

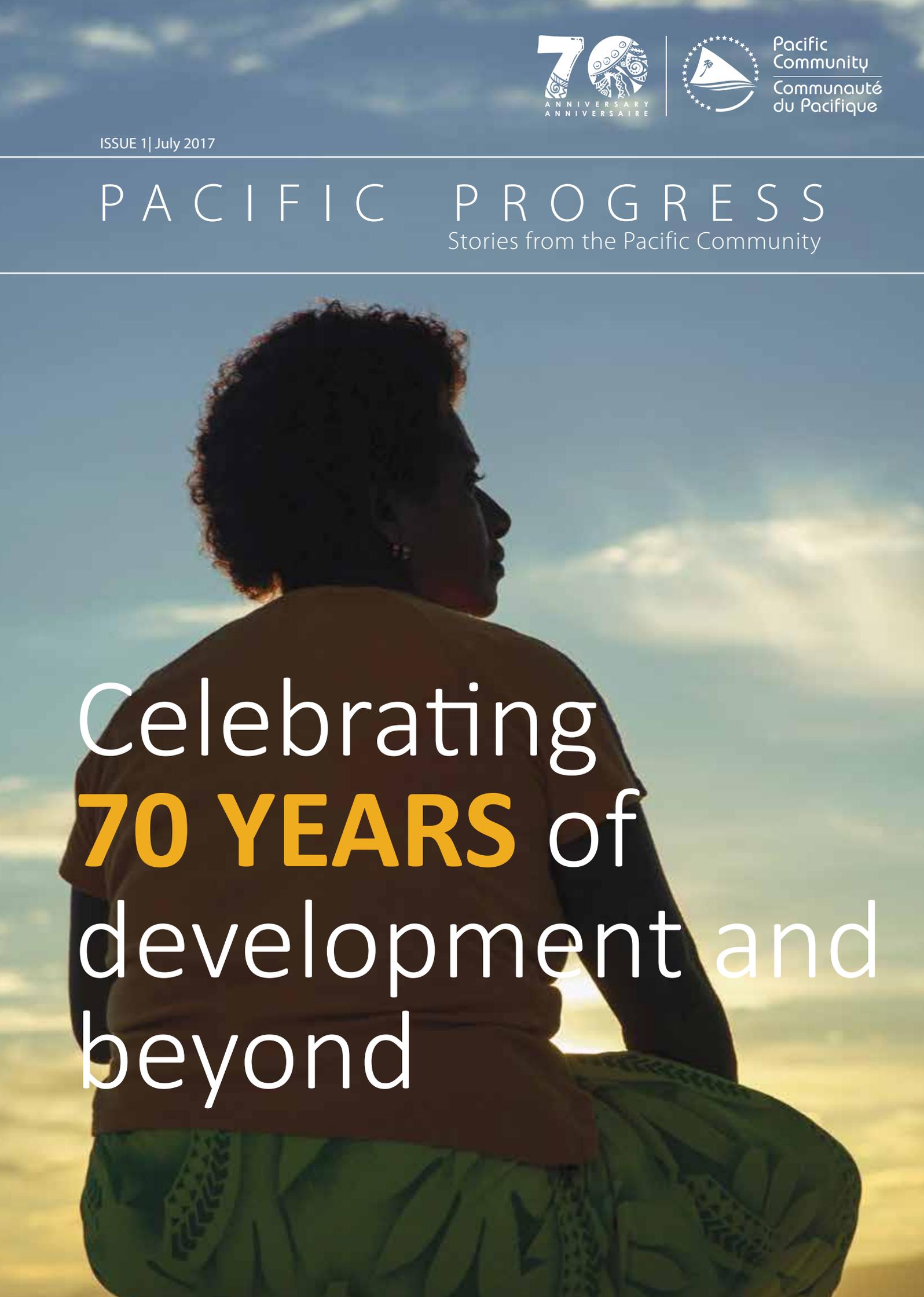


Pacific
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PACIFIC PROGRESS

Stories from the Pacific Community

A photograph of a person with dark curly hair, seen from the back and side, sitting on a beach. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a patterned sarong. They are looking out at the ocean under a sunset sky with soft clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow.

Celebrating
70 YEARS of
development and
beyond

Adapting to emerging challenges

Dear friends,

The forthcoming Tenth Conference of the Pacific Community offers us an opportunity to celebrate the organisation's 70th anniversary. Hosted in Nouméa by New Caledonia, this international institution has through all those years demonstrated its ability to help respond to our region's sustainable development needs. All the men and women who have been part of this great endeavor deserve our heartfelt commendation!

SPC is now entering a new era. As Chair of the 10th Conference, I wish to convey to our organisation my best wishes for its success in taking up the enormous challenges now emerging as our region faces growing threats.

These challenges are many: climate change, with very significant impacts in our region; protection of the health and food security of our communities; sustainable natural resource management; sustainable economic development for our region, which we know cannot be achieved unless we break down the barriers of remoteness and develop our trading and human relationships, while not neglecting our cultural and digital ties either. Neither am I overlooking the maritime sphere, which flows through all Pacific development policies, or ocean protection, a highly debated issue at the moment with the recent international Ocean Conference.

In order to achieve its regional mandate, SPC must now more than ever be capable of adapting to our world's realities. The global economic crisis, being endured by all the founding member states and major donors to SPC, is forcing our organisation to rethink its operating principles and review its governance arrangements. This strategic reform must be pursued and I do wish to salute the major progress already achieved in this effort within SPC, under the leadership of its executive team and in particular our Director-General, Dr Tukuitonga.

For New Caledonia, the 10th Conference holds great importance for two reasons.

First, it enables us to strongly assert our commitment to the development of the Pacific Islands. We are a developed country and a major donor to the organisation. I am very honoured that this event has enabled us to further enhance our cooperation by endorsing a partnership with SPC to strengthen regional cooperation.

The Conference also gives us an opportunity to host a session on the future partnership between the European Union and the Pacific. New Caledonia has a special relationship with the European Union and we are one of its conduits into the region. This explains why I campaigned for over a year to host a special session in Nouméa on this very important issue. I am grateful to Pascal Lamy, the high-level facilitator for the Pacific for the agreement that will supersede the Cotonou Agreement after 2020, for accepting our invitation to take part.

In conclusion, please allow me to pay tribute to Mr Jacques Iékawé, who was appointed Director-General of SPC in 1991 but who passed on before being able to devote his talents to the organisation. A son of our country, he was passionate about our region and would, I am quite sure, have been proud of the Pacific Community's achievements. We follow naturally in his footsteps along the path of excellence so as to build, as our Strategic Plan states, a region in which peace, harmony, security and social inclusion prevail and where all Pacific Island peoples can live free and prosperous lives.

Mr Philippe Germain, President of the Government and Chair of the Tenth Conference of the Pacific Community



Evolving with the region

'Each quarterly issue of Pacific Progress will highlight different areas of our work and the impact we're having in the region and in the lives of Pacific Island people.'

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of *Pacific Progress – Stories from the Pacific Community*.

As we celebrate 70 years of our contribution to regional development, it's an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come over the past seven decades in providing scientific and technical support to our Pacific Island members, and the directions we are taking in responding to the evolving development context in this region.



Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Pacific Community Director-General

The Pacific Community (SPC) has been at the forefront of knowledge and innovation leadership on a range of crosscutting issues, such as food security and livelihoods, climate change, disaster risk management, public health, data for policy, and youth, gender and human rights. We are proud of what we have achieved in these areas.

In the early 1980s SPC fisheries experts were instrumental in the design and deployment of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) around the region. These artisanal FADs have helped coastal communities improve fish catches, and therefore to maintain food security, support livelihoods and reduce pressure on coastal marine resources. SPC remains the regional repository of knowledge of FADs in the Pacific.

Through research, training, technical support, and conservation and distribution of the region's valuable genetic resources, our Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) supports resilient and sustainable agricultural systems that help reduce poverty, increase food security and protect the environment. CePaCT houses some of the most important staple crops in the Pacific, including the largest taro collection in the world. The Centre is also a critical resource in times of disaster; following Cyclone Winston in Fiji and Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, CePaCT distributed seedlings that were instrumental in getting communities back on their feet.

SPC's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) is responsible for enhancing the quality of education and for the assessment of education standards in the Pacific. In 2015 EQAP completed the largest Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) in the region, covering 45,000 students in 700 schools in 13 countries. The results showed notable improvement in numeracy achievement across the region. A resounding 74 per cent of Year 4 students were at or above the expected proficiency level in 2012, and this further increased to 86 per cent in 2015.

These are just some examples of the work we do in the region. We also believe it's important to represent Pacific voices on the world stage. The recent UN Oceans Conference held in New York in June, was an opportunity for SPC, along with other Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, to highlight sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources, oceanic fisheries programmes for tuna stock assessment, maritime boundaries support, governance and management of deep sea minerals, sea level monitoring, marine and coastal science surveys, which are all aligned with SDG 14 – *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*.



The fourth South Pacific Conference was formally opened by the Administrator of Papua and New Guinea, Brigadier D.M. Cleland, C.B.E., here shown greeting delegates. With the Administrator is Mr T.R. Smith, Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, and (partly obscured) Mr. J.R. Halligan, Senior Commissioner for Australia on the South Pacific Commission, who was chairman of the Conference (April 1959).

In the Pacific, we live and eat from the ocean every day. Our cultures, livelihoods and economies are intrinsically linked to the ocean that connects us and sustains our island communities; threats to our oceans are threats to our existence.

I would like to thank the Chair of the Tenth Conference of the Pacific Community, the Hon Philippe Germain from New Caledonia, for writing the foreword for this inaugural newsletter. The relationship between New Caledonia and SPC has a long and important history and we look forward to continuing to work together in the many years to come.

Each quarterly issue of *Pacific Progress* will highlight different areas of our work and the impact we're having in the region and in the lives of Pacific Island people.

SPC will continue on a path of technological innovation and thought leadership, working across the region to improve the well-being of Pacific people, guided by a deep understanding of the diverse contexts and cultures of our islands.

It is with great pride that I launch this first issue of *Pacific Progress*. We look forward to sharing our stories with you.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Director-General

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The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region, supporting development since 1947. We are an intergovernmental development organisation owned and governed by our 26 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development to benefit Pacific people, our organisation works across more than 20 sectors. We are known for our knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience, and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Cover photo: David Hebblethwaite, SPC

Each quarterly issue of *Pacific Progress – Stories from the Pacific Community* will highlight different areas of SPC's work and the impact we're having in the region and in the lives of Pacific Island people.

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Protecting our oceans and marine resources

'Over the last 50 years, FAME has contributed to a significant increase in employment in the tuna fisheries sector.'



Size selection of tuna during unload. Photo: Francisco Blaha

A plate of sashimi that sells for USD 300 in a high-end restaurant in Japan can mean families and entire communities in remote Pacific Island nations thousands of miles away are able to put food on the table. It can also translate to better infrastructure, better schools for our children, and better health facilities for our people.

Tuna, 'the gold of the ocean', is now a major contributor to the global economy and has become the primary source of government revenue for many Pacific Island economies. In some countries, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, people's livelihoods hinge on revenue from one of the oceans most valuable resources.

A study commissioned by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Government in 2016 – *Fisheries in the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories* – provided a clear picture about how tuna (and other fisheries activity) contributes to Pacific economies. It is estimated that the tuna industry amounts to USD 3.2 billion in the region.

For decades, the revenue from tuna went to foreign countries whose fleets fished in Pacific waters and sailed away with the spoils, and not much, if any of the money translated into economic benefits for Pacific peoples. However, things have changed over the past half century, which would not have been possible without intervention at the highest levels. Mustering the political will to protect the tuna stocks in the Pacific was the major challenge to ensuring regional collaboration and cooperation, and SPC has been at the forefront of these efforts.

SPC provides advice on sustainability and proper management of tuna stocks to its 22 Pacific Island country and territory (PICT) members. This advice is also shared with other partner agencies, such as the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), which works with individual member countries on fisheries-related projects. Tuna is a key source of government revenue for many Pacific countries. In 2015, PICTs collectively earned around USD 450 million in revenue from foreign tuna fishing fleets licence fees, which allow them to fish within PICT maritime zones.

Over the years, SPC has worked with member states, donors and partners to improve the management of complex, large-scale fisheries, and in particular the maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of tuna stocks. This has been made possible by collecting all information available from national governments and commercial fishing fleets on fishing activities in the region. Japanese fleets now join Korea, China, the USA and many others in providing all necessary data to enable SPC, FFA and relevant government agencies to monitor and assess all fishing activities in the Pacific.

SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division also works with member states on sustainable investment projects in collaboration with communities to support job creation throughout the region.

'FAME's work has led to the availability of up-to-date information on the impact of fisheries, which is critical for governments and individual communities to make informed decisions about management of the sector. FAME has since set global standards in the monitoring and assessment of tuna stocks in the Pacific.'

**FAME Director,
Mr Moses Amos**

Over the last 50 years, FAME has contributed to a significant increase in employment in the tuna fisheries sector – from approximately 13,500 jobs in 2011 to over 22,000 in 2015. This has been achieved through the setting-up of shore-based tuna processing and canning facilities and promoting foreign investment to establish new tuna industries or strengthen and expand existing ones. Government investment in fishing fleets and joint ventures with private companies have also contributed to the increased employment in the tuna sector.

'FAME's work has led to the availability of up-to-date information on the impact of fisheries, which is critical for governments and individual communities to make informed decisions about management of the sector. FAME has since set global standards in the monitoring and assessment of tuna stocks in the Pacific', said FAME Director, Mr Moses Amos.

In July 2016, through SPC's support, Solomon Islands achieved Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. The certification acknowledges that the Solomon Islands fishery will continue to be managed in a way that ensures healthy stocks, minimises environmental impacts, and promotes good management under the existing regulatory structure for the fishery. Fisheries that achieve this certification are in a better position to respond to the growing demand for certified sustainable sources of tuna.

'It is important for all Pacific nations to know how much tuna live and migrate through their national boundaries. Without such data, foreign vessels would continue to reap the benefits, and our people will continue to be left behind in terms of economic growth and development', added Mr Amos.

SPC continues to work with its members and partners to provide assistance in monitoring tuna fishing by foreign and local vessels in Pacific waters. In the long term, this will continue to provide invaluable information about the status, resilience and capacity of the regional tuna stocks.



Food and Nutritional Security

Conserving plant genetic resources in the Pacific

For over two decades, The Pacific Community (SPC) has contributed to maintaining food security in the region through our Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT). CePaCT houses over 2000 varieties of the Pacific's main staples – banana, breadfruit, cassava, swamp taro, taro and yams. It holds the largest taro collection in the world, predominantly comprised of Asian and Pacific heritage.

Since 2012, CePaCT has distributed over 70,000 tissue culture-derived plantlets to 51 countries, including 22 Pacific Island countries and territories to conserve and utilise the Pacific region's genetic resources, including providing growers with access to both traditional and improved crops selected for desirable characteristics.

When Samoa's main staple and export crop, taro, was wiped out due an outbreak of Taro Leaf Blight (TLB) in 1993, it

'was somewhat a blessing in disguise, as it was out of this food crisis situation that the vision of CePaCT was born, thanks to the foresight of SPC and the tremendous support of its member countries'; said Director of SPC's Land Resources Division, Mr Jan Helsen.

In 2001, in response to the Samoa crisis and with the support of several partners, CePaCT established its Taro Breeding Programme. By including new taro genes brought in from Asia and other Pacific countries, the Centre used biotechnology to breed new taro breeds resistant to TLB.

'Twenty-four years after the Samoa TLB crisis, 21 years after the birth of CePaCT, and 16 years of the Taro Breeding Programme, Samoa's taro industry and favourite staple has not only fully recovered but is now gaining momentum in captivating the export market once again', Mr Helsen said, who attributes this to the new lines of taro developed through the programme.

Through cultivation at SPC's state of the art crop gene bank located in Fiji, these new breeds of taro have now made their way to all corners of the globe – Africa, Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean – helping these regions to also manage the TLB disease.

CePaCT has effectively used biotechnology for the conservation of vital food species in the region. It now also has the capacity to test for crop viruses, thus ensuring that the Centre distributes only virus-free materials. Currently the Centre is able to carry out virus indexing of five main crops: beles, banana, sweet potato, taro and yam. Following Cyclone Winston in Fiji and Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, CePaCT supported response efforts by distributing seedlings to the affected communities.

As a result of the Centre's activities, SPC is at the forefront of ensuring that member countries' main staples are conserved safely, and that they and other countries around the world will have access to crop diversity for years to come.



CePaCT facility at SPC premises in Fiji. Photo: Pacific Community

Increasing taxes for healthier communities

Where you were once offered freshly-squeezed lemon juice or the ever thirst quenching coconut, now it's cordial or other fizzy and sweetened beverages. Unfortunately it's all around us now – from community-run canteens in remote island villages, to corner shops in suburban neighbourhoods and vending machines in schools. It's a lucrative and pervasive global industry, with billboard advertisements splattered across highways, mountain tops, and even buses.

Through the Pacific Islands Non-Communicable Disease Roadmap (NCD Roadmap), endorsed by the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum, and in-line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages* – the Pacific Community (SPC) is now working with member states to try and reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) amongst Pacific Islanders, which are recognised as an underlying cause of the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) crisis in the region.

This is one of the key strategies highlighted in the NCD roadmap, which is to increase tax, and better regulate food and drink products that are directly linked to NCDs. It also aims to improve public understanding of how food and drink can be drivers of NCDs. The NCD Roadmap directs countries to develop country-owned NCD multi-sectoral strategy plans to include strengthened tobacco control, policies on reducing consumption of food and drink products directly linked to NCDs – especially salt and sugary drinks, improved efficiency and impact of health budget by targeting primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, and strengthening the evidence base for NCD interventions.

SPC's Director of Public Health, Dr Paula Vivili, explained that in the Pacific there is heavy reliance on imported foods and drinks, and that SPC provides support to countries around five key areas of action in an effort to reverse this trend.

'One of them as outlined by the NCD Roadmap, is to improve policy and legislation enforcement through development and review of policies and legislation that address social economic determinants of NCDs in Pacific Islands,' said Dr Vivili.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) publication, *Fiscal policies for diet and prevention of non-communicable diseases*, taxes that raise the prices of SSBs by 20 per cent or more could lead to reductions in consumption of SSBs, and therefore significant reductions in caloric intake.

Dr Vivili explained that SPC is working with individual Pacific Island countries and territories to implement policies to increase taxes on SSBs.

'There is progress in this area as 12 countries have SSBs taxation, with consultations in process with two other countries. Five of the twelve countries have managed to increase taxation in 2016, while other states are in the process of adopting this policy,' added Dr Vivili.

SPC continues to work with regional partners and donor agencies to help Pacific Island governments formulate legislation and policies on SSBs with the hope that increased taxation will eventually lead to less consumption of these sweet killers.

'The Pacific Community (SPC) is now working with member states to try and reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) amongst Pacific Islanders, which are recognised as an underlying cause of the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) crisis in the region.'

Regional mobility

Securing our future
through quality education



Photo: Chris Palethorne

Salimoana is an 11-year-old girl who loves to read. Her cousin Aisea, nine, hates reading but has a knack for numbers. Games bring Aisea to life and he is often persuading his bookworm cousin to join. Although Sali and Aisea may have different interests, they are at a delicate stage in their lives and need to have the opportunity to harness their individual developing minds through quality education.

Education is a fundamental human right, as stated under Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This forms the foundation of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.*

But how do you ensure that Sali and Aisea receive the same quality of education as Sione from Samoa, Anote from Nauru or Heidi in

Germany? These questions were left unanswered due to a lack of data in the Pacific – a gap that was finally addressed through the Pacific Island Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (PILNA) conducted by the Pacific Community's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) in 2012 and 2015.

The Pacific Community (SPC), through EQAP, is mandated to assist Pacific Island countries and territories to improve the quality of Pacific students' educational achievement by supporting curriculum development, the development of teacher and school leadership standards and frameworks, educational assessments, and policies.

PILNA assessed the reading, writing and numeracy skills of Year 4 and Year 6 students. It assessed what they know, how much they know and how much their environments affect their performance.



Photo: Pacific Community

'PILNA is designed to enable a coordinated regional effort to improve outcomes in literacy and numeracy in the Pacific while at the same time gather evidence for sound decision-making and policy development', said EQAP Director, Dr Michelle Belisle.

In the final quarter of 2015, approximately 50,000 students across 13 Pacific Islands participated in the research.

'The 2015 PILNA report showed notable improvement in numeracy achievement across the region for students in Year 4 to Year 6. A resounding 74 per cent of Year 4 students were at or above the expected proficiency level in 2012, and this further increased to 86 per cent in 2015', added Dr Belisle.

Similarly, the portion of Year 6 students at or above the expected level increased from a little over 56 per cent in 2012 to almost 68 per cent in 2015. It was also noteworthy that girls demonstrated higher levels of performance in numeracy and literacy than boys across the region in 2015.

SPC has been actively urging educational stakeholders to review PILNA evidence and trends between 2012 and 2015, both regionally and nationally, and to consider intervention strategies for students performing at the lower end of the proficiency scale, particularly in literacy.

The 2015 PILNA data points to why improving learning outcomes – in particular, building basic literacy and numeracy skills – must remain a common goal shared by all Pacific Island countries and territories, particularly ministers and ministries of education, as well as development partners.

'Knowing where our little ones stand will only help us improve literacy and numeracy in the region', said Dr Belisle.

SPC, through EQAP, will undertake another PILNA survey in 2018, covering 15 Pacific countries.

FACT BOX

- In 2015, more than 45,000 Year 4 and Year 6 students from around 700 schools across 13 countries took part in PILNA, making it the largest ever assessment in the Pacific.
- SPC carries out the assessment in the form of two tests and a questionnaire.
- The assessment is a culmination of a two-year-long preparation.
- Currently, the assessment is a collaboration between SPC and 15 Pacific countries.
- Preparation includes workshops with literacy and numeracy experts from the countries that put the tests and the questionnaire together, ensuring that the topics tested are already familiar to the children within the countries. The test is first trialled with select countries and schools before its actual cycle.
- Schools are given a two-week window to conduct these hour-long tests, with one test taking place each day.



Creating opportunities for youth development

The total population in our diverse Pacific region is around 10 million people – more than half of which is under the age of 25. It is growing fast, placing huge and increasing pressures on basic resources and core services, such as education, health and justice. The average youth unemployment rate in the Pacific is 23 per cent, compared to a global average of 12.6 per cent.

The Pacific Community (SPC) is working with youth organisations throughout the region to help forge partnerships with government and non-government agencies to address the growing challenge of youth unemployment in an environment with limited opportunities for sustainable development.

'There are a number of reasons why youth development has not been included in national government policies, resulting in loss of potential in the region', explains SPC Human Development Adviser – Youth, Ms Mereia Carling.

'Youth-related concerns are often treated as stand-alone issues, and addressed without consideration of root causes. In the long term these issues are more difficult to address due to the lack of engagement between partners, governments and young people' added Ms Carling.

In an effort to address youth-related issues in the region, the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023 was launched in 2015. The overall development of the PYDF was led by SPC's Social Development Programme and office of Strategic Planning and Learning.

The PYDF 'represents an important milestone for the Pacific region', explains Ms Carling. *'It responds to the calls from young people, development partners and governments for greater support for the implementation of countries' youth policies, and to address barriers to progress',* Ms Carling continued.

As part of its efforts to meet the objectives set out in the PYDF, in 2016 SPC introduced the Youth@Work programme in Solomon Islands to assist individuals to find employment by working with youth groups and organisations.

Youth@Work provides education and training for early school leavers, young women, young people living with disabilities, and rural youth. The programme requires selected participants to complete community service and three weeks of training before they are placed in an internship for 15–20 weeks. Anyone between the age of 17 and 27 can register, and no particular level of education is required.

'The programme seeks to improve youth attitudes and behaviours and help young people recognise their own value and the contributions that they can make within their communities. It is opening up their minds to new ideas and possibilities for their own future while motivating many to pursue further study', said Ms Carling.

The programme's rural model is designed to provide youth with opportunities to start their own businesses in their village settings.

Youth@Work is also working with a group of young people identified as 'Not in Education, Employment or Training', called NEET. SPC reports show that between 2012–2015, 25–40 percent of Youth@Work participants found permanent employment through the programme.

'Partnering with youth is the key, and SPC recognises the potential and effective role young people have in advancing development agendas that are inclusive and responsive to youth-specific issues', said Ms Carling.

Increasing women's access and participation in the maritime and energy sectors



Regional conference for Pacific women in the maritime sector (organised by SPC and IMO), April 2016.

An increasing number of women are entering the maritime profession; however, their contribution is generally unrecognised and undervalued, and they continue to face barriers in accessing and participating in the sector. Addressing these gaps is a looming challenge for the Pacific Island region.

Women make up only 2 per cent of the worldwide supply of seafarers, and mainly work in the cruise and ferries sector, which are among the worst paid and least protected jobs at sea.

In April 2016 the Pacific Community (SPC), in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), organised a regional conference for Pacific women in the maritime sector. Attendees included women from the Pacific region who hold positions in maritime affairs, maritime education and training, protection of the marine environment, ports and fisheries, and non-governmental organisations, along with a few male counterparts from both the public and private sectors.

The conference resulted in the re-launch of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA) in Nuku'alofa, Tonga – the only regional entity dedicated to supporting women in maritime.

'This type of conference is long overdue in raising awareness of women's roles in sustainable development', said Chief Executive Officer of Tonga's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ana Bing Fonua.

'Creating a community of experienced women in maritime occupations needs to take place at several levels, in the sector and its industries', Ms Fonua added.

Since the meeting in Tonga, there has been an increase in support and momentum within the Pacific region. Papua New Guinea, which established a WIMA branch in 2007, was able to work with SPC and PacWIMA in supporting Fiji to launch FijiWIMA in September 2016. SPC has also worked with PacWIMA to assist the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, who are all working on establishing national branches. SPC provided these countries with a template for the drafting of a WIMA constitution as well as a summary of lessons learned from FijiWIMA.

SPC and PacWIMA remain committed to increasing women's participation in the maritime sector, and part of this work will include supporting the implementation of a regional strategy to ensure progress is made.

SPC is also working to improve women's access to energy and lighting and business management skills through its Melanesian Million Miracle Project (M3P). In the community of Port Resolution, Vanuatu, M3P has improved access to energy and lighting through the provision of 100 solar pico lanterns that can be recharged through a community charging station.

SPC also provided support to assist the local women's group to set up a sustainable business model for the proper management, operation and maintenance of the system.

SPC Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser, Allan Mua Illingworth said a total of 41 women were trained on simple bookkeeping and operation of the solar shops, which helped mobilise women around the topic of renewable energy.

'The solar lights are very bright and can stay on for longer. It has been useful for families as women are able to utilise the lanterns for household activities like cooking and sewing, while children are able to use them for studies at night. The lights are well cared for by the women's groups and are kept in the home',
said Mr Illingworth.

SPC is committed to supporting women's access to and participation in the maritime and energy sectors, which supports Sustainable Development Goal 5 – *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*

Technology and Innovation

PacFishID: Innovation for preservation

Every fisher knows that you can never guarantee what's at the other end of the line when you start reeling in your prized catch, especially within diverse coastal areas and reefs. Many a time you can be left guessing what you have caught and whether it's legal size and safe for consumption.

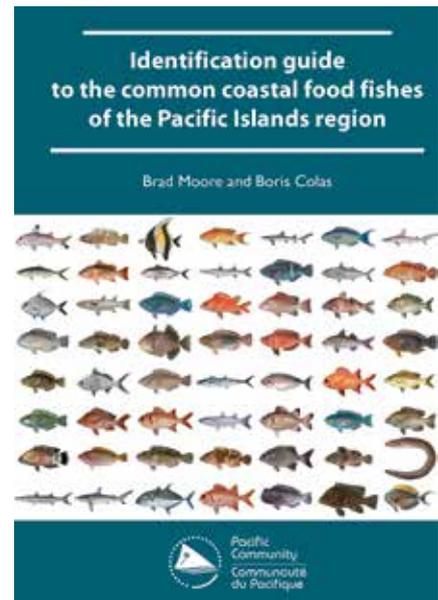
The Pacific Community's (SPC) Coastal Fisheries Programme has developed an innovative mobile application (app) that can identify fishes and invertebrates from Pacific Island countries and territories. With the Pacific Islands fishes and invertebrates identification (PacFishID) app, approximately 320 of the most common species of coastal sharks, rays and bony fishes can be easily identified at the click of a button.

The app is based on SPC's earlier publication titled, *Identification guide to the common coastal food fishes of the Pacific Islands region*, which assists fisheries officers to identify common coastal food fishes found in catches or during market surveys.

'The publication of the identification guide was the opportunity to take the next step in the project as photos and species information were now available, and develop a learning app that uses that dataset to demonstrate the tool', said Coastal Fisheries Information and Database Manager, Mr Franck Magron.

Currently, there is only one set of data available, but there are plans to include additional datasets such as aquarium fishes, invertebrates and the development of additional features for the PacFishID app.

'As we felt this would be of interest to a large public, we decided to develop an app targeting all common mobile operating systems – Google Android, Windows 10, Windows 10 phones and Apple (IOS). The app is available on Apple, Google Play and Windows Store', said Mr Magron.



One of the major advantages of PacFishID is being able to easily determine if the fishes caught are under or above size at maturity, especially for commercial purposes, which also helps answer questions relating to the breeding patterns of various fish species.

'The species information is important for management as well as for enforcement, as some species are protected and fishing regulation can be specific to a species or group of species', said Mr Magron.

The new app will also provide a training platform for fisheries officers around the region. 'Around 300 coastal species are commonly caught by fishermen, and therefore you need to assist and train fisheries officers on the identification of these species', said Mr Magron.

The app can be downloaded for free from:
Google: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=spc.pacfishid&hl=en>
Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/nl/app/pacfishid/id1238553695?mt=8>

You can also download the publication *Identification guide to the common coastal food fishes of the Pacific Islands region*: <http://www.spc.int/coastfish/en/publications/465>

Healthy catering at SPC events

The Pacific Islands region has some of the highest rates of obesity and diabetes in the world, with obesity prevalence as high as 75 per cent and diabetes rates as high as 47 per cent in some countries. Increasing reliance on imported foods, among other factors, has contributed to an 'epidemic' of obesity and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the region. In 2011, Pacific Island Forum Leaders, as part of the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué, declared the Pacific in crisis due to the NCD epidemic.

In January 2017, SPC's Public Health Division developed *Healthy Catering Guidelines: Guidelines for Serving Healthy Food and Drinks at SPC Events* to promote healthier eating habits among staff, and motivate other national and regional organisations to lead by example when it comes to the fight against NCDs.

'SPC conducts training and educational workshops around the region every day and we identified that we did not have any policy on food and nutrition to guide caterers on healthy foods. Often there is morning tea, followed by lunch and then afternoon tea, and participants get distracted after eating heavy meals, which are high in salts and sugar', said SPC Non-communicable diseases Adviser, Solène Bertrand-Protat.

The guidelines recommend offering a variety of nutritious foods that are low in fat, salt and sugar, restrictions on portions and fried foods, and encourages use of locally-sourced products to support the local economy and help protect the environment.

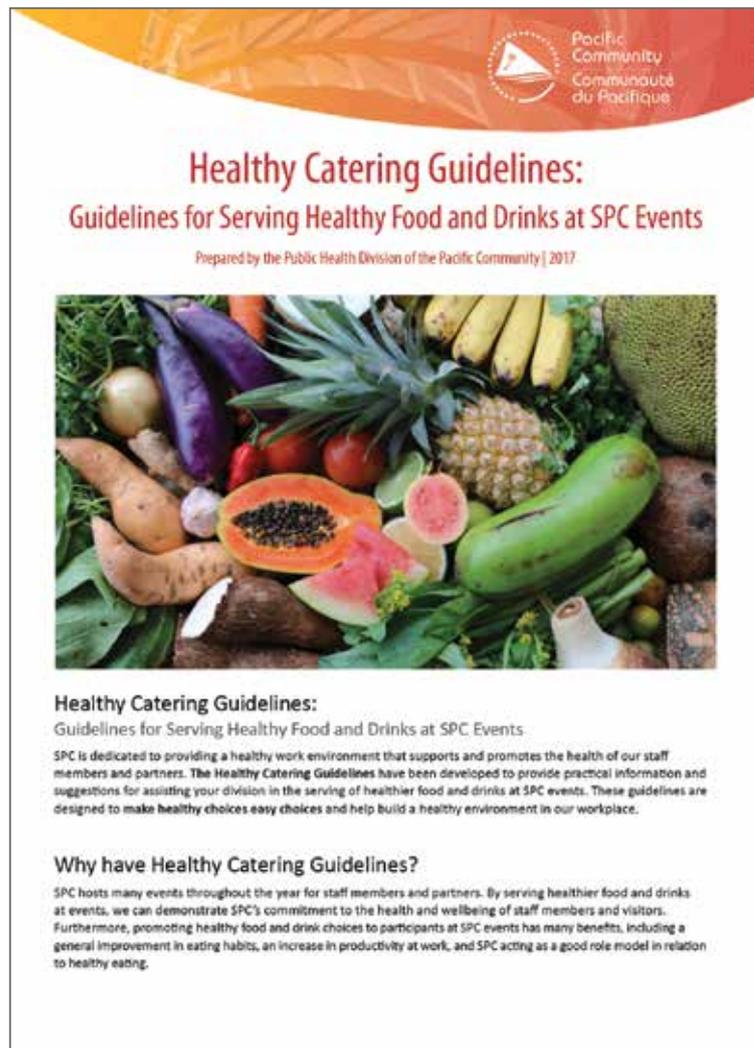
'Promoting healthy food and drink choices at SPC events leads to general improvement in eating habits, an increase in productivity at work, and sends a message about the importance of healthy eating. Furthermore, the guidelines are a testament to SPC's

commitment to addressing the NCDs crisis in the region', added Ms Bertrand-Protat.

Healthy Catering Guidelines have been developed to provide practical information and tips on serving healthier food and drinks at SPC events. These guidelines are designed to make healthy choices

easy choices and to help build a healthy environment in our workplace.

For further information or if you would like a copy of *Healthy Catering Guidelines*, contact SPC's Public Health Division Tel: (679) 337.9380 | Ext: 35380





SPC Staff (Noumea), received a long service certificate for more than 25 years working at SPC, 2014.

En 2014, remise d'un certificat d'ancienneté aux agents de la CPS (Nouméa) en poste à l'Organisation depuis plus de 25 ans.



Some of the twenty students who attended the first one-year course in Home Economics at the SPC Community Education Centre, Samabula, Fiji. Mrs Elizabeth Eden, FAO Regional Home Economist attached to the Centre, is at rear left. 1963.

Quelques-unes des 20 participantes au premier cours de formation à l'économie domestique, dispensé sur un an au Centre d'éducation communautaire de la CPS à Samabula (Fidji). On aperçoit au fond à gauche Mme Elizabeth Eden, Conseillère régionale en économie domestique à la FAO, alors en détachement auprès du Centre (1963).



At Kainantu Potteries, a locally owned business company in the New Guinea Highlands, young potters develop their own incision-decoration motifs. (Photo: J. Morel) 1977.

À la fabrique de poterie de Kainantu, entreprise autochtone des Hautes-Terres de Nouvelle-Guinée, de jeunes potiers gravent leurs propres motifs décoratifs. (Photo : J. Morel) 1977.



SPC's Aren Baao advises Litia Meo on the edit suite during post-production of her spot on cigarette smoking. South Pacific Commission 1994 Annual Report.

Aren Baao, de la CPS, aide Litia Meo à monter une séquence sur le tabagisme en salle de post-production. Commission du Pacifique Sud, Rapport annuel 1994.



40th Anniversary of SPC and the 27th South Pacific Conference, 1987.

Quarantième anniversaire de la CPS et vingt-septième Conférence du Pacifique Sud (1987).



3rd Melanesian Arts Festival, Fiji, 2006.

Troisième Festival des arts mélanésiens, Fidji (2006).



People in Sulufoloa, Malaita, Solomon Islands, listen to a health radio programme in 1969.

Diffusion d'une émission de radio sur la santé à Sulufoloa, île de Malaita, aux Îles Salomon (1969).



During the WHO/SPC rural hygiene training course in Western Samoa, medical auxiliaries from Pacific Island territories talk about rural hygiene with Miss Leonie Martin, SPC Health Education Specialist. SPC Annual Report, 1962.

Pendant le cours OMS/CPS d'hygiène rurale, aux Samoa Occidentales, les assistants médicaux des territoires du Pacifique parlent hygiène rurale avec Mlle Léonie Martin, Spécialiste de l'éducation sanitaire de la CPS. Rapport de l'année 1962.



SPC Secretary-general Francis Bogotu with his wife Ella and their two children, Tione (19) and Sadie (17), at the SPC HQ in July 1982.

Le Secrétaire général de la CPS, Francis Bugotu - avec sa femme Ella, et leurs deux enfants, Tione (19 ans) et Sadie (17 ans) au siège de la CPS, (Nouméa), juillet 1982.



Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mariana Islands District, Saipan Island, The first bookmobile, ca. 1969.

Territoires sous tutelle américaine dans le Pacifique, district des Îles Mariannes, île de Saipan : le premier bibliobus (vers 1969).



Transboarding a tractor in Solomon Islands during the 70s.

Transbordement d'un tracteur aux Îles Salomon (années 1970).



Photo used in an article for a FAO/SPC pesticides workshop. Pacific Impact, quarterly review of the South Pacific Commission, Volume 2, No. 1, March 1989.

Photo utilisée dans un article pour un atelier FAO/CPS sur les pesticides. Pacific Impact, publication trimestrielle de la Commission du Pacifique Sud, volume 2, n° 1 (mars 1989).



Kiribati high school girls – June 2004.

Des lycéennes de Kiribati (juin 2004).



Dr Salanieta Saketa (National Epidemiologist, Fiji Ministry of Health) presiding at the first day of the EpiNet Regional Workshop, with enthusiasm and determination. Inform'ACTION, N°15, September 2002.

Dr Salanieta Saketa (Épidémiologiste nationale, ministère de la Santé des Îles Fidji) présidant à la première journée de l'atelier régional EpiNet avec enthousiasme et détermination. Inform'ACTION, N°15, septembre 2002.



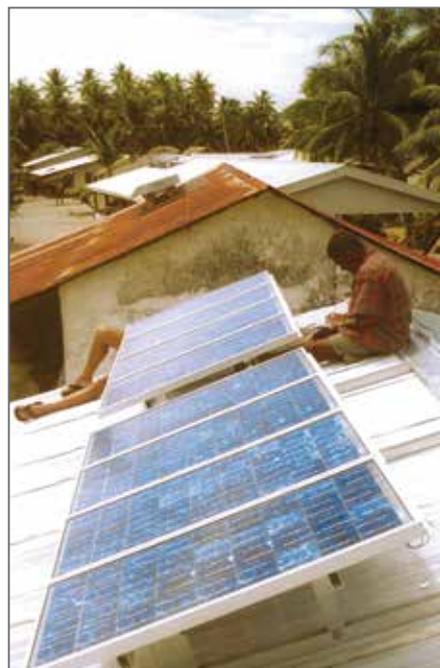
Training in graphic design and sil and screen printing, organised and conducted by Detlef Blumel (Graphic Arts Officer) and the Graphic Arts Assistant, Paul Kafoa for nine participants from five Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Tokelau, Tonga and Western Samoa). Suva, Fiji, 1988.

Cours de formation à la conception graphique et à la sérigraphie organisé et animé par Detlef Blumel (Spécialiste des arts graphiques) et son assistant, Paul Kafoa, à l'intention de neuf participants de cinq pays insulaires océaniques (Îles Cook, Fidji, Tokelau, Tonga et Samoa occidentale), Suva, Fidji (1988).



Sugar project 2017. Group work, Meigunyah sector, Fiji.

Travaux de groupe dans le cadre d'un projet sucre, secteur de Meigunyah, Fidji (2017).



Solar photovoltaic system installation, Annual Report Secretariat of the Pacific Community 2002.

Installation d'un système solaire photovoltaïque. Secrétariat général de la Communauté du Pacifique, Rapport annuel 2002.



SPC headquarters, Noumea, New Caledonia, 1995.

Siège de la CPS, Nouméa, Nouvelle-Calédonie (1995).



Photo from SPC Aquaculture Action Plan 2007.

Photos extraites du Plan d'action de la CPS en faveur de l'aquaculture (2007).



Mat Purea (Cook Islands) and Viliama Fakava (Tonga) working with a SCAINIP database during a PAIS workshop.

Mat Purea (Îles Cook) et Viliama Fakava (Tonga) travaillent sur une base de données du Système océanien d'information agricole (PAIS) dans le cadre d'un atelier du Comité permanent sur les réseaux d'information agricole dans le Pacifique (SCAINIP).