



People-centred  
Development

# The Pacific Environment & Energy News Update

SEPTEMBER 2006 ISSUE 1

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## Message from the Resident Representative, Ms Naheed Haque



*This newsletter is a response to requests from UNDP colleagues in the region who expressed great interest in learning more about the numerous regional environment and energy programmes managed by the UNDP Environment and Energy Team based in Apia, Samoa. I had heard about the excellent work of this dynamic team of national and international professionals while still in Timor-Leste and challenged them to share information on their environment and energy programmes with a wider audience - especially our UNDP and UN Agency colleagues in the Pacific - through an interesting newsletter rather than dry "back-to-office" reports. This is their first attempt and I am very happy to share it with you. This*

*issue provides highlights on a number of key environment and energy programmes and issues in the Pacific.*

*I hope that the newsletter will encourage key partners to work with our Environment and Energy Team. They would also like to receive partners' environment and energy news so they can include it next time.*

*The Team eagerly looks forward to your feedback and comments, and they have promised to follow up with future issues if your response is encouraging!*

*Naheed Haque*

## CONSULTATIONS UNDERWAY FOR A REGIONAL PACIFIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE (PACC) PROJECT

Misa Andriamihaja, Programme, Officer for Climate Change

In-country consultations are currently underway in 11 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to:

- Design their Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) national component and budget;
- Set up in-country delivery mechanism; and,
- Advise countries on strategic climate change and development programming.

Countries in the region participating in the PACC Project are: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The PACC Project is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) under the Project Document Framework (PDF-B) and aims to assist participating PICs develop full sized projects. The objective of the PACC Project is to implement long-term adaptation measures that increase the resilience to climate change impacts in a number of key development sectors in the Pacific Islands. This objective will be achieved by focusing on long-term, planned adaptation response strategies, policies and implementation measures.

PACC will focus on the following key development sectors: water resource management, food production and food security, and coastal zone and its associated infrastructures.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, a regional and national adaptation-financing instrument will be developed. An estimated US\$11,250,000 contribution from GEF to the PACC Project will make it the first of its kind in the world to be funded under the GEF Special Climate Change Funding window.

In early September, the PACC consultation team comprising Misa Andriamihaja (UNDP), a CTA consultant and a GEF advisor visited Niue to undertake talks with the Government and its partners. UNDP interventions will look at improving the



water supply capacity in 14 villages on the island.

At a news conference with the Niue Broadcasting Corporation, Ms. Andriamihaja expressed satisfaction over the consultation outcomes and praised the Government's commitment to address the impacts of climate change on a crucial development sector. She emphasized UNDP's readiness to assist and support Niue in

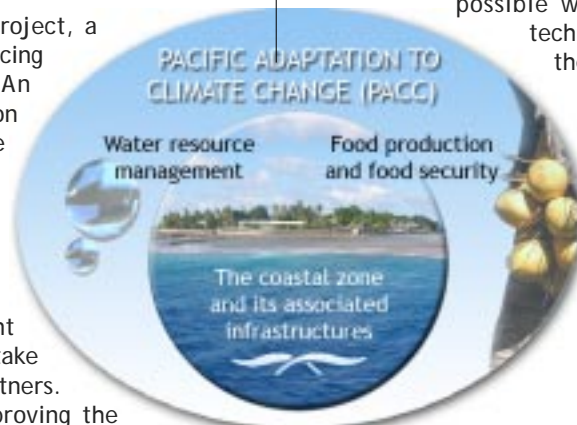
addressing climate risks in the development process.

Following the in-country consultations, a regional formulation workshop will be held in Suva, Fiji, in November 2006 where participating countries and partners will move the PACC Project forward.

UNDP's key partners in the PACC Project are the 11 PIC Governments, the Council for Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). This regional initiative has been made

possible with the support of GEF and the technical assistance of UNDP PSRC and the 2 other country offices operating from Suva, Fiji, and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The PACC Project is implemented by UNDP Samoa Multi Country office and executed by the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).





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### US\$5.23 million Secured from the GEF for Renewable Energy in the Pacific

The Pacific region continues to fulfill its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) through a recently approved Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Full Size Project that will assist 10 Pacific Island Countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel. This new regional initiative will assist in removing barriers to the cost effective use of feasible renewable energy technologies.

The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) was endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF on 6 September 2006 with a total budget of US\$5.23 million. Pacific Island Countries participating in the regional PIGGAREP are the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

UNDP is excited about this new project which will help strengthen the capacity of the Pacific region to utilise renewable energy while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The project is expected to start at the end of 2006 or early 2007 after the Project Document is signed and project staff are on board at SPREP.

#### *Pacific Energy Officials and Funding Partners Meeting in Nadi, Fiji*

Energy officials from the Pacific held a meeting in Nadi, 28 - 29 August to undertake a mid-term review of the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning (PIEPSAP) project, and to conduct a terminal review of the Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (PIREP). Among many key issues discussed was that of increasing oil prices and its implications to the Pacific. The meeting was convened by UNDP in collaboration with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and SPREP.

The PIEPSAP project is funded by the Government of Denmark, implemented by UNDP Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Samoa and executed by SOPAC. Government officials that attended the mid-term review meeting provided summary reports on the key achievements of the project in their respective countries as well recommendations on the way forward. The review acknowledged the positive outcomes of PIEPSAP's assistance in the areas of energy policy development, strategic planning, development of implementation mechanisms, raising energy awareness and, in particular, in the area of preparing energy sector projects and investments.

The PIREP is a GEF funded regional preparatory project implemented by the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa and executed by SPREP. The meeting commended the key achievements of the PIREP, especially in light of the modest resources allocated to implement such a challenging project in the region. A new Full Sized GEF funded project was produced as one of the key outcomes of the PIREP.

Both meetings were chaired by the Deputy Resident Representative for the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Fiji, Mr. Hans De Graaff. The UNDP team consisted of Ms. Easter



*Mr. Hans De Graaff (UNDP), Ms. Christelle Pratt (SOPAC), Mr. Gerhard Zieroth, and Mr. Tangitamaiti Tereapii (Cook Islands, Pacific Energy Officials and Funding Partners Meeting in Nadi, Fiji)*

Galuvao of the UNDP Multi Country Office in Samoa, and Mr. Thomas Jensen of the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok (RCB). Mr. De Graaff thanked the participating countries, the donor partners and the two regional executing agencies for the achievements of the two projects that have helped to strengthen the capacity of governments and key stakeholders on issues relating to sustainable energy in the Pacific.

*Much appreciation is extended to Mr. Hans De Graaff for his fantastic leadership and support to the two meetings.*

For more information on PIEPSAP visit: [www.sopac.org](http://www.sopac.org)

For PIREP: [www.sprep.org/climate\\_change/pirep.htm](http://www.sprep.org/climate_change/pirep.htm)

#### **UNDP Environment and Energy Team farewells Mr. Solomon Fifita, PIREP Chief Technical Advisor**

The Resident Representative of the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa, Ms. Naheed Haque, joins UNDP's Environment and Energy Team members to farewell Mr. Solomon Fifita. His term as the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Project (PIREP) came to an end as the PIREP became operationally closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006. Ms. Haque congratulated Mr. Fifita for a job well done despite the limited resources the project had to deliver its target outputs. The key output of the PIREP is the recently approved full sized GEF funded project - the Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) - that was endorsed by GEF in early September 2006.

Mr. Solomon Fifita is a Tongan national who has a wealth of experience working on energy projects in the Pacific region. He has just started his own consultancy company and the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa wishes him every success in his future endeavours.



*L-R: Ms. Easter Galuvao, Mr. Solomon Fifita, Ms. Naheed Haque, Mr. Thomas Jensen*



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### Final Review Meeting of the International Waters Project, Noumea, New Caledonia

*Ms. Easter Galuvao, Head of the Environment and Energy Unit of the UNDP Multi-Country Office*

The International Waters Project (IWP) held its final review meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia, on 9 September 2006. The IWP, a 7 year regional project funded by the GEF with a total budget of US\$12 million, conducted its final meeting prior to the SPREP's Annual General Meeting, 11 –15 September, at the Secretariat for the Pacific Community's (SPC) Headquarters in Noumea. The IWP has two main components:

- Oceanic Fisheries Management Component; and,
- Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Component (ICWM).

The meeting was chaired by Honourable Martin Tofinga, Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Republic of Kiribati. It was also attended by eight of the fourteen participating countries who all showed their appreciation of the key achievements of the project at the community, national, regional and international levels. Despite the many challenges to be expected of regional projects of this nature, the meeting overall agreed that the IWP, as a pilot project, has made significant accomplishments and provided valuable lessons on the this very important subject for Pacific Island Countries.



The IWP is a GEF funded project implemented by the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa and executed by SPREP. Other key partners include the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), who executed the Oceanic Fisheries Component of the IWP.

An additional meeting of the IWP is planned for the final quarter of 2006 to review the Final Draft Evaluation Report, a key requirement of the GEF. This meeting will also provide countries with the opportunity to discuss progress with the implementation of the Sustainability Strategies and to wrap activities of the project before it is operationally closed.

UNDP congratulates and commends all the participating countries and partners for their support to the IWP.

[For more information, visit the project website: <http://www.sprep.org/iwp/index.asp>]



*L-R: Mr. Asterio Takesy, Hon. Martin Tofinga and Mr. Joe Reti, during the official opening of the Final IWP Review Meeting.*

### IWP National Coordinators share project highlights

*Ms. Easter Galuvao - Head of the Environment and Energy Unit*

Two IWP National Coordinators were able to join the Final IWP Review Meeting and provided very informative presentations on the key achievements under the ICWM's focal areas: freshwater management and waste management referring to lessons learnt in the Cook Islands and Kiribati respectively. Ms. Deyna Marsh, the IWP Project Assistant for Cook Islands,



*Ms. Deyna Marsh and Mr. Kautoa Tonganibeia at the Final IWP Meeting, September 2006*

highlighted key lessons and issues from implementing their community based pilot project on watershed management. Mr. Kautoa Tonganibeia of Kiribati provided information on the waste management programme in Kiribati, including the use of Music Video Clips to promote the Green Bag Campaign in that country. A special award was presented to

Honourable Martin Tofinga in recognition of Kiribati's outstanding performance in waste management, one of the key activities for SPREP's 'Year of the Waste Campaign 2005'.

The IWP has generated a number of important lessons learnt, which will be very useful for on-going and new projects to consider. These lessons will be widely disseminated once the Lessons Learnt report is finalized.



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## Meet UNDP's Environment and Energy Team based in Apia, Samoa

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### SPREP Meeting in New Caledonia

*Mr. Andrea Volentras: Regional Technical Adviser*

Discussion of GEF issues such as the Resource Allocation Framework and the 4<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment were main topics of discussion at the 17<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting. Delegates were informed of the significant partnerships between UNDP-GEF, UNDP and SPREP on projects including access to benefit sharing, international waters, climate change adaptation (PACC) and mitigation (PIGGAREP), the National Adaptation Programmes of Assistance (NAPA) and the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA). All partners committed themselves to working together to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories to ensure the success of the above projects.

### Samoa: First PIC with PV Powered Mini-Grid System

*Mr. Thomas Jensen - Associate Programme Specialist, Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR), RCB*

Apolima is the smallest inhabited island in Samoa located between the two main islands of Upolu and Savaii. Being the remnant of a volcano, Apolima island features high, steep cliffs that allow access only at one point. The only village on the island is located inside the crater that opens to a constricted, difficult passage from the sea. The soil of the island is poor and therefore coconuts and fish are the main sustenance for the approximately 100 residents.

Currently power is provided for only a few hours a day from an unreliable, noisy, and expensive diesel generator. In a joint effort, the Government of Samoa and Electric Power Corporation (EPC), with support from a Danish NGO and UNDP, will replace the current diesel generator with a photovoltaic (PV) based power system. The expected overall outcome of this project is to improve livelihoods through a reliable, effective and environmentally friendly 24-hour power supply. The installation of the PV system is now underway. When commissioned this system will be the biggest solar project in Samoa to date. Furthermore the Apolima system will be the first PV based mini-grid system in any Pacific Island Country, which gives a strong regional aspect. With lessons learnt from this pilot project in Samoa, it is hoped this renewable energy system may be replicated in other PICs.



Installation phase of the Photovoltaic (PV) based power system on Apolima Island in Samoa, 2006



Mr. Andrea Volentras



Ms. Lisa Vaai

Standing L-R: *Mr. Thomas Jensen, Mr. Meapelo Maiai,*  
 Seated L-R: *Ms. Easter Galuvao, Ms. Misa Andriamihaja*

We are dedicated and passionate about our work in the Pacific. Our mission is to help the Pacific address some of its key regional environment and energy issues and this we are doing in collaboration with our key partners. Please contact us if you need more information about our work.

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In addition the following persons are based at the in the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Samoa:

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**Mr. Andrea Volentras:** Regional Technical Adviser

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### Partnership Opportunities!

We invite all potential and interested partners to contact us if you want to make a contribution to any of our environment and energy activities. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, please contact us or send us your CV. We will be happy to consider all genuine applications.

