



SOPAC

**Consultation Meeting of
Stakeholders in Sewage Management**

**23 March 2001
Apia, Samoa**

SOPAC Miscellaneous Report MR426

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INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (GPA), SPREP and SOPAC will join forces in organising a Regional Meeting for Stakeholders in Wastewater Management in the Pacific. The objective of the meeting will be the preparation and endorsement of a regional framework for action.

A consultation meeting was held in Auckland on 2 February 2001 to discuss the need and objectives of such a regional meeting and determine which strategy will be followed to develop a Strategic Action Plan.

A second meeting was held in Apia on 23 March 2001 with the objective to inform other stakeholders in wastewater and broaden participation in the consultation process.

The meeting was made possible through the Samoa Water Authority and the Pacific Water Association. The assistance of both institutes in facilitating this meeting is gratefully acknowledged.

AGENDA

Friday 23 March 2001

Session 1	09:00 - 09:15	Opening
Session 2	09:15 - 10:15	Need and Objectives of a Regional Approach
	10:15 - 10:30	Tea/coffee break
Session 3	10:30 - 12:00	Discuss Strategic Action Plan and Working Groups

OPENING

Russell Howorth (SOPAC) provided an introduction to the development of the Strategic Action Plan and informed the participants on the outcome of the consultation meeting in Auckland.

He indicated that the consultation process should lead to a regional meeting on Wastewater Management in the Pacific scheduled for October 2001 in the Marshall Islands, feeding into SOPAC's Annual Session 2001, to be held a week after.

The discussion in Auckland on the content and structure of the "Strategic Action Plan on Wastewater in the Pacific" resulted in the following outline of the document:

- 1) Context
pacific situation, definitions, linkages
- 2) Goal
sustainable development socio-economical/cultural and environmental
improve health, address / mitigate environmental degradation
- 3) Constraints
political will, regulations and compliance/enforcement, transparency
data, institutional, physical infrastructure, external influences
planning, human, natural and financial resources, climate change
public awareness, cultural, indigenous issues, gender aspects
- 4) Responses (following the constraints)
regulatory regimes, institutional arrangements
data, information, demonstration projects
resources human, financial, infrastructure, conservation
public and political awareness issues, regional voice
- 5) Pacific Strategic Action Plan
Actions and recommendations

Four types of constraints and corresponding responses were identified in Auckland which should be addressed in the Action Plan. Five Working Groups were established to address these issues and develop the final text of the document.

The following timeframe will lead towards a final document that can be endorsed at the regional meeting in the Marshall Islands in October 2001.

- Deadline-28 February 2001: SPREP, SOPAC distribute minutes of the consultation meeting to all participants and put together a draft text on the context and goal of the Strategic Action Plan (Chapters 1 and 2).
- Deadline-20 March 2001: 1st feedback to be received, draft to be “presented” during the Annual General Meeting of PWA on 21st March 2001, Apia, Samoa. Chapters 1 and 2 near-final. Further involvement of stakeholders in PIC’s.
- Deadline-30 June 2001: Working groups to work on chapter 3 and 4, including action plans. Send out to National Representatives and other stakeholders for comment.
- Deadline-31 July 2001: Consultation in-country to be undertaken during the month of July with document being sent back by the end of July. Consultation to occur with all stakeholders including women’s groups, NGO’s etc.
- Deadline-1 September 2001: When document received at the end of July, editing etc. to be undertaken. 2nd Draft to be sent out for comment again, allowing around 6 weeks until the regional meeting in October.
- 3rd draft subject to discussion during Regional Meeting on Wastewater Management, Majuro, Marshall Islands, October 2001. Produce final text of the Strategic Action Plan.
- Final text endorsed during SOPAC’s Annual Session, Majuro, Marshall Islands, October 2001.

Strategic Action Plan and Working Groups

Through a panel existing of Mr Michael Dworsky (PWA) Mr Marc Overmars (SOPAC) and Mr Bruce Graham (SPREP) the different constraints and responses were highlighted and active participation was solicited in each of the four working groups.

A questionnaire was circulated during the session soliciting support in the development of the action plan by indicating which working group they would like partake in (see Annex B). The members of the working groups are listed below including stakeholders from Pacific island

countries and resource persons. SOPAC, SPREP and PWA will share responsibilities to edit the draft texts and produce the final version for consideration during the regional meeting.

Group	Issue	Pacific Island country	Regional organisation	Resource persons
A	Regulatory regime and institutional arrangements	Ata Herman (Cook Islands) Fatoia Malele (Samoa) Gordon Fox (ADB) Robert Guild (Forum Secretariat) Antoinette Wickham (SIWA)	SPREP	Ed Burke AWA
B	Data and information Demonstrations Technologies	Taboia Metutera (Kiribati) Ben Parakoti (Cooks) Taito Delana (Fiji) Giles Altner (Harrison Greirson Consultants) Kord Christianson (Telesource Pasifica, Guam) Mahabub Chowdhury (FSM) Ioane Galuvao (SWA)	SOPAC	Rob Fullerton (NZWWA) AWA Carol Steinfeld (Sustainable Strategies) Jackie Foo (IBS net)
C	Human and Natural resources Infrastructure Conservation	Abraham Hicking (Marshalls) Taito Delana (Fiji) Kord Christianson (Telesource Pasifica, Guam) Mahabub Chowdhury (FSM) Ben Parakoti (Cooks) Gilles Altner (Harrison Grierson Consultants)	SPREP	Jan Gregor (NZWWA) AWA Wastecare Carol Steinfeld (Sustainable Strategies)
D	Public and political awareness Regional voice Cultural & gender issues	Joe Baboo (US Army Corps) Jeffry Stubbs (ADB) Pouifi Tufuga (SWA) Sherry Sele (ASPA)	SOPAC	Garry MacDonald (NZWWA) AWA FSP
E	Context Goal Actions Recommendations	Sherry Sele (ASPA) John Chaniel (UNELCO Vanuatu) Patrick Amini (PNG Waterboard)	SOPAC SPREP	Mike Dworsky (PWA) Jim Bradley (NZWWA) Keneti Faulalo (NZODA)

The individual teams will work on the document following the established timetable. Further involvement of resource persons and additional countries will be encouraged in the coming months.

Some questions were raised during the meeting:

Question:

Mr Jackie Foo: Scope of wastewater in the Strategic Action Plan – does it include wastewater from agriculture?

Answer

Marc: The definition of wastewater has been discussed in Auckland and it was decided that it would include liquid human and industrial waste as well as stormwater. Linkages should be made to programmes focusing on other forms of liquid waste like leachates.

Bruce: Agriculture will be included from point sources.

John Chaniel and the delegates from PNG and Solomon Islands would like to have agriculture included into the wastewater definition.

Russell: Agreed that agriculture should not be omitted and that it will be included through the linkage process.

Question:

Russell Howorth: What would be the one issue that you would like to see being addressed as top priority in the Strategic Action Plan?

Answers:

- Patrick Amini (PNG Waterboard) – Regulatory framework, education and public awareness, cost recovery
- Mahabub Chowdhury (FSM) – Simple technology, minimal operating costs
- Antoinette Wickham (SI) – General awareness, public and political
- Latu Kupa (Samoa) – Public and political awareness
- Taito Delana (Fiji) – Outdated legislative framework, regulatory problems and enforcement
- Taboia Metutera (Kiribati) – There needs to be a separate chapter for atoll islands all together in the whole document as the needs for atoll islands are very different from high islands
- John Chaniel (UNELCO, Vanuatu) – Cost recovery, training and asset management.
- Mike Dworsky (PWA, ASPA) – Public awareness, legislation and regulation. There is at present not a better understanding of public awareness.
- Jacky Foo (IBS net) – Enforcement in the context of working group A (i.e. policy).
- Kord Christianson (Telesource Pacifica, Guam) –Cost effective solutions, regulations and environment.
- Jeffry Stubbs (ADB) – Skills development and knowledge enhancement.

The delegates were reminded of the set timeframe for working groups contributions (next deadline 30th June) and were thanked for their active participation. The meeting closed at 12:00.

An excursion was organised by Mr Jackie Foo to two of the demonstration projects in Apia on reuse of waste and wastewater.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX B: Questionnaire



SOPAC

Consultation Meeting of Stakeholders in Wastewater Management

**23 March 2001
Apia, Samoa**



YES ANOTHER QUESTIONNAIRE!

Name: _____

Institute: _____

Contact Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I was earlier involved in the consultation process for the Strategic Action Plan: YES/NO

I am involved as stakeholder in Wastewater as / through:

commercial interest	domestic user
tourism	government
water & wastewater utility	donor agency
NGO	regional organisation
otherwise namely:	

I would like to be kept updated on the Wastewater consultation process: YES/NO

I express interest in participating in the further establishment of the Strategic Action Plan and wish to become member of:

- Working Group A on Policy
- Working Group B on Data and Technologies
- Working Group C on Resources
- Working Group D on Awareness
- Working Group E on Actions and Recommendations

I have interest in attending the Regional Meeting on Wastewater in Majuro, October 2001: YES/NO

I would like to seek assistance from the organising committee for financial support: YES/NO