



PACIFIC NETWORK OF PLANNERS PNOP Newsline

Issue 1

June 2004



A warm 'hello' to everyone!

This is our first newsletter for the Pacific Network of Planners and we are grateful to all those who have contributed to it. We acknowledge the Pacific Magazine and Islands Business for allowing reprints of relevant items.

The newsletter is the first outcome of the CAP Forum 2003 Declaration. It is the "voice" of the network and is open to anyone who would like to provide articles, comments, opinions and letters, or even light-hearted material to share with other planners around the western Pacific.

The newsletter will evolve over the following editions to reflect your feedback and adapt to the perceived needs of the network.

We hope you will enjoy this inaugural edition.



Roger Brewster
CAP Australian Representative

Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban Management, Nadi Fiji 1-4 December 2003

On the 1–4 December 2004, the first Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban Management was held in Nadi, Fiji Islands. The Workshop was organised jointly by the following organisations, which have responsibility for economic and social progress in the Pacific:

- United Nations ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), based in Bangkok, Thailand, assisted by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) based in Port Vila, Vanuatu;
- United Nations Human Settlements Program (Habitat) Asia–Pacific Regional Office, based in Fukuoka, Japan;
- Pacific Islands Forum, based in Suva, Fiji.

The Workshop reactivated the ESCAP 1999 initiative in the Pacific region based on a report (Managing the Transition from the Village to the City in the South Pacific, United Nations 1999) to generate awareness of growing unplanned urbanisation in the region. A further report, prepared to serve as background information for the Workshop, Urban Development in the Pacific Islands–Issues Paper, covered the same ground as the earlier report but with additional emphasis on poverty; urban planning and environmental management; institutions and the regulatory framework and urban security, reflecting the changing needs in the region.

The workshop was attended by planners from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as well academics; representatives from NGO's; regional organisations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB); civil society and local government.

Bob Naiker, formerly Managing Director of the Fiji Housing Authority, attended the Workshop as the representative of the Pacific Network of Planners, which was established at the Pacific Regional Forum held in Brisbane, 1-2 November 2003. He presented the Declaration prepared by that Forum, which was well received. A number of participants spoke in support of the formation of PNOP and looked forward to cooperation amongst planners, especially in information exchange and training to improve professional skills in rapidly changing situations.

Dr. Paul Jones, ESCAP Consultant, presented a resource paper on 'Urban Development Issues in the Pacific Islands' to support debate and discussion with participants during the workshop.

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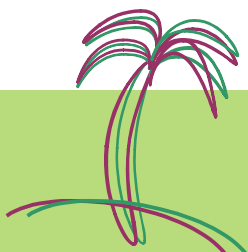
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Country presentations focused on the above themes and other issues relevant to managing urban development within PICs. A key outcome of the workshop was the preparation and adoption of a Pacific Urban Agenda that outlined key issues relating to the above themes, whilst highlighting key actions and major stakeholders.

The Pacific Urban Agenda

The main purpose of the Workshop was to prepare a Pacific Urban Agenda (PUA) which would serve as a guide to governments to address issues of major concern in urban areas, with due attention to poverty alleviation and security in urban areas.

The first two days of the program focused on presentations by various agencies, programs, and NGOs. The second two days were focused on the drafting of the PUA, and the presentation of the country reports. The PUA was developed by participants as a common plan of action to assist PIC's to manage the transition from predominantly rural societies to urban societies.

The Agenda was based on priority themes and major issues surrounding them. It provides a conceptual approach, recognising that there are national variations. The appropriate actions that need to be taken for progressing each of the issues are listed in the Agenda as a guide to governments, international agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations:

Theme 1: Access to Serviced Shelter

- Housing Policy;
- Land tenure and Land Management;
- Housing Markets;
- Building Codes.

Theme 2: Urban Environment

- Provision of infrastructure;
- Integrate Environmental and Disaster Management into Urban Planning and Management;
- Public Health;
- Institutional and Legislative Framework.

Theme 3: Urban Security

- Good Governance;
- Urban Poverty;
- Employment;
- Vulnerable Groups;
- Personal security.

The PUA was presented to the meeting of the Special Body of the Pacific Island Developing Countries, held on the 20-21 April 2004, in Shanghai, China, immediately preceding the Sixtieth UNESCAP Commission Session.

See separate article, "United Nations ESCAP endorses the Pacific Urban Agenda", as a regional blueprint for technical cooperation in urban poverty reduction and sustainable development within PICs.

The endorsement of the Pacific Urban Agenda is the culmination of several years of persistent effort. There have been a number of attempts since the early 1990's to develop a regional approach to the planning and management of PIC towns and cities. In 1993, PIC's participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Ministerial Conference in Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP. In 1996, PIC's took a key role in facilitating a UNDP and UNCHS regional paper on 'The State of Human Settlements and Urbanisation in the Pacific Islands' as part of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, Turkey.

Building on the momentum gained from this conference, a draft Pacific Habitat Agenda and Regional Action Plan for the Pacific was prepared in 1999 and was considered by the South Pacific Forum Economic Planning Ministers meeting held in July 1999. In 2001, the Habitat +5 Conference gave further weight to the preparation of a Pacific Regional Plan of Action to address current urbanization, urban development and urban management issues. All of the above initiatives have assisted in reinforcing the need for a coherent approach to Pacific urban development and management. In this context, there is optimism that endorsement of the Pacific Regional Agenda and follow up action will be a key tool in achieving this objective.

A press release by Pacnews on the Special Body of the Pacific Island Developing Countries (see article below) highlighted some of the key urban management issues now facing planners in PIC, including increasing population growth and spiralling squatter and informal settlements in Pacific towns and cities.

Paul Jones
Planning Consultant

PAC - URBAN DEVELOPMENT: PACNEWS 2: Tues, 20 April 2004

"Region security concerns stems from poor urban development - UNESCAP head"

20 April 2004 SHANGHAI (Pacnews) - Head of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Pacific Operations Centre, Nikenike Vurobaravu, believes that poor urban development in the Pacific region leads to security concerns.

Speaking at UNESCAP's Special Body on Pacific Island Development meeting in Shanghai this week, he said, "The region's security concerns stem in a large part from unchecked urban development, declining social cohesion in urban areas and the inability of local or provincial governments to deliver basic services, and plan for and coordinate urban expansion."

Mr Vurobaravu believes that urban management is a pressing issue in the Pacific region, particularly amongst the Melanesian and Micronesian countries. "Most of these countries have very high urban population growth rates and most



are experiencing difficulties in addressing urban planning, particularly in respect of the development of 'squatter' communities."

"Urban population densities are extremely high, comparable to Asian cities in some Pacific Island countries," said Mr Vurobaravu. He adds, "It is interesting to note that the issue of squatter settlement expansion in Honiara has recently been raised. Some observers have noted that conflict in this urban setting accounted for much of the June 2000 troubles".

It is hoped that with endorsement of the Pacific Special Body by the ESCAP Commission, there will be more concerted and coordinated effort to address urban management concerns in the Pacific, not just on the part of ESCAP but for other bilateral and multilateral donors in the region.

The UNESCAP's Special Body on the Pacific meets every two years and was convened for the first time in Shanghai from 20 - 21 April.



United Nations ESCAP endorses the Pacific Urban Agenda

The Pacific Urban Agenda has been endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and its Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the Commission's 60th session held in Shanghai, China in April 2004.

The Pacific Urban Agenda was developed by officials at a workshop convened by ESCAP, the Urban Governance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat at Nadi, Fiji in December 2003. The Pacific Urban Agenda was made following calls by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat 11) held in Istanbul in 1996, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Economic Ministers Meeting in 1999.

The Commission noted the significant increase in populations, in particular the urban populations in the Pacific island countries, the planning and management challenges that confront local and central governments and civil society, and the necessity to build community cohesion and address community development and livelihood

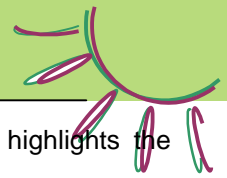
needs within poor urban communities. It also noted the initiatives and case studies around the Pacific, and tools to address good urban governance, participation, urban development and poverty concerns. In particular, the concept of an "urban social charter" in Papua New Guinea, the Samoan Planning and Urban Management Agency and the Urban Policy Action Plan in Fiji.

In its formal resolution endorsing the Pacific Urban Agenda, the Commission:

- requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to accord priority to the implementation of the Agenda; and
- called upon Pacific members and associate members to address the actions outlined in the Agenda, particularly in the areas of:
 - (a) Serviced shelter for the urban poor, by focusing on housing policy, land tenure and land management arrangements. This includes land zoning, integrated urban and rural housing development policy, self-help and services schemes, and by involving landowners to achieve greater recognition and involvement in land management, housing markets and building codes;
 - (b) The urban environment, including the provision of infrastructure, the integration of environmental and disaster management planning into urban planning and management, strengthening public health systems and addressing institutional and legislative frameworks;
 - (c) Urban security, including good governance at the local council level in particular, addressing urban poverty and urban employment needs, identifying vulnerable groups, and addressing personal security issues by developing community policing and other approaches to personal security by developing a collaborative approach between law enforcement agencies and civil society to help build community cohesion, strengthen partnerships among community groups and give a greater voice to community groups, civil society and social support agencies.

The Commission also invited partner agencies (including regional organizations) to provide technical and financial support, and members and associate members to cooperate and coordinate the implementation of the Agenda through, inter alia, regional programmes.

The Executive Secretary was also requested to support members and associate members of the Commission in assessing progress made implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda, convene a subregional workshop in 2006 for exchange of experience and capacity-building requirements, and to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the outcome of this exercise.



PIA Adaptation to Climate Change Project - Issues Paper

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2001) indicates that throughout the 20th century, global average surface temperature increased by approximately 0.6°C, global average sea level increased between 0.1 and 0.2 metres.

By 2030, projected annual mean temperature increases over Queensland, relative to 1990, will range from 0.3-2.0°C. Greater ranges of 0.8-6.0°C are projected for 2070 (CSIRO 2001). There is a better than 90% probability that there will be effects of sea-level rise on coastal infrastructure and that higher temperatures will lead to higher energy costs for buildings (CSIRO 2001). More extreme weather events and a sea level rise is expected.

In the natural environment, this could result in increased flooding, erosion, saltwater intrusion, and loss of wetlands and mangroves. A key issue is the extent to which species and eco- systems can adapt to the rate of climate change and the extent to which human intervention could contribute to the adaptation process.

Some of the likely impacts on the built environment include:

- increased susceptibility of buildings, structures and services to storm damage;
- increased risk to coastal populations from flooding, extreme weather events and sea level rise;
- changes in rainfall affecting water storage capacity, water supply and demand; and
- increased energy demand, particularly for heating and cooling homes and buildings.



There are consequential impacts on communities related to human health and well-being, community vulnerability, tourism and economic development, public infrastructure, property values, insurability and affordability of adaptive measures.

The consequences of climate change for the environment and communities everywhere are severe and the likelihood of the projected impacts occurring is sufficient to warrant changes in the planning and management of our cities and regions, and the allocation of land and water resources.

Planning can play a key role in responding to climate change and developing adaptation strategies to manage the impacts of climate change. For planners and decision-makers, doing nothing is not a responsible option. Positive, transparent and accountable decision-making will

be required and the Issues Paper highlights the need for:

- Sound and defensible information on which to base decisions – *the science*;
- A clear adaptive management framework to initiate and guide decision-making – *the policy*;
- A set of planning tools to assist planners and decision-makers in transparent, rigorous and balanced decisions – *planning and risk assessment tools* - including policy guidelines.

Climate change adaptation options need to be built into decision-making at all levels of planning. A challenge is to ensure that there is an integrated approach between statutory land use planning, environmental/natural resource planning and infrastructure planning.

The regulatory drivers to plan for climate change already exist and there are many existing decision-making frameworks that can be used to facilitate and implement adaptation options.

Adaptation to climate change requires planners, their agencies and eventually communities to consider timeframes beyond statutory requirements and even beyond the lifetime of most individuals.

Planning is a future oriented profession (and process) and adaptation to climate change is a challenge the profession must accept and act upon, as it has already been identified as one of the core problems for planning in the 21st century.

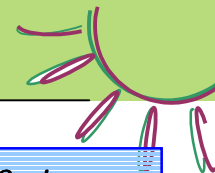
Sharon Boyle
PIA (Qld Division) Policy
Coordinator

Any comments on this issues paper by Pacific planners would be welcome. Comments can be made directly to Sharon Boyle or through the next edition of PNOP newsletter. Her email address is:

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*Water, water everywhere -
Tuvalu
February 2004*





The Economics of Climate Change

Global warming is changing the climate and its economic impact in the Pacific will be enormous. The greatest consequences of global warming are expected to be a rise in sea level (possibly 50 cm by 2050), an increase in natural disasters (cyclones and storms) and disruption to agriculture (drought, floods and changed growing conditions).

Pacific island countries are extremely vulnerable to all of these threats. They are not responsible for the changes but they will be among the first to suffer their impacts, forced to adapt or abandon their islands.

The changes are already under way. Kiribati, the northern Cook Islands and northern French Polynesia have become wetter. New Caledonia, Fiji, southern Cook Islands and southwest French Polynesia have become sunnier. On average, three cyclones per decade hit Tuvalu between the 1940s and 1970s; eight occurred in the 1980s. Tokelau had had only three major storms since 1846 until two cyclones struck in the early 1990s.

Pacific island economies are at the mercy of natural disasters. This January, Cyclone Heta hit Niue head on, wiping out economic crops and causing damage estimated at US\$47 million. In Fiji in 1998, drought destroyed two-thirds of the sugar crop at a cost of about 3% of gross domestic product. In Papua New Guinea, Australia recently spent more than US\$23 million delivering food aid because of crop failure, money that could have gone towards education or development.

A couple of months ago a typhoon hit Chuuk and Yap States of the Federated States of Micronesia, destroying crops, homes and public buildings, leaving damage estimated at US\$7 million.

Economic strength is an important part of sustainable development. National trade, investment and sustainable development programs must support each other. Over the last decade Pacific countries and territories have worked together to have their concerns recognised globally. In response, the international community is assisting the region in research, capacity building, planning and policy advice. The Pacific countries are committing precious economic resources of their own, especially in preparing technical studies and guiding policy. But international assistance remains crucial to allow the countries to adapt to the impact of climate change on their environments and economies.

SPREP is the regional inter-governmental agency for environmental affairs in the Pacific islands. It serves 21 Pacific island countries and states and four metropolitan countries: Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA. SPREP works by promoting cooperation in the Pacific islands region to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development.

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A Wave Of Problems - Annual Spring Tides Only One Challenge for Tuvaluans

Tuvalu in February is spring tide season which sometimes, in an apocalyptic kind of way, results in waves crashing over the reef. This year it was insidious, with seawater seeping out of the ground. No one was swept away but seawater flooded the compost pits in which people have been growing their root crops for centuries.

Yet life on Tuvalu is threatened not by global warming as much as by AIDS, alcohol and little money. Often the Air Fiji plane, which flies twice-weekly between Suva and Funafuti, carries Tuvaluan men returning from serving on ships around the world. At any given time around 400 are aboard mainly German ships, providing Tuvalu with the bulk of its income. Each year 60 men graduate from the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute. The school is headed by Jonathon Gayton, who says Tuvaluans are popular because they are physically strong and have a culture of sea faring. "Tuvaluans have the advantage of being cheap too, cheaper than Filipinos, and they are good at their jobs," Gayton says.

Officially Tuvalu has no HIV/AIDS but the government knows that some day it will arrive with its returning seaman sons.

Tuvalu has become a poster-child for the environmental movement, innocent victims of the West's profligate gas-guzzling, carbon emitting ways. Prime Minister Saufatu Sopoanga has no doubt his country is threatened by global warming related to climate change.

"We do not need further scientific research into this global phenomena on sea-level rising; it is already there. We are talking about the extraordinary high tides now. It is becoming common to Tuvalu. We cannot turn back the tide ourselves, single-handed. We hope the industrialized countries would be able to help us," Sopoanga says.

He understands the West's motives in building its industries to improve the lives of its people. "But Tuvaluans have future generations, too who want to enjoy the same resource, the same kind of life that Tuvaluans have today."

The University of Hawaii put a tide gauge on a wharf in 1991 that turned out to be sinking itself. Since 1993 the 14-nation Australian-funded South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project has been monitoring sea level, but is yet to come up with significant numbers. During El Nino events, Funafuti seems to rise out of the sea and some evidence is suggesting that the island on a geological time scale is also rising.

Yet at Amatuku 140 years ago the London Missionary Society erected a stone classroom, now the oldest building in Tuvalu. It now floods.

By Michael Field

These articles are reprinted with kind permission from the Pacific Magazine June 2004 edition. The Magazine web site is at www.pacificislands.cc



Pacific Towns Feel Population Pressure

"In almost every country (in the Pacific) the urban share of national output is much higher than its share of population," observed Toshiyashi Noda, Director of the Asia-Pacific office of UN-HABITAT, speaking at a four-day regional workshop on Urban Management held in Nadi recently.

"In effect, cities are actually the potential answer to the problems, not the problem itself. The apparent lack of urban sustainability should not be presented as a consequence of rapid urban growth, but what it really is a failure of policy and management," he added.

There was a lot of lively debate among regional town planners, local council officials, academics, economists and United Nations development experts, attending the workshop on whether well managed urbanisation is the answer to the Pacific's social and economic development crisis.

While some agreed that urbanisation cannot be avoided and should not be resisted, there were others who disagreed and argued that urban development must be decentralised to develop modern infrastructure in the villages. This is to tackle the urban drift, which is contributing to squatter settlements, crime and other social problems in the cities across the Pacific.

Pointing out that over 80 percent of Papua New Guinea's population live outside the cities, Max Kep, chairman of the National Urbanisation Committee of Papua New Guinea, said that what is needed in his country is for urbanisation to take part in many parts of the country, not only in the two major cities of Port Moresby and Lae.

"How do you define urban areas?" he asked, arguing that what is needed is to develop smaller urban centres. But, you (development experts) say that (developing rural areas) is traditional and you need to bring people to the cities."

It is the failure of this urbanisation model, which has led, particularly the Australians, to declare the Solomon Islands a 'failed state' noted Buddley Ronnie, Chief Physical Planner of the Honiara City Council. He pointed out that while only 15 percent of the country's population lived in Honiara, it consumes 90 percent of the national budget.

"Honiara became the centre of everything and because of that people from other islands came there and settled in land belonging to the local people," he explained. "This created political problems and instability, which ultimately led to an ethnic conflict." As a result of this conflict, Buddley says the Solomon Islands government is now looking at decentralising the budget and studying state government systems in other countries.



Honiara...consumes 90 percent of the national budget.

Customary land ownership structure across the Pacific complicates urban development planning, and makes some models practised in Asia and in the West, obsolete in the Pacific context. In most Pacific countries, upto 80 percent or more of the land is customary land and there is very little state or freehold land available even in the cities to implement market-driven land development models practised elsewhere.

"The land issue affects everybody in the Pacific," says Sevanaia Dakaica, lecturer in Land Management at the University of the South Pacific (USP). Land in the Pacific has its own characteristics bounded by customary laws and this is a constraint in the urban development process...the challenge is to find ways and means to make this land available.

"I don't see it necessary that we have to do away with the traditional land owning structures (to facilitate urbanisation)," argues Stan Vandersyp, Director, Development and Economic Policy Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. "You need to convince traditional landowners that they need to relate access to land with rental income. We need to bring in heads of landowners to talk about how this could be structured."

The challenge is to come up with a land policy, which is in synergy with the region's traditions, not only in terms of ownership, but, also in the planning of living space.

Stan Vandersyp, Director, Development and Economic Policy Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Thus, the challenge is to come up with a land policy, which is in synergy with the region's traditions, not only in terms of ownership, but, also in the planning of living space.

Mr Elias Masta, Chief Physical Planner of Papua New Guinea's Department of Lands and Planning, cited the 'Tent Siti' in Lae as a

good example. There subdivisions were arranged in such a way that it reflects a Melanesian village. They have built a big community area in the middle with houses constructed in an hexagonal format. The centre area included a community meeting hall, vegetable garden, street lighting and other shared facilities like pipe water. "In this way, the people live a traditional lifestyle within the city," explained the town planner.



In Samoa, the 'fono' municipality system incorporating traditional living styles but modern town administration structures have helped to cushion the effects of urbanisation in Apia, said Faafetai Sagapolutele, Principal Urban Management Officer in Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA), set up in March 2002, uses a similar community based approach to tackle waste management in Samoan urban environment.

They have initiated a system where the community is responsible for maintaining their own drainage and waste disposal system. In privatising these systems the government has given contracts to people in the community to provide the service. "It has worked well," said Faafetai, "because they feel ownership of the process...and if anyone dumps garbage on the drainage system, they look for the family and get them to take it back."

In PNG, meanwhile, with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the government has begun a skills development program for those who migrate from the village to the city.

"When we started skills development, a lot of people said that we have skills but we need capital to start a business or we don't have the markets," recalled Iva Kola, Director Corporate Services of the National Capital District Commission of PNG. "Now we are developing micro-credit schemes to address that and opening up markets which were usually opened for only vegetable vendors."

While urbanisation and market-driven economics is an essential element of economic development for many modern states, Dr Manoranjan Mohanty, a lecturer at the Centre for Development Studies at USP warns that if proper planning is not done, rather than being engines of growth, it would lead to unsustainable environmental conditions.



"Sixty percent of economic activity in the Pacific takes place in urban centres," he noted. But, at the same time, most population centres in the Pacific are in coastal areas which are fragile environmentally.

"There must be linkages in rural and urban development. Education, health facilities and other development needs must be provided to rural areas to stop this massive influx to the cities."

Kalinga Seneviratne

Article reprinted with kind permission from the *Islands Business* magazine April 2004 edition. The Magazine web site is at www.pacificislands.cc

Coming Event

Pacific Telecentre Workshop

This workshop will be a major event for the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), and the Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) community in the Pacific Region.

With support from UNESCO Pacific, the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) and the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund (SPINF), this workshop has been organised by FDC - an independent, non-profit organisation committed to poverty reduction and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The workshop will be held in Brisbane, and includes sessions on development applications (health, education and e-commerce), business models and financial sustainability.



It is open to anyone who is, or wishes to be, actively involved in the development of a vibrant telecentre movement serving communities in our region. Outputs expected from the workshop are expected to include:

- action plans for the development of a Telecentre network in each national context;
- establishment of a Pacific Telecentre Network including a moderated e-mail list and a dedicated website;
- a compendium of papers and presentations recorded in electronic form and posted on the website; and
- a summary of policy/ design recommendations for Telecentres in the Pacific, submitted to relevant national and regional organisations.

For more information, or to register your interest, please visit www.pacifictelecentres.net.ws

Or contact Stuart Mathison FDC Program Manager at: stuartmathison@fdc.org.au



**THE FOUNDATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

The Foundation for Development Cooperation is a non profit organisation based in Brisbane, working to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific through micro-finance programs.

FDC seeks opportunities to engage with the private sector and to facilitate results oriented "multi-sector" partnerships.



Samoa's New Planning and Urban Management Legislation

On the 14 January 2004, the Samoan Parliament passed the first planning legislation for their country, namely, the Planning and Urban Management (PUM) Act, 2004. The Act is cutting edge in the Pacific as it not only formally establishes a new Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA) in Samoa, but provides for comprehensive policy now embodied in law on urban and rural planning and urban management in Samoa.

With deteriorating urban conditions in Apia, Samoa, over the last 15 years, the Government of Samoa in March 2002, agreed to the establishment of new institutional arrangements for planning and urban management. The key responsibility for planning and urban management was to be vested in a new organisation called PUMA, to be located in the now named Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). The key functional areas of PUMA, as agreed by Government, were to be the preparation of plans and policies; regulation, including development assessment and EIA; and urban management and service coordination.

PUMA was established in its new offices in Apia in June 2002, and since that time has been developing the policy framework required to get PUMA 'up and running' as an effective and efficient planning agency. These tasks have included developing the necessary legislative, institutional and administrative changes required to undertake PUMA's mandate, along with corporate planning, preparation of guidelines for housing developments, preparation of an investment project for sanitation and drainage, work plans for the key sections within PUMA, and community education and awareness.

One of the main components that PUMA needed to implement was the preparation and subsequent enactment of the new PUM Act so as to embed the new planning and urban management system in Samoa, as well as provide a legal basis for the functions and tasks now being carried out by PUMA. Developed with stakeholders in the second half of 2002 and throughout 2003, the PUM Act 2004 is wide-ranging and comprehensive. Some of the key features of the Act are:

- (i) the setting of clear objectives for planning and development in Samoa, for instance:
 - to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, development and management of land, including the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity;
 - to enable land use and development planning and policy to be integrated with environmental,

social, economic, conservation and resource management policies at national, regional, district, village and site specific levels;

- to create an appropriate urban structure and form for the development of Apia and other centres so as to provide equitable and orderly access to transportation, recreation, employment and other opportunities;
- to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment;
- to protect public utilities and other assets, and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the community;

(ii) the establishment of PUMA as its own entity within MNRE, and an Urban Management Board comprising government and community representatives. The functions and powers of the Board will ensure the planning objectives are achieved.

(iii) the preparation of Sustainable Management Plans (SMPs) as the main tool to prepare plans and policies. The SMPs can be made at the site, district, regional or national level, can be statutory and non statutory in content, and may;

- (a) make any provision which relates to the use, development, protection or conservation of any land in a specific area;
- (b) regulate the use or development of any land, whether by requiring development consent, imposing development standards, or otherwise;
- (c) prohibit the use or development of any land;
- (d) designate land as being reserved for public purposes;
- (e) include strategic plans, policy statements, codes or guidelines relating to the use or development of land;
- (f) set out requirements for the provision of public utility services to land;
- (g) require specified things to be done to the satisfaction of the Agency or the Board;
- (h) require specified information to be provided with an application for development consent;
- (i) apply, adopt or incorporate any document which relates to the use, development or protection of land;
- (j) provide that any use or development of land is conditional on an agreement being entered into with the Board.

(iv) the establishment of Special Planning Committee comprising community and other interested parties to advise on the contents of SMPs.

(v) the establishment of a process by which SMPs are to be made including public exhibition, public notification and appeal to a new Planning Tribunal on issues of merit and appeal to the Supreme Court on matters of law.



(vii) the establishment of a development assessment process including provision to advertise development applications, set conditions and the ability of PUMA to require a development plan and EIA. The PUM Act sets out the planning and development assessment criteria that PUMA must consider when assessing an application.

(vii) the provision for compensation to be paid (for example, when an SMP provide for a public use), the ability to make agreements with landowners (for example, preserving land for conservation or no development), the establishment of the Planning Tribunal, the setting out of enforcement and legal proceedings and provision to make regulations to enhance the implementation of any section the Act, including its objectives.

The Government of Samoa is to be applauded for the both the manner and pace by which it has responded to the challenges of urban (and rural) development, as well as urban management generally. Since 2000, the Government has taken up the challenge with earnest. PUMA, as the key institutional body responsible for the new PUM Act and its policies, now has a major challenge to implement this exciting agenda.

All those wishing to see better outcomes in the planning and management of Pacific towns and cities will follow with interest Samoa's model, including the implementation of its comprehensive new legislation by PUMA.

Paul Jones
Planning Consultant

Powering Up The Pacific *Tapping renewable energy sources*

South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) constantly battles major environmental issues right across the Pacific islands. One of these is climate change, which has sparked a huge interest within our region and internationally. The truth is that our biodiversity and lifestyles are in danger of being destroyed. This in part explains the growing anxiety felt by some Pacific islanders about where they will be living 50 years from now.

Such are the implications for the planet that responses to the climate change debate have taken on a momentum of their own. One option is to work on the causes of climate change and try and reduce the long-term growth of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions. Another is to work on the effects and find avenues to reduce the impact of what is already happening around us. These mitigation and adaptation methods can offer practical solutions for the future.

SPREP has established the Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Programme (PIREP) to try and bring this concept of combating greenhouse gases along further. Backed by the Global Environment Facility, 14 Pacific countries are participating in a research on how renewable energy can be used

by them at home. The groundwork is being put in place with coordinating committees set up to look at the barriers to implementation and in the long-term commercialisation of renewable energy.

The tropical climate offers excellent solar potential throughout most of the region. Technological advancement in recent years has made wind power a viable option in certain locations. In the mountainous islands, hydropower generation is an influential source of electricity. Biomass from agriculture can substitute for fossil fuel.

The proximity of other small islands to the ring of volcanoes called the Pacific Rim of Fire gives the basic resource to produce geothermal power. Of course, on our doorstep is the Pacific Ocean that could, if utilised, offer unlimited opportunities for wave, tidal and other ocean-based energy sources. Waste-to-energy or biogas systems would not only contribute to increased energy independence but also help to address pollution and public health concerns, as well as providing a source of organic fertiliser. Geothermal resources remain untapped, as do the vast energy resources of the tropical ocean.

The sad irony is that despite a raft of renewable energy possibilities, less than 30% of the region's people have access to electricity.

The international community recognises the central role that renewable energy can play in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. Renewable energy can help alleviate poverty by supporting income-generating activities in rural and remote areas, providing clean water, supporting health and education services, as well as better telecommunications and transportation.

SPREP is committed to backing national and regional initiatives to mitigate climate change as far as we possibly can. On the one hand, it will help stabilise the GHG concentration in the atmosphere. On the other, it will assist the sustainable development of our member countries and partners.

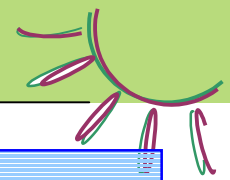
One final point needs to be made. While I wish to acknowledge the technical and fiscal assistance from Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme, it is in our people's own best interests to take the lead in reducing GHG emissions. To be given respect internationally, SPREP members cannot afford to wait for donor assistance to descend on us. Rather, we should, as far as practicable, take the initiative.

The PIREP team is holding a regional meeting in July to look at findings from the assessment studies and to kick-start the task of removing any barriers. May all the participants commit themselves fully to seek out paths that will rapidly progress renewable energy technologies to power up the region in a cleaner way!

In the Stockholm Challenge in Sweden, SPREP won the award in the environment category for the Pacific Environmental Information Network, which is helping strengthen the capacity for environmental protection and to promote awareness of environmental issues in Pacific islands countries.

Asterio Takesy
Director of SPREP

Courtesy of Pacific Magazine



Pacific Islands Planning Needs Assessment Questionnaire

The CAP Pacific Regional Forum identified a wide range of issues and needs related to land use planning, land and environmental management in the Pacific Island Countries. These issues were the foundation of the Planning Declaration, in which the meeting agreed that:

- Actions are needed to advance sustainable development as a balanced set of actions and practices that integrate environmental, social, economic and cultural elements. The contribution of the planning tradition with its emphasis on integration should be recognized.
- We recognise the diversity and the commonalities within the Pacific and believe that there is a need to develop a group of facilitators to promote Sustainable Human Settlements within the context of public sector reform and improved urban management.
- The first steps will entail:
 - a) building an inclusive network
 - b) sharing key information and benchmarking
 - c) development and delivery of education and training

The focus of future action in general, and training in particular, should be determined through consultation with relevant governments and agencies, but should include the core idea of integrated action. For example:

- Integration of community views through techniques of participatory appraisal;
- Integration of policy making and implementation across different sectors and different tiers of government; and
- Partnership working.

Progress on these actions is contingent upon consultation with relevant governments and agencies. The aim of this questionnaire is to confirm that your planning or environmental agency management is aware of the Planning Declaration and whether any commitment has been given to implement it. PIA planning assistance will rely on your government or agency making a formal request, rather than an imposition of proposals for projects by PIA.

Hence your answers to the following questions will facilitate this process.

Please be assured that any information will be treated with discretion and not used for any other purpose than to determine your planning assistance needs.

Your response is important. Please fax this page with your response to the CAP Australia Secretariat by 16th July 2004at:

+(617) 55 911 380.

Designated PNOP Contact Name and position:

.....

Agency:

.....

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Has your Agency/Ministry been made aware of the 2003 Planning Declaration | YES | NO |
| 2. Has your relevant Department made any formal/ official response to the Declaration* | YES | NO |
| 3. Has your relevant Department identified any need for external assistance in relation to: | | |
| a) Policy advice on matters of strategic planning | YES | NO |
| b) Advice on local area planning | YES | NO |
| c) Advice on land management | YES | NO |
| d) Advice on environmental management | YES | NO |
| e) Advice on social and cultural matters | YES | NO |
| f) Development and delivery of education and training | YES | NO |

* If "yes" – could you please send it to us.

g) Any other aspect not included above:

.....

4. What are the particular needs, if any, indicated above and time frame for assistance:

a)

 b)

 c)

 d)

 e)

 f)

Please attach additional details if insufficient space.