



**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES ON
GLOBAL CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS
AND SYNTHESIS ACTIVITIES**



**23rd – 27th September, 2002
The University of the South Pacific
Suva, Fiji**

**SPONSORED BY:
ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH (APN)**

**ORGANISED BY:
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (USP),
PACIFIC CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PACE-SD)**



**Training Workshop for the Pacific Island Countries to Enhance Skills
in Global Change Negotiations and Synthesis Activities
(Final Activity Report for APN 2002-08)
23 -27 September 2002**

Abstract

*A capacity building workshop to enhance **Synthesis and Negotiations** skills of the Pacific Island participants was conducted at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, September 2002. About 30 participants from ten countries took part in the workshop. The resource people were mainly from Japan, USA, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. In the workshop agenda, two days were set apart for the Synthesis session and three for Negotiations. The sessions included formal presentations by the resource persons, group discussions and participatory activities. There were a number of hands-on activities involving proposal writing and evaluation, database creation and mock UNFCCC COP negotiation meetings. The major outcomes included: a group of future leaders with improved awareness, knowledge and overall capacity to carry out regional Synthesis and to participate in important regional and international Negotiations, a users guide for in-country training and a proposal entitled 'Integrated Coastal Management (ICM): A Pacific Synthesis.*

Project Information

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APN Funding

US\$ 40,000

Participating Countries

Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA, and Vanuatu.

Introduction

The workshop was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, seeking to enhance the capacity of the Pacific Island Countries (PIC) to carry out *Synthesis* activities and to manage international *Negotiations* more effectively. About thirty participants from the Pacific Island Countries attended the workshop. A full list of the participants is given in *Appendix 1*.

Background

Essentially, the workshop was a "train the trainers" exercise. Very often, PICs are required to produce syntheses products such as State of the Environment Reports, GEO, IPCC, National Communications to UNFCCC COPs and similar Assessments including regional submissions to international Summits. It has become very clear that there are a number of barriers to this exercise. Lack of understanding of the synthesis process, lack of data, lack of access to data and poor co-ordination are some of them. The workshop was designed to address these and related issues.

Those who are familiar with the negotiation process will know how demanding this exercise can be. In major international meetings such as UNFCCC COPs, WSSD PrepComs etc, developed countries come with negotiating teams containing scores of people while small island states will have only a few around. And these are the people always required to attend to the heavy calendar of meetings around the world. There is, therefore, an urgent need to train more people in this skill so that their obligations under the various treaties and conventions that they have signed may be fulfilled more effectively.

The workshop was organised against this background.

The lead-up to the workshop

The Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) at the University of the South Pacific was responsible for the organisation of the workshop. The Director and the staff of PACE and START-Oceania Secretariat acted as the Secretariat for the workshop. Closer to the beginning of the workshop, Carolyn Toro was appointed as a temporary staff to provide support for the day to day running of the workshop. Through the Pacific 'regional distribution list' kept at the Centre and making use of the contacts mentioned in the original workshop proposal, all the Pacific island countries were informed of the workshop and their active participation sought. The following countries showed active interest, some right from the beginning and the rest after a period of engagement: Vanuatu, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga and Grenada (Caribbean).

In the meantime, resource people who had shown earlier interest in the workshop were contacted and, after a period of networking, the following list was confirmed:

The members of the *Synthesis Team* consisted of highly experienced regional and international experts namely Professor Bill Aalbersberg – Director Institute of Applied Sciences, Professor Randy Thaman – Professor of Pacific Island Biogeography, Professor Patrick Nunn – Professor of Oceanic Geosciences & Head of Department, Geography, Dr. Mahendra Kumar – Head of Department, Physics, Dr. Kanayathu Koshy – Director, PACE-SD, Ms. Dianne McFadziene – WWF-Pacific, Dr. Richard Warrick – Deputy Director, International Global Change Institute, Dr Graham Sem – UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn and Mr. Peter Williamson, USP Solutions, [Mr. Gerald Miles and Dr. Graham Sem were unable to attend the workshop due to other work commitments.]

The members of the *Negotiations Team* consisted again of highly experienced regional and international experts, namely Mr. Adam Delaney – International Issues Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr. Matthew Campbell – Queensland Department of Transport, Ms. Alison Drayton – UNDP, Ms. Angela Churie Kallhaige – Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, Mr. Espen Ronnenberg – UNDP – SIDS, New York, Mr. Ian Fry – Consultant for Tuvalu Govt, Canberra, Mr. John Low Resources Advisor – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Dr Graham Sem, UNFCCC and Dr. Mahendra Kumar – Head of Department, Physics. [Ms Alison Drayton could not attend the workshop due to her other commitments]

Both teams were kept adequately briefed on the essential details and objectives of the workshop and the expected outputs (*Appendix 2*).

Programme Plan

The first two days of the workshop (Monday, 23rd & Tuesday, 24th September, 2002) were set apart for the Synthesis Session with the afternoon of the 24th, specifically for Database Creation, with hands-on activities, using the Microsoft Access package.

The Negotiations sessions occupied the remaining three days of the workshop (25-27 September 2002 with a special simulation of a UN negotiations process on Friday afternoon.

A 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. programme schedule with morning and afternoon tea and a lunch break was found to be the most effective use of the available time (*Appendix 3*).

Workshop Venue and Support Services

The workshop was conducted at the Molikilagi Bure (Bure: Traditional Fijian Meeting Place) of the USP at the upper Campus. The following arrangements for special support services were made: Hall Decoration - Taina Colawai; Catering - Mrs. Qeranatabua; Sound and projections - USP Media Centre & Remington Corporation; Local Secretariat and amenities – Institute of Pacific Studies.

Registration and Opening

Registration and the opening of the Workshop took place on Monday 23rd September. As part of the registration process, most of the participants were provided with a name tag and a file containing the a workshop programme, hand-outs for the presentations, copies of some of the PowerPoint slides, site map, brochures, etc, in their hotel on Sunday, 22 September. The remaining folders were distributed during the Monday morning registration.

The opening session started at about 9.15a.m. PACE-SD Director, Dr. Koshy, introduced the Honoured Guests, Martin Rice Programme Manager - APN Secretariat, and Professor Rajesh Chandra, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of USP. Mr. Epli Nasome, Director, Department of Environment had sent his apology earlier. Chief guests were garlanded in the presence of about 40 participants including; Deans of the different faculties of USP, heads of departments and sections, and the participants of the climate change training programme.

In his Opening speech, Professor Chandra emphasised the need for developing effective negotiation skills to ensure that the New World order, including the climate change regime, reflected the concerns of the Pacific Island resources. He added that effective negotiations depended on commitment, determination, drive, a sense of mission and the involvement of the most intelligent and informed personalities from the Pacific. Another important attribute to negotiating skills, he mentioned, was the ability to write and draft well on short notice. The Deputy Vice-chancellor said that the university was very committed to supporting the sustainable development initiatives in the region and that he was very happy that the training workshop followed closely on the heels of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg. Thanking the organisers, donors, resource people and the participants, he formally opened the workshop, (*Appendix 4*).

Mr. Martin Rice then introduced participants to the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) activities, particularly in Oceania, and its place in the global change community. Mr. Rice said that the main objectives of the Network were to foster global change research by increasing developing country participation in research and by strengthening science-policy links. To achieve these objectives, APN spends over one million US dollars to support projects in thematic areas such as: Coastal Zones and Inland Waters, Climate Change and Variability, Changes in Atmospheric Composition, Changes in Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity, as well as other Cross-Cutting issues and Capacity Building initiatives. In 2002/2003 APN funded 6 projects in the PICs (*Appendix 5*).

After morning tea, the first part of the workshop started.

Activities Conducted

PART 1: SYNTHESIS

Day 1

The Synthesis section of the workshop (first 2 days) was coordinated by Dr. Koshy (Director, PACE-SD).

Presentations were made by resource persons on various aspects of Synthesising global change documents. Each presentation was followed by a discussion session: A summary of the presentations by various speakers is given below: The strategy here was to introduce aspects of synthesis activities undertaken within the context of UNFCCC COP presentations, IPCC submissions, book writing, review writing, project proposal writing etc.

Ms. Diane McFadzien (WWF-Pacific) Climate Policy Officer - *Preparing National Communications - the Cook Islands Experience*. Ms. McFadzien was formally the Cook Islands PICCAP National Coordinator. Using the Cooks Islands National Communications preparation as an example, she highlighted the pros and cons of multi-disciplinary team approach; data sourcing, gathering, quality assurance and processing;

time management; keeping up the team morale; editing and reviewing of the report; challenges of getting the final product ready and the lessons learnt (*Appendix 6*).

Dr. Mahendra Kumar (USP) – *Guidelines to Non-Annex I National Communications*: Dr. Kumar presented the current guidelines for the second National communications and said that the need for greater scientific rigour for V&A assessment, technology transfer, and more socio economic input will be the biggest challenge while the possibility for mainstreaming climate change into sustainable development process will be one of the main opportunities that come with the new assessment (*Appendix 7*).

Ms. Eva Lewenikuruwai (Environment Dept., Fiji) - *Country Presentation on Fiji's experience with the National Communication preparations*. She reported that the PICCAP initiative has immensely strengthened the national coordination and institutional roles in dealing with climate change and V&A assessment. She added that there have been a number of barriers in bringing the work to a close: political turmoil, staff turnover, too many competing responsibilities, governmental procedural delays, country team break-up and time constraints. However, she is convinced that the team approach would still be the best approach for these kinds of multi-disciplinary assessments (*Appendix 8*).

Dr. Richard Warrick (IGCI) – *Creating Synthesis: What it is and what it is not*. According to him a synthesis is NOT a summary but it does summarise. It should not just simply produce a summary, but should also consider the important driving questions, identifying commonalities, and generalisations, i.e. identify higher level concepts, patterns and needs. Using IPCC and PICCAP assessment as syntheses, he demonstrated that a synthesis should adequately summarise existing knowledge, identify common issues and “threads” of knowledge and make higher-order generalisation (*Appendix 9*).

Professor Randy Thaman (USP) - *A Review as a Synthesis Product*. Professor Thaman presented on topic selection and organisation; data sources; information gathering; use of library and on-line data base; presentation techniques; identification of gaps in the study and suggestions for future work; executive summary preparation and some general guidelines (*Appendix 10*).

Professor Patrick Nunn (USP) - *Book Writing - A Challenging Synthesis*. Prof. Nunn's presentation focused on the overall planning and contents of a synthesis document, such as a book, in the environmental field. In deciding on the structure of the book and the organisation of the materials in it, an important consideration is the ‘target audience.’ The writing style and the type of illustrations to be used will all depend largely on the nature of the target audience, he said. Ideas such as brainstorming using structured and unstructured questions as a prompt, argument building or theme development, visuals; maintaining focus; creating flow, editing for emphasis, are also important considerations in book writing. Selection of the publisher and further follow-up through updates and revisions of the original edition are also very crucial to the success of the book and of course for the maximisation of any rewards from published material, he added (*Appendix 11*).

Day 2 - AM

The first half of day two focused on proposal writing skills and included a simulation exercise on proposal review. The following presentations were made:

Bill Aalbersberg *Writing Funding Proposals* : Using a proposal on Integrated Coastal Resources Management in Fiji, submitted to the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Prof Aalbersberg talked about the different attributes a good proposal, rules for clear proposal writing, do's and don'ts in writing, log matrix structure, identification and approaches to donor agencies. Prof. Aalbersberg also provided details of major funding agencies such as GEF, UNDP, OECD countries aid program and Foundations. He also provided guidelines of successful proposal writing using a proposal that won the Equator Initiative Award at the recent World Summit in Johannesburg (*Appendix 12*).

Mr. Peter Williamson (USP) – *Logistical Details and Budget*. Mr. Williamson provided advice on good project administration and guidelines on proper budget preparation in proposal writing. Under-budgeting, he said, was worse than over budgeting. The need for creating backup files and record keeping for project activities was also strongly emphasised.

Mr. Martin Rice - *Presentation on the APN proposal process* Mr. Rice encouraged young Pacific country scientists to take a leadership role in developing and managing proposals and projects from the region. He explained to participants that although APN has funded six projects in 2002/2003 with a specific PIC focus, the Principle Investigators from five of the projects were from Australia, New Zealand or USA. Thus, there is a real need for PIC scientists to take project leadership – whilst at the same time utilising the experience of developed county scientists/networks/scientific programmes (*Appendix 13*).

Dr. Koshy (PACE-SD) – *Project Review – a Hands-on Exercise*. As a member of the team of reviewers for APN, Dr. Koshy provided valuable advice to participants from a reviewer's perspective. In his hands-on session, Dr Koshy used an actual proposal that was reviewed by international reviewers and asked the workshop participants to review the proposal themselves against the guidelines for reviewers, the rating scale and the criteria for the review he had provided them. It was interesting to follow the variability in the review process. The team discussed the attributes of strong and weak proposals; reviewer comments and PI responses and the need to self-review/peer-review proposals before submitting for external evaluation. Participants were then required to review a proposal based on the above mentioned criteria (*Appendix 14*).

Mr. Dean Solofa and Miss Ashvini Fernando (V & A participants) – *The USP Training Course for Synthesis Skill Development*. The participants provided an insight into how the USP Training Programme on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment enabled them to make sectoral impact assessments and syntheses products on accommodating feedback from staff and peer reviews through discussions including oral presentations (*Appendix 15*).

Day 2 - PM

Database Generation

Mr. Atish Chand and Liza Philip (USP): Database Creation: In this hands-on session, using Microsoft Access, Mr Chand said that this was a simple approach within the Windows environment to store, retrieve and manipulate raw data. Such stored data would also be useful for networked information sharing. The session was conducted in one of the computer labs within the University.

The trainers in this introductory session reminded the participants of the need for informed decision making to deal with problem situations that arise in our day to day lives. To be effective in decision making, we need information, which is the result of processed data. A database allows us to store and manipulate data and use a query language to ask questions to the database.

The objectives of this part of the training were to identify data what we need for our information, to create a model that represents our data environment, to create and manipulate the data in a database and to query the database to obtain information.

The work-programme was organised in such a way that the above objectives could be achieved by identifying a special real case on informational need and examining a sample database for the case, learning the principles of database, creating a given sample database and writing queries, guided by an instructor and by creating a database to be used by the participants themselves.

In the hands-on part, participants worked in their own pace at a PC using the booklet on Files and Databases and Microsoft Access Tutorials. The two trainers Atish Chand and Liza Philip provided personal assistance during the course of the session, which the participants rated as being very useful.

PART 2: NEGOTIATIONS

The Negotiations segment was co-ordinated by Dr. Mahendra Kumar.

Days 3 – 5

This segment comprised of presentations on the features of international environmental negotiations under the UN System. Participants were then introduced to a simulation exercise whereby a mock UNFCCC COP meeting was conducted. This was the highlight of the segment as over the next three days, participants were able to gain first-hand experience on the real dealings of International level negotiations.

The following presentations were made:

Ms. Angela Churie Kallhauge (Sweden) - *Features of International Environmental Negotiations: Theory and Practice I & II* Dr. Kallhauge provided an overview of what is meant by negotiations, Negotiations between states, intergovernmental negotiations on Environment. She also explained the negotiation process, what makes up the

negotiating process, the actors, process, the structure, strategies involved, the approaches i.e., hard, soft and middle way negotiations. She also gave ideas on how to progress from a win-lose situation to a win-win situation and concluded by giving some very useful tips for effective negotiations (*Appendix 15*).

Mr. Ian Fry (Australia) - *Tracking Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Decisions in the Kyoto Protocol*: Ian Fry guided participants through the steps involved in international negotiations process and the main countries involved in such negotiations using the Sinks Issue in the Kyoto Protocol as an example (*Appendix 16*).

Mr. Adam Delaney (Pacific Island Forum Secretariat): *Negotiating within the UN System*: Adam provided a general overview of the UN Structure, nomenclature & documents, rules of procedure, general assembly and its rules, functions, membership, general committees, main groups, Negotiation blocs/alliances and on general presentation (*Appendix 17*).

Mr. Delaney continued his presentation with a case study: *Case study - The process of Inscribing an agenda item and the Adoption of a Resolution through the UNGA System*. Adam used the example at the 49th UNGA, Papua New Guinea coordinated a new initiative culminating in the adoption of a resolution (48/60) on Tuesday 14th December 1993, to establish an Ad Hoc Panel of Experts called the UN Panel on Opportunity and Participation (UNPOP). Adam took us through a step by step procedure involving strategic alliance formations, to building the foundations, to setting the agenda, establishing the working groups, politics of nuances, exploring interests, adopting a min-max strategy, institutional considerations and going in for a win-win situation (*Appendix 18*).

Mr. Matthew Campbell Senior Officer, Strategy and Environment, Department of Transport, Queensland (Australia) - *Energy Policy Impacts*: Mr. Campbell provided a lot of very practical advice to the participants by taking the real life issue of negotiating a national energy Policy for Queensland within the energy policy of Australia – both in the short term and long-term perspective.

On the one hand, one has to be sensitive to the global issue of increasing concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere, the associated enhanced global warming effect and on the other, the export of coal and liquefied natural gas and the associated national income and the growth of the GDP. The challenge will be to strike a balance between the two competing forces and to come to negotiate a settlement that is sensitive to the global environmental issues, energy and carbon intensity issues, renewable energy options and the overall impact of the energy policy on GDP growth (*Appendix 19*).

Espen Ronneburg (UNSDs): *Negotiating the UNFCCC: Climate Change Negotiations and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* - Mr. Ronneburg's presentation included a brief history of the climate change, its UN background, its development, the key issues and how they have emerged to its current status. In particular, he emphasised the establishment of the Alliance of Small Island States that was formed in response to climate change concerns of islands and the lack of

responsiveness from other groups, its strategies and its impact on Climate Change negotiations (Convention and Protocol – the FCCC process) (*Appendix 20*).

Espen's second presentation "*Implementing the UN FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in the Pacific*" was more specific in terms of its coverage of Climate change considerations for Pacific SIDS. His talk included: the legal regime of the FCCC, obligations under the FCCC, non-formal obligations, Kyoto Protocol, CDM – an opportunity for SIDS and general opportunities under FCCC and KP. Espen continued to stress the need for broader cooperation to ensure sustainable development of SIDS. His presentation covered such issues and topics as: the premise for sustainable development, the Barbados Conference, AOSIS, the role of UN, Agriculture in SIDS, Vulnerability of SIDS, PICCAP and ways to improve cooperation (*Appendix 21*).

Negotiation Simulation

Participants were then introduced to a simulation exercise whereby a mock UNFCCC COP meeting was conducted with the aim of providing some insights into international negotiations.

There were two issues to be negotiated in this simulation:

Issue 1: Implementing Education, Training and Public Awareness Obligations

Issue 2: Hydro-Electric Export Credit Proposal.

Appendix 22

Participants were provided with background information on the two issues. Each participant was then allocated to a representative country involved in the UNFCCC discussions namely: Australia, Iceland, Japan, Sweden, Germany, Canada, Austria, Italy, France, Belgium, Senegal, Ghana, Guyana, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Mali, Kenya or Jamaica.

Each participant was provided with confidential instructions and was expected to play the role assigned to them as if they were a real delegate tasked with the given mandate. The negotiation session was divided into 3 sub-sessions:

- One (Wednesday) Plenary – General Plenary statements on the two issues;
- Two (Thursday) Negotiations within regional Blocs; and
- Three (Friday) Contact group negotiations.

Based on the simulation process, two proposals for draft resolutions were prepared:

1. Education, training and Public Awareness
2. Emission Trading and Hydro electric Export Credit

The negotiating hall was set up just as in a UN meeting to provide maximum simulation impacts. The participants were very impressed by this session.

Stakeholder Participation

Diane McFadzien (WWF) and Russell Nari (Vanuatu)

These participants added the value of Broad Stakeholder Participation in the Negotiating process. They highlighted the role of women, youth and indigenous people, civil society in the decision-making process both locally and in the international negotiating field. A suggestion was for the governments include NGOs and civil society members in the national teams for UNFCCC COP, WSSD type negotiations, thereby going beyond lip service to consolidate participation (*Appendix 23*).

Outcomes and Products

Based on the feedback received so far from the participants, the workshop proved invaluable and helped generate new ideas and challenges from a practical viewpoint. It was essentially a "train the trainers" exercise, and the outputs will feed directly into in-country and regional V&A training programs, IPCC activities, and initiatives under the Barbados program of action. A full workshop File, with all the necessary materials that should serve as a training manual, was given to all the participants. This file could be used for future short-term training in the area. The workshop prompted greater awareness of APN and START activities within the region with countries expressing great interest in APN membership. An important outcome from the workshop is the possibility of a Regional ICM Synthesis project to be followed by a workshop and an ICM Book prepared by the participants and resource persons.

Conclusions

A dinner function for participants and resource persons was organised on the 25th of September. Certificates of Participation and a workshop T-shirts were distributed to all participants at the workshop.

By all means, the workshop was a great success in presenting a structured training approach to address the region's needs in two vital areas - Technical Writing including computer based data base management and proposal writing (Synthesis) and Negotiations Skills development badly needed for success in pushing national and regional interest to achieve sustainable development goals. Support from all stakeholders will be vital to consolidate the workshop outcomes and to continue the training process in the region.

Future Directions

- Follow-up the workshop goals through in-country activities.
- Encourage PICs to submit more proposals to the APN's annual call for proposals.
- Secure funding and initiate the ICM Regional Synthesis proposed by the Workshop.
- Help the participants to establish computer-based Database and to link up with regional research and training such as the V&A training at USP; proposed ICM course with Institute of Applied Sciences, USP; START/APN (Nick Harvey) Pacific Atoll Coastal Monitoring and Analysis Network (PACMAN) and similar initiatives.
- Encouraging participants to utilise START Fellowships for training attachments in renowned institutes/organisations.

Acknowledgements

The secretariat wishes to thank all who have contributed to the overall success of the workshop, namely: USP and APN, the official sponsors of the workshop, all the resource persons and participants, support service providers, Governments of the participating countries, WWF-Pacific, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Foundations of the People of the South Pacific, CROP agencies especially the Forum Sec for their active participation, and the START-Oceania Secretariat and all others who have assisted but remain anonymous.

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