCC estimates that a range of renewable energy technologies such as solar power, wind turbines, small scale hydroelectric generation, ground source heat pumps and hydrogen fuel cells could be commercialised over the same period with the expenditure of \$10 billion in research and development and \$7-\$12 billion in incentives to use the new technologies.

Public Leadership Is Essential

Government intervention is essential, says the COGGER report,

Canada could reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2010 without negative economic impact.

Canadian Options for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (COGGER) Report

to realise the economic potential of improved energy efficiency and fuel switching. The most effective policy combines targets and timetables, efficiency regulation and an array of market-based incentives that encourage businesses to make the necessary emission-reducing investments. The Canadian Global Climate Change Program recommended a variety of measures to their environment and energy ministers that would allow Canada to meet its international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen its sagging diplomatic reputation and position the Canadian economy among the leaders for the 21st century, including:

- regulating higher energy-efficiency standards;
- encouraging building retrofit programs that conserve energy;
- reducing subsidies that distort energy prices;
- providing incentives to businesses to adopt energy efficient technologies;
- developing market-based measures, such as tradable emissions permits;
- designing programs to encourage fuel switching;
- supporting research and development on renewable energy and efficient technologies;
- working with auto makers to ensure more energy efficient vehicles; and
- working with municipalities to encourage planning and design that minimises vehicle use.

To maximise its benefits, economic reform must take place in a timely manner. Investment in new technologies and processes will cost the least if made when older equipment needs replacing. The sooner new standards are provided, and the more lead time businesses and other institutions have to plan, the more efficient the switch to new technologies will be.

Industries with a competitive advantage in the 21st century will be those that meet the needs of a growing world population without overwhelming the earth's capacity to absorb wastes. And countries with more stringent emissions standard will encourage the growth of efficient, leading-edge businesses that can compete worldwide.

What Can I Do?

If people cause climate change, people can stop it. Drive less, live closer to your work, walk or ride a bicycle and buy local, seasonal goods to reduce consumption of energy for transportation. Plant carbon 'sinks' - trees and shrubs. Compost and recycle. Make sure your house is well-sealed and insulated to reduce heat waste and use efficient lighting and energy-efficient appliances. Finally, get active. Write or phone government members at every level to demand better public transportation and planning and stricter controls on industry.

This article is adapted from a climate change kit prepared by the David Suzuki Foundation. For further information and/or purchase of the full kit (C\$10) contact: David Suzuki Foundation, Suite 219, 2211 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4S2, CANADA. Tel: 604-732-4228. Fax: 604-732-0752. www.davidsuzuki.org



Showdown in the Park

Pai 'Ohana vs. the USA

by Naomi Sodeani

At dawn on Valentine's Day 1997, Mahealani Pai and his 'ohana were evicted from their ancestral home. Two Drug Enforcement Agency helicopters swooped in on a peaceful stretch of Hawai'i's Big Island shoreline while a Coast Guard boat hovered offshore. Fifty law enforcement officers arrested Mahealani and nine other unarmed dwellers for trespassing on state and federal lands in a national park.

This is the story of one family, bound by blood to the land, who took on the most popular agency of the most powerful country in the world. Relying on their vision of what is right, the Pai 'Ohana sought to bring a new interpretation of land ownership to the state and federal governments. Though in the end bureaucracy and bulldozers prevailed, the Pais' struggle marks the path of the native Hawaiian community's evolving quest for self-determination.

A Saga of Conflict

"Where are the *kanaka maoli* supposed to stand, if they cannot stand on their own land?"

Reverend Kaleo Patterson's question is at the heart of the Pai 'Ohana's 30-year battle to remain on their homestead since the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park drew its borders around them. The park encompasses 650 acres of land and 500 acres offshore between Kailua-Kona and Keahole Airport on the Big Island. It is an enclave of great peace and austere beauty, with hot, parched lava fields sparsely edged by scrub vegetation. The area abounds with natural and cultural treasures. Much endangered endemic wildlife finds protection here, including several species of native waterbirds, green sea turtles and brackish

water ponds full of rare biota.

The park also contains some of the state's best-preserved archaeological artifacts of ancient Hawaiians: a fishtrap, fishponds, fishing shrines, house sites, a *bohua* (slide), a system of stone planters used to grow crops, petroglyphs, *beiau* (places of worship) and burial sites. Native Hawaiians today call it *wahipana*, a

Where are the *kanaka maoli* supposed to stand, if they cannot stand on their own land?

Reverend Kaleo Patterson

sacred place, where they believe lie the bones of Kamehameha I, whose rule united the islands. Also buried there are members of the Pai family.

Kahaku'i Pai and his eldest son, Mahealani, were born at 'Ai'opio. The Pai family's lineal role is to be *kabu* (caretakers) of the area. Since the eviction, the soft-spoken, ponytailed biologist, 38, still comes daily to pray, to fish and to maintain the sites. Kneeling, he traces the faint outlines of petroglyphs etched in lava: a ship with masts, men with muskets. Images of conquest left by his ancestors.

"My ancestors are in this land. They are in every stone here," says Mahealani. "They tell me that what I am encountering is what they had to face."

What he first encountered were developers eyeing a million-dollar view. In 1970, the state Land Use Commission had rezoned acres of Kona coastline from "conservation"

to "urban". If not for the park, the area would have become a luxury resort. However, US Representative Patsy Mink sponsored legislation protecting the area as a National Historical Landmark. In 1978 Congress established Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park as a living cultural park where native Hawaiians of the area could perpetuate their traditions.

Twenty-one people still resided in the park. The Pai family had lived there for at least nine generations. Their plywood and tin houses were built along the shore, close to the fishtrap, *beiau* and burial grounds.

For Regional Director Bryan Harry, chief negotiator for the park land purchases, the Pais and other tenants presented a thorny dilemma. They refused to sell their land unless the Park Service provided for the tenants. The park's establishing act allowed its officials to "provide traditional native Hawaiian accommodations", but failed to specify duration of residence. In 1988 Harry convinced the families that in order to stay they must sign "tenant disclaimers" which waived any land rights. They were then issued five-year Special Use Permits (SUP), which Harry intended to renew indefinitely if tenants complied with SUP conditions. The ink on the agreements was barely dry when the family faced another threat to their subsistence lifestyle.

Asserting Gathering Rights

In 1988, the Japanese corporation Nansay Hawaii bought 470 acres of shoreline property adjacent to the park in order to build a \$1 billion resort complex. Mahealani linked up with Public Access Shoreline Hawai'i (PASH), a group of residents concerned that the resort would adversely impact the area's historical

and cultural sites and access to the beach. He testified at public hearings for Nansay's Shoreline Management Area Permit application:

"For generations my family has gathered shrimp from the brackish ponds on the *makai* side of Nansay's land. We are concerned that we will be cited for trespassing as we attempt to continue this important part of our livelihood."

When the Commission granted Nansay its permit in 1990, PASH sued Nansay and the Commission, charging a violation of due process. PASH won a lower court ruling that upheld its right to participate in the planning process, but the Pais were feeling a loss of control over their lives.

Regulated Lives

Park Superintendent Francis Kuailani had to enforce a host of federal laws governing historic preservation and environmental and endangered species protection. Often his efforts collided squarely with the Pais' sense of stewardship for the area.

Once, when Kuailani heard the Pai brothers were altering the fishtrap walls, he told them to stop. Mahealani explained that the waves had knocked stones out of the fishtrap wall. His family was only doing its duty in maintaining the sacred sites. Kuailani informed him that only authorized park staff were allowed to touch archaeological sites.

Another time, Mahealani asked the superintendent, "Why don't you put your hat down and just sit and talk with me as a Hawaiian, and look at this with a Hawaiian eye view?"

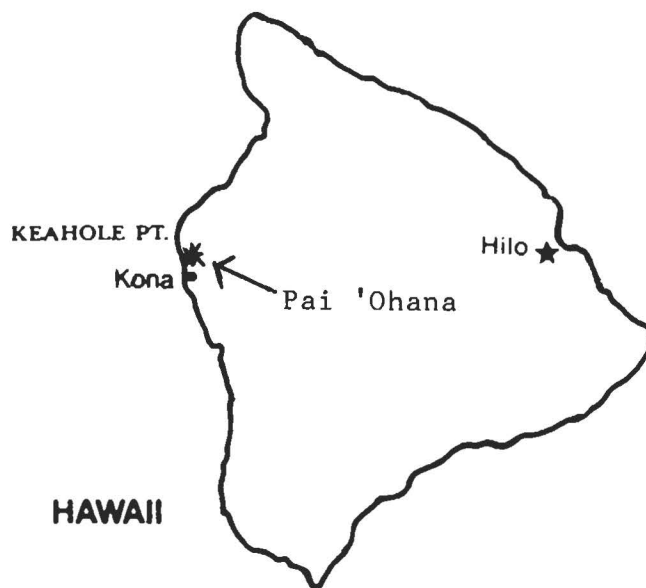
"I couldn't," says Kuailani. "I understand what he was trying to say, but I can't turn my face against violations to the law."

Mahealani notes that, "We've been deprived of our responsibility (as natural caretakers) to put things

back in order. They talk about endangered species, but the Hawaiian people are endangered."

The Pais had also become frustrated with the increasing numbers of tourists intruding into their living area. In 1987, 12,500 visitors had visited the park; five years later, that number had quadrupled. Mahealani complained about garbage, nudists, hypodermic syringes, but to no avail. In 1992, Mahealani tried to negotiate the terms of the permit to allow them to care for the sites or to obtain a long-term lease.

Harry refused, saying, "I had already pushed the law to the limit (with the SUPs)."



Hurricane 'Iniki triggered a turning point in the family's relations with the Park Service. The Park Service was considering whether they should let the seven remaining tenants (five of them Pais) rebuild their homes or revoke their permits.

"'Iniki was not just a storm but a way that our ancestors were trying to communicate with us," says Mahealani. "Our homes were damaged, but left standing, as a sign that we belong here and as a sign to have nature come in and clean the land."

After 'Iniki, Mahealani and his brothers were denied permission to rebuild the fishtrap. They sought

help from a number of government agencies with no success.

Open Defiance

Unable to rebuild and unwilling to be confined by the Park Service's conditions, the Pai family moved from compliance to open defiance. In a dramatic gesture, the Pais tore up their permits and declared them to be null and void. They and their supporters were enraged by the Park Service's new draft management plan, which stated that the Pais' homes were "not intended to be permanent" and "will be gone eventually".

Senator Daniel Inouye was called on to intercede. After receiving a barrage of letters criticizing the Park Service's cultural insensitivity, he requested an explanation. Harry assured the senator, "Should the Pai family be more compliant in their 'sovereignty' demonstration and not flaunt the permit conditions, we intend to renew their Special Use Permits."

His message was clear: Our way or no way.

The Pais responded in kind, posting signs saying "Keep Out" and declaring the area "Pai 'Ohana's 'Aina within the Sovereign Jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Hawai'i". They tried to keep visitors from parking on archaeological

sites and rerouted trails around their dwellings. They also began telling those who trespassed into their area: no alcohol, no guns, no drugs, no insulting behaviour.

In turn, the park staff documented all permit violations and conducted camera surveillance of the Pais' encampment. From the agency's standpoint, the Pais had turned militant.

However, groups like the Kamehameha Schools, Edith Kanakaole Foundation and Department of Education praised the family's cultural immersion programs for native Hawaiian youth. The Pais

showed groups of students how to fish, chant, dance hula and care for the burial grounds and medicinal plants.

Wrote Beverly Bedwell, Vice-Principal of Kealakehe Intermediate School, "Our children learned much from their visit about the Hawaiian culture — from how fish were caught to how to treat each other with respect and kindness."

The Pais also began to bond with other native Hawaiians pursuing self-determination. Activists would gather at 'Ai'opio to share their *mana'o* and to ask "Who are we? What are we? What is our purpose?"

Pai 'Obana vs. the USA

On December 19, 1994, the family followed their uncharted course into a courtroom, suing the US and Bryan Harry and stating that they, not the federal government, held title to their land. Their action was prompted by a letter from Harry citing SUP violations and Mahealani's expired permit and stating: "Remove your possessions...You may not reside or camp in the national park."

Attorney Arnold Lum argued that under the federal doctrine recognising 'aboriginal title' the family had rights to occupy lands their ancestors once held. Assistant US Attorney Tom Helper countered that the tenant disclaimers show the Pais had waived their ownership interest in the land. Since state law had always recognised that native tenants have special land rights, Lum requested that the State Supreme Court be asked to determine whether native tenants whose ancestors did not apply for a kuleana (land grant) in the 1800s, retain rights of land use and occupancy.

But on January 17, 1995, Judge David Ezra dismissed the Pais' claim, opining that any rights the family may have had as native tenants had long been extinguished and refusing to refer the matter to the State Supreme Court. He would

not fuel the Pais' hopes "to overturn a century of existing state law."

A Last-Ditch Effort

In August, the State Supreme Court upheld the legal right of native Hawaiians to practice traditional activities on privately-owned land. Known as the PASH decision, it stated: "Nansay's argument places undue

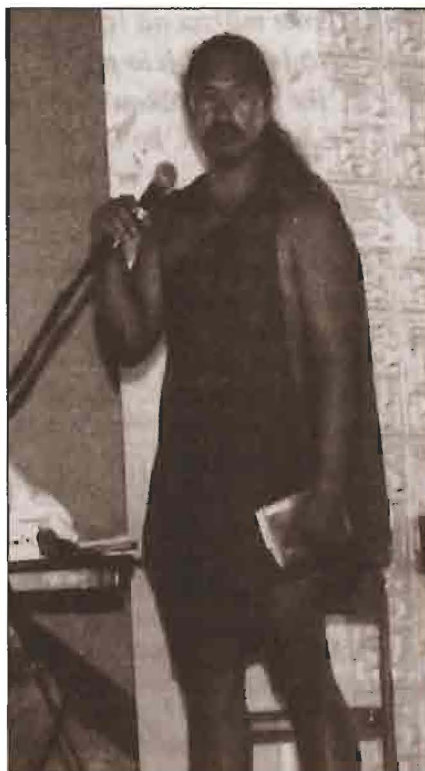


Photo: Ulla Hasager

Mahealani Pai testifies at the People's International Tribunal Hawai'i in 1993

reliance on Western understandings of property law that are not universally applicable in Hawai'i."

Since Mahealani's testimony about his family's longstanding gathering activities figured centrally in the court decision, why shouldn't the Park Service's title to park lands be subject to the same native rights? Lum sent the State High Court's opinion to the Ninth Circuit Appellate Court, hoping the PASH ruling would provide the legal salvo the Pais needed to overturn Ezra's decision. But on February 2, 1996, the Appellate Court upheld Ezra's

ruling. Immediately, the Park Service and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) moved to evict.

DLNR's Mike Wilson participated in a last-ditch effort to stave off the April 1 eviction. Park officials had been warned that massive protests were certain and violent resistance was possible if the Pais were evicted. Over the years, the family had earned wide respect for their cultural and spiritual role. Now a formidable array of supporters had mobilised: grass-roots community and sovereignty groups, Hawaiian civic clubs, civil rights groups and international Indigenous rights groups. County and state legislators passed two resolutions in March 1996 lauding the family as "a state, national, cultural treasure representing real Hawaiian family values and traditions" and urging state and federal agencies to work things out in a "non-confrontational manner". The House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Housing asked the Governor to prevent the Pais' eviction "until clear policies and rules are established governing the use and occupation of ceded lands...by Hawaiians seeking to reasonably exercise those traditional and customary practices."

The House and Senate judiciary committees wrote to the State Attorney General for a legal opinion on the "ownership of the 'Ai'opio fishtrap and other submerged lands currently within the boundaries of the Park." While the AG has not yet rendered an opinion, Wilson states: "The trial proved that the federal government has title to 'Ai'opio land."

At the meeting with Wilson were Mahealani, Lum, Harry and Kuailani, federal attorneys, Ka Lahui Hawai'i leader Mililani Trask, Frenchy DeSoto of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), and representatives of the Nation of Hawai'i, the Edith Kanakaole Foundation, the Native American Rights Fund and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

A Compromise that Wasn't

To defuse the crisis, the group arrived at a plan to move the family onto state land adjacent to the Pu'uoina Heiau. The state was prepared to revoke the park's management permit for the seven acre piece of land and lease it to a non-profit organisation for a cultural centre where the Pai family could continue in their customary role. Since such learning centres were already outlined in OHA's master plan, said DeSoto, "It was a win-win-win for the family, for the state, for the feds and for us."

On Senator Inouye's request, the US Interior Secretary agreed to delay the eviction till December to allow time for getting permits and agreements for the move. Mahealani's parents moved to the state-controlled lands near the *heiau*.

After months of delay, DLNR finally issued a temporary right-of-way permit to OHA which did not provide for occupancy. At that point, the Pais declined the deal. Everyone was floored except Trask, who noted that the compromise was flawed: "The Park Service never came up with a Memorandum of Understanding, as they promised, that ensured the family's access to the sites for religious and cultural purposes."

"It seems everything was rigged," said Mahealani at a press conference during the crisis. "If we were to move onto state property and there was any kind of challenge or change of heart, we would not be able to live there."

Concern about their lack of autonomy in the proposed scheme figured heavily in the Pais' decision to bow out. When OHA held public meetings on the cultural centre, people asked Mahealani, "Hey *brab*, you sure you guys like go?" Mahealani says, "I tell them, 'We went to court, we lost. We been fighting with the feds since 1988... we kinda like work something out.' But some people never like see our family sell out."

"We had to check ourselves: Is this *pono*, is this right? In the end,

we had to be true to our ancestors, to our history, to our values. My *na'au* told me that this was not the way."

The '*Ohana* reasserted their rights to stay on the land, but this time under Hawaiian Kingdom law.

Imperfect Title

On January 14, 1997, Mahealani wrote to President Bill Clinton that the Pai family held fee-simple title to 60 acres of park lands. He enclosed a title report showing the ownership of the property that the Park Service had bought became clouded when it was conveyed in 1895 by Francis Spencer to the Republic of Hawai'i, an act of treason under Hawaiian Kingdom law. Perfect Title, the firm that prepared the report, contends

Is this pono, is this right? In the end, we had to be true to our ancestors, to our history, to our values.

Mahealani Pai

the property remains vested in the estate of Francis Spencer.

Says Perfect Title's President Lewis, "Can Mahealani Pai be trespassing on National Park Service land if the National Park Service has no title to Honokohauiki? I think not."

Perfect Title's use of 19th century Hawaiian Kingdom law to dispute current land titles is controversial, to say the least. The company argues that the illegal overthrow of the kingdom made all land transactions since 1893 null and void. Moreover, says Lewis, since only the Republic of Hawai'i was annexed by the US to become a territory, not the Hawaiian Kingdom, the latter never became a state.

"It's time the feds returned lands that they stole," Trask contends.

"When President Clinton signed an Apology Bill in '93, he acknowledged that, as a result of this illegal overthrow, Hawaiians lost their land."

The Eviction

On Valentine's Day, Soli Niheu was roused by barking dogs in the predawn darkness. Niheu, one of the forefathers of the native Hawaiian sovereignty movement, feared a violent eviction and had come with other supporters to protect the Pais. He paged Mahealani at work.

Two helicopters and a Coast Guard craft brought law enforcement officers of every colour of authority — county, state and federal — who ordered the family and their supporters to leave. Wilson contends that the spirit of due process was not violated in any way. "The State needs no court order in order to remove somebody who's trespassing", even on ceded land.

Mahealani broke through the police blockade, swam across the channel and led the group in a chanting procession to the *heiau*.

"Some of the local boys, the local enforcement people, was crying," says Mahealani. "You could see they were hurting, too."

Ten were arrested that day, including Mahealani. Nine were released without being charged. Niheu, the only one arrested by federal marshals, was tried and found guilty of resisting and interfering with a federal operation. He was sentenced to one day in prison, already served, and a \$10 administrative court fee.

Far more expensive was the eviction itself. The Park Service budgeted \$200,000 for eviction-related costs, which does not include expenses of other agencies. The long-range costs of the eviction, however, are social, not fiscal, says Reverend Kaleo Patterson, spokesman for the No Evictions Coalition. He warns that if native Hawaiian claims are not resolved in a peaceful way, conflicts like the Pais' will intensify.

continued on page 29



Ecowoman

Ecowoman is here!

SPPF is supporting the development of Ecowoman, a Fiji based regional network whose aim is to strengthen the participation of women in science, appropriate technology and environmental management. This section will appear regularly in Tok Blong Pasifik. Readers are invited to send us their own responses and contributions on Ecowoman themes.

Eco-Women Bring Science to Their Communities

by Linda Pennells

Ecowoman's genesis is in the determination of Pacific women to leave the margins and become central to their islands' development decisions. They are weary of having to cope with social and environmental problems resulting from bad decisions made without their input. These women are convinced that if they have the necessary knowledge, technology and clout, they can reduce such problems as coral reef damage, coastal erosion, land degradation and the exodus of their children to the cities.

Ecowoman is a collective of women in science and technology. Some use traditional methods; others specialise in modern approaches. Some are highly educated urban academics while others are grassroots women who have learned by oral tradition. **Ecowoman** brings their talents and knowledge together, often for

the first time. Together, they seek two critical changes for women: to become full decision-makers and to gain access to knowledge and technology that will improve their lives and protect their environment.

The **Ecowoman** collective grew out of the work of the South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology & Environment (SPACHEE). **Ecowoman** was launched when several women scientists made it a priority to develop a regional network in the South Pacific committed to promoting sound science and technology at the grassroots level. Too often, the expertise of the limited number of professional women scientists was not reaching and benefiting communities.

The other catalyst was the momentum gained at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing. Pacific women who returned from the conference full of practical grassroots ideas discovered that they

had few avenues for sharing their new knowledge across the Pacific. These women have been fundraising energetically to establish community-based pilot projects and local and regional education initiatives. One example of a successful activity is **Ecowoman's** hosting of the recent Fair on Women in Science & Technology.

In September, the Canadian International Development Agency announced that it will co-fund an **Ecowoman** project with SPACHEE and SPPF. CIDA will provide \$100,000; SPACHEE, SPPF and other **Ecowoman** members will invest at least \$60,000 of in-kind contributions. The two-year project has both a grassroots country programme in Fiji and a component which helps build a Pacific-wide network of women scientists and technologists.

One grassroots pilot project is a community counter-attack on the

water hyacinth and watercress which choke local rivers. The severely infested areas impede boat travel, pose a safety risk to children swimming and reduce the edible mussel harvest.

Ecowoman has rejected the use of chemicals and will train women to weave hyacinth fibres and men to use the plants as animal fodder. The women will explore marketing of the watercress as a vegetable. Another community project will be conducted with **WAINIMATE**, a traditional medicine NGO.

Both community projects use Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and needs analysis. The CIDA-SPPF project will fund three training workshops each year using PRA methodology to strengthen community self-reliance and decision-making.

The regional programming includes three **Ecowoman** newsletters per year and regular features in SPACHEE and SPPF publications. A database of women with relevant experience will be developed as the main resource for a referral service linking them to communities and groups who seek such expertise.

Linda Pennells is an SPPF member who sits on SPPF's Ecowoman Advisory Committee.

For further information, contact:
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Tel: 679-312371
Fax: 679-303053
or SPPF

Ecowoman Uses Science Congress to Sell Its Message

by Ruth Lechte

Throughout the ages, Pacific women have been pivotal in developing the science and technology that improves daily life. Their skills have ranged from food preserving, traditional healing and medicine-making to embalming. Pacific women took advantage of the July 1997 Pacific Science Congress in Fiji to assert their expertise in applying modern technology and blending it with traditional science within their communities.

Funded by UNIFEM, SPACHEE and **Ecowoman** launched a parallel Fair on Women in Science & Technology which exposed more than 1,000 senior secondary school girls, the Fijian public and about 500 visiting scientists to the positive impact that women who are technicians, scientists and grassroots practitioners have in sustainable community development in the Pacific.

Participating women's organisations and individual women used displays, workshops, discussion groups, drama and video to stimulate and inform their audiences. Much of the power of their community education came from hands-on demonstrations and their use of humour and creativity. Traditional healers showed how to make medicines, gave relaxing massages and led ethnobotanical tours. Participants learned how to make paper from scrap material, smoke fish, turn water hyacinth from a nuisance weed into a woven basket, and build solar ovens and solar toys, plus a new process for expelling coconut oil. And much more.



Photo: Ecowoman

Ecowoman members at the Fair on Women in Science & Technology

The skills of being good environmental stewards were integrated into most of the demonstrations and discussions. Discussion topics varied from fostering healthy coral reefs and turtle populations, to environmentally friendly ways of reducing fruit-fly damage, to the advantages of smokeless stoves and iceless coolers.

For **Ecowoman** organisers, the major impact of the science and technology fair was to stimulate thousands of people to consider the gender dimension in science. Women are aware of the species and ecosystems which surround them; they are the primary food producers and resource managers. Using traditional and modern scientific methods equips women to be decision makers on their environment and their communities. It also opens new lifestyle options and business applications.

Ruth Lechte belongs to the Ecowoman collective in Fiji; she participated in the Women's Fair at the Pacific Science Congress.

▼▼▼▼▼ New Resource for Consumer Education ▼▼▼▼▼

Cola or Coconuts?

"Pacific Islanders are often subject to the dumping of poor quality goods and date-expired foodstuffs," says Luamanuvao Winnie Laban,



Photo: Canadian High Commission

Luamanuvao Winnie Laban and her niece, Emily Masina, present a copy of *Cola or Coconuts?* to Counsellor Brian Watson at the Canadian High Commission in Wellington

coordinator of the South Pacific Consumer Protection Programme (SPCPP). Luamanuvao's organisation has set out to put an end to this exploitation. SPCPP's latest initiative is a consumer guide designed to educate Pacific youth to become informed, discriminating consumers so they are not easily conned into unwise buying.

The South Pacific Consumer Protection Programme, part of Consumers International, has been working with Pacific Island nations to enact appropriate consumer laws, establish organisations and implement education and information programmes for consumers. *Cola or Coconuts?* is part of SPCPP's consumer education initiatives and is the

second major resource book developed specifically for Pacific Island consumers. *Behind our Smiles*, published in 1995, was designed for Pacific women.

Cola or Coconuts? was written by Pacific Islanders for use in their secondary schools. The Canadian government, through the Canada Fund, funded the writing and publication. Pacific Island teachers from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Samoa contributed to the book which consists of ten teaching units of activities and exercises, stories and information set in a Pacific context. Through action learning, the students develop an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as consumers, how to act to protect those rights and how to create a safe, informed and fair marketplace.

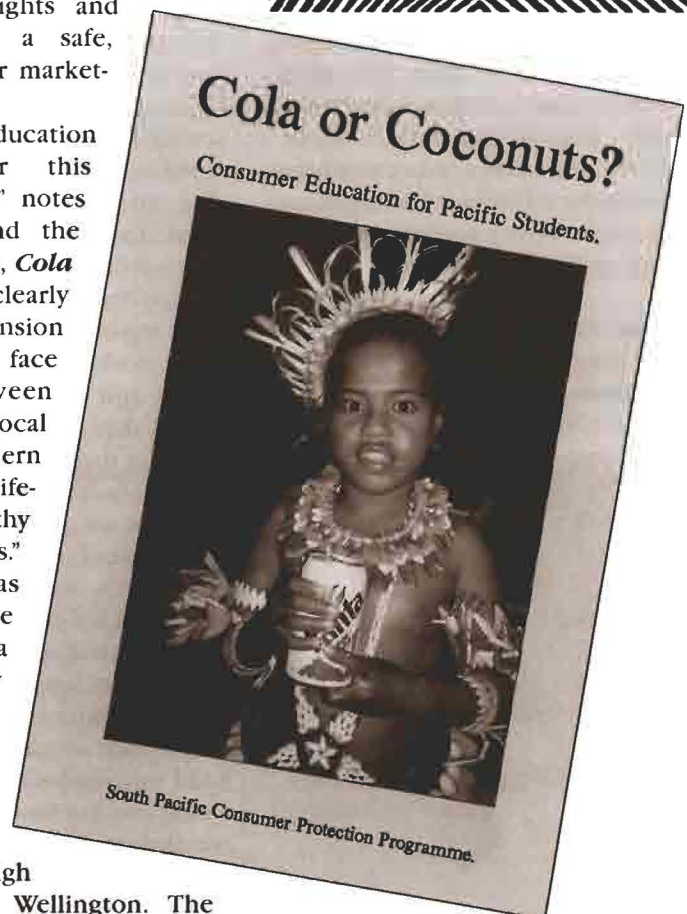
"Consumer education is critical for this next generation," notes Luamanuvao, "and the title of our book, *Cola or Coconuts?*, clearly sums up the tension Pacific children face today between imported and local products, modern and traditional lifestyles, and unhealthy or nutritious foods."

The book was blessed by the Rev. Setu Masina and welcomed by members of the Pacific Island community at a book launch hosted by the Canadian High Commission in Wellington. The Wainuiomata College Polynesian

Cultural Group also performed a number of items to celebrate the launch.

A teacher's guide, information on the problems Pacific consumers face, and a glossary of consumer terms are included in the information package. Teacher training workshops are also being held across the Pacific to introduce consumer education into the secondary school curricula.

To order: Send NZ\$10 plus postage (NZ\$5 in the Pacific) to South Pacific Consumer Protection Programme, PO Box 43-148, Wainuiomata, New Zealand. Tel/Fax: 64-4-564-8317. <cispcpp@xtra.co.nz>



Resource Reviews



Spirits of the Voyage

Review by Tony Gibb

88 minute video produced and directed by Eric Metzgar

Spirits of the Voyage takes us on a journey to a time in the Pacific when traditional methods of navigation meant a reliance on the navigators' ability to interpret the rhythms of nature and ensure that the spirits were in support of their efforts. Metzgar's video takes us to Lamotrek Atoll, in the Federated States of Micronesia. By intertwining footage of traditional island life and footage from earlier visits in 1987-90, Eric has produced an entrancing look into the ritual of passing on the elders' knowledge of the spirit world, called *pwo*, to a new generation of navigators. Working closely with Jesus Urupiy, a master navigator from Satawal Island who is married to a Lamotrek woman, and his son, Ali Haleyalur, Eric's video takes us from the land based preparations through sailing into the open waters. Eric uses special effects to evoke the spirit world of the navigator belief system.

Viewers used to North American videos will have to slow their pace to match that of a Pacific community where time takes second place to the building of a school, preparation of ceremonial grounds and the consideration given to whether or not the spirits are in the right mood to allow the *pwo* to begin. The very naturalness of the villagers' actions and interactions speak well to the relationship that developed between the cameraman and the people of Lamotrek.

What the video does not provide is a detailed explanation of the art of traditional navigation. There is no examination of the abilities of navigators to examine wave patterns as they reflect off distant islands, read the passage of birds from nearby islands and interpret cloud formations. While these aspects of traditional navigation have been covered in other productions, and *Spirits of the Voyage* does fill a gap in examining the schooling and spiritual dimensions of the navigator's world, the viewer can be left thinking that traditional Pacific navigation is a largely a matter of communing with spirits.

This video does capture a dying tradition and that in itself is very important. In this area of the Pacific, the *pwo* was the lifeblood of a group of islands that relied on the ability to safely navigate across thousands of square miles to arrive safely at one's destination. With only a few masters left in an area that once had several hundred respected navigators, we are left with our handheld global positioning systems that will still rely on the spirits to keep them working.

To order: Triton Films, 5177 Mesquite Street, Camarillo, CA 93012-6724. Tel/Fax: 805-484-2199. Email: TritonFilms@vcnet.com (Price varies by format & use)

Tony Gibb is a member of the SPPF Board of Directors.



Pacific Passages

Review by Linda Pennells

30 minute video from Pacific Pathways. Produced and directed by Caroline Yacoe, Wendy Arbeit & GB Hajim.

Pacific Passages is designed to bring Pacific Islands culture to life for students in other cultures. The video succeeds in presenting a collage of cultural glimpses of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia, primarily dance and song. One of the video's strengths is its youthful narrator, Susan Hullerman, who brings an obvious pride in her Papua New Guinean heritage. Another is its genuine attempt to be inclusive of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia. Although content is Melanesia heavy, *Pacific Passages* achieves a more holistic portrayal than many resources designed to encompass the Pacific Islands.

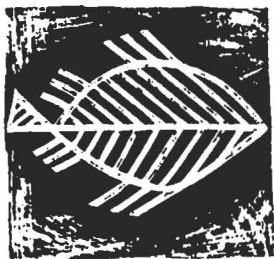
The video is a tickler. It mentions myriad issues, from initiation rites to the vulnerability of being located in the Ring of Fire, from abuse of the natural environment to

spiritual cultures making way for imported religions. However, these fleeting glimpses are so brief and unexplored that the video leaves viewers with little satisfaction beyond a list of issues and aspects of Pacific life that beg exploring on another day.

A Teacher's Guide is promised in the future. Interested teachers would be wise to await the guide as the video as a stand-alone resource is shallow in content. Although the video succeeds in establishing the importance of the natural world, art and ritual in these dynamic cultures, it requires a guide or other resources to facilitate concept or issue based discussion.

To order: Pacific Pathways, PO Box 23296, Honolulu, HI 96823, Tel/Fax: (808) 396-3326. US\$75.

Linda Pennells is a former SPPF Board member.



CANADA-SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



NEW PHASE UNDERWAY

The second phase of the Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Program (C-SPODP II) was launched last February at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. On hand to sign the Memorandum of Arrangement and Management Plan for the program were the Acting Canadian High Commissioner from Wellington, New Zealand, the CIDA Program Manager, and senior representatives from each of the four regional organisations involved in the program. The organisations are:

- Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), based in Honiara
- Forum Secretariat (ForSec), based in Suva
- South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), based in Apia
- University of the South Pacific (USP), based in Suva

The South Pacific Commission (SPC) and South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) will participate in some projects and ForSec is the regional coordinating agency. Canada's commitment at that ceremony brought our support for ocean development in the Pacific to a total of \$28 million since the first phase of the program was initiated in 1988, reflecting what Canada views to be a key priority for the region.

Since February, program implementation has moved ahead at full speed. In April, a contract was signed between CIDA and the 'Canadian Coordinating and Facilitating Agency' for the program, LGL Limited, environmental research associates. In May-June, LGL visited each of the participating regional organisations to finalise program details and assist in the preparation of proposals for projects to be supported by C-SPODP II. In July, training programs in results-based management, performance indicators and gender equity were held in Honiara, Suva and Apia. In August, the first set of conceptual proposals were approved at the first meeting of the Program Management Committee (PMC), held at ForSec in Suva. In September, LGL's Field Program Coordinator moved with his family to Suva, where he is preparing for the next PMC meeting, scheduled for mid-November.

Central to the philosophy behind C-SPODP II is

ownership of the program and accountability for its results by the regional organisations. This is reflected in a number of aspects of the program. Perhaps most important, project proposals are prepared by FFA, ForSec, SPREP and USP, and are reviewed and approved in the region by consensus of the PMC, whose members comprise one representative from each of the four regional organisations and CIDA. The organisations are accountable for achieving their projects' intended results, and for monitoring and reporting on progress towards those results. Annual PMC meetings will be held to monitor progress and approve annual workplans. This is a unique approach to aid program management in the Pacific, one that has been received very well there and is viewed as a 'test case' for decision-making in the region.

All projects implemented as part of C-SPODP II must meet a set of criteria that ensures compliance with the Regional Strategy approved at the 1995

For further information about C-SPODP, contact:

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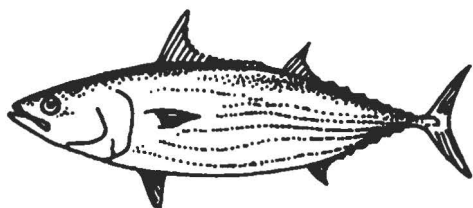
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Summit of Forum Leaders, Canadian ODA priorities and the intended areas of technical focus of the program. All projects will be in the marine resource development sector; will have an underlying priority focus on sustainable development and management; will address gender issues; and, where appropriate, will develop linkages with the private sector. The projects that will come forward for approval in November, which serve as examples of the projects that will comprise the program, are:

- Coordination of national fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance strategies (FFA);
- Sustainable tuna industry development (FFA);
- Development and implementation of a strategy to maintain, protect and enhance the quality of the marine environment (SPREP);
- Capacity building for integrated coastal management and planning (SPREP);
- Marine Studies Program development (USP);
- Post-graduate scholarships (USP);
- Facilitating fisheries exports between Forum Island Countries and Canada (ForSec).

One of the overall objectives of the program is institutional capacity building, specifically in environmental sustainability, results-based management, gender equity and private sector development. The diversity of projects indicates that beneficiaries of C-SPODP II will also include fishers and coastal communities, small and medium enterprises, national governments and hence the general public, and students.

The new Canadian at ForSec — the Field Program Coordinator — is Dr. Kenneth T. MacKay, who joined LGL Limited specifically for C-SPODP II. Kenneth's background is in fisheries ecology and he has decades of experience in international development, especially in Southeast Asia. He is based at ForSec, where he works closely with Amelia Siamomua, Donor Issues Advisor; Iosefa Maiava, Director of the Development and Economic Policy Division; and the other two Canadians there, former SPPF Board members Gayle Nelson, Gender Issues Advisor, and Mike Mullins, Private Sector Advisor. LGL's team in Canada is led by William E. Cross, LGL's Vice President, International, and the CIDA Program Manager is Ronald Baird.



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"What is significant about the Pais' struggle is that here is a family, not political to begin with, who rolled into this arena unawares and battled the most powerful government in the world. It gives all of us a glimpse into the heart and soul of the average Hawaiian, this courage and dignity under the surface waiting to come out."



Dangling Questions

Much remains unresolved. Questions regarding land ownership linger and could stymie the Park Service's and DLNR's best-laid plans. Documents filed by the Pais are challenging the state's ownership of the seven-acre parcel near the *beiau*. Clouded land title is also stopping the Park Service from buying an adjacent parcel of land that lies within the park boundaries.

Meanwhile, construction is underway to build a *balau* on Mahealani's parents' former home site, with help from other native Hawaiians. As members of the public, the Pai 'Obana are welcome to return, Harry says, but only to visit, not to live.

"We have never left," responds Mahealani. "Our spirit remains."

He and his brothers have come today to repair the fish-trap walls. When asked what his family will do next, he answers simply, "I don't know."

Will his family mount another legal challenge? or attempt to reoccupy 'Ai'opio?

"Possibly. Stay tuned."

The Pais lost this battle, but they intend to win the war.

Naomi Sodetani, of Out of the Blue Productions, is a freelance writer and filmmaker based in Honolulu. She can be reached at: naomis@aloha.net



Nausori Highland Trek, Fiji

by Alison Gardner

Our 20 year old Fijian guide, Serevi, was presented with a dilemma soon after we began our full-day Rosie Tour hiking adventure to the isolated highland village of Toko. The New York travel agent who booked space for Paul, a 71 year old retired medical doctor, had overlooked the tour's age limit of 45. Raised in a culture where respect is paramount even over sound business practice, Serevi was not comfortable asking such a venerable foreigner to return to his hotel, so the decision was left to the six other participants. We all agreed to gear down the pace and add extra rest stops if necessary.

Three hours later we had glimpsed stunning highland scenery, birds, and a herd of mountain goats. We had crested several steep bald hills and forded two streams at the bottom of cool forested valleys. Before we reached the gates of Toko village, Serevi briefed us on the strict village protocol. He produced red cotton wraps which we tied around our waists to camouflage the knees and legs of both men and women.

No one debated who should represent our group

Walking tours take visitors to Fijian villages



Photo: James Siers

The yaqona ceremony is an important part of a Fijian customary welcome

for the traditional welcome; Paul listened attentively to all instructions. He carried out his role with a grave dignity to match Toko's 102 year old chief and his energetic wife of 79 who clearly enjoyed these weekly visits from the outside world.

Our guide and interpreter, whose respect for village protocol was obvious despite his city lifestyle, was greeted affectionately like an adopted son. After a stroll around the village, the chief's wife served a delicious meal of taro, Fijian spinach in coconut milk, and corned beef. As we gratefully consumed it sitting on woven mats in the cool shade of their oldest son's traditional single room home, we asked many questions and received well considered and often humorous answers from our hostess.

Recognising his limits, Paul stayed in the village while we spent a hot hour and a half walking a mile to the chief's extensive plantation of food crops, spread over several acres up and down steep slopes shaded by palms and native fruit trees. It was a valuable lesson in independent living on a very sustainable level. When we returned to make our farewells, Paul and the chief were seated in comfortable silence side by side on the front porch of his home. They looked remarkably attuned in all respects, clearly content despite barriers of languages and lifestyle.

We set out for Nadi in mid-afternoon, stopping often on the uphill grades to share highlights of an eventful day. Paul's eyes sparkled despite his obvious weariness as he declared this to be his most memorable experience in a lifetime of world travel.

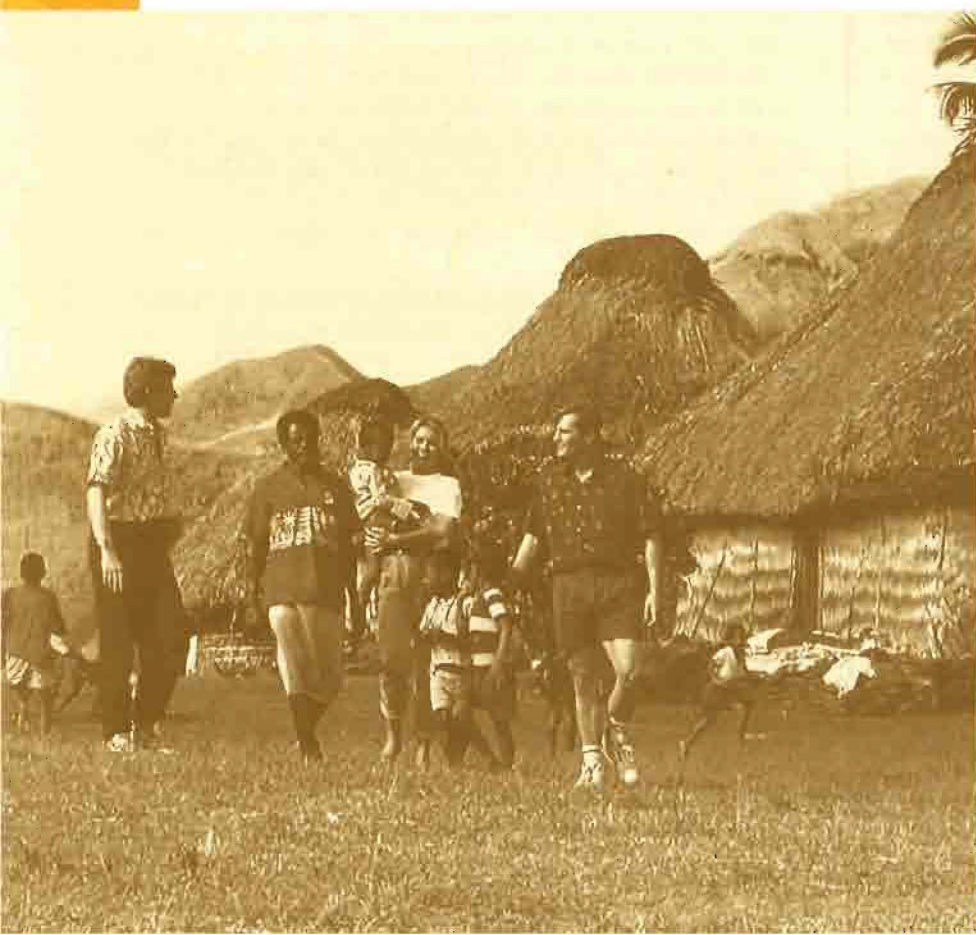


Photo: James Siers

