



REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
IN THE
SOUTH PACIFIC

THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

South Pacific Commission
Noumea, New Caledonia
December 1978



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History, Aims and Activities

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The Commission's purpose is to promote the economic and social welfare and advancement of the peoples of the South Pacific region for whom it works. The region contains approximately 4½ million people, scattered over some 30 million square kilometres. Less than two per cent of this area is land.

MEMBERSHIP

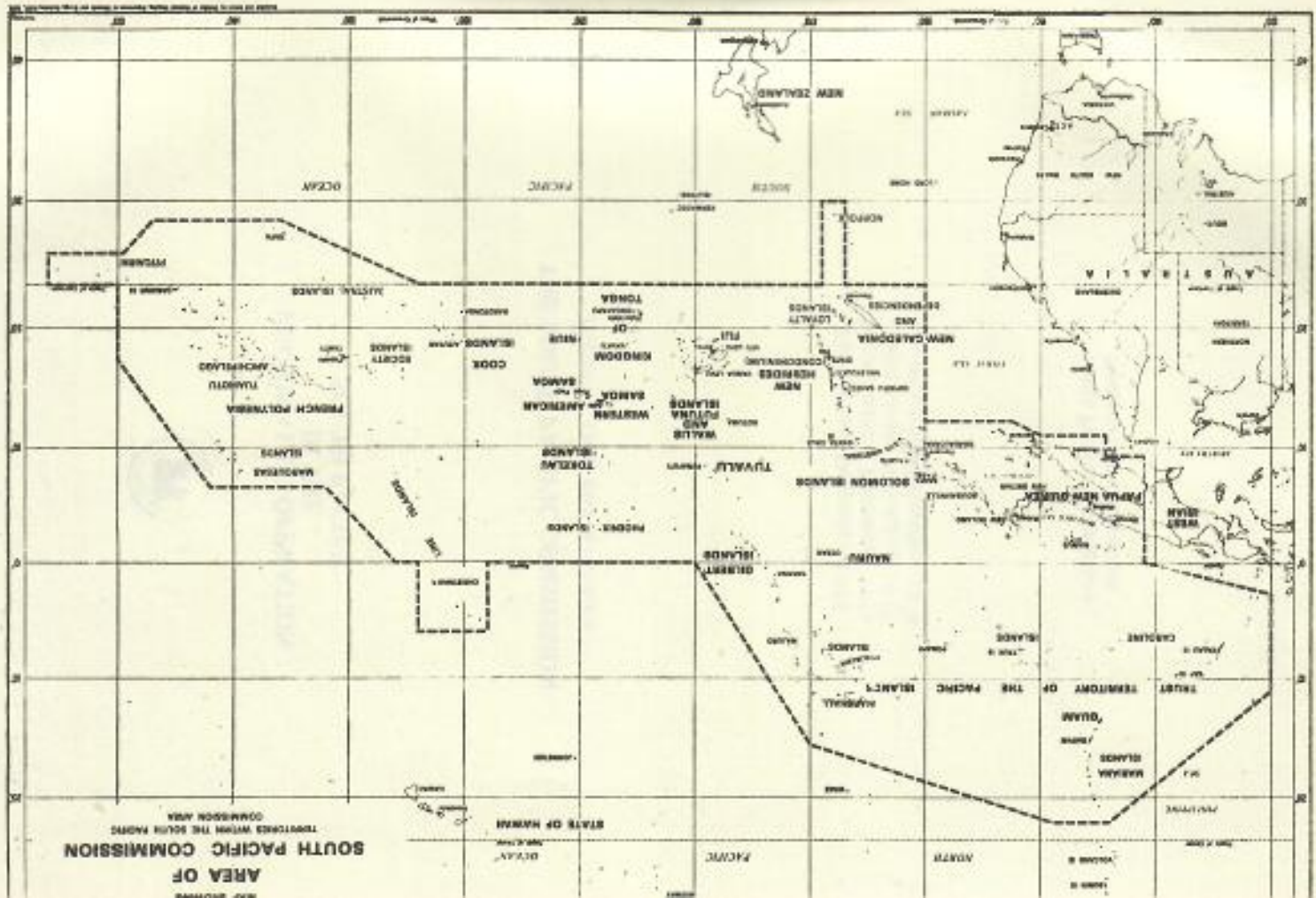
The South Pacific Commission was founded on 6th February 1947, when representatives from six Governments signed the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission. The Agreement, usually known as the Canberra Agreement, was signed in Canberra, Australia, by the Governments of Australia, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Since the signing of the Agreement, the Netherlands have withdrawn from the Commission (in 1962, when they ceased to administer the former colony of Dutch New Guinea, now known as West Irian), and independent Pacific states have been admitted to membership. Western Samoa became a member in October 1965, the Republic of Nauru in July 1969, Fiji in May 1971, Papua New Guinea in September 1975 and Solomon Islands and Tuvalu in November 1978.

SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Until 1974, Commissioners from the eight Participating Governments met in annual Session. The South Pacific Conference, attended by delegates from the Pacific territories, first met in 1950: it provided an opportunity for representatives from the Pacific Islands to make known to the Participating Governments their territories' special needs and problems. In 1967, the Conference became an annual event; it met immediately before the Session and made recommendations to it.

At the Thirteenth South Pacific Conference, which met



In Guam in 1973, proposals were put forward by the Government of Australia for changes in the functioning of the Commission. These proposals were studied by the Thirteenth Conference and by a meeting of Participating Governments held in Wellington, New Zealand, in March 1974. The result was a Memorandum of Understanding which was formally signed by representatives of the eight Participating Governments in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on 2nd October 1974, during the Fourteenth South Pacific Conference.

The Memorandum provides for the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Conference to meet once a year in a joint session to be known as the South Pacific Conference. The Conference examines and adopts the Commission's work programme and budget for the coming year, and discusses any other matters within the Commission's competence. Each Government and Territorial Administration has the right to send to the Conference a Representative and Alternate, each of whom has the right to speak. Each Representative, or in his absence an Alternate, has the right to cast one vote on behalf of the Government or Territorial Administration which he represents.

To assist the Conference in its work, the Memorandum provides for a Planning and Evaluation Committee which meets in April or May each year to evaluate the preceding year's work programme; to examine the draft work programme and budget for the coming year; to agree on two themes of regional interest (one social, one economic) to be discussed by the Conference; and to report to the Conference. The Memorandum also provides for a Committee of Representatives of Participating Governments which approves the Administrative Budget, nominates the Commission's Principal Officers, and reports thereon to the Conference. Until 1976, each Participating Government was entitled to one vote in the Committee in respect of itself and one in respect of each territory administered by it. A new Memorandum of Understanding signed on 20th October 1976 by representatives of all Participating Governments abolished this multiple voting procedure and gave each Government one vote in the Committee.

In October 1978, the Committee of Representatives of Participating Governments recorded the agreement expressed by the Member Governments to amend the Canberra Agreement as follows: "Any government, the territory of which is within the territorial scope of the Commission and which is either fully independent or in free association with a fully independent government, may accede to this Agreement if it is invited to do so by all Participating Governments, by depositing an instrument of accession with the Government of Australia".

PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Australia
Fiji
France
Nauru
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Tuvalu
United Kingdom
United States of America
Western Samoa

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ENTITLED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

American Samoa
Unincorporated Territory of the United States
Australia
Cook Islands
Self-governing State in free association with New Zealand
Fiji
Independent Dominion
France
French Polynesia
Overseas Territory of France
Gilbert Islands
Self-governing Colony of the United Kingdom
Guam
Unincorporated Territory of the United States

Nauru
Independent Republic
New Caledonia
Overseas Territory of France
New Hebrides
Condominium, jointly administered by France and the
United Kingdom
New Zealand
Niue
Self-governing State in free association with
New Zealand
Norfolk Island
Territory of Australia
Papua New Guinea
Independent State
Pitcairn Islands
Dependency of the United Kingdom
Solomon Islands
Independent State
Tokelau
Dependency of New Zealand
Tonga
Independent Kingdom
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
United Nations Trust Territory, administered by
the United States of America
Tuvalu
Independent State
United Kingdom
United States of America
Wallis and Futuna Islands
Overseas Territory of France
Western Samoa
Independent State

ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission's role is advisory and consultative. Its programmes are closely co-ordinated with those of the countries and territories of the Pacific for which it works. The Commission does not concern itself with

the politics of the states and territories within the region, nor does it attempt to control their development programmes.

The Sixteenth South Pacific Conference, which met in October 1976, adopted a recommendation made by a Review Committee that met earlier in the year, which reads as follows:

The South Pacific Commission, with the objective of encouraging and promoting the economic and social welfare and advancement of Pacific peoples in accordance with the Canberra Agreement as amended, should undertake the following functions:

- (a) to provide a common forum within which the Island peoples and their Governments can express themselves on issues, problems, needs and ideas common to the region, with a view to maintaining the opportunity for all Islands to be heard, viewed, considered and assisted on equal terms to one another;
- (b) to be a vehicle for the development and implementation of the concept of regionalism;
- (c) to assist in meeting the basic needs of the peoples of the region;
- (d) to foster and develop means to facilitate the flow of indigenous products, technical know-how and people among the islands;
- (e) to serve as a catalyst for development of regional resources that are beyond the capability of individual Island Governments to develop;
- (f) to serve as an aid-organising machine for Islands which are otherwise unable to reach aid sources outside the Islands or outside the region itself;
- (g) to act as a centre for collection and dissemination of information on the needs of the region and also as a depository for such information;

- (h) to undertake such other appropriate activities as may be determined by the South Pacific Conference.

LANGUAGES

The official working languages of the Commission are English and French.

FINANCES

The Commission's budget is derived from proportional contributions from the Participating Governments. The agreed proportions are:

Australia 33.6%; New Zealand 18%; United States 17%; France 14%; United Kingdom 12.3%; Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Western Samoa 0.85% each.

Voluntary contributions are also made to the budget by territorial administrations and governments and through special grants from international organisations and institutions working in the Pacific region.

The Commission's total budget for 1979 is 339,467,100 CFP francs (slightly less than four million Australian dollars at present exchange rates).

PUBLICATIONS

South Pacific Bulletin quarterly; English and French editions. Orders are taken at the Commission's Noumea and Sydney offices.

Technical Publications are published as the need arises and include the following series: Technical Papers; Handbooks; Information Documents; Information Circulars; Reports of Meetings; Statistical Bulletins; Newsletters on various topics. These publications disseminate information on recent developments in the Commission's field of work. Prices vary.

South Pacific Conference Proceedings
Annual Report

SECRETARIAT

Permanent Secretariat Headquarters: Anse-Vata, Noumea,
New Caledonia

Telephone: 26.20.00 and 26.20.11

Telex: 139 NM SOPACOM

Postal address: B.P. D5, NOUMEA CEDEX, New Caledonia

Office hours: Monday-Friday: 7.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Holidays: 6th February: SPC Anniversary
Good Friday

All official New Caledonian holidays

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Since November 1976, the Secretariat has had a Management Committee which has a supervisory and advisory role over all Commission activities. Committee members are the Principal Officers of the Commission:

Secretary-General : Dr E. Macu Salato
(till 30 June 1979)
The Hon M.Young Vivian
(from 1 July 1979)

Director of Programmes : Mr V.T. Brown

Director of Administration : Mr D.W.J. Stewart

BRANCHES

Fiji

SPC Community Education Training Centre
SPC Plant Protection Officer
P.O. Box 5082
Raiwaqa
SUVA, Fiji

SPC Regional Media Centre
P.O. Box 5086
Raiwaqa
SUVA, Fiji

Australia

SPC Publications Bureau
P.O. Box N324 Grosvenor Street
N.S.W. 2000, Australia

STAFF

Eighty-one based in Noumea, thirty-one based in Fiji and six in Sydney.

ACTIVITIES

The Sixteenth South Pacific Conference adopted a recommendation by the 1976 Review Committee that the Commission should carry out the following specific activities:

- (a) rural development
- (b) youth and community development
- (c) ad hoc expert consultancies
- (d) cultural exchanges (in arts, sports and education)
- (e) training facilitation
- (f) assessment and development of marine resources and research;

and that special consideration should be given to projects and grants-in-aid which do not necessarily fall within these specific activities, but which respond to pressing regional or sub-regional needs or to the expressed needs of the smaller Pacific countries.

The Review Committee also recommended that the three main sectors (health, social development, economic development) into which the Commission's work programme was formerly divided be abolished, and an integrated work programme, incorporating all activities, be established.

Within the framework of this integrated work pro-

gramme, the Eighteenth South Pacific Conference accorded top priority to the following items, projects and programmes for 1979:

Food and Materials

Agriculture: Tropical Agriculturalist; Family Level Food Crops and Home Economics Project; Coconut Inter-cropping and Coconut by-Products; Extension and Advisory Services for Coconut Smallholders; Territorial Training Courses (Vegetable and Food Crops); Supply of Vegetal Material; Regional Technical Meeting on Atoll Cultivation.

Plant Protection: Plant Protection Officer; Sub-regional Training Courses on Plant Protection; Workshop on Pesticides; Regional Meeting on Plant Protection; Regional Workshop on Biological Control; Special Plant Protection Publications and Training Aids. *Animal Production and Health:* Territorial Training Courses (Pig and Poultry); Regional Technical Meeting on Animal Health and Meat Inspection Services.

Marine Resources

Artisanal Fisheries: Fisheries Adviser; Fisheries Assistant; Deep Sea Fisheries Development Project; Training on Bêche-de-mer Processing; Short-term Consultants; Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries; Research on Fish Poisoning.

Oceanic Fisheries: Skipjack Survey and Assessment Programme; Expert Committee on Tropical Skipjack.

Rural Management and Technology

Conservation and Environmental Management: Regional Ecological Adviser; Country Assistance in Environmental Management; Environmental Education; Territorial Workshops in Environmental Planning and Assessment; Coastal Resources Survey.

Environmental Health: Adviser in Environmental Health and Food Hygiene; Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

Programme; Rural Environmental Health Training Courses; Territorial Training Courses in Food Hygiene.

Rural Employment: Rural Employment Promotion; Regional Technical Meeting on Rural Employment Promotion.

Appropriate Technology: Environmental Engineer; Field Supervisor (Environmental Engineering); Integrated Farming Systems Project.

Community Services

Community Education Training: Community Education Training Centre; Regional Home Economics Course for Community Workers; Mobile Home Economics Training Unit; Development of Resource Materials for Community Education and Training Programmes.

Youth Education: Specialist in Out-of-School Youth Education; Mobile Training Unit for Youth and Community Workers; Training Courses for Youth Development Workers; Awards for Youth Work Training Within the Region; Sponsorship of Pilot Work Camps; Pacific Youth Forum.

Adult Education: Adult Education Pilot Projects.

Family and Community Health Services: Health Education Officer; Territorial Courses on Maternal and Child Care Services and Nutrition Education at the Village Level; Sub-regional Workshop on Health Education Methods and Techniques; Health Education Materials; Consultants on Family Health Services; Weaning Food Project.

Public Health: Dental Public Health Officer; Territorial Training Courses in Dental Health; Pilot Demonstration Projects; Dengue Fever Project; Dietary Consultants; Diabetes Detection and Prevention; Prevention of Respiratory Diseases; Epidemiology, (a) Epidemiologist (b) South Pacific Epidemiological Information Service; Regional Conference on Social Effects of Alcoholism; Infantile Gastroenteritis Project; Establishment of a Serum Bank; Effects of Urbanization and Western Diet on Health of Pacific Island Populations.

Information Services and Data Analysis

Socio-Economic Statistics Unit: Statistician; Statistical Research Officer; Statistical Training Officer; Training Courses in Statistical Operations and Procedures; Calculating Assistant; Economist; Sub-regional Training Course on Project Evaluation; Regional Training Course for Customs Officers on Drug Identification and Drug Concealment Methods; Demographer; Sub-regional Training Course on the Use of Population Data in the Formulation of Population Policies; Sub-regional Training Course on Internal and External Migration Statistics; Second Regional Meeting of Census Planners; Joint UNFPA/SPC Project - Technical Assistance and Training in Demography and Population Statistics; Joint UNFPA/SPC Co-operation in Technical Assistance and Training for Censuses - Demography and Population Statistics; Data Processing Services; Study on Feasibility of Computer Services for SPC.

English Teaching Materials Unit: Language Teaching Specialist (English); Materials Development and Teacher Training.

Information and Publications Unit: Library; Conference on Regional Co-operation in the Development of Bibliographic Information Services; Educational Broadcasts Officer; Sub-regional Radio Production Courses; Audio-Visual Officer; Regional Media Centre; Sub-regional Training Courses on Audio-Visual Methods and Techniques; Operations and Maintenance of PEACESAT Terminal; Headquarters Publications Printing Section; Sydney Publications Bureau.

Regional Consultation: South Pacific Conference; Planning and Evaluation Committee; Inter-Organisational Consultations for Funding of Programmes; Regional Conference of Permanent Heads of Agricultural and Livestock Production Services; Regional Conference of Permanent Heads of Health Services.

Awards and Grants

Short-term Experts and Specialist Services.

Assistance to Applied Research, Experiments and Field Work.

Pacific Board for Educational Co-operation: Grants in Aid of Curriculum Development; Consultants and Support Services.

Cultural Conservation and Exchange: South Pacific Festival of Arts, (a) Grants-in-Aid, (b) Grant for Emoluments and Travel of Festival Director; South Pacific Arts Festival Council Meeting; Grants-in-Aid of Cultural Development; Grants-in-Aid of Conservation of Traditional Practices.

Inter-Territorial Study Visits and Travel Grants:

Inter-territorial Study Visits; Travel Grants - SPC Courses; Funds for SPC Activities funded by Other Organisations; Funds for Regional Travel - Student Training.

Principal publications of the SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

★ **SOUTH PACIFIC BULLETIN:** This illustrated quarterly magazine provides informative articles and expert opinion and guidance on a wide range of topics of interest to those concerned with the welfare and development of the territories of the South Pacific. Subjects covered in recent issues include—nutrition, public health, tropical crops, pests and diseases of plants and animals, current scientific research, co-operatives, community development and home economics, trade, education, housing and urbanization, natural history, and anthropology.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	PACIFIC ISLANDS	AUST.	NZ	UK	USA
Single copy	\$40.25	\$1.00	\$NZ1.20	66p	\$US1.25
One year	\$43.90	\$4.00	\$NZ4.80	£2.40	\$US5.00
Three years	\$A10.50	\$11.00	\$NZ13.50	£6.75	\$US14.00

★ **TECHNICAL PAPERS:** These are technical reports on a wide range of subjects in the economic, social, and health fields. More than 170 titles have been issued to date, but many are out of print. A list showing available papers is obtainable on request.

★ **SPC READERS:** Written for Pacific schools at the request of Territories. A series of readers based on the Yale Oral English Course for use as class texts or supplementary reading. Price list available on request.

★ **SPC HANDBOOKS:** No. 1, *Rat Control* (revised); No. 2, *Cocoa Production*; No. 3, *Land Tenure*; No. 4, *Laboratory Techniques in the Diagnosis of Intestinal Parasitic Infections*; No. 5, *Banana Production*; No. 6, *Coccoloba Production*; No. 7, *Urban Youth Work*; No. 8, *Master Gardening*; No. 9, *Bacteriology*; No. 10, *Weed Control*; No. 11, *Harmatolology*; No. 12, *Hospital and Health Service Administration*; No. 13, *Manuel de Realisation des Efforts d'Hygiene Animale dans le Pacifique Sud*; No. 14, *Citrus Production in the South Pacific*; No. 15, *Bovine Cattle Husbandry and Herd Management*; No. 16, *Arabic Coffer Production in the South Pacific*. Price, \$A1.50 (\$US1.85).

★ **EKOTIC PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES:** An invaluable comprehensive loose-leaf reference book of plant pests and diseases to be excluded from or prevented from spreading within the area of the South Pacific Commission. Price within SPC area \$A7.50. Elsewhere \$A15.00 (\$US18.50). Postage \$A3 extra all territories.

★ **FISH POISONING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC:** Sum up present knowledge of ichthyozar-coloxiam; identifies deadly fish; 44 full-colour plates. Price: \$A3.50 (\$US4.35).

★ **BECHE-DE-MER OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS:** A handbook for fishermen; identifies, with coloured pictures, commercially important species with advice on catching, processing, packaging and marketing. Price \$A1.50.

★ **HANDICRAFTS OF THE SOUTH SEAS:** Revised edition, many colour and black-and-white illustrations; an invaluable buyer's guide to Pacific artefacts. Price, \$A3.50 in SPC area, \$A4.00 elsewhere.

★ **PESTICIDE HANDBOOK:** A guide to the safe and efficient use of crop protection chemicals available in the Pacific. Price \$A1.50 (\$US1.85).

INQUIRIES REGARDING SPC PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
South Pacific Commission Publications Bureau
Box N324, Grosvenor Street, N.S.W., Australia 2000

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