

PROFITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (PEP) PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT

April, May, June, 1994

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Written By
Profitable Environmental Protection (PEP) Project Staff

I SUMMARY

As reported for the previous quarter, the retrenchment of USAID activities in the Pacific, resulted in the contraction of PEP's coverage from a regional project to one confined in Vanuatu. To the end of September 1995, PEP's activities will essentially focus on two EMUs; on developing plans for species recovery and enterprise development for the endemic palm species, Carpoxylon macrospermum; and on producing a report on viable alternative ways of handling waste oil in Vanuatu.

Programme activities:

Development of the different interventions for the Lolihor EMU continued to be pursued.

The Lolihor Development Council (LDC) opened a small office at the Ranon Co-operative store. Facilitated by PEP and FSP staff, the council formulated a draft constitution, drew up a workplan for PEP-sponsored activities for the rest of the year, and attempted to draw up a budget for itself. PEP continued to liaise with the UNDP/Vanuatu Government ESHDP team involved in Lolihor.

Wild yam planted during the 1993 planting season were inspected and found to be recovering satisfactorily from the February acid rain that killed all their aerial parts.

Wuhuran theatre group completed a new play promoting community unity - called "Jealous Heart."

Tourism consultant, Jeremy Challacombe, returned to participate in a guided trek through the volcanic plains to Craig Cove, and to assess the viability of the enterprise. Following his positive response and advice, PEP staff followed up on contingent activities to develop this enterprise further.

Recommendations of the consultant for the development of site-stable agriculture in Lolihor, were received favourably and negotiations commenced for engaging the Farm Support Association to execute the necessary activities.

In Santo, the PEP staff continued meetings to keep the village leaders informed. The villagers expressed substantial interest in their reef resources. PEP awaits the report of a fisheries biologist engaged during the quarter to investigate reef ecology of the area. Anita van Breda participated in the Lolihor eco-tourism trip with the tourism consultant, while Donna Kalfatak contributed to a South Pacific regional survey of women in fisheries.

The Vanuatu Government's departments responsible for environment and for forestry were both very supportive of our activities and proposals for the Carpoxyton project. A survey to determine population size, distribution, ecology and viability; as well as ethnobotany has been organised with a Pacific palm expert. This is now scheduled for November, 1994.

Investigations on alternative means of dealing with waste oil continued, with information being gathered from several overseas sources.

PEP continued to keep an interest in the Malekula reef restocking project. The Malekula reef owner requested PEP's assistance with acquiring seed stock and with training.

Administration:

As part of the process of closure of the USAID office in Suva, liaison with FSP for PEP was transferred to USAID/Manila. Funding has been reduced with concomitant reduction in geographic coverage of activities. USAID and FSP agreed to shift programme emphasis to greater promotion of community participation, building local skills, institutional strengthening, and documentation of lessons learned for sharing with other NGOs.

PEP lost a capable and fine scientist when the Project Manager, Dr. Nora Devoe, resigned in May. At her departure, the project management was re-organised in response to the USAID/FSP agreement for more participatory management. Some management responsibilities have been taken over by the FSP Regional Director, Ms. Kathy Fry, and the rest vested in the new Project Co-ordinator, Suliana Siwatibau, who joined the team on May, 30.

Two other new staff members were recruited during this quarter. Ms. Donna Kalfatak took up the post of Environmental Co-ordinator Assistant, based in Santo, on May 1. Her tasks require her to be a certified diver, which qualification she obtained after the necessary training under PEP sponsorship. Mr. Stanley Womack joined the team on a six month contract to develop an environmental education programme for Lolihor and for the Carpoxyton project.

PEP staff held a planning meeting during the first week of June. This served to familiarise newly recruited members with the project and to plan activities for the rest of the quarter. The team noted the need to closely co-ordinate activities as these increase for the EMUs. Difficulties in doing so was recognised, given inadequate communication facilities within the EMU areas.

Liason with other organisations outside the activities associated with the project were maintained with CUSO Vanuatu/Fiji, with SPREP/UNEP sponsored regional deforestation survey, and with USAID office in Suva.

International Travel and Training:

Kathy Fry and John Salong travelled to Barbados to join the NGO forum for the meeting of small island states on sustainable development. Salong took leave afterwards to join a CUSO organised meeting of Pan-Pacific indigenous NGOs.

II PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The following sites have been adopted or considered for PEP intervention:

I. NORTH AMBRYM

Initial Situation: Gardens in the Lolihor EMU are expanding at the expense of forest, largely because inhabitants are expanding cash cropping. Traditional slash and burn practices necessitate site rotation every year.

Conservation Objective: To reduce loss of forest cover occurring as a consequence of expanding gardens.

Enterprise Interventions: Enterprises that provide an alternative source of cash income, give new or added value to natural resources, or that substitute destructive gardening for more sustainable exploitation will be expanded or developed, thus reducing dependence on cash cropping (cocoa, copra, cattle, peanuts) or market gardens (mostly taro and sweet potatoes) for income.

Proposed enterprises were (1) a tourism project, (2) handicraft sales, (3) cultivation of wild yams, and (4) processing and sale of shark fins.

Project History

March 1993: PEP Team recommends adoption of this EMU, with further investigation of specific interventions.

September 1993: Profiling completed, active EMU, Initial Environmental Examination submitted and approved for wild yam enterprise, IEE in progress for tourism project, handicrafts under investigation, shark fin enterprise dropped. Monitoring and evaluation and environmental education programs are active.

PEP team recommends continuing advance in tourism, handicraft, and yam initiatives.

December 1993:

Tourism

Consultant Jeremy Challacombe visited the Lolihor EMU during the previous quarter to prepare an IEE for the tourism project. Traditionally, access to the volcanoes has been denied during the yam planting season, November through February. It is believed that persons visiting the volcanoes disturb them, bringing volcanic dust and acid rain that destroys the newly planted

crops. Villagers favoring the tourism project wanted this prohibition lifted. In May of 1993, following presentations by representatives from Ranvetlam, the District Council of Chiefs agreed that tourists could visit the volcanoes at any time of the year. Although this issue has been the subject of continuing debate, the decision of the District Council was reaffirmed in August 1993. In a cultural context, this represents a major deviation, and is an indication of the level of interest in increasing tourism.

Site-Stable Agriculture

Boosting production from areas already under cultivation is one forest conservation strategy that PEP proposed for Lolihor but has not yet attempted. Following from several discussions with Charles Rogers of the Farm Support Association (FSA), Devoe drafted terms of reference for Rogers and FSA to begin this work, assessing existing farming systems, and recommending practices to boost production in terms of either food or cash. This consultancy is scheduled for February.

Equitable and Sustainable Human Development Program (ESHDP)

On November 6th, Pestelos travelled to Lolihor. Working with the PEP Liaison Officer, the following four days were devoted to community relations activities that culminated in the formal endorsement of the ESHDP Workshop by the Ambrym Island Councilors. The program and subsequent profiling activities began on November 11th, and continued intermittently through November 29th. Following a discussion with all participants at the onset of the training, it was agreed that participants would not be compensated for their work with the project. This issue was again raised by the local trainers on November 29th, when they presented a petition calling for a sitting fee to be paid, retroactive to the first day of the workshop. Pestellos and Salong responded, saying that among other considerations, this demand was in violation of a previous commitment, and that there was no money available to pay such fees. The workshop was declared closed, and Pestelos and Salong returned to Port Vila.

It should be noted that the work of the ESHDP was virtually completed by November 29th. The sudden closing of the program and subsequent discussions within the EMU brought to the surface long standing conflicts relating to ESHDP, the PEP Project, and Salong's work within the community. It is Salong's view that these conflicts are being successfully resolved, and that here is now "incredible support" for the ESHDP.

Popular Theater in Lolihor

Response to the Wuhuran Theater Group continues to be excellent. The newly appointed Local Facilitator is working closely with the company to assure its effectiveness.

George Bumseng Joins PEP as Local Facilitator

Because of John Salong's increased responsibilities as Community Liaison Officer, it became apparent that an assistant should be employed. Further, it was felt that Salong would be more effective if he could distance himself from some of the day-to-day PEP work and devote more time to planning and administration. George Bumseng, a native of Fanrereo village, has been employed to assist Salong in the capacity of Local Facilitator.

PEP team recommends that community participation be enhanced and formalized community participation through the establishment of a Steering Committee for PEP activities in the EMU. The selection of this committee should evolve from the ESHDP. Select consultants to conduct programs in increased food production and a prototype ecotourism project. Initiate development of activities to increase production from lands already under cultivation. Continue to pursue all interventions.

March 1994:

Tourism

In January, Devoe met with the Activities Director for Club Med II to discuss potential shipboard environmental education programs for ships calling at Ambrym and Santo. PEP continues to pursue this possibility with all cruise ship lines.

Tourists visiting Vanuatu are not accustomed to Melanesian cuisine which they perceive as bland and monotonous. To provide more pleasing food and thus enhance the experience, it was decided to conduct a food preparation workshop for residents of Lolihor. It was not the purpose of the workshop to introduce Western-style cooking, but rather to teach local cooks to add spice and variety to the menu using only locally available food. Kelma Sope, a ni-Vanuatu with experience in conducting nutrition and food preparation workshops, was engaged to go to Lolihor to present the workshop. Ms. Sope developed a formal five day curriculum with emphasis on hands on activities, and also developed a number of recipes utilizing locally available foods. Representing four communities within the EMU, 15 women and one man participated in the workshop. As a final exercise, the group voted to hold a food sale. This was a great success with VT12,000 raised; it was voted to use the proceeds to provide more training for women's groups.

In October 1993, Jeremy Challacombe reported on his first consultancy, in which he was asked to evaluate the potential for nature-based tourism in Lolihor. Challacombe determined that tourism held reasonable income-generating potential for Lolihor residents. He recommended that a tour be developed, and that local people be trained to undertake this enterprise activity. Challacombe was employed to return to Lolihor in February to design the tour and conduct formal training for guides. Fifteen candidates, including seven women, participated in the guide training program. A planned component of this training was a trial tour, with paying tourists recruited in Port Vila as a test group. Unfortunately, at the time for this tour, two cyclones passed through Vanuatu, straddling Ambrym. Flights to, and local transport in, Ambrym were suspended, and the trial tour was cancelled. Upon his return to Port Vila, the consultant met with locally-based tour operators to acquaint them with the PEP tourism project. Their reaction was favorable, and they evidenced interest in marketing the tour once it was fully developed.

Lolihor Development Council

Of ongoing concern are the issues of management and sustainability for the tourism project and other interventions. An expected product of the PEP/ESHDP participatory profiling and planning exercise was the selection of a Lolihor Development Council to provide guidance and management for development activities in Lolihor. As related in above report of the ESHDP activity, this did not eventuate. The tourism project involves a number of stakeholders whose

record of cooperation is clouded; it was felt to be essential that a locally chosen body be constituted to assume management responsibility for the enterprise.

In an attempt to bring together the Lolihor community, and to facilitate the selection of a development council, Neil Netaf Stevens, a member of FSP's ni-Vanuatu staff and a Community Development Specialist, was recruited to work within the EMU.

Following background meetings with PEP staff and Jimmy Nipo of the Department of Local Government in Port Vila, Stevens travelled to Lolihor in March for ten days of consultations with community members. At meetings in six villages, the purpose of both PEP and ESHDP projects was discussed, and support and commitment for each project solicited. Next, an area leaders' meeting was convened, which resulted in the election of the Lolihor Development Council, Chairman, and Executive Committee. The Council agreed that they would support all PEP/ESHDP initiatives, and that responsibility for community participation would be lodged with the Executive Committee. If the Committee functions and accepts these responsibilities, it will follow that leadership and management roles now in the hands of on-site PEP staff will be transferred to local leaders. PEP staff will assume their more appropriate roles as advisors and facilitators, and the project will have achieved a significant milestone.

Site-Stable Agriculture

PEP began work with the national NGO Farm Support Association (FSA), negotiations for which were begun last quarter. PEP Local facilitator George Bumseng visited FSA personnel and the farm and alley cropping demonstrations at Montmartre just outside Port Vila at the end of January.

Charles Rogers of the FSA assessed existing farming systems in Lolihor during February 19-March 1. He reported considerable potential for improving agricultural practices by: 1) introducing alley cropping to contribute to site-stabilization of cash cropping; 2) enriching fallows with legumes to speed restoration of soil fertility; and 3) increasing production from coconut plantations by suitable underplantings. Additionally, Rogers recommended a program of farm forestry to further stabilize agriculture, diversify woody biomass, and produce fuelwood and building materials. Contouring and other techniques to reduce erosion were also suggested. During his visit, Rogers established a contour planting trial. Cuttings of Gliricidia sepium sent by Rogers were outplanted in Lolihor in March. Rogers raised the interest of local farmers and predicts excellent participation in activities aimed at enhancing agricultural production.

Equitable and Sustainable Human Development Program (ESHDP)

PEP continued coordination and planning with NPSO, Department of Local Government, and ESHDP personnel in Suva for the rescheduling of the aborted Lolihor Development Congress. Target date is now June. A United Nations Volunteer is expected to be posted to Lolihor in June, too.

Popular Theater in Lolihor

During the last two weeks in January, the Wuhuran Theater Group was in Port Vila for a training workshop with Vanuatu's national troupe, Wan Smol Bag. Wuhuran began work on a new play written by them, "Nabanga", about themes of cooperation in village life. Cooperation is shown to enhance environmental management and quality of life, while greed and self-interest lead to environmental degradation and social problems. "Nabanga" was performed for PEP and other FSP staff during the training.

Cyclones prevented the Wuhuran Theatre group from returning to Ambrym until early February. Wan Smol Bag continued to coach them, and they worked on the play "Tourists and Toilets", which Wan Smol Bag had originally written and produced upon commission from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). PEP selected this play for the Wuhuran Theatre's repertoire because it raises many of the environmental and social issues surrounding outer-island tourism and serves as an excellent platform for launching discussion of these issues. Wuhuran Theatre presented "Tourists and Toilets" in Vila for PEP, the larger FSP, and collaborators from Department of Local Government, Environment, Forestry, and National Planning Office. We were joined by Sally Montgomery Brumbaugh, new FSP Vice President, on her first visit to Vanuatu. The theatre group presented "Tourists and Toilets" in Fanrereo and Ranon following the Port Vila workshop.

Current Situation

Status, June 1994:

1 a. Equitable and Sustainable Human Development Program (ESHDP) and Lolihor Development Council (LDC).

ESHDP developments include the following:

- the first draft report on the ESHDP Participatory Planning Process in Lolihor called, "Community Aspirations for Human Security in the Lolihor Watershed Area: their implications to strengthening local capacities for project development and implementation", was produced;
- National Planning Office (NPO) re-affirmed commitment to being the co-ordinating center for ESHDP,
- new national committee has been set up. (The sacking of striking civil servants had left vacant positions.)
- a work plan produced,
- and the decision made for the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) to reside in Port Vila instead of North Ambrym.

Lolihor development:

The L.D.C. has written letters to:

- all NGOs, introducing itself and requesting training support;
- Telecom Vanuatu Ltd. (TVL) to request the installation of a single line telephone in Lolihor, with facsimile capacity.

Initial preparations with Nasonal Komuniti Dvelopmen Trust (NKDT) to run a workshop with the LDC were cancelled after scheduling difficulties. Neil Stevens Netaf, FSP Community Development Specialist substituted to facilitate the drafting of LDC's constitution. (Netaf's report - Appendix I). The week long process generated further excitement and cemented commitment to the PEP project activities in Lolihor. Neil officially opened a temporary office at the Lonbato co-operative store room at Ranon village.

The L.D.C. and the Lolihor community are:

- prepared for the Lolihor Development Congress on August 17th; and
- eager to have assistance from the U.N.V. to develop and implement working policies based on community aspirations for human security.

Having received drafts of the constitution, delegates of the L.D.C executive will be travelling to all villages to discuss the draft constitution, address questions, and allow further input towards the final draft for ratification at the Second Annual L.D.C. Meeting.

Based on the constitution, the LDC will proceed to develop:

- Lolihor Conservation Policy;
- Lolihor Tourism Plan;
- Lolihor Cultural Revitalization Policy;
- Lolihor Non-formal Education Policy;
- Lolihor Sustainable Development Plan;
- and a framework for partnership with other organizations.

After clarification of these policies, delegates of LDC will embark on an awareness mission to Port Vila to inform potential partners of how they can participate in the implementation of LDC policies in Lolihor. The partnership framework will guide negotiations with all organizations including local groups such as Wuhuran Theater Group.

The LDC executive met with the PEP coordinator and:

- agreed to hiring an environment educator for Lolihor;
- endorsed Marina Joses as the part time female Local Facilitator;
- agreed on first aid, tour guide and cooking workshops and a schedule for these;
- submitted a budget for a building for the LDC;
- and endorsed ten names as Wuhuran farmers to work with FSA on site stable agriculture.

1 b. **Wild Yams**

Three thousand seven hundred and sixty two kilograms of wild yams have been bought from the villages of Wilit and Konkon by PEP and distributed since November 1993. The total number of farmers that have received wild yams is ninety four.

Direct costs associated with establishing the wild yam project are set forth in Appendix II.

Volcanic activity temporarily affected some of the growing plants but they have since recovered. More and more farmers are interested in participating in wild yam planting. Those who have already planted want to plant more.

Time constraints have resulted in a weakness in wild yam monitoring. But the proposed wild yam farmers workshop will be conducted to:

- reinforce PEP's goals in Lolihor;
- allow farmers to exchange ideas on the best ways to plant and harvest wild yams, monitor growths, monitor production, identify a marketing channel, and agree on a beach selling price.

The L.D.C. is committed to:

- administer the purchase of another 7,000 kg of wild yams from Wilit, Konkon, and S.E. Ambrym;
- transport, store, and distribute wild yams to farmers after briefing them.

1 c. **Wuhuran Theatre Group**

Developments with Wuhuran Theater Group include the following:

- hiring of two new members, John Nabong and Shelly Sali, - two performances of "Tourists and Toilets" play at Ranon Junior Secondary School and Fanla village;
- production of "Jealous Heart," - a new play about root causes inhibiting advancement of PEP activities in Lolihor, ready to be performed;
- a two day on-site training at Hencyal-Orkon by Charleon Falao of Wan Smol Bag Theater; and

- and the decision by the group members to establish Wuhuran Theater Group as a separate entity from PEP to facilitate involvement in non-formal education on all issues including, but not limited to, environmental awareness.

1 d. **Tourism**

From May 3 - 7, two tourists embarked on parts of Ambrym Adventure Tour. Four days notice was too short to get everything organized, and the two tourists could not afford a cultural dance display at Fanla. A village tour outside of Lolihor was quickly organized. The tourists did not want to go to the hot springs, having just travelled in New Zealand. Their travel on Sunday resulted in some guides not turning up. Consequently, packs were too heavy for just one guide and the PEP local facilitator. Luckily, the tourists were fit and experienced, so they carried some of their own packs. The guides did not know the right path at that time because they had not surveyed the paths as planned due to other commitments. A report submitted by the two tourists has proven valuable to the tour guides and the cooks (Appendix III).

May 17 - May 26 saw Jeremy Challacombe's return to Lolihor (Appendix IV). He was joined by four tourists from May 19 - 24. The whole tour program was conducted. Everything went smoothly and everyone was relatively happy, except for some people at Emiotungan in West Ambrym who were expecting the tourists to stop at their village. A meeting called by the chiefs of West Ambrym on July 28th will discuss Ambrym Adventure Tours and listen to their concerns.

Work on brochures for Rossolo Bungalows and Ambrym Adventure Tours has started but is yet to be completed. The in-house brochures will be produced and distributed to the tour operators in Vila.

Meetings have been held with tour operators in Vila to inform them of Ambrym Adventure Tours. Mike Van Helsing of South Pacific Travels and Gilbert Ambrogiani of Surata Tamaso may be coming on an awareness tour of the Ambrym Adventure Tours in August. They will try to bring some paying tourists to cover their costs. Jeremy Challacombe is also trying to organize a commercial tour from Australia in the next quarter.

It is recognized that some work needs to be done to inform yachtsmen of the Ambrym Adventure Tours. Educational pamphlets, brochures, posters and videos must be produced to provide a guide for tourists on what to expect and how to behave. Evaluation questions in self-addressed envelopes will be provided to tourists for feed back. This will help the stakeholders in improving the tour.

Douglas Solomon, (bungalow owner and operator) and Isaiah Bongnaim, (tour guide leader to west Ambrym,) should be taken on a study tour to see ecotourist operations either in New Zealand or Fiji. A tour will enable them to substantially improve their practices on the ground.

Planned training workshops include:

- a first aid course for tour guides scheduled for July;
- the second tour guide training course (to increase the pool of tour guides) in August;
- and another cooking workshop is scheduled for September.

1 e. **Site-Stable Agriculture**

Arrangements between three individual farmers, the Ranon Junior Secondary School Agriculture Teacher, and Charles Rogers, led to the shipment from Vila of some 450 glyricidia cuttings for alley cropping. Because of packing and transportation complications, only 30 per cent of the planted cuttings have sprouted. Glyricidia plants, however, already exist at Ranon. These can be used to start other alley cropping plots.

George Bumseng, has planted out:

- Dendrolobium umbellatum or "limlalau," 100 per cent of which are growing;
- pigeon peas - already germinated;
- and flamengia, for the purpose of collecting seeds. It remains to be seen how flamengia will resist volcanic activity.

George has also set out markers to monitor soil erosion on:

- a contour planted garden plot;
- and a plot without contour planting.

Nine Wuhuran farmers, besides George, have been identified to serve as key farmers in demonstrating:

- fallow enrichment;
- contour planting and alley cropping;
- and cultivating under coconut trees.

2. SANTO

Initial Situation: The Australian Institute for Marine Sciences completed a Vanuatu Marine Resources survey in 1988. The Survey identified Hog Harbour and Elephant Island as one of four exceptional coral reef systems in Vanuatu and recommended Elephant Island as a national conservation priority. The area was noted for its rich marine biodiversity and unique conservation potential. Some suggestion of over fishing exists, turtles are occasionally hunted. Local tourist attractions, including Lonnoc Beach Resort and Champagne Beach, would benefit from protection of reef quality at Elephant Island. Potential exists for enhancing snorkelling and diving enterprises in exchange for cooperation in site protection.

Conservation Objective: To institute a private, protected area to safeguard the exceptional marine biodiversity of Elephant Island, threatened by uncontrolled exploitation and large-scale tourism (Falstar cruise ship shipboard diving).

Enterprise Intervention: Lonnoc Beach Resort, Elephant Island, and Champagne Beach would all benefit from maintenance of reef quality at Elephant Island. We propose to investigate the enhancement of existing tour/snorkelling/diving enterprises to support a protected area, and to improve tourist services in exchange for cooperation in management of Elephant Island. The appeal for working with an established business (Lonnoc) is very high. Some baseline data is available and conventional business indicators can be employed to demonstrate progress (or lack thereof).

Project History

September 1993: This project is highly recommended for continued investigation. Land disputes are rumoured for Elephant Island. The relationship between Lonnoc Beach and Elephant Island is unclear (Does Lonnoc share Elephant-Island-derived revenues with Elephant Island owners?). We would like to investigate these issues before approaching the principals at Lonnoc and Elephant Island to seek their cooperation in developing pro-conservation enterprises.

December 1993: Stead travelled to Santo October 28 to prepare for the visit of USAID's Larry Armstrong and Toni Ferrara. Prior to their arrival, he met with John Mooney, Santo's Municipal Planner, to develop a strategy for introducing PEP into the Elephant Island community. It was decided to work through the Santo Tourism Industry Development Association (STIDA), as virtually all stake holders are represented in this organization.

Devoe and AEP Fellow Milika Naqasima travelled to Santo December 14-16, so Naqasima could see the site and better detail her workplan for January and February. Devoe and Naqasima met with Local Government Council (LGC) Secretary Havo Moli to discuss plans for work at

Elephant Island and in the surrounding communities of Hog Harbor and Port Olry. Moli pledged LGC support for the PEP effort. He suggested that he accompany PEP staff to the site and villages to present them to the area chiefs upon Naqasima's return. He seemed acquainted with the environmental issues in the North Santo area and genuinely interested in protecting resources and tourist income there.

Naqasima and Devoe also met with Luganville Municipal Planner John Mooney, who as a member of the STIDA, had first approached PEP with regard to environmental management in North Santo. Mooney's concern, like PEP's, is in preventing damage to the marine resources which could result from uncontrolled tourist traffic, and thus undercut tourist revenues. Mooney was briefed on the discussion with Moli and PEP work plans.

Kalmer Vocor, owner of the Lonnoc Beach Resort, met with Devoe and Naqasima to discuss his questions about development in the area. Lonnoc Beach Resort will be the base for much of the PEP field work, so Devoe wanted to discuss longer-term rates for accommodation and boat rental. Vocor is very knowledgeable about local issues and politics, and is an important stakeholder in the project.

Ranked fourth in importance by the PEP Advisory Committee, it was recommended that this intervention is to be the site of heightened activity. Anita van Breda, PEP's Marine Conservation Specialist, will assume her duties on January 31st, and will be stationed in Santo to undertake day-to-day direction of this project.

March 1994: Van Breda arrived in Vanuatu the end of January and prepared a Project History and overview of PEP activity at Elephant Island. This includes statements of goals and objectives, activities and expected outcomes. She travelled to Santo to assist AEP fellow Milika Naqasima with field work and report writing. Debriefing meetings at the close of the fellowship were held with the Local Government Council Secretary Havo Moli, STIDA's Chairman Kalmer Vocor, Fisheries Department Francis Hickey, Devoe and van Breda. Naqasima gave a brief presentation of her findings. Devoe and van Breda reaffirmed commitment to follow up the initial findings with additional research. Fisheries agreed to target Hog Harbour community for traditional marine management education workshops.

Van Breda returned to Vila for PEP staff meetings, and to discuss PEP marine projects individually with PEP staff. Ten working days in Vila were devoted to research and networking for two marine projects as well as FSP computer and video training.

Devoe and van Breda defined terms of employment for a ni-Vanuatu environmental education assistant to work with van Breda in Santo. In March, van Breda established day-to-day management of the Santo project with the establishment of a PEP Santo office. Management is defined as "integrator, coordinator, communications center, tactician, and consensus-maker". Van Breda recruited environmental education assistant Donna Kalfatak, who will be based in the Santo office.

Extension Activities

To introduce PEP's marine projects to the South Pacific environment community, van Breda drafted and mailed a letter of introduction to PEP collaborators, supporters, and colleagues in the region.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority requested PEP's review of a report on a global representative system of marine protected areas for IUCN and the World Bank.

The Australian High Commission - Vanuatu, requested PEP's review of a marine reserve project in Malekula.

Development of local contacts for further involvement with this project are underway. Van Breda and Kalfatak met with STIDA's acting manager Irlene Ligo to communicate PEP research findings thus far, and to review plans for future activities. Ms. Ligo reaffirmed STIDA's interest in this project and agreed to participate in village workshops. Van Breda and Kalfatak also volunteered to formally introduce this project to the members of STIDA at their next general meeting.

Van Breda and Kalfatak participated in the Environment Unit's Big Bay national park community workshops.

Field activities are based from Lonnoc Beach Resort (LBR). LBR continues to update and improve services including construction of a larger bar and restaurant and running water, toilet, and shower facilities. Owner Kalmer Voccor would like to encourage landings of cruise ship visitors to Lonnoc Beach and has requested PEP's assistance in choosing a location and recommending construction design of a jetty.

We will continue to lend technical assistance and support for community-generated marine conservation projects where feasible and appropriate (such as the Maskelyn Island giant clam project). Our association with these projects enhances PEP's visibility and furthers our knowledge of, and experience with, community driven conservation projects which will ultimately enhance our effectiveness with our community education activities.

Research

Van Breda edited Milika Naqasima's Santo report, and composed a two page summary for distribution to PEP collaborators.

Documentation of existing literature and information relative to development of a management plan for this site is an ongoing project.

Ecological data gathering continues with a third round of water quality testing to be completed in April. A fisheries biologist consultant will be contracted to assist with further development and refinement of the coral and reef fish biological monitoring program. Future workplans will identify additional research needs for economic, cultural and social data necessary for management of the area. The environmental education assistant will lead development of environmental education community workshops and will continue with the Woman' Fisheries Network Survey which seeks to evaluate the role of woman in community fisheries.

PEP recommended continued efforts to further develop this project including commissioning a participatory rapid appraisal of Hog Harbour and Port Olry. Long-term partners and funding agents should be sought to ensure continuance of PEP's efforts and goals.

Current Situation

Status, June 1994:

Van Breda travelled to Port Vila April 18 and 19, for a two day staff meeting with USAID officials. A Santo-Project summary was prepared and future work plans discussed. With the project's ecological work under way, planning emphasis was given to social and economic data gathering relative to community dynamics and development. The group agreed to search for a social scientist consultant to perform a Participatory Rural Appraisal for Hog Harbour and Port Olry villages. The consultant will be required to train PEP ni-Vanuatu staff in the principles and methodology of PRA in order to develop in-country skills. Other plans include regional recruitment for institutional partners to assist with continuation of project beyond the close of PEP.

U.S. A.I.D. staff members John Grayzell and Chuck Howell, travelled to Santo with van Breda and Devoe for a one day tour of Hog Harbour, Lonnoc Beach Resort, Champagne Beach, and Port Olry.

The Santo-PEP office was moved to the Local Government Council building. The new office space increases accessibility of the PEP project to local community.

Van Breda and Kalfatak travelled to Vila in April for an introduction to the new PEP project coordinator and project review meetings.

Extension Activities

With the addition of Kalfatak to PEP staff, introductory meetings with the President and Secretary of Local Government Council were arranged. Kalfatak and van Breda requested continued assistance with facilitation of community relations. Additional meetings were arranged with two Hog Harbour village chiefs to remind the villagers that the project was still on-going, to share results of Naqasima's report, and to inform them of the pending visit of a fisheries biologist. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with all village leaders:

chiefs, pastors, womens' group, youth group, and key landowners (Mr. Obed; Champagne Beach and Mr. John Wus; Elephant Island) for June to discuss the project's objectives, findings to date, and village involvement and participation.

Kalfatak and van Breda consulted with Neil Stevens, FSP Community Development Specialist, regarding future plans for Hog Harbour community relations and development activities.

Meetings were also held with William Naviti, Fisheries Research, and Ernest Bari, Environment Unit, to update status of project and seek support and involvement.

Individual meetings were also held with custom landowners of Elephant Island and Champagne Beach to discuss the project and extend an invitation to the village leaders meeting.

Research

Previous fish census dive sites were relocated and coordinates recorded. Mapping of dive sites was completed to facilitate work of contracted fisheries biologist consultant Dr. Allen Friedlander/ Hawaii Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit.

Dr. Friedlander conducted a census of reef fish of Elephant Island and Hog Harbour, Champagne Beach patch reefs. The work was designed to augment previous preliminary work completed last January and included recommendations for further investigation regarding subsistence and commercial fishing efforts, and their possible impacts for future management of the site. Preliminary analysis indicates a diverse and healthy fish population. However the full analysis and report is not yet available.

We are also in the process of conducting shoreline transects to characterize invertebrate populations, the primary target of women who fish.

Water quality monitoring continues. The Matevulu College blue hole will be included in the monitoring program at the request of the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources.

June 14 the Fairstar cruiseship visit to Champagne Beach was documented (Appendix V). The findings were reported to the Fisheries Research and the Environment Unit. A meeting was held with STIDA officials to discuss the Fairstar and cruiseship visits in general. We agreed to work together on the design of improved snorkel and dive regulations for all tour operators and to design an education program for tourists based on environmental considerations.

Kalfatak completed a report of the Women's and Fisheries Survey of 15 women in Hog Harbour, January 1994. An English and Bislama version of the results are available for distribution (Appendix VI).

Other

Kalfatak completed an open water diver certification program.

van Breda participated in PEP's ecotourist trek to Ambrym (see Appendix VII).

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).

The staff planning meeting in June decided that any resource management plan for the Santo EMU would be formulated by the resource owners themselves, facilitated by PEP through a PRA exercise. On the advice of the USAID Manila office, contact was made with Dr. Richard Ford of Clark University. Negotiations are now well underway for the latter's assistance to PEP with training and with the conduct of the PRA exercise in Santo.

The proposal to facilitate community resource management planning through a PRA exercise has created interest in a few other bodies, including the Government Environment Unit. Discussions were held with the latter, which has a proposal for a PEP-type project in Matantas area contingent to the PEP Santo EMU. It was agreed that training associated with PEP's PRA exercise would also be made available to some of the government officers involved in Matantas. These will, in the main, be those that normally service PEP's EMU communities, and would therefore be required by PEP for the PRA anyway.

The PEP Co-ordinator held a briefing meeting with the outgoing Regional Development Planner attached to Luganville Municipality. He provided useful insight into current development of small indigenous business enterprises in Santo, particularly those involved in tourism.

3. CARPOXYLON MACROSPERMUM PROJECT

Initial Situation: Carpoxylon macrospermum, a palm in what is described as probably the only endemic plant genus in Vanuatu, is botanically important as a very distinctive genus with few close relatives, and clearly endangered. The palm was apparently an important food for coconut crabs, flying foxes, and to a lesser extent, people (edible kernel) before its population declined. Thought to be extinct prior to rediscovery in 1987, Carpoxylon was known from at least one site on Santo (four plants), and suspected from sites on Erromango, Tanna, and Ambae (20 individuals total). Without conservation measures, this species is likely to become extinct.

Conservation Objectives: Multiplication of the remaining palms and protection of the full range of the plant's genetic diversity to ensure the survival of the species, assessment of the existing population and development of a formal species recovery plan, protection of wild palms and habitat.

Enterprise Intervention: A village-based and/or Port Vila-based nursery to produce and sell the palm to Vanuatu collectors and landscapers. Providing there are no legal restrictions, seeds or seedlings could be sold to the lucrative international palm trade, with sales initially directed to palmists and research institutions. Money is to be returned to village projects and further conservation efforts.

Project History

September 1993: The enterprise has excellent conservation value. The village of Casaveia, where four adult palms grow, has one extended family, very much interested in working with PEP. The enterprise potential of a palm nursery is to be evaluated. Success may hinge on the ability to access the international market; this situation will be clarified.

December 1993: A terms of reference for forester Joanna Walker's assistance with the search for Carpoxylon at sites outside of Casaveia, South Santo, was drawn up following preliminary discussions. The initial plan was to follow leads of informants on palm location. When this method turned up a number of palms, Devoe conjectured that the population might in fact be large enough to merit a more generalizable sample. Accordingly, in November, Devoe and Walker walked a four-day transect in West Santo, where no palms had been reported, to effectively take a random sample of the palm population.

Upon the request of the editor of "Naika", the newsletter of the Vanuatu Natural Science Society, Devoe prepared a report of the findings and sent it to two palm taxonomists, John Dransfield and John Dowe, who are kept abreast of the Carpoxylon project. Both asked to forward the report to scientific journals for possible publication. As the request from Dowe was received first, it was sent by Dowe to "Palms and Cycads".

Also in November, Devoe and Stead met with forest botanist Pat Curry and horticulturist Sandy Lawson. Stead had arranged a meeting with Lawson, a local landscaper, to discuss the potential market for Carpoxyton. Lawson suggested that all rare endemic plants would be of some interest to collectors, but that the landscaping market is confined to plants with specific qualities. Lawson has a personal interest in rare native species, and believes the sale of materials from these plants could be a profitable one on a small scale. Curry suggested that determining handling methods for seeds of indigenous plants is a big task, and if started now, would assist the work of a proposed national botanical garden. Devoe and Curry believe that seed collection and sale could both raise conservation awareness and return income to rural communities. Curry urged the others to consider organizing a native plant enterprise that would market a broad range of rare and unusual plants.

Walker sent to Devoe Carpoxyton seed collected during her consultancy. Devoe sowed the seed in small-scale germination tests similar to those reported earlier, except that seed was sown in germination trays rather than directly into plastic pots. The first germination tests sown in July, 1993, yielded 89% germination, confined to a one-month period. It took more than two months from germination for the seedlings to reach the stage where the fronds became bifid. From these first tests and subsequent growth of the seedlings, we learned that in a wet medium, degree of insolation has little effect upon the rate or percentage of germination over the range tested (full sun, direct sun limited to three hours per day), but that where the potting medium is maintained moist, greater insolation produces faster seedling growth. These seedlings were held at Devoe's home for three months following sowing, and then transferred in November to the care of Mele family living in Port Vila.

Upon learning that the first batch of Walker's seed had been refrigerated, Devoe conjectured that it was unlikely to germinate. However, chilling may not have killed the embryos, in which case induced dormancy would likely delay germination. None of this seed has germinated to date, but neither is it obviously deteriorated.

The next lot of seed collected by Walker from two areas on Santo was sown November 18 with 23 out of 30 seeds (77%) germinated to date. Seed subsequently collected by Devoe and Walker sown November 27 has reached only 27% germination. Upon germination, seedlings are removed from germination trays and planted into poly planting bags.

Devoe is seeking a collaborator or contractor to assess the amount and distribution of genetic variation among the subpopulations of Carpoxyton spread over Santo and perhaps Ambae, Erromango, Tanna and other islands in the Vanuatu archipelago. The information is needed for the species recovery plan, which will aim to protect the whole genetic base.

The Enterprise Specialist prepared a report "Strategy for Carpoxyton Enterprise Development". The report notes that the domestic market for Carpoxyton plant materials is insignificant, but that there is a high probability that a substantial export market exists. Initially, export sales would be to collectors. If the species proves to have value as a landscaping or ornamental plant, this market should be developed as well.

With the existing prohibition against the export of Carpoxyton materials, it is not possible to capitalize on this market. If it is possible to document the income-generating potential of this enterprise and concurrently present a conservation plan that confirms that there is plant

material available that is excess to the needs of the conservation plan, export sales may be approved. To this end, a market study to determine potential sales of Carpoxylon plant materials will be commissioned. A TOR has been prepared, and a consultant is sought to undertake this work.

Recommendation, December 1993: PEP's Carpoxylon intervention has attracted the interest of internationally recognized palm experts; without exception, they support the project. Development of a conservation plan and enterprise activity should continue unabated.

Status, March 1994: On the enterprise side, a consultant was employed to conduct a study to quantify the market for Carpoxylon plant materials in the United States. This was limited to the U.S. for two reasons, 1) the U.S. represents by far the greatest single market for these products, and 2) initially offering the products exclusively in the U.S. greatly simplifies administration and distribution problems. The consultant employed had formerly been associated with Cultural Survival Enterprises as a market researcher, and was intimately familiar with research of this nature. The consultant concluded that there was a viable market for Carpoxylon plant materials in the United States, and suggested approaches to access this market.

On the conservation side, a short-term technical assistance contract "Information Support for Horticultural Production of Carpoxylon macrospermum, Veitchia montgomeryana, and V. spiralis" was fulfilled by Dr. Dennis Johnson, Deputy Chairman of the Palm Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Dr. Johnson was asked to assist with a literature review to determine restrictions under CITES and plant quarantine to shipping seeds and seedlings of these species internationally. He further supplied background information related to palm biology and to the handling of seeds and seedlings as commodities and an Initial Environmental Examination for the proposed PEP palm seed enterprise.

During the quarter, Devoe corresponded with Johnson, Dransfield (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK), Dowe (Townsville Palmetum) and others regarding the species recovery plan for Carpoxylon. She met with Dowe and Dransfield while in Australia. Expressions of interest in conducting the molecular analysis were received from staff at the Bailey Hortatorium at Cornell University and the US Forest Service National Forest Genetic Electrophoresis Lab.

March 1994: PEP resolved to draft a plan to pursue Carpoxylon recovery. This draft, with a discussion of the enterprise aspects of the project, should be presented to Vanuatu's Environmental Unit. A goal of this activity would be to have the Environmental Unit rescind its prohibition against the export of Carpoxylon plant materials. If the Government of Vanuatu agrees that Carpoxylon seed can be exported in conformance with a sound conservation plan, PEP should assemble all data necessary to the plan, which will be subject to scientific peer review.

Current Situation

Status, June 1994: PEP held a meeting with the head of the Vanuatu Government's Environment Unit to brief him on the status of the project to date. Discussions ensued on the need to conduct a comprehensive population survey of the palm in order to formulate a strategy for conserving the species.

PEP's conditionality for developing a profitable enterprise as part of the conservation strategy was explained and accepted. It was agreed that a palm expert be engaged to conduct the population study which is to include an ethnobotanical component. It was also agreed that the opportunity would be utilised for training some ni-Vanuatu persons in the process of population survey of a threatened or vulnerable plant species. Both the Environment Unit and the Forestry Department agreed to send up to two persons each to participate for part of the time during the six-week field work for this palm.

Contact was renewed with the palm expert, Dr. John Dowe, who has agreed to come in November/December for a period of six weeks. Dr. Dowe will conduct the population survey and include ethnobotanical information in his investigation. He will also supervise any laboratory analysis necessary for establishing genetic variation. The PEP Co-ordinator will assist Dr. Dowe for part of the survey.

Contact was also renewed with Mr. Dick Phillips, a commercial nurseryman who exports palm seeds from Fiji, and a member of the International Palm Society. He confirmed his interest in assisting with collection, germination, packaging, and export of palm seeds if needed. He also expressed interest in re-establishment of the palm in Aneityum - the location of the type species. Our last quarterly report made an error about a Carpoxyton palm being at the University gardens in Suva. The palm, one of two representatives in Fiji, is growing in Mr. Phillips' garden.

4. WASTE-OIL

Situation: There is no program in Port Vila (or Vanuatu) providing for the disposal of used lubricating oil (waste oil) in an environmentally acceptable way. It is believed that a local utility uses 60,000 litres of lubricating oil per year. In addition, unknown amounts of lubricating oil are imported to service motor vehicles, construction equipment, and the like. Disposal of this waste oil is by dumping onto the earth.

Vanuatu's Energy Unit is enthusiastic about this project, and has offered to undertake a preliminary survey of waste-oil "producers" and potential purchasers.

Conservation Objective: To prevent the waste oil from being dumped improperly.

Enterprise Intervention: Working with the utility and other producers of waste oil, PEP proposes to develop an enterprise that would collect and market the used oil.

Project History

March 1993: The recommendation was to continue to evaluate feasibility of this project.

September 1993: During the RDO/SP-FSP meetings of March and April, 1993, the then RDO/SP Science Advisor declined to approve continued activity in this area. PEP staff feel that this project has considerable enterprise and conservation merit and would contribute to the range of linkages addressed by PEP. In August, the Enterprise Specialist again discussed this proposed project with the RDO/SP Project Officer, and asked for approval to continue to study the recovery and sale of waste oil. This approval was granted. Preliminary discussions have been held with Vanuatu's Energy Unit; they enthusiastically support the concept.

PEP resolved to continue to advance this initiative, further define the project, and seek information regarding waste oil "producers" and potential customers.

December 1993: Efforts during this period were focused upon accurately determining the amount of lubricating oil imported into Vanuatu, and in ascertaining the size of the local market for waste oil.

Meetings were held with the managers of the three firms that import lubricating oil into Vanuatu to explain the project and to query them regarding the amount of product entering the country. The total amount of lubricating oil imported into Vanuatu in the last 12 months was 468,000 litres; this represents an average year. After subtracting the amount of oil sent to outer islands and estimated amounts consumed during use, it is estimated that 200,000 litres are available for recovery in Vila.

It may be possible to market some recovered oil in Vanuatu, although initial discussions with potential users have not been encouraging. Therefore, it is necessary to develop an economically viable export scheme that would provide for local storage, economical transportation, and the identification of an overseas purchaser. The local Shell Oil bulk plant has 800,000 litres of unused bulk storage that might be made available at some unknown cost. An arrangement to use this capacity would have to be negotiated with the parent company in New Caledonia.

With the exception of a small, specialized facility in New Zealand, there is no known re-refiner of used lubricating oil in the South Pacific. In Australia, used oil from metropolitan areas is customarily collected and sold as fuel oil. Although this oil may be filtered or cleansed in some way, it is not re-refined. The selling price is not sufficient to cover the cost of collection, processing, storage, and delivery; producers pay oil collectors for their services.

It was thought that oil tankers departing Vanuatu with empty bunkers would accept waste oil at very favorable rates. This is not the case. No bulk oil is shipped to Vanuatu from nations that are potential users (Australia and New Zealand). Oil imported into Vanuatu comes from Fiji and New Caledonia; neither of these nations represents a market for used oil.

It was recommended that efforts be continued to find a market for Vanuatu's waste oil. Market prices for waste oil in New Zealand and Australia should be determined, and cost of transport to those countries should be ascertained.

March 1994: The possibility of disposing of Vanuatu's waste oil to an overseas market was investigated. Because of depressed world oil prices, there is virtually no market for waste oil in the South Pacific. Because of these depressed prices, the operation of Australian re-refineries became uneconomical in 1991, and these facilities were shut down. Commercial businesses collect waste oil for a fee of two to six cents per litre. This product is sold as a source of heat in a very soft market at prices that often fail to cover "production" costs. Much of the waste oil collected is being stored. The situation is much the same in New Zealand; however, there is one re-refinery in operation. The bottom line is that even if waste oil could be delivered free to Australia or New Zealand, it would find no market.

In Suva, Fiji, a foundry uses waste oil as a source of heat. It has not been possible to determine what, if anything, they pay for this oil. It is known that they are able to meet all their needs from local sources, and that there is no possibility that Fiji will accept waste oil from Vanuatu. In 1993, a re-refinery commenced operations in W. Samoa. At present, this facility is able to meet all requirements for raw product from domestic sources. Realistically, transportation costs preclude Western Samoa as a market for Vanuatu's waste oil in any foreseeable scenario.

The cost of shipping oil from Vanuatu to typical destinations such as Australia and New Zealand was investigated. No tank ships regularly operate between Vanuatu and these countries, and in view of the small amount of product to be transported (200,000 litres per year, maximum), no ship would call to pick up this cargo. The alternative is to place the waste oil in 205 litre drums and ship them in containers. The bare cost of this, exclusive of local handling and delivery in Vanuatu and the delivery point, is approximately VT 136,000 per container, which translates to A\$.83 per litre.

Lack of a market and prohibitive cost of transportation preclude any possibility of exporting waste oil from Vanuatu. Any scheme for collecting waste oil must be predicated upon the assumption that the oil will be disposed of within the country. There are three broad possibilities:

1. Destroy the oil in an environmentally acceptable way;
2. Use it as a source of heat with little or no processing or,
3. Process the waste oil so that it can compete in the marketplace with "new" product.

PEP resolved to continue to investigate the three alternatives indicated above.

Current Situation

Status, June 1994:

Approximately 30 manufacturers were contacted to determine if their technology and equipment capabilities could meet the need for waste oil incineration, re-refining, or burning without processing as a source of heat. With one possible exception, no practical small-scale incinerating equipment is available. One manufacturer makes off-the-shelf waste-oil reprocessing equipment with capacities appropriate to the needs of small island nations (SINS) and at a reasonable price. A standard commercial hot water heater was

located that will burn crankcase oil, transmission fluid and No. 2 oil "as received" from service stations, utilities, and other "producers" of waste oil.

Potential suppliers have been provided with specific parameters for equipment suitable for use in Vanuatu, and proposals solicited. These proposals will be evaluated during the current reporting period.

The Energy Division of the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, was contacted for information on a UNDP funded waste oil study. This information was provided by Mr. Park Yuen, Project officer at the Forum Secretariat. Information regarding waste oil recycling was requested from the UNDP in Suva, Fiji. Mr. Somsey Norindr, Resident Representative, responded with an overview of the situation in Australia and articles describing a small-scale re-refinery in W. Samoa. We will continue to liaise with these two organizations.

5. MALAKULA CLAM PROJECT

Situation: A small marine conservation area was established by community members with no outside prompting or support. A community representative requested PEP's assistance with information and further project development. The Maskelynes area is noted for over-exploitation of near-shore resources due to population pressure and absence of management. Because of rough seas and scarcity of deep-water boats, villagers are heavily dependent on near-shore resources for protein. The conservation area is a privately owned reef-flat that has been restocked with giant clams.

Conservation Objectives: To protect the initial efforts of villagers, encourage continued protection of the area, improve efficacy of the reserve to restock other areas, add additional organisms to those protected and produced in the reserve, assist with reserve management.

Enterprise Intervention: This is a subsistence-economy effort. The villagers would like eventually to have enough marine produce to sell, but that is a long-term endeavor. No PEP enterprise activity is proposed.

Project History

September 1993: PEP should provide technical assistance to support and encourage this meritorious community initiative. A partnership with the Environment Unit has been discussed and seems a promising approach that may ensure continued attention to the area. Because of limited enterprise potential, this area has not been chosen by PEP staff as a full-blown EMU.

December 1993: Devoe twice met with Peace Corps volunteer Charles Allen to develop a program for the AEP Fellow's technical assistance visit to Ringi Te Suh. Local Government and traditional leaders were contacted for approval and to secure their input to the plan. Devoe reviewed and selected environmental videos for use in environmental education workshops planned for the three villages on Uliveo Island, where Ringi Te Suh is located. Jack Enrel, initiator of the Ringi Te Suh project, was asked to join the AEP Fellow during her visit to the project and assisted the Project Manager in developing the work program.

With Fisheries Department Fisheries Biologist Moses Amos, AEP Fellow Milika Naqasima travelled to Malekula December 2-7th. Naqasima and Amos conducted three environmental workshops and surveyed the reefs surrounding Uliveo. During their visit to Ringi Te Suh, they made several recommendations for enhancing giant clam reproduction and growth. PEP will follow-up on these recommendations subject to the availability of staff and resources.

The recommendation was that this low priority intervention would be advanced as resources allow.

March 1994 During this reporting period, no activity relating to this intervention took place and there was no change in the status.

Therefore no activity is planned for the forthcoming quarter.

Current Situation

Status, June 1994: Jack Enrel, Project Initiator of Ringi Te Suh Marine Conservation, privately owned marine protected area in South Maskelynes, Malekula met with van Breda and Kalfatak to report on the progress of the conservation area. Mr. Enrel requested PEP's financial assistance with the purchase of clam shells to stock the reef flat, and for funds to travel to giant clam mariculture centres in the region for practical learning experience. Mr. Enrel requested we review a contract written for formal recognition of the protected site by adjacent landowners and local chiefs, as well as the village and national governments. We reviewed the contract and recommended adding a map of the site.

III ADMINISTRATION

1. USAID MEETINGS:

In light of the closure of the USAID/Suva mission by September 1994, FSP was informed this quarter that the PEP grant would be able to continue through until September, 1995 as originally planned. However, grant funding was cut by approximately US\$308,000, and the scope of activities was scaled back from Pacific regional to Vanuatu. Liaison between FSP and USAID on this project will officially transfer to USAID/Manila mission by the end of this quarter.

John Grayzel, Chief of the Office of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Disaster at USAID/Manila, visited Vanuatu from April 17-21, together with the USAID/Suva Environmental Advisor, Jay Smith, and the USAID Pacific Desk Officer, Chuck Howell. Meetings were held with the FSP Regional Director and PEP staff to look at the priority focus of the PEP project in terms of the reduced funding and scope of work, and completion date of this cooperative agreement.

Initially, this PEP grant was considered to be Phase I of a continuing environmental project, however, with the closure of the South Pacific mission, support from USAID for this future is presently less certain.

The major program shifts agreed to in the April USAID-FSP meetings were:

- increased emphasis on a community participatory approach to environmental planning, including the use of PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal);

- increased emphasis on local staff capacity building;

- increased emphasis on FSP institution building for strengthening its capacity to carry on similar PEP activities after September, 1995;

- less emphasis on achieving completed outputs in terms of enterprises up and running;

- more emphasis on documenting final lessons learned and sharing them with the other NGOs and environmental organizations in the region;

- more emphasis on team work and participatory decision-making.

The FSP Regional Director followed up these meetings with additional meetings in Suva May 9-11, with USAID Acting Director David Leong and Program Officer Antoinette Ferrara. Budgets for the revised work plan and budget cuts were finalized, along with the corresponding changes in the Cooperative Agreement to transfer the liaison to USAID/Manila.

2. STAFF CHANGES:

The Project Manager, Dr. Nora Devoe, resigned from the project as of May 20, 1994. FSP hired Mrs. Suliana Siwatibau on May 30, 1994 as the new PEP Project Co-ordinator, sharing some administrative responsibilities with Ms. Kathy Fry, the PEP Project Advisor and FSP Regional Director. Mrs. Siwatibau strengthens the skills of the PEP staff team with her extensive background in biological science and South Pacific work experience in natural resource management, energy, and community development.

Ms. Donna Kalfatak was hired as the Assistant Environmental Coordinator on May 1, 1994. Ms. Kalfatak is a ni-Vanuatu graduate of the University of the South Pacific, Fiji with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. She is a member of the Regional Women and Fisheries network and SPACHEE. Now also a qualified scuba diver, she is posted in Santo to work closely with conservation and education issues for the Santo EMU.

Mr. Stanley Womack was hired as the North Ambrym Environmental Education Officer, and will begin his duties in the next quarter. He has a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture from USP/Western Samoa and has over ten years experience in agriculture extension work in Vanuatu.

Brief resumes for all new staff are included in the Appendix VIII.

A staff meeting was convened in May to familiarize all staff members of the final changes agreed with USAID for the remainder of the project implementation. New staff members were additionally briefed on the overall PEP goals and activities, and a revised workplan was agreed to for the remainder of the quarter. It was agreed by all staff that regular quarterly staff meetings will be held in Vila at the beginning of each new quarter from now on, so that all staff can have more input into the writing of the quarterly reports and programming of the workplan for the forthcoming quarter. These meetings will also serve as a point of information for staff based in separate locations to be aware of and have input into the overall PEP activities.

3. PROJECT LIAISON

During the quarter, the project co-ordinator for the SPREP/UNEP sponsored Community Deforestation Survey visited Vanuatu to make preparations for his work here. PEP and FSP staff were involved with his planning meetings and PEP is to assist with the revision of his questionnaire for Vanuatu.

Two PEP staff sit on the advisory committee of CUSO Vanuatu & Fiji. These two contributed as usual to CUSO directions and planning during the quarter.

The acting Director of USAID Regional Development Office/South Pacific, Mr. David Leong, and Ms. Antoinette Ferrara, were in Vanuatu on June 2nd for a farewell visit and were invited to lunch by PEP staff.

IV TRAVEL AND TRAINING

1. SCUBA CERTIFICATION - A brief report by Donna Kalfatak:

The scuba dive training was given by "Exploration Dive" at Santo. It took two weekends to complete the training.

First weekend:

On Saturday (21/05/94) from 8.15am to 12.15pm we watched video on module one to three of the dive manual followed by three tests. From 12.15pm to 5.00pm we did two dives in confined water. Sunday (22/05/94) we had another video session on module four and five, from 8.15am to 12.30pm followed by a test and the final exam. We did another two confined water dives from 12.30pm to 5.00pm.

Second weekend:

For this weekend there wasn't any academic session, it was only practical.

Saturday (28/05/94) from 8.00am to 2.00pm we did two deep (8-10m) water dives at Tutupa Island. On Sunday (29/05/94) from 8.00am to 1.30pm we did the last two deep water dives; one at Million Dollar Point and the final one at the President Coolidge.

2. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, BARBADOS

The FSP Regional Director, K.Fry, and the PEP North Ambrym local facilitator, J. Salong, both travelled to Barbados to attend the UN Global Conference on Sustainable Development in May. Salong represented the local Vanuatu Association of NGOs (VANGO) and was funded by both PEP and UNDP.

While the conference proceedings were interesting and educational in light of UN Global processes, particularly useful to FSP staff were the NGO Island Forum which held talks, debates, and demonstrations on sustainable development issues, and the SUSTECH trade fair which displayed concrete examples of sustainable development technology appropriate for island nations. In particular, three important contacts were made for FSP that can be followed up through PEP:

- 1) An existing and successful business recycling waste oil is operating in Western Samoa. UNDP/SPREP are interested to transfer this technology to other South Pacific nations. PEP is interested to complete a detailed analysis of the commercial viability of this enterprise, and perhaps assist the establishment of a private sector model in Vanuatu;
- 2) Carribean NGOs cooperating as The Coral Reef Alliance are interested to assist PEP expand its networking activities in the Pacific through technical assistance and sharing of educational materials and methodologies;
- 3) Salong and Fry had the chance to meet with other FSP International staff attending the Barbados Conference from PNG and Fiji, and the FSP/USA Executive Director, Fr. Stan Hosie. The venue of the NGO Island Forum gave FSP staff the opportunity to meet with other Pacific NGOs and create networks that will promote continued support for Pacific sustainable development projects, issues and awareness.

The dynamics of such a large meeting of groups and individuals are difficult to summarize, therefore, two more detailed staff reports on this conference are included in the Appendices (Appendices IX & X).

APPENDIX I

TOUR OF NORTH AMBRYM FOR PEP PROJECT

June 11 - 18, 1994

**Neil Stevens NETAF
FSP Community Development Specialist**

I. Background and Purpose.

This tour is part of the continuing intervention provided by PEP for the further strengthening of Lolihor Development Council established within PEP's EMU in North Ambrym. The purpose of this council is to oversee development matters related to PEP project as well as UNDP ESHDP project.

This tour was taken upon the Council's request through a letter sent to NKDT on April the 15th asking them to coordinate a week - long workshop targeting several matters seen as matters of priority for the council in order that the council may establish itself much stronger. One of the matter seen as priority is to formulate a draft constitution for the council. For some reasons NKDT could not offer to do so. Instead the council again requested FSP Community Development Specialist to coordinate the workshop.

The purpose of the trip was to formulate the council's draft constitution through a workshop organized specifically by the council executive.

1. Workshop Background.

The workshop is known as Lolihor Development Council Constitution Formulation Workshop.

a. Date & Venue.

The workshop took place from June 13th - 17th at Ranon Village North Ambrym. The actual workshop sittings took place in Ranon Presbyterian Church building.

b. Participants.

There were 10 participants in all. Namely they are:

Tokon Sam	-	Council Executive Chairman.
George Bumseng	-	Council Secretary & PEP Local Facilitator.
John Rawo	-	Council Treasurer.
Job Tobol	-	Member Faramsu Village.
Harry	-	Member Ranvetlam Village.
Nellie	-	Member Ranon Village
Kindor Jacob	-	Member Fanrereo Village.
Allen	-	Member Ranbe Village.
Sam Bongnaim	-	Holiness Community, Vanto Village.

c. Program. (See Appendix 1 for Program Timetable)

Day 1 - 13th June.

Item 1. Official Opening.

The official opening took place at 8.00am in Ranon Presbyterian Church. The council chairman was the MC of the official opening. The session started with a short devotion conducted by Elder Allen. Mr John Masing Area Council Secretary of the Ambrym Local Government delivered the official speech and as also declared the workshop open. In his speech he touched on things like what is development? Development always begins with a plan that's derived from people who felt the need to improve the situation. He stated; since this workshop will concentrate on the formulation of the council's constitution; it is important that all leaders in Lolihor should be involved in formulating this constitution. He emphasised that an organization without a law heads nowhere. A law guides and directs an organization straight towards its goals. He also stated that this week marks a historical time for the people of Lolihor. He also conveyed a message of best wishes from the Secretary of Ambrym Local Government to the Council saying; Lolihor Development Council is the first Council to formulate its Laws. He praised the initiatives and efforts taken by LDC. He said LDC sets an example to other areas in Ambrym that they too may follow. With these words he wished the executive and the workshop facilitator good luck for the workshop and finally declared the workshop open.

Item 2. House Keeping and Group Formation.

Things included in the house keeping are, brief run through the workshop timetable; nominate few time keepers to be responsible of time keeping throughout the workshop; nominating workshop chairpersons-one for each day and secretaries to take notes. Our secretaries for the workshop were George Bumseng (PEP Local Facilitator) and Harry. Chairpersons were Kindor Jacob, Nelly, John Rawo and Neil Netaf. Two groups were formed. Group one include; Tokon Sam, John Rawo, Nellie, and Kindor Jacob. Group two include; George Bumseng, Harry, Job Tobol, and Allen. The groups were organized to discuss matters during the workshop whenever possible.

Item 3. Introduction to Workshop Purpose.

This item saw both groups given two questions for group discussions and presentation. The questions were; (1) What do we want to achieve at the end of this workshop? (2) How are we going to achieve them? Responses from both groups are provided below.

Group 1. Question 1. What do we want to achieve at the end of this workshop?

Ans. A complete draft of the councils' constitution stating in it things like roles of the executive, total number of council members and a councils' plan.

Question 2. How are we going to achieve them?

Ans. Through the workshop, through regular attendance, stick to time, sharing of ideas, participate more fully and follow the workshop program.

Group 2. Question 1. What do we want to achieve at the end of this workshop?

Ans. A complete draft of the council's constitution clarifying executive members role; three month's council working plan and clarify the council's reporting mechanisms to villages and partner organizations.

Question 2. How are we going to achieve them?

Ans. Through involvement and participation of executive leaders during this workshop.

Item 4. Introduction to Law.

This session covered basic explanations of things like; What is a constitution or law?; Why should there be law?; Who can make laws?; and How are laws made?

Item 5. Introduction to Lolihor Development Council Constitution.

This session looks mainly at why the Lolihor Development Council would want a constitution. Below are the reasons provided by both groups during their small group discussions.

Group 1. To provide the council the rights to safeguard and protect the rights of individuals, organizations and groups in the area of Lolihor.

To remain as a guide of Lolihor Development Council.

To provide the council the rights to control and protect any development projects and the environment in the area of Lolihor.

Group 2. To safeguard the council's rights.

To provide smooth running of the council.

To provide rights and authority towards the council so the council may carry out its duties.

To remain as a guide for the council.

To provide rights towards the council so the council could be involved in developmental projects.

Day 2 - 14th June.

Item 1. Proceedings towards the development of Lolihor Development Council Constitution.

This session focused mainly on the constitution framework. Outline below are the main frames or specific headings identified by the participants to form the chapters of the constitution. (See Appendix 2 for English Version of the draft constitution)

Chapter 1. Motto.

Chapter 2. Name and Registration.

Chapter 3. Aims and Objectives.

Chapter 4. Councils' Power.

- Chapter 5. Council Membership.
- Chapter 6. Annual General Meeting.
- Chapter 7. Council Management.
- Chapter 8. Finances.
- Chapter 9. Amendment.
- Chapter 10. Dissolution.
- Chapter 11. Founding Members.
- Chapter 12. Council Seal.

After having developed this then the drafting began. The drafting on the afternoon day 2 and the morning of day 3 and the morning of day four saw the completion of the draft. The afternoon of day 3 was set aside for the Council's Executive meeting. (See Appendix 4 for minutes). The afternoon of day four was occupied by the CDS and PEP Local Facilitator George Bumseng re-writing the original Bislama version into much clearer format as well as translating the Bislama version into a draft English version. (See Appendix 2 & 3 of both draft versions).

Day 5 - 17th June.

Item 1. Goals Evaluation.

Goals stated earlier during the week were evaluated. Much was achieved through actions listed as action priorities to be implemented during the week in order that the goals stated may be achieved.

Item 2. Review the Constitution Draft.

Both the re-written versions of the constitution in Bislama and English were screened by the participants simply for the purpose of wording accuracy. Both versions were agreed upon and all cleared by members that currently the constitution is still in draft.

Item 3. Extra Annual General Meeting.

(See Appendix 5).

2. Summary.

The workshop has achieved its purpose. Participants were happy a draft format of the council's constitution has been completed. Lots of them commented if similar thing is done with other bodies such as Chiefs, women, and youth at both village and area level could assist these organizations to function better.

As agreed upon by the executive members, this draft will be reviewed and studied for sometimes and will be put as an agenda at the council's Annual General Meeting before the 31st of March 1994.

Inputs from community leaders have improved alot during this workshop. A total of 45 leaders came to attend the extra AGM. More women leaders attended this extra AGM and contributed more during the meeting.

The Executive Council shows more commitment through their coordination of village, group, or individual contribution during this workshop like, arrangement of food donated by villagers to the main village where the workshop is held, responsibility for preparing meals for the workshop participants, negotiation, agreement and signing of the agreement made between the Executive and the Co-operative Council for a space inside the Co-operative building leased by the Executive which was opened after the AGM last Friday June the 17th. Should this course be kept by the Council without any interference or extra inputs from the outside mainly not to encourage them to pursue cargo type assistance, progressive steps are on the way for proper coaching, facilitation, and nurturing and most of all participatory means through collective action will take the Council to a mature and self-reliant status.

Appendix 1

LOLIHOR DIVEI.OPMEN KAONSEL.

WOKSOP BLONG DROEMAP KONSTITIUSEN BLONG KAONSEL.

DATE: 13TH - 17TH JUNE 1994.

WOKSOP PROKRAM.

Dei 1 - 13th June 1994.

- 7.30- 8.00am - Ofisel opening - Mr John Masing
North Ambrym Eria Kaonsel
Sekreteri.
- 8.00 - 9.15 - Haos kipings mo Introdaksens.
- 9.15 - 10.00 - Fomem ol krups.
- 10.00 - 10.30 - Spel blong moning.
- 10.30 - 11.30 - Introdaksen bihaen long woksop.
- 11.30 - 1.30pm - Spel blong medel dei.
- 1.30 - 2.30pm - Introdaksen long Lo/Konstitiusen.
- 2.30 - 3.00pm - Spel blong sava.
- 3.00 - 4.30pm - Introdaksen blong Lo i gohed.

Dei 2 - 14th June.

- 7.30 - 8.00am - Moning Fid bak.
- 8.00 - 9.15am - Tingting bihaen long Lo blong
Lolihor Divilopmen Kaonsel.
- 9.15 - 10.00am - Introdaksen blong wok long Lolihor
Divilopmen Kaonsel Lo.
- 10.00 - 10.30 - Spel blong moning.
- 10.30 - 11.30 - Wok blong konsitiusen i gohed.
- 11.30 - 1.30pm - Spel blong medel dei.

- 1.30 - 2.30pm - Wok blong konstitiuser i gohed.
- 2.30 - 3.00pm - Spel blong sava.
- 3.00 - 4.30pm - Wok blong konstitiuser i gohed.

Dei 3 - 15th June.

- 7.30 - 8.00am - Moning Fidbak.
- 8.00 - 10.00am - Wok blong Konstitiuser i gohed.
- 10.00 - 10.30 - Spel blong moning.
- 10.30 - 11.30 - Wok blong konstitiuser i gohed.
- 11.30 - 1.30pm - Spel blong medel dei.
- 1.30 - 4.30pm - Eksekiutif miting.

Dei 4 - 16th June.

- 7.30 - 11.30am - Wok blong Konstitiuser i gohed.
- 11.30 - 1.30pm - Spel blong medel dei.
- 1.30 - 4.30pm - Re-raitem tufala verson blong Konstitiuser.

Dei 5 - 17th June.

- 7.30 - 8.30am - Kols Ivaliueisen.
- 8.30 - 11.30am - Riviu blong draft konstitiuser.
- 11.30 - 1.00pm - Spel blong medel dei.
- 1.00 - 4.30pm - Lolihor Dvelopmen Kaonsel Miting.
- 4.30 - 5.00pm - Ofisel Opening blong Lolihor Dvelopmen Kaonsel Ofis mo Klosing blong woksop.

**LOLIHOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
FIRST DRAFT CONSTITUTION
WORKSHOP
13 - 17 JUNE 1994**

English Version

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| CHAPTER | 1 | Motto |
| Section | 1.1 | Working together for a better life. |
| CHAPTER | 2 | Name and Registration |
| | 2.1 | The name of the Council shall be THE
LOLIHOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. |
| | 2.2 | The Council shall also be known as
LDC. |
| | 2.3 | The Council shall be registered as a
non government organization with the
Registrar of Companies in Vanuatu. |
| | 2.4 | The registered headquarters of the
Council shall be at Ranon village,
north Ambrym, Vanuatu unless
otherwise decided by the Annual
General Meeting of the Council. |
| CHAPTER | 3 | Aims and Objectives |
| | 3.1 | The aim of this constitution is to
provide the rights and authority
towards the Council to protect and
safeguard the rights of the people of
Lolihor. |

- 3.2 To provide the authority towards the Council in order that the Council may carry out its duties, to promote and encourage any development projects that will uplift the standards of life of the people of Lolihor.
- 3.3 To provide authority towards the Council to control any type of development in the area of Lolihor.
- 3.4 To provide a balance-check in order that the Council may run smoothly.

CHAPTER 4 Powers of the Council

The Council shall have the power to:

- 4.1 approve the final copy of the constitution
- 4.2 make amendments and additions to the constitution
- 4.3 conduct the election of the Chairman of the Council and the Executive Council.
- 4.4 approve the workplan of the Council.

CHAPTER 5 Council Membership

- 5.1 The Council membership applies to anyone who assumes any leadership role in organizations such as youth, women, church, chiefs in the area of Lolihor.
- 5.2 **Executive Membership.**
 - 5.2.1 There shall be nine members in all.
 - 5.2.2 AGM will determine the increase or decrease of this total if necessary.

CHAPTER 6 Annual General Meeting

- 6.1 The AGM shall be held annually not later than the 31st of March.

- 6.2 There shall be an Extra General Meeting of the Council annually if necessary.
- 6.3 The Annual General Meeting shall proceed only if all village area representatives and over 5 executive members are present.
- 6.4 In instances where the AGM does not convene another AGM should reconvene in a weeks time.
- 6.5 If the reconvenement of the AGM is still made impossible, then the Council Executive may sit as an AGM within 2 days.
- 6.6 Voting at the AGM and executive meetings will be carried out by the showing of hands unless any Council member requests a secret ballot.
- 6.7 The Chairman of the Council and the Executive members shall be elected by the AGM.

CHAPTER 7 Management of the Council

- 7.1 The Executive Power.**
 - 7.1.1 To accept grants, gifts and other such benefits
 - 7.1.2 To generate income for Council purposes through legal activities such as fund raising appeals
 - 7.1.3 To employ staff (casual, temporary or permanent) as may be required to carry out Council work
 - 7.1.4 To carry out any other activity for the development of the Council
- 7.2 The responsibilities of the Management Committee.**
 - 7.2.1 The management of the Council and its work are vested in the Executive Council.
 - 7.2.2 To supervise a paid staff to carry out the work of the Council.

- 7.2.3 To oversee the development and implementation of Council programs according to policies set in AGM.
- 7.2.4 To oversee the maintenance and control of Council assets and finances.
- 7.2.5 Provide reports to the AGM of the Council's developments
- 7.2.6 To ensure that the AGM is organised every year.
- 7.3 Executive Meeting.**
- 7.3.1 The executive shall meet once a month and extra executive meeting shall also be held if needs arise.
- 7.3.2 Reasons have to be provided to the executive committee if a member is unable to attend any executive meeting.
- 7.3.3 In instances where a member misses two consecutive meetings a follow up decision has to be made by the executive during the next meeting.
- 7.3.4 Five out of nine executive members makes the quorum.
- 7.4 Responsibilities of office bearers.**
- 7.4.1 Council Chairman.**
- 7.4.1.1 Chair the AGM
- 7.4.1.2 Draw the agenda for the AGM with the Executive office bearers
- 7.4.2 Executive Chairman.**
- 7.4.2.1 Chair the Executive Council meeting.
- 7.4.2.2 Sign every official letters and other documents on behalf of the Council.
- 7.4.2.3 Represent the Council at other meetings, ceremonies and other activities.

- 7.4.2.4 Prepare Executive meeting agendas with the Secretary.
- 7.4.2.5 Sign bank documents with the Secretary or Treasurer on behalf of the Council.
- 7.4.2.6 To ensure that the duties and roles of the Executive members are carried out effectively.
- 7.4.2.7 The executive chairman shall be the vice of the Council chairman.
- 7.5 Vice-chairman.**
 - 7.5.1 To carry out the roles and duties of the Chairman in his/her absence.
 - 7.5.2 To carry out other duties as assigned to him/her by the Chairman.
- 7.6 Secretary.**
 - 7.6.1 To write and keep minutes of every executive meetings.
 - 7.6.2 To prepare meeting agendas with the Chairman.
 - 7.6.3 Distribute meeting agendas and minutes to all committee members.
 - 7.6.4 To prepare and keep the names of all the executive and council members.
 - 7.6.5 To write letters and notices on behalf of the Council and to respond to any incoming correspondences and to retain copies in a safe place.
 - 7.6.6 To carry out any extra duties assigned to him/her by the Council executive.
- 7.7 Vice-secretary.**
 - 7.7.1 To carry out the duties of the Secretary in his/her absence.
 - 7.7.2 To carry out any extra duties assigned to him/her by the Secretary.

- 7.8 Treasurer.**
- 7.8.1 To keep and maintain all financial records of the Council's finances.
- 7.8.2 To write letters of contribution to all Council members, donor agencies and other private organization on behalf of the Council.
- 7.8.3 To collect any fees or income in a proper manner and produce receipts.
- 7.8.4 To produce and present financial report at the AGMs or any meetings as requested by the Council.
- 7.8.5 To sign bank documents with the Secretary or Chairman on behalf of the Council.
- 7.8.6 Assist the Executive in preparing the Council's budget.
- 7.9 Vice-treasurer.**
- 7.9.1 To carry out the roles and duties of the Treasurer in his/her absence.
- 7.9.2 To carry out any duties assigned to him/her by the Treasurer.
- 7.10 Term of the council executive.**
- 7.10.1 Council Chairman.**
- 7.10.1.1 The Chairman shall hold this office for a period of two years.
- 7.10.1.2 This term shall be extended if the AGM agrees.
- 7.10.1.3 In instances where the Chairman resigns or dies the election of the new chairman shall be held within 3 weeks.
- 7.10.1.4 A letter of resignation has to be submitted to the Council executive within a month if the Chairman desires resignation.

7.10.2 Executive members.

7.10.2.1 The council executive members shall hold their post for a period of four years.

7.10.2.2 Their term shall be extended if the AGM agrees.

7.10.2.3 In instances where a member resigns or dies the council executive shall appoint a new member through village leaders meeting from where the ex-member comes.

7.10.2.4 A written letter has to be submitted to the executive council if an executive member desires to resign or move out of Lolihor within a month.

CHAPTER 8 FINANCE

8.1 Authority is delegated to the Executive Council Management Committee to acquire and maintain finances and assets on behalf of the Council.

8.2 The executive council shall ensure that proper financial records are maintained and audited on behalf of the Council.

8.3 Financial grants and equipment that is provided to the Council shall remain under the executive council control.

8.4 Council funds shall not be loaned to any member of the Council or any other person.

CHAPTER 9 AMENDMENTS

9.1 Amendments to the constitution can be made only by a resolution of the annual general meeting and passed by a majority vote.

- 9.2 No amendments shall be made to any parts of this constitution commencing as of the date of official declaration and signing for a period of 2 years.

CHAPTER 10 DISSOLUTION

- 10.1 The Council can be dissolved as a legal institution by a resolution passed at the AGM for reason of inactivity of the Council after a period of ten years.
- 10.2 Assets belonging to the Council at the time of dissolution and after payment of all debts shall be distributed by the executive council to all communities of Lolihor.

CHAPTER 11 FOUNDING MEMBERS

- 11.1 The founding members of the Council are those who have drafted, approved and signed this constitution for registration as a non-government organization under the laws of Vanuatu.
- 11.2 Signatures of founding members are attached to this document.

CHAPTER 12 SEAL OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 12.1 The executive council shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the Council's seal.
- 12.2 The seal shall be affixed to documents as may be required by the executive council and attested to by the same executive member's signature.

**LOLIHOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
FIRST DRAFT CONSTITUTION
WORKSHOP
13 - 17 JUNE 1994**

Bislama Version

- JAPTA 1 Moto**
- 1.1 Wok tugeta blong laef i kam moa gud.
- JAPTA 2 Nem mo Regestreisen**
- 2.1 Nem blong kaonsel ia hemi; Lolihor Developmen Kaonsel.
- 2.2 Kaonsel bambai oli save tu olsem LDC.
- 2.3 Kaonsel i save rejestarem hem olsem wan Non Kaveman Okanaiseisen wetem Rejestra blong Kampanis blong Vanuatu.
- 2.4 Rejested hedkwota blong Kaonsel emi long Ranon Velej, Not Ambrym, Vanuatu o i save jenis folem disisen blong Anniuel Jeneral Miting nomo.
- JAPTA 3 Eims mo Objektifs**
- 3.1 Blong givim rait mo paoa long Kaonsel blong protektem mo sefkadem rait blong pipol blong Lolihor.
- 3.2 Blong givim paoa long Kaonsel blong karemaot wok blong hem blong promoutem mo enkarejem eni developmen projek long Lolihor eria we i leftemap laef blong pipol i kam moa gud.

- 3.3 Blong givim rait long Kaonsel blong kontrolem mo dairektem eni developmen long eria blong Lolihor.
- 3.4 Blong mekem Kaonsel iron stret oltaem.

JAPTA 4 Paoa blong Kaonsel

- 4.1 Blong apruvum final kopi blong Konstitiusen.
- 4.2 Blong mekem amenment mo eni adisen long Konstitusen.
- 4.3 Blong kondaktem eleksen blong Kaonsel Jeaman mo Eksekiutif.
- 4.4 Blong apruvum polisi, prokrams mo wok plan blong Kaonsel.

JAPTA 5 Kaonsel Membasip

- 5.1 Kaonsel membasip emi aplae long eni wan we i karem eni lidasip rol long ol okanaiseisen olsem Youth, Women, Jyos mo Jifs insaid long Lolihor eria.
- 5.2 **Eksekiutif Membasip.**
 - 5.2.1 Bambae i kat naen(9) memba everiwan.
 - 5.2.2 Anuiel Jeneral Miting nomo i save putum moa o katem daon.

JAPTA 6 Anniuel Jeneral Miting

- 6.1 Bambai i gat AJM long everi yia bifo 31st blong Maj long everi yia.
- 6.2 I save gat wan Extra Kaonsel Jeneral Miting long wan yia sipos i gat nid.
- 6.3 AJM i save gohed sipos i gat representifs blong everi velej i stap mo faev Eksekiutif membas i present.
- 6.4 Sipos AJM ino save diaon, i mas gat wan period bong wan wik bifo AJM i save sidaon bageken.

- 6.5 Sipos AJM stil ino save sidaon then, Kaonsel Eksekiutif i save sidaon olsem wan AJM afta long tu(2) deis.
- 6.6 Fasin blong vote long AJM mo Eksekiutif mitings hemi soem hans o thru sikret balot sipos membas oli akri.
- 6.7 AJM nomo i save elektem Kaonsel Jeaman mo Eksekiutif membas.

JAPTA 7 Kaonsel Manejmen

- 7.1 Kaonsel Eksekiutif Paoa.**
 - 7.1.1 Blong akseptem ol krants, kifs mo ol nara benefits.
 - 7.1.2 Jenereitem inkam blong Kaonsel thru long ol likel fanreising aktifitis.
 - 7.1.3 Hairem staff (kasuel, temporeri, fultaem) sipos i gat nid blong karemaot wok blong Kaonsel.
 - 7.1.4 Karemaot eni aktiviti we i helpem divelopmen blong Kaonsel.
- 7.2 Ol wok blong Eksekiutif Manejmen Komiti.**
 - 7.2.1 Manejmen blong wok blong Kaonsel i stap long Eksekiutif Kaonsel.
 - 7.2.2 Blong supavaisem mo pem staff blong karemaot wok blong Kaonsel. (7.1.3 blong wanem kaen staff).
 - 7.2.3 Blong lukluk ova long divelopmen mo fasin blong karemaot ol prokrams, mo polisis blong Kaonsel.
 - 7.2.4 Blong lukaotem mo meintenem ol properti blong Kaonsel.
 - 7.2.5 Blong advaisem mo ripot iko long AJM ol wok blong Kaonsel
 - 7.2.6 Blong mekem sua se AJM i stap long everi yia.

- 7.3 Eksekiutif Miting.**
- 7.3.1 Eksekiutif i save mit wan(1) taem long everi manis mo gat wan Extra Eksekiutif miting sipos igat nid.
- 7.3.2 Eni Memba blong Eksekiutif we ino save attendem miting i mas letem Eksekiutif i save from wanem hemi no save attend.
- 7.3.3 Wan Memba ino save mestem tu(2) conseketif mitings we ino gat eni risen blong hem.
- 7.3.4 Sipos wan Eksekiutif Memba ino stap long 2 mitings wan folo-ap disisen imas kamap long nekis Eksekiutif Miting.
- 7.3.5 Faev(5) aot long naen(9) Eksekiutif Membas imekem kworum.
- 7.4 Responsibilitis blong ol Ofis Bearers.**
- 7.4.1 Kaonsel Jeaman.**
- 7.4.1.1 Jearem everi AJM mitings.
- 7.4.1.2 Wokem ol AJM ajendas wetem ol Eksekiutif Ofis Bearers.
- 7.4.2 Eksekiutif Jeaman.**
- 7.4.2.1 Jearem ol mitings blong Eksekiutif Kaonsel.
- 7.4.2.2 Saenem everi ofisal leta o pepa blong Kaonsel.
- 7.4.2.3 Representem Kaonsel long ol nara mitings, seremonis mo aktifitis we Kaonsel hemi invaited long hem.
- 7.4.2.4 Priperem ol miting agenda wetem Sekretari.
- 7.4.2.5 Saenem ol pepa long mane long bank wetem Sekretari/Tresara long nem blong Kaonsel.
- 7.4.2.6 Mekem sua se ol Eksekiutif Membas oli mas karemaot ol wok blong ol.
- 7.4.2.7 Stap olsem AJM Vaes Jeaman.

- 7.5 Vaes Jeaman.**
- 7.5.1 Karemaot ol wok blong Jeaman taem hemi no stap.
- 7.5.2 Mekem ol nara wok we Jeaman i askem hem blong mekem.
- 7.6 Sekretari.**
- 7.6.1 Raitem mo kipim everi minits blong everi Eksekiutif Mitings.
- 7.6.2 Priperem ol miting ajendas wetem Jeaman.
- 7.6.3 Sanemaot ol miting ajendas mo minits iko long ol Eksekiutif Membas.
- 7.6.4 Mekem mo kipim lis blong nem blong everi Eksekiutif mo Kaonsel Membas.
- 7.6.5 Raitem ol letas mo notisis iko aot long nem blong Kaonsel mo ansa ol leta we ikam long Kaonsel mo kipim kopis long sef ples.
- 7.6.6 Mekem ol nara wok we Kaonsel Eksekiutif i givim long hem.
- 7.7 Vaes Sekretari.**
- 7.7.1 Mekem ol wok blong Sekretari taem hemi no stap.
- 7.7.2 Mekem ol nara wok we Sekretari i givim long hem.
- 7.8 Tresara.**
- 7.8.1 Kipim rikod blong mane we ikam insaed mo ko aotsaed long Kaonsel.
- 7.8.2 Raitem eni leta long saed blong kontribiusen iko long ol membas, dona eijensis mo ol praivet okanaisisens.
- 7.8.3 Kolektem eni fi o mane we ikam long Kaonsel long prapa fasin mo i mas raitem ol risits everitaem.
- 7.8.4 Givim ripot blong mane long eni miting we Eksekiutif i askem, speseli long everi AJM.

- 7.8.5 Saenem eni pepa blong mane long bank o ol nara pepa blong mane long nem blong Kaonsel wetem Jeaman o Sekretari.
- 7.8.6 Helpem Eksekiutif blong wokem badget blong Kaonsel.
- 7.9 **Vaes Tresora.**
- 7.9.1 Karemaot ol wok blong Tresora taem hemi no stap.
- 7.9.2 Mekem ol nara wok we Tresora i givim long hem.
- 7.10 **Tem blong Kaonsel Eksekiutif.**
- 7.10.1 **Kaonsel Jeaman.**
- 7.10.1.1 Jeaman elektet bambai i holem wok ia blong tu yia
- 7.10.1.2 Jeaman i save gohed blong holem sipos Kaonsel thru long AJM i akri blong re-elektem hem bageken.
- 7.10.1.3 Sipos jeaman i risaen o ded, eleksen i mas tekem ples 3 wiks afta blong elektem wan niu Jeaman.
- 7.10.1.4 Sipos Jeaman i tingting blong risaen, hemi mas givim wan manis notis long Kaonsel Eksekiutif thru long wan riten leta.
- 7.10.2 **Eksekiutif Membas.**
- 7.10.2.1 Ol elektet Eksekiutif Membas oli mas stap long tem blong fo(4) yias.
- 7.10.2.2 Ol Eksekiutif Membas oli save gohed blong holem wok sipos Kaonsel i akri blong re-elektem eni wan long olgeta bakegen thru long AJM.
- 7.10.2.3 Sipos wan Eksekiutif Memba i risaen o ded Eksekiutif Kaonsel i save appointem wan niu memba tru long velej ledas miting long ples we Memba ia i kam long hem.
- 7.10.2.4 Eni Kaonsel Eksekiutif Memba i mas givim wan manis notis long Eksekiutif sipos hemi tingting blong risaen o blong stap sam ples thru long wan riten leta.

- JAPTA 8 Finance**
- 8.1 Paoa i stap long han blong Kaonsel Eksekiutif blong lukaotem mo meintenen ol mane mo ol properti blong Kaonsel.
- 8.2 Eksekiutif Kaonsel imas mekem sua se imas gat prapa financial rikods oli mas maintained mo aduitem long bihaf blong Kaonsel.
- 8.3 Eni krants mo ol ikwipmen we ikam long nem blong Kaonsel imas stap anda long Kaonsel Eksekiutif.
- 8.4 Eni Kaonsel memba ino alao blong boro o mekem lon long mane blong Kaonsel.
- JAPTA 9 Amenmen**
- 9.1 Eni amenmen long Konstitiusen ia i mas kam olsem wan resolusen long AJM mo i save pass sipos majoriti i vote from.
- 9.2 Stat long taem we bambai Konstitiusen ia i kam ofiseli rejested, ino alao blong mekem eni amenmen long hem long wan period blong tu(2) yias.
- JAPTA 10 Disolusen**
- 10.1 Kaonsel i save finis olsem wan likel institusen folem wan resolusen we i mas pass long AJM afta long ten(10) yias sipos Kaonsel ino moa ron gud.
- 10.2 Ol properti blong Kaonsel long taem we Kaonsel hemi finis bambae Eksekiutif kaonsel i serem wanwan iko long ol Komiuniti we istap long Lolihor area.
- JAPTA 11 Faounding Membas**
- 11.1 Faounding membas blong Kaonsel ia emi olgeta we oli draftem, appruvum mo saenem Konstitiusen ia mo rijesterem Kaonsel ia i kam olsem wan Non Kaveman Okanaiseisen anda long Lo blong Vanuatu.
- 11.2 Signejas blong ol faounding membas istap wetem dokiumen ia.

JAPTA 12

Seal blong Kaonsel

- 12.1 Eksekiutif Kaonsel bambai hemi risponsibol blong kipim seal blong Kaonsel i sef oltaem.
- 12.2 Seal blong Kaonsel bambae i stap long eni ofisel pepa we Kaonsel Eksekiutif i akri long hem mo imas stap oltaem wetem signeijas blong eni Eksekiutif ofis bearers olsem Jeaman, Sekretari mo Tresora.

Appendix 4

MEETING OF LDC EXECUTIVE ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE 1994
AT RANON CHURCH HOUSE FROM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tokon Sam (Chairman), John Rawo
(Treasurer), Nellie Tavo, Job Tobol,
Kintor Jacob,
Elder Allen, Sam Bongnaim, George Bumseng.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Salong (Vila), John Tali, (Sam
Bongnaim representing), James Hanghangkon
(Vila).

AGENDA

1. Approve last Minute.
2. Draft Agenda for AGM.
3. Draft workplan for LDC Executive for the next three months.
4. Propose visit to tour Agents in Vila by three members of LDC.
5. Draft LDC Budget.
6. Official Opening of Office Space.
7. Request for Training Courses in Basic Book Keeping and Business Management and First Aid.
8. Other Business.
9. Closing Prayer.

AGENDA 1

The last Minutes was read and approved by the council.

AGENDA 2

The date for the AGM would be Friday 17 June to be held at Ranon Church area at 2:00 pm. Notice to be sent to all members by George Bumseng before Friday 17.

- Proposed agenda:
1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
 2. Approve last minute
 3. Reports
 - Tourism }
 - Congress } by George
 - Wild Yam } Bumseng
 - FSA Intervention }
 - LDC Financial Report - John Rawo
 - Summary - Tokon Sam
 4. Review of local trainers
 5. Review of LDC Executive Members
 6. Other Business
 7. Closing Prayer.

AGENDA 3

The Council couldn't come up with a clear workplan. It would be better if the Council knew PEP's workplan for the area.

One thing that was clear was the Congress date. At least they knew when to prepare. Following the ESHDP program for Lolihor, October would see five local trainers off to Vila for a meeting with the National Core Team.

AGENDA 4

The Council discussed the need for a meeting between LDC and the tour agents promoting the Lolihor Tourism Project. If the marketing and the promotion of the project is to go ahead the two partners should understand and know each other in order to work together. Laan Douglas should be included in the party if they were to go to Vila to meet with the agents. The other two should include Tokon Sam and John Rawo.

AGENDA 5

The Council decided that this agenda couldn't be discussed until John Salong returned so he could assist the Council with it.

AGENDA 6

It was agreed that the LDC office space should be opened on Friday 17 June after the AGM. It would be a good opportunity for all the council members to witness the declaration. It would also be good having Neil Steven's presence as an FSP staff.

Official Opening Program:

- Welcome Speech - Tokon Sam (Executive Chairman)
- Dedication Prayer - Elder Reuben Toren (Session Clerk)
- Official Opening - Neil Stevens

AGENDA 7

Training workshops in i) Basic Bookkeeping and Small Business Management and ii) First Aid would be requested by the Council to FSP. Venues for future workshops would rotate around the communities of Lolihor and not just Ranon. It would make the communities feel more involved.

AGENDA 8

None.

AGENDA 9

Elder Allen conducted the closing prayer.

Appendix 5

EXTRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
LOLIHOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HELD AT RANON CHURCH AREA
ON FRIDAY 17TH JUNE 1994 FROM 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM.

No. of members attended - 30

- FANREREO:
1. Elder Reuben Toren
 2. Elder Kintor Jacob
 3. Deacon Magelvi
 4. Youth Leader Hosea Oliver
 5. Women Leader Masi Bae
 6. Chief James Wayekon
 7. Assist. Chief Bae Luke
 8. Local Trainer Sali Alel
 9. Abel Bongnebu
 10. George Bumseng
- LONLILILIU:
1. Women Leader Lesbeth Graham
 2. Samsam Titus
- FANLA:
1. Bigman Bongmeleun Temes
 2. Elder Balo Jeremoth (SDA)
 3. Local Trainer Laan John.
- RANON:
1. Tokon Sam (Executive Chairman)
 2. Women Leader Lucy Worwor
 3. Youth Leader Laan Douglas
 4. Youth Leader Peter Alili
 5. Women Leader Sera Lisak
 6. John Rawo (LDC Treasurer)
 7. Retired Elder Simeon
 8. Elder Totang
 9. Local Trainer Mamu Tangou
 10. Lengkon Luke
 11. Chief Bongranli
 12. Chief Sael Judas (Assistant)
 13. Magekon Apia
 14. Bule Saki
 15. Teacher Rawo Philip (RJSS)
 16. Teacher Sandie Joses (RPS)
 17. Aro
 18. Jowet Bongmeme
 19. Merekon Worwor
 20. Bongmatur
 21. Tangou Jimmy

- RANBE: 1. Elder Allen
 2. Bengamin Homae
- LONBE: 1. Balo
- FARAMSU: 1. Chief Job Tobol
 2. Elder Sangul Luke
 3. Elder Joel Saksak
 4. Elder Bongelan
- RANVETLAM: 1. Chief Sandie Bibir
 2. Elder Harry Bag
 3. Elder Wantan
 4. Deacon Kintor Toka
 5. Women Leader Mabir Bongmeleun
 6. Isaiah Bong
 7. Willie Tangou
- * LINBUL: 1. Chief Sawan * (not included in Lolihor).

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Approve last minute
3. Reports:
 - Tourism }
 - Congress } George Bumseng
 - Wild yams }
 - FSA Intervention }
 - LDC Financial Report - John Rawo (Treasurer)
 - Summary - Tokon Sam (Chairman)
4. Review of Local trainers
5. Review of Council Executive members
6. Other Business
7. Closing Prayer

AGENDA 1

Vice Council Chairman Tokon Sam welcomed all leaders who could attend the meeting.

AGENDA 2

The Opening Prayer came from Abel Bongnebu.

AGENDA 3

- TOURISM:** A brief report was presented of the outcome of the trial tour and the intervention at its present stage. ie. development of brochures. The question of how to control the influx of tourists to Lolihor was raised by Elder Reuben Toren. It was the duty of the LDC to monitor the situation and find ways of turning down the tap. The problem with access to Emiotungan was clarified by George Bumseng who held discussions with a member of the clan owning the access. An amount of VT 1000 was agreed upon as a compensation fee per trip.
- CONGRESS:** The congress date 17 th August was announced. The custom welcome included in the program won't be a problem with dangers from Fanla being away during that time, as two or three who will remain can still do it. The council agreed that every household in Lolihor should prepare laplap for lunch on that date.
- WILD YAMS:** It was explained why more wild yams couldn't be distributed due to two factors:
(a) The stock at Willit/Konkon had gone down.
(b) The workload of PEP local facilitator.
- FSA:** The council was informed that Charles Rogers and FSA would still be coming back to do more work on Site Stable Agriculture.
- FINANCE REPORT:** A detailed report was presented of how much money came to Lolihor during the tourists trial and how it was distributed.
- SUMMARY:** It was emphasized that a lot of things could still be done through the LDC through the Omankukur of the leaders of Lolihor.

AGENDA 4

It was agreed that a separate meeting should be held by the executive council to review all the local trainers.

AGENDA 5

A standing order should be set for the executive council. This was already provided for in the constitution so there wasn't need for further discussions.

AGENDA 6

Neil Stevens read through the draft constitution. No comments were allowed during this meeting until every member had read the draft constitution. Neil will be printing copies in Vila and sending them over.

AGENDA 7

It was announced at this time that all members move to Lonbato Cooperative building to witness the Official Opening of the LDC Office space and the signing of the rent contract. This item of the Agenda was then left out.

APPENDIX II

WILD YAM PROJECT: IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

The following is compilation of direct costs incurred by PEP in establishing the wild yam project. These figures cover one planting season, and the distribution of 3760 kg. of yam seed material to 94 farmers.

Materials

Wild yam seed stock		VT 150.480
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Labor

PEP Liason Officer		
Education & publicity	106.750	
Location of seed stock	56.000	
Purchase, transport & storage	126.000	
Distribution	31.500	
Planting & monitoring	36.750	
	<hr/>	357.000
PEP Local Facilitator		
Education & publicity	2.060	
Location of seed stock	13.500	
Purchase, transport & storage	16.875	
Distribution	4.875	
Planting & monitoring	21.000	
	<hr/>	583.310

Services

Truck transport		29.200
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TOTAL COST		<hr/> VT 594.990
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(Exchange rate as of 8 July 1994: US\$ = VT 115)

APPENDIX III

REPORT ON TOUR PACKAGE TO AMBRYN 3 - 7 MAY 1994

A. Whitwell and W. Yawching
13th May 1994

SUMMARY

This report describes the tour activities, particularly in comparison with the scheduled itinerary. Discrepancies are identified. Some planned activities were missed out.

The issues of food and water are addressed, especially in regard to the trek across the ash plain. Adequate supplies of water are essential.

Porterage is discussed and it is concluded that tourists will have to carry their own personal items on the trek.

The human resources available are high calibre but some problems with camp management are examined and training recommendations made.

Suggestions are presented for additions to equipment as well as extra and alternative tour activities and routes.

The trip was a success and the prognosis for the future is considered good.

INTRODUCTION

1. The tour was arranged at relatively short notice, but intended to follow a pre-planned design prepared by Jeremy Challacombe. His original package was based on an extended weekend utilising the scheduled flights on Thursdays to Ambryn and back to Vila on Tuesdays. Because of our time constraints we had to travel to Ambryn on Tuesday, returning on Saturday, thereby reducing the tour by one day.

2. To reduce the charge, the dance at Fanla was excluded from the tour. Because of flat rate costs the price remained at 29000 vatu plus the airfares.

3. The authors are experienced travellers and hikers and in reasonably fit condition (particularly having just completed several hundred kilometres of tramping in New Zealand). The comments detailed below arise from this knowledge and are intended as a constructive contribution to a potentially exciting and educational tourist experience.

4. George Bumseng accompanied us throughout the tour, accommodated our wishes and generally kept the show rolling smoothly.

THE ITINERARY

5. The activities in italics are taken from Jim Stead's memo to me and are followed by a description of what actually happened. To accommodate the missing day, the afternoon tour of Ranon on day 1 was replaced by the Melvat cave visit from day 3 of the schedule and the afternoon visit of day 2 to the Mitchell Plantation was left out. Also, at our request, we did not visit the Buwoma hot river as we had a surplus of geothermal sights in New Zealand and the chances of seeing Megapode birds was, according to George, very remote. We requested to walk around additional villages in North Ambryn. Effectively, days 1 to 3 of the original package were rearranged to fit our days 1 and 2 and 4 to 6 became our 3 to 5, theoretically as pre-planned.

Day 1 - Tuesday 3rd May

6.1 *Arrive Craig Cove 0915; introductions; look round Craig Cove; boat to Ranon with discussion of points of interest; Lunch at guest house. Afternoon cultural tour of Ranon; handicrafts - their meanings and origins. Dinner followed by talk on custom and culture of north Ambryn*

6.2 We arrived about 0935. There was no one to meet us at the airport and nobody had heard of George Bumseng (we discovered later he is known by a different name). Eventually we shouldered our luggage and walked to Craig Cove and from there to the boat landing site. As we arrived, the boat with George and Benson (boatman) appeared round the headland. We boarded and travelled to Ranon in time for lunch. Minimal information was volunteered on any subjects during the trip. Douglas gave us a very warm and hospitable welcome at his guest house, which was delightful despite the building operations on the extension, which were actually an interesting demonstration of traditional construction techniques. At 3 p.m. we were taken by boat to a larva tube/bat cave. The swell and slippery rocks made landing difficult, particularly with cameras which prefer not to get wet. Local youths guided us in the caves. No geological or biological

information was presented. The guides' torches were too dim to see very much beyond where to put our feet. If I had not brought my torch the trip would have been quite hazardous. Apart from that, it was a fascinating visit, though a prior briefing that we would be wallowing in bat guano would have warned us not to wear white T-shirts! Dinner was early, but good for local kaikai. There was no after-dinner talk.

Day 2 - Wednesday 4th May

7.1 Breakfast at 0800, depart for Fanla at 0900; Interpretive walk and refreshments (coconuts). Look around village with cultural interpretation. Lunch at Fanrereo. Visit Ranon village (Nakamal, Church etc.) Tea at Ranon.

7.2 George hired two young men from Fanla as our guides for the day. At our request we went to Fanrereo first to pick-up our lunch. Good biological/custom use information volunteered about the plants we passed. We toured the village extensively and on request were shown into some houses. Reasonable information provided and questions readily answered. We then walked to Fanla, met chief Tofua, paid the entrance and photo fees and were shown his two nezaras. No explanations were given on the details of what we saw and our questions on the significance/meaning of the carvings were largely unanswered. We knew more from our prior readings. We continued walking north, stopping for lunch of tuluk and coconut water. Following 3 meals of yams and laplap this was a bit stodgy and we supplemented with bread, honey and chocolate from our own supplies. After lunch we continued walking to Neha and then down to Fona. From there we went by truck back to Ranon and looked at Freddie's handicrafts shop. George said there was nothing to see in Ranon we had not already seen elsewhere. Evening meal at the bungalow. Douglas failed to provide extra drinking water so we were on short rations through the night.

Day 3 - Thursday 5th May

8.1 Breakfast at Ranon at 0600; depart 0630. Truck to Renvetlam. Meet guides, commence walk at 0730; interpretive walk reaching caldera at 1130; continue along ash flow until 1200; lunch. Trek to Marum, climb and view volcano. Trek west to camp site near base of Benbow arriving about 1630.

8.2 Breakfast was at 0700 and we departed Ranon at 0800 having filled all our water bottles. The late start had consequences for the rest of the day. We trucked to Renvetlam to pick up guides and gear and then continued inland by truck, reaching the trailhead at about 0930. We then discovered that only one of the persons in the truck with George was our guide, the second one had not turned up. If we had been told this at Ranon we could have rearranged our packs and sent some stuff back to Craig Cove by boat. At the trail head we had to do a full re-pack to

redistribute loads and I carried my own pack and tent throughout. However, the guiding was good, the pace right and interesting botanical information was volunteered. We reached the caldera at 1130 and stopped for lunch at 1200. Only boiled yam with corned beef was provided and we used our own supplies to maintain our blood sugar levels. We left the packs and departed for Marum at 1230, arriving about 1400. There was a great deal of smoke and fumes from the crater and we spent about 45 minutes there waiting for transient wind shifts and brief views. During the return to our packs we utilised a small rock pool to wash. Due to our own actions we were now behind schedule and reached our packs at about 1600. We left immediately for the camp site, but our guides missed the turn off and we went up the wrong ash flow, having to retrace our steps and wait for them to find the route. We stopped hiking at about 1730 and set up camp, still fairly close to Marum. George and Isaiah had clearly never put up their tent before and after we had put up ours I went and sorted out theirs. They had forgotten to bring any pegs. Dinner was instant noodles. As one of us did not eat meat we contributed a tin of beans and had corned beef on the side. George provided a water melon. Fortunately the remaining boiled yam was given a decent burial.

Day 4 - Friday 6th May

9.1 Early breakfast at 0600, depart camp at 0630. Follow larva flow to end and short ridge climb to look-out spot. Late breakfast on ridge at 0830. Follow ridge to westward larva flows outside the caldera, descending by 1000. Trek along larva flow to Emiotungan. Lunch at 1300. Truck to Sanusup. Hot springs and sand drawings. Dinner at Millee bungalow.

9.2 George and Isaiah were up at 0530 but at no stage put any pressure on us to get moving. Cabin crackers and peanut butter were provided for breakfast with hot water and instant coffee. We used our muesli and milk powder with bread and honey. By the time we had eaten breakfast, packed our tent and tended to our ablutions, it was after 0800. We travelled east until we reached the correct larva flow. All the water George had brought was finished and we only had one litre each. So George told us to follow the ash flow alone whilst he and Isaiah went to look for water. They did not mention that the route was marked by arrows carved in the ash, though we soon discovered this. An hour and a half later we were west of Benbow and were concerned we might pass the ridge so we stopped to wait. This was fortunate as when George and Isaiah caught up with us 15 minutes later, we were only 5 minutes from the turn-off. After this point all of us were entering new territory. We reached the lookout spot at about 1030. The suggestion that this is a suitable site for a late breakfast is ridiculous; even with no wind most of one's concentration is on staying on the ridge. To stop for photos is sufficient. After following the ridge for a short distance we dropped down to the south into a gully and the followed it all

the way to the sea. At 1230 we asked George where we were having lunch. He said at Sanusup but he did not know when we would get there. At 1300 we called a lunch break. We gave George and Isaiah our corned beef (as they had no food left) and we had bread, salami, processed cheese and honey. We continued down the larva flow, eventually reaching its front edge which was about 50 m high and almost vertical. Isaiah did an excellent job of getting us safely down. Shortly after we ran out of water again and had to wait until we reached coconut country for further refreshment. We eventually reached the coast at about 1530. As far as I could see we had come all the way down the Woala river. We then walked to Sanusup, arriving at 1600, which is about 7 hours hiking in one day, covering about 15 km as the crow flies and I suspect considerably longer following the ash flows. Enos arrived after about half an hour and made us very welcome and looked after us well. We saw no hot springs or sand drawings.

Day 5 - Saturday 7th May

10.1 Breakfast at 0800. Depart by truck at 0930/1000 for Craig Cove. Depart Craig Cove at 1130, arriving Vila at 1300.

10.2 Breakfast was at 0700 and we left by truck at 0800 as another couple were catching the early flight to Santo. Consequently the free morning was spent at the airport. Our yam and nulunul arrived from Ranon on the boat. We arrived back in Vila at 1300.

TOUR ACTIVITIES

11. The Mitchell Plantation visit and the Buwoma hot river and megapode birds were left out as the tour was one day shorter than the pre-planned schedule. Table 1 lists the remaining activities. No refund was offered in lieu of missing activities.

TABLE 1. Success in providing scheduled and requested activities

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES PROVIDED	SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES MISSED	EXTRA ACTIVITIES REQUESTED AND PROVIDED
	Airport pick-up	
	Tour of Craig Cove	
Boat trip to Ranon	Discussions of features passed	
Visit to Malvat larva tube & bat cave	Cultural tour of Ranon	Purchase of tree-fern figure
Two nights accommodation at Ranon	Talk on custom and culture	
Visits to Fanla and Fanrerao		Walk to Métamli, Lonré, Ranhor, Néha and Nohatlin to Fona with truck back to Ranon.
Trek to Marum and Sanusup	Truck from Emiotungan	
	Sessivi hot springs	
One night accommodation at Sanusup	Sand drawings	
Truck from Sanusup to Craig Cove	Free morning in Sanusup	

12. Generally the logistics were well organised. The boatman was good and guides arrived when they said they would (except for the one who did not turn up at all). I hope that the tree fern figure I bought will eventually arrive in Vila. George undertook to send it.
13. The bat cave was interesting but the guides torches were inadequate. If the tourists don't bring their own the going will be very slow and there is no back-up in the event of bulb failure.
14. Ranon guest house is delightful and in a magical setting. Management is variable. The first night was fine, but on the second night no additional drinking water was provided and the toilet paper ran out.
15. The walk round the villages was interesting, particularly the view of everyday life in Fanrereo and the nezaras in Fanla. It would have been better in Fanla if custom information was volunteered on what we saw.
16. The trek to the volcano was fascinating. The pace was good and the guides worked very hard carrying and guiding. They were attentive to our safety, though not equipped to deal with emergencies. The absent guide meant that I had to carry my pack and tent. My plan had been to carry just camera equipment and have a photographic safari. However, with the load redistributions this was stymied as Isaiah had to carry the spare lenses. The guides got lost once *en route* to Benbow and neither had been down the southern descent, so could not tell us how far we had to hike or how long it would take.
17. Millee bungalow at Sanusup is pleasant and Enos was an excellent host. It would be nice to stay closer to the sea. Again we had to use our own supply of toilet paper.
18. Truck rides were fine with just the two of us, but could be difficult with a party of eight.

FOOD

19. Island kaikai is inadequate for 6 days for fee-paying tourists. In the guest houses the mix of yams, laplap, meat and bele was acceptable for lunch and dinner, but not for breakfast. Other vegetables and fruit should be offered if possible.
20. Tuluk was interesting for lunch during the walk through the villages but too stodgy if one has to walk afterwards and too slow to replenish blood sugar levels. Tourists will need instant energy in this climate to keep going. Coconut water is excellent at any time.

21. The food provided on the trek was minimalist, in cost and variety. Yams and corned beef for the first lunch; see para 20 as for tuluk above.

22. Dinner of noodles and corned beef was OK, but more thought must be put into this as tourists' digestive physiology is used to utilising a different balance of food and they must be fit for day 2 on the ash plain. The watermelon was great, but can the guides carry enough for 8?

23. Lees cabin crackers and peanut butter for breakfast is a nonsense! It was foolish not to carry anything for lunch on the descent. At least one spare meal for everyone should be carried in case of emergencies.

24. We carried, and used between the two of us, 10 slices of bread, honey, jam, processed cheese, salami, 7 Mars bars, a large slab of chocolate, 4 muesli bars, 8 servings of muesli, milk powder to match, tea bags, decent instant coffee and two packets of sweet biscuits which we shared round. We also had tinned baked beans, lentils, corned beef and mackerel of which only the last was not needed. (Incidentally I think our cutlery knife has been packed with the group equipment)

25. Tourists should be told in advance what food will be provided and then they can take anything else they fancy or need and carry it themselves.

WATER

26. Water management is critical throughout the visit and especially on the ash plain. Tourists will drink a lot more than locals. We consumed 2 litres a day and 1 litre at night, each.

27. It is essential that the guest houses provide water *ad lib*. The night before a major hike it is useful to force drink to saturate body tissue. This reduces the amount one drinks the following day and therefore one has less water sloshing around in the stomach.

28. It is not possible for the guides to carry sufficient water for everyone for 2 days. Each tourist should be required to carry at least 2 litres and every opportunity must be taken during the hike to replenish supplies. If necessary the route should be adjusted to pass likely sources.

29. The possibility of water being available at the camp site must be considered so that only drinking water and not cooking and washing water need be carried. Possibly a small rain water collecting surface feeding into a 200 l drum would do the trick, suitably mosquito proofed.

PORTERAGE

30. As in 28 above, it will not be possible for the guides to carry all the tourists' possessions. In this situation, items will not be pared to a minimum. Therefore, to insure good packing discipline, tourists should carry their own personal belongings (with their personal food and water). It would be reasonable to do the hike without a change of day clothes (clean night clothes only) so long as the rest of tourists' possessions awaited them at Sanusup on arrival; i.e. they would have to be boated (and trucked if necessary) to Millee bungalow.

31. A recommended packing list should be provided to tourists together with a detailed list of what the guides will be carrying. This will allow for specific issues such as special dietary needs to be accommodated.

CAMP MANAGEMENT

32. Everyone must know where the rubbish pit has been dug and everything must go in it. When we left, watermelon peel was still lying around. It will rot, eventually, but it looks horrible.

33. A role of toilet paper should be put out automatically, without being asked for.

34. The camp fire was not extinguished when we left!

35. Although it is very ethnic, to only have a bush knife for can opening is hardly hygienic as it has been used all day and dug the rubbish pit etc. George's attempt to clean it before cutting the watermelon, by wiping it on his leg, only emphasised the problem. I provided my knife.

36. Removing the dust from plates by wiping them with a T shirt that's been worn for 2 days almost certainly makes them dirtier! A clean cloth or small quantity of paper towel must be carried.

37. We never saw any sign of either George or Isaiah washing their hands for the two days, though undoubtedly they went to the toilet. However, they were still required to prepare the food. This issue must be addressed for commercial tourists if not themselves.

TRAINING

38. George is basically very good and doing his best, but additional training is needed for him and anyone else who will lead tour groups, in the following areas.

38.1 Planning and problem solving, particularly in regard to the trek. Tourists should not be asked to proceed without any guides.

38.2 Anticipating and providing tourists needs.

38.3 Leadership, particularly to maintain schedules through information and tourist discipline

38.4 Presentation of information, particularly on customs and culture.

38.5 Camp management and practice including

- 38.5.1 Camp hygiene
- 38.5.2 Garbage disposal
- 38.5.3 Tent erection
- 38.5.4 Equipment check lists
- 38.5.5 Equipment inspection and maintenance
- 38.5.6 How to pack efficiently (don't leave the pot empty)

38.6 Emergency procedures

38.7 Basic first aid.

EQUIPMENT

39. The following items should be repaired or provided as necessary.

39.1 The back-pack waist strap could not be used as it was falling off

39.2 The tent had no pegs

39.3 A good length of strong rope (in case someone falls off a ridge)

39.4 1st aid kit

39.5 Proper light weight camping utensils - knife, can opener, cooking pots

39.6 Plastic funnel to help collect dripping water.

39.7 Rain water collector

39.8 Further experience will indicate other deficiencies which must be noted and remedied.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

40. The extension to Ranon guest house was fascinating as we saw traditional construction as it happened. Traditional building methods would be a useful addition to the village tours.

41. Other routes and sights on the ash plain should be found to allow for alternatives if necessary. If conditions make Marum impossible, tourists will not expect anything. Alternative formations, sights of interest etc. or Benbow or Degas should be substituted. Stand by plans are needed in advance.

42. The standard tour should, if at all possible, include two volcanoes.

43. If this is not possible, the tour leaders should always be monitoring information on which crater is the more spectacular at any time, and re-route accordingly. Vanair pilots or Helicopters Vanuatu should be able to provide this information.

44. For intrepid tourists consideration should be given to having just 2 nights at Ranon and 2 nights on the ash plain. Food and water management will be critical, but the return, for the visitor, justified.

45. The trek, even as at present, should not be made available to everyone. There should be age limitations at both ends and a fitness recommendation. One unfit and slow hiker could endanger the whole party.

46. The ambience of the guest houses is excellent, in particular Ranon on a starlit night is near perfect. Douglas must be encouraged to retain the status quo and not expand too much or in a different style, or he will lose the magic.

CONCLUSION

47. Overall the trip was fascinating and enjoyable and has tremendous potential. The basic plan is good and the people involved were all trying very hard to make it work well.

48. However, there were potential difficulties which were counteracted by our own experience and foresight, which larger commercial tour groups may not have.

49. Relatively minor investments in staff training and equipment will do much to improve the efficiency and safety of the package.

50. The tourists will have to play a part in carrying their own personal items, which at the right level will add to the sense of achievement without detracting from the enjoyment.

APPENDIX IV

PROFITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROJECT

NATURE - BASED TOURISM

NORTH AMBRYM, VANUATU

Short-term technical assistance contract:

- to conduct a trial 5-day tour;
- to evaluate the tour and to make recommendations for further development of the tourism enterprise.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Profitable Environmental Protection (PEP) project managed by the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific have identified the Lolihor area in North Ambrym as a project site. Commercial developments that may assist in environmental protection have been identified, one of which is tourism.

Previous reports have indicated the potential for low level soft adventure tourism revolving around the environmental and cultural features of the area. A commercial trial tour was proposed for March 1994, but was canceled due to cyclonic disturbances. It was therefore decided to re-run the trial tour in May .

This report outlines the trial tour itinerary, the highlights and problems encountered, and makes an evaluation of the project as a result of personal observations, consultations with the community and feedback from visitors.

Meetings with the Lolihor community, through the executive of the Lolihor Development Council, indicated their interest in proceeding further with the venture, but indicated that they needed assistance in marketing and promotion. This is a key component to the success of the venture.

The report also outlines the results of meetings with travel operators, both in Port Vila and Australia, with regard to the marketing and promotional component.

It is concluded that there is definitely potential for commercial development of a low intensity "soft-adventure" tourism venture, based on the natural and cultural features of the area.

A series of recommendations are made at the end of the report, and additional information relating to evaluation, financial appraisal of this activity, and promotion are included as appendices at the rear of the report.

1. Introduction

The Profitable Environmental Protection (PEP) Project, managed by the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), has identified tourism, (more specifically, eco-tourism and soft adventure) as a potential commercial land use that can also provide some basis for improved environmental management through both income generation along with increased awareness.

Prior to developing the project further, a commercial tour was arranged as a trial, with four tourists participating. This tour was lead by the consultant, in conjunction with local counterparts, from Thursday 19 May to Tuesday 24 May 1994.

Following the tour, an evaluation was carried out, based on discussions with both residents and tour participants.

This report outlines the commercial tourism activity undertaken and in the light of evaluation, identifies possible areas for further development of the programme.

The project was carried out by Natural Resources/Tourism consultant, Mr Jeremy Challacombe, under contract to the PEP project of FSP.

2. Project description and methodology

The project aimed at conducting a commercial trial tour to Ambrym, participants being attracted from Vila. A group of four visitors indicated their interest to undertake the trip at the price offered, a deposit was made to confirm bookings, and a final payment made by all participants prior to undertaking the trip. All money was paid to FSP, who arranged airline tickets, the remainder of the money was then forwarded to North Ambrym with the visitors, and distributed to those people providing services and facilities in relation to the tour. Surplus funds were held by the Lolihor Development Council, who were the local coordinators of the trip.

Prior to the visit, the consultant along with two counterparts, Mr George Bumseng and Mr Douglas Solomon spent some time checking preparations and arrangements for the visit. Mr George Bumseng had contacted all involved parties prior to the visit and the necessary arrangements had in fact been made.

Four visitors arrived and undertook the tour. At the same time, there were a group of four tourists from New Caledonia who visited Ranon and participated in some of the trip itineraries, along with two other overseas visitors, one of whom joined the group. The arrival of the additional people gave an opportunity to better evaluate the project and its long term potential.

During the visit, assistance and comments were provided to the organizers, and feedback was continually sought from participants.

After the visit, discussions were held with organizers and an evaluation from the perspective of the residents and organizers from Lolihor was made. The views of the visitors was also canvassed in order to evaluate the project and to provide feedback for further visits.

Prior to this trial visit, the package was offered in whole or part, and tried by other visitors who provided valuable feedback and comments which were noted and acted on by the various organizers at Lolihor. A copy of these comments are outlined in Appendix 7.

3. Pre-tour planning and arrangements.

Following the earlier cancellation of the trial tourist visit due to cyclones, the people of Lolihor have had time to plan and organise this visit. Also, in the intervening time, at least two parties have visited North Ambrym and participated in part or most of the suggested activities.

All villages and people involved were contacted prior to the consultant's visit, and essentially, all arrangements had been made. Guides had been notified, food and accommodation had been arranged along with most of the transport.

The comments (see Appendix III) made by Andy Whitwell were discussed with the local organizers and were taken into account in preparation for this visit. A meeting was held at Ranvetlam two days prior to the arrival of tourists to check all equipment, finalize guides and discuss what provisions should be needed.

Discussions were held regarding flexibility in regard to the trip depending on the age, fitness, and general desire of the visitors, and various options were available if anyone was not able to undertake the full trek.

In conclusion, the visit was well arranged before the consultant's arrival, and the Lolihor community were well briefed and organized as to their required responsibilities.

4. Tour Implementation and Itinerary

4.1. Introduction.

A trial 5-day tour package was developed in consultation with the Lolihor community during March 1994. This tour was canceled as a result of cyclones. New dates for the tour were arranged and a letter was sent to prospective participants inviting them to join a tour to be run during May 19-24. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix 5.

A total of 4 participants indicated their interest in participating in the tour and paid a deposit of Vt15000, followed by the balance a week before departing. The tour was marketed at a price of vt42500, an increase over the previously advertised cost due to increases in airfares.

The participants comprised of 3 females and one male, all of various ages and fitness, but all reasonably fit, and were considered to be an acceptable sample of the kind of visitor that would be interested in a trip of this kind.

Upon arrival in Ambrym, the visitors were given a disclaimer which they all agreed to sign, a copy of the actual disclaimer form being outlined in Appendix 5.

4.2. Detailed trip itinerary:

The proposed itinerary for the trial tour was as follows:

Day 1 (Thursday 19 May)

Depart Port Vila 0800, arrive Craig Cove 0915.
Introductions, look around Craig Cove, go to boat.
Depart Craig Cove by boat 1030, Discussions of points of interest during boat trip. (geology, history etc)
Arrive Ranon 1230. Go to Guest house, brief familiarization and lunch. Afternoon cultural tour of Ranon specifically to look at handicrafts/carvings and their meanings and origins.
Evening meal at bungalows followed by talk about custom and culture of North Ambrym as an introduction to Fanla visit.

Day 2 (Friday 20 May)

Breakfast at Bungalow 0800.
Meet Fanla guides at bungalow and depart for Fanla 0900.
Interpretive walk and refreshments (coconuts). After refreshments, watch custom dance performance. Look around the village along with cultural interpretation.
Walk to Fanrereo and have lunch in the village 1300. Return to Ranon. Interpretive walk around historical ex George Mitchell plantation. Visit Ranon village (Nakamal, Church etc). Tea at Ranon.

Day 3 (Saturday 21 May)

Breakfast at Bungalow 0800
Depart by boat for Melvat cave, arrive at cave about 1000, and met by guides. Cave exploration concentrating on fauna and geology. Depart cave about 1200
Boat to Buwoma (hot river) Met by guide, lunch prepared at hot river. Look at cave, vegetation, swim in the sea (hot water)
Return to bay near Ranvetlam and walk back to Ranon along the coast. Evening meal at Ranon/bungalow.

Day 4 (Sunday 22 May)

Breakfast at Ranon 0600. Depart for walk to Volcano 0630. Walk or truck to Ranvetlam. Meet guides and commence walk 0730. Interpretive walk with scenic stops and interesting vegetation. Reach caldera by 1130, walk along ash flow until 1200. Stop for lunch in caldera. Trek to Marum, climb and view the volcano under guide supervision. Trek west across the ash plain until the camp site is reached near the base of Benbow about 1630. Relax, explore, evening meal about 1800. camp in tents.

Day 5 (Monday 23 May)

Early breakfast at 0600 at camp site. Depart camp 0630 and trek up lava flow until the end. Short ridge climb to lookout spot. Late breakfast 0830 on ridge. Follow ridge to westward lava flows outside the caldera, descending by about 1000.

Trek along relatively flat lava flow/dry watercourse to Emiotungan. Lunch at Emiotungan, 1300. Depart by truck to Sanasup. Swim in hot springs, look at sand drawings. Evening meal at Millee bungalow.

Day 6 (Tuesday 24 May)

Breakfast 0800 at bungalow. Morning free. Depart by truck for Craig cove 1030. Dept Craig Cove 1150, Arrive Vila 1300.

4.3. Actual Tour Implementation

There was little deviation from the actual tour itinerary. There was, however, room for some flexibility depending on the fitness of the tourists and their interests.

Changes from the above tour programme on a day by day basis are noted below:

Day 1. There was a 3 hour delay leaving Craig Cove as a result of visitors arriving from both Vila and Santo. This meant that the arrival at Ranon was not until 1530. The afternoon and evening were largely left free, with no organized activities.

Day 2. There was no deviation from the plan with the exception that the evening meal was held at the guest house and not in the village.

Day 3. There was no deviation from the plan. Some visitors chose to walk back from Ranvetlam to Ranon, others returned to the guest house directly by boat.

Day 4. No deviation from the plan.

Day 5. Due to difficulties with the route, the actual descent to the westward lava flow was not until 1230. Lunch was eaten along the track and Emiotungan was not reached until about 1600, and rather than stop, the party proceeded directly to the bungalow and hot springs.

Day 6. Breakfast was at 0730 with two departures for the airport, to meet both the Santo flight and Vila flight later. The visitors looked around the village and viewed sand drawings.

4.4. Comments

Essentially, the tour progressed smoothly as planned. The visitors were kept informed of activities as necessary and if there were any problems, these were handled by the organizers without causing any concern to visitors.

The delay on arrival at Craig Cove was unavoidable, the early visitors were informed and some time was spent looking around Craig Cove. Also, the organizers had bought a light meal which was consumed on the beach.

The lack of activities on arrival at Ranon did not detract from the trip. It probably was best to let visitors have some free time to wander around and settle in. There were informal talks in the evening, and this appeared to be quite acceptable.

The trip to Fanla and other villages proceeded smoothly and there was no impression of being too slow or too fast.

The stay in the cave was perhaps on the long side, but fitted in with the programme. The guide to the hot water was not available due to a death in the village of Rambwe. This did not interrupt the programme, with Douglas and George filling in.

There were probably not enough guides for the trek to the volcano and beyond. During this trip, both the consultant and George Bumseng acted as guides and carried gear. An extra guide was recruited just prior to departure. This problem may be a result of people not wanting to work on the Sunday.

Overall though, there was little deviation from the plan, and changes were efficiently coped with, there was no complaint from visitors regarding activities that they missed out on and the feeling was that the pace and level of activity was probably about right. If anything, there could have even been more time just relaxing around the bungalows, with those visitors wanting more activities, able to make their own informal arrangements.

5. Other Visitors

5.1. Introduction

Since March 1994, there have been a number of other visitors who have been aware of the project and have visited the area and experienced some or all of the activities proposed. Other visitors have arrived without any advance notice and have also experienced some activities promoted by this project.

These visitors, and the activities undertaken by them, are outlined as a point of interest. This also provided valuable information and assistance for evaluation.

5.2. Visit by Rachel Eberhard and friend

These people were planning to travel to North Ambrym, climb to the volcano and then trek to the West. Following discussions with the consultant after his previous visit, it was suggested they contact John Salong, who could arrange transport and organise guides.

They were advised as to possible transport, accommodation, guide and entry costs, but these were to be clarified on arrival.

Essentially, they arrived at Craig Cove, were transported to Ranon by Boat, were escorted by a guide to the volcano, camped in the caldera. The next day, they were shown the route to the South West and proceeded themselves to Sanesup.

The feedback was that the trip was worthwhile, even though the trek was long. There were, however, some problems with regard to payment of charges in relation to guide fees and track fees to the volcano. These caused some ill will by both parties and the problem arose out of a misunderstanding over charges. The problem was sorted out over time, with payments made, but goes to emphasise the need to ensure that all details, especially in relation to costs, are clarified prior to any visit.

5.3. Visit by Andy Whitwell and friend

These people had originally planned on participating in the trial visit but were not able to organise the times to coincide with the visit. They were still interested in travelling to Ambrym to view the volcano. They made an approach to one travel agent who offered them the same trial tour, but at a price in excess of VT8000! and who had little idea of the logistics. After they contacted FSP, PEP agreed to make arrangements for the visit, collect the right fee and forward the money. In return, they asked the participants to provide feedback and comments on the trip. These comments are outlined in detail in Appendix III.

5.4. Visit by tourists from New Caledonia

At the time of the consultant's visit, a party of 4 people from New Caledonia arrived at Craig Cove from Vila. This group wanted to travel to North Ambrym and climb to the volcano, and asked if there was anywhere to stay.

They were directed to George Bumseng and Douglas Solomon, who informed them that if they wanted, they could share the cost of the boat, that there was accommodation on North Ambrym, and that a guide could be organized to visit the volcano. The full charges were explained to the visitors beforehand, and the visitors agreed to travel and stay in Lolihor.

Essentially, the visitors, 3 male and one female, travelled by boat to Ranon, spent the remainder of the day looking around Ranon at the village and handicrafts. Isiah Bongnaim was approached and agreed to act as a guide the next day.

The second day was spent trekking to and back from the volcano. The evening meal was at the guest house in Ranon followed by informal discussions.

The final morning was travelling back to Craig Cove by boat, to depart for Santo.

Discussions with the visitors indicated they were quite happy with their stay, and they felt lucky and quite privileged to be able to visit the area and be looked after so well at such short notice. They indicated they were happy with the accommodation and local food, and even though the weather did not allow a good view of the volcano, the trip and guiding was worthwhile. There were no problems with payment and the impression was that the visit was good value for money.

5.5. Visitors from Pentecost

On Wednesday, 18 May, two visitors arrived along the road from Olal and were looking to spend a few nights at the guest house. They had been on Pentecost, caught a trading vessel to Olal, and walked to Ranon. They had read in the "Lonely Planet" guide book that there were bungalows at Ranon.

The two visitors, one male from the United States, and one male from Germany, spent some time at Ranon, The American basically doing his own thing, but the German inquired about joining in with the trial tourist visitors who had no objection. George Bumseng worked out an equitable fee, and there was an extra member accompanying the group to Fanla and the trip to the volcano and across the island.

It appeared that both were happy about their respective experiences. The American indicated he was happy with the accommodation and food, and then he departed on another boat to return to Vila on the Saturday.

5.6. Comments

It was appropriate that there have been a few other visits to the area that were able to be appraised, and it was particularly opportune that other visitors were present during the consultant's visit.

Certainly, from an economic point of view, tourism does have the ability to contribute to the community. Over a period of 8 days, over Vt200000 was dropped in the Lolihor community for accommodation, meals, guides and entries. There was certainly quite a lot more spent on handicrafts. One of the visitors even purchased a pet pig!

Apart from buying fuel for transport, there would have been very few leakages of money out of the island, the venture being entirely dependent on locally produced goods.

It was pleasing to note that from all of the visitors, there were few complaints and the visit was seen as value for money. It was also interesting to note how the community coped with an unannounced extra influx of visitors. Food was provided in ample quantity at short notice. Guides were found; and Douglas was just completing a new bungalow, which was very quickly finished to provide enough beds.

There certainly was an impression that the community, especially those with a greater interest in developing tourism were able to plan and cope with unexpected arrivals, and yet the quality of the experience was not diminished.

6. Evaluation

6.1. Introduction

A comprehensive evaluation of the project at this time is not appropriate. There are techniques that should be developed as time goes on to provide a more scientific evaluation, certainly in terms of the correlation between increased income from tourism and environmental management. Bearing this in mind, the potential for commercial development of tourism is good, and the resources to carry it out are present.

The evaluation provided here is largely from personal observation based on feedback from both visitors and residents. The results of this indicate a positive response to tourism, and would indicate that tourism can be developed further commercially. It would be interesting at some stage in the future to analyze this in terms of improved land management techniques throughout Lolihor. (if indeed, this is a problem)

6.2. Community feedback

During the period of the visit, community reactions were observed. Following the return of the visitors, two days were spent discussing the views of the community, especially through members of the Lolihor Development Council.

Overall, there were some concerns, but these appeared minor, and the general feeling was to continue with the project.

The major problem revolved around trekking to the volcano on Sunday. During this visit, there was a problem to get enough guides. The villages indicated that it was okay this time, but if the project is to continue, then the timetable needs to be adjusted. There are other more suitable dates and these are outlined in the draft brochures in appendix 4.

Essentially visitors need to leave Vila on Saturday or Tuesday, to return on the following Thursday or Saturday. The Sunday of the longer trip would then be spent around Ranon, with perhaps a picnic to the cave or hot water. These options are acceptable to the community.

The question of guide payments was discussed. With the exception of the extended trek, fees were considered acceptable. The guides who walk to Sanesup actually are away from their gardens and families for a period of three days. The work is hard and they have to carry quite a bit, and they felt that Vt1500 was an acceptable fee, rather than the Vt1000 that was originally proposed.

The other problem was that of compensation to land owners in the West, especially Emiotungan. During the trek they were expecting the visitors to stop, have lunch and presumably buy handicrafts. This did not happen because of time. The people were not terribly happy and if the trek is to continue, then they also want some financial return. This is being addressed by Lolihor, and it was felt that the Development Council should allocate some of the tourist money in the future to Emiotungan.

In the past, there was a problem with visitors viewing the volcano during certain periods of the year. The community have met and discussed this issue, and at this time, they are happy for year round access.

Another problem that was raised by some of the community, and one which the Lolihor Development Council will need to address, is that of fair prices. Douglas has a policy of buying most of his meat and vegetables for the guest house from the community. Over the last few months, prices have significantly increased to the extent that he is considering just developing and using his own resources. Whilst this may even be financially more sound, it is likely to cause resentment and will result in money being less widely distributed. Some members of the Lolihor Development Council are aware of this problem, and it is hoped it will be addressed through community education and workshops.

Generally, the feeling of the community at this time is positive, and if anything, there is a feeling to develop further and improve what is being offered.

It is felt that both the cooking workshop and the guide workshop organised by PEP, were both positive contributions not just to the project, but to the community overall.

6.3. Feedback from visitors

The actual tour visitors were made aware of the project and the fact that this was a trial visit. Feedback was sought throughout the visit, and often there was general discussion that was useful, not only in project appraisal, but of direct benefit to the guides and to guesthouse owners. The feelings of the visitors is categorised under the various tour components outlined below.

6.3.1. Transport.

The boat trip from Craig Cove is long. Quite a lot of time is also spent in the boat during other visits. It would make the trip more pleasant if there was a way of padding the seats. To a certain extent, the same applies to taxi trucks. Whilst it was recognized that they were a practical form of transport, there needs to be much more care by drivers.

6.3.2. Accommodation.

Generally, the feedback was very positive. Certainly the location at Ranon combined with local material construction made for a pleasant aesthetic experience. Mattresses could be softer, but this is a minor point. Toilets are often a problem. Whilst flush toilets are not necessary, a seat makes the stay more pleasant, especially if it is at the correct height. The toilet at Sanasup was potentially okay, but it was only about 40 cms off the ground, and extremely unstable.

Comments were made about security, especially from a female point of view. This was discussed with Douglas who wanted to be immediately informed if there was a problem and it would be resolved immediately.

Visitors indicated that the absence of electricity and other facilities did not detract from the experience, and in fact, a generator, and lights may make the stay less attractive.

Camping accommodation could be improved. It would be good to acquire a tent that did not leak. Also, the absence of ground sheets, combined with very thin sleeping sheets, meant the night was not as comfortable for some as it could have been. Visitors should be adequately briefed beforehand, but it should not be difficult to make some better sleeping sheets, and possibly acquire some insulation mats.

6.3.3. Food

Food was more than adequate. The food was well prepared. It was all local food and visitors had an opportunity to try it. The food was explained. There was also quite a lot of variety. Visitors comments were again positive and felt that other than local food would detract from the experience.

There was enough water at the guest house. Douglas has just completed a new well and this should help with water supply.

The food for the trek and camp was also more than adequate. Sandwiches were provided for lunch on the first day and these met with a favorable response. The evening meal was tuluk, along with soup and rice. Not all the food carried was needed.

There were adverse comments by some of the group in relation to crackers and peanut butter for breakfast, others were not as concerned. More variety for breakfast could be better if it could be arranged.

Unlike earlier visitors, there was enough water for the trek. It had to be rationed, and there was none for washing, but, as there was only one day spent camping, this was not considered a problem.

6.3.4. Attractions

The attractions were considered of interest generally by visitors. Some commented that the dance at Fanla was perhaps expensive, especially if it is to be compared to dances held at Le Lagon, which are cheaper and better explained. It was also agreed though that there was a feeling of authenticity and uniqueness. There certainly could have been more information on the dance. The cave was of interest to some, and less to others. Some felt little appeal at extending their walk in a dark hot dirty place. However, the view of the bats was a highlight. The trek to the volcano on the first day was well received. The second day, the trek was long, difficult and tiring. Visitors gave the impression though that it was worthwhile and felt a sense of achievement.

The hot springs were excellent, especially after the trek.

6.3.5. Guides.

The guides also were commented on favorably. There was an abundance of knowledge regarding flora and its uses. There was more room for interpretation of custom at Fanla.

Certainly, the pace of trips was acceptable and comfortable for all. Guides were attentive. During the trek, questions were asked about first aid, and it is perhaps necessary, both for the security and confidence of visitors, and in case of emergency, that there is some formal first aid training.

There could have been an extra guide, as two tourists had to carry their own gear, although some felt that was part of trekking. There was some mention that some visitors would not have felt as safe in the absence of the consultant. It is felt that this is a problem of perception, as both Isiah and George were very attentive and safety conscious.

6.3.6. Overall ambience

The feedback from all visitors was very positive. This could largely be due to the mix of people. There were pleasant discussions at the bungalows and during trips. The pace was right, the amount of activities was acceptable, and there was enough flexibility during much of the trip.

6.4. Consultant's observation

Overall, the trip was deemed quite successful. Visitors seemed to enjoy the experience, and the residents of Lolihor wished to proceed further with this kind of tourism development.

It is important that the social impact of visitors is kept at an acceptable level. Not everyone in the community is involved in tourism and as long as they are not adversely impacted on, then problems are not likely to arise.

Most of the community concerns are outlined in an earlier section. It is felt that many of the problems can actually be resolved through the Lolihor Development Council as long as it remains truly representative of the community and not any particular faction. Land disputes, so often considered a problem from outside do not appear to be a barrier to development. An example of this is the hot river at Buwoma. Ownership is disputed between two factions but there is an agreement to hold the money in trust until the matter is resolved, and to allow the tourism activity to continue.

It is felt that the product is currently marketable, providing visitors are as fully informed as possible prior to their visit. There is however, room for improvement. The Guest house at Ranon is very pleasant. A simple shower and toilet with seat would make a big difference. Douglas, in fact, is aware of this and plans to rebuild those facilities. He is aware of the need to build a hygienic toilet and is seeking advice on designs. He is also building a round, open walled dining area in traditional style. It is important not to overcrowd the site, and this has been discussed

The food preparation and presentation is considered to be very good and may hopefully, be a result of the cooking workshop run by PEP earlier in the year.

Overall, the guiding was good. Perhaps the cave guides need to be a little less shy. There was a problem at the cave with the torches and it is essential that the guides have good torches. The guides at Fanla also were good, but perhaps could give more of an interpretation of cultural aspects.

The trek was very good. Isiah is a good guide, has good rapport with visitors, and is very safety conscious and experienced. There needed to be at least one more guide, and possibly two just to ease carrying gear up to the camp. In time, however, future training, possibly outside the country, and attached to a National Parks Service, or outdoor recreation facility, would be beneficial.

There needs to be more thought given to equipment. The tents are okay, some insulated mats would be an asset. Another rucksack for carrying cooking or sleeping gear is essential for a group of 4 visitors. Lightweight camping equipment in the form of plates, mugs and cooking gear would make the trip much easier for the guides.

In conclusion, the trip was considered successful and augers well for the future. If possible, a few other groups should be organized throughout the year, but there is no reason not to offer it to tourists now. The activities should be closely monitored and any difficulties identified and help offered. Many difficulties within the island will be overcome by experience. The major difficulty is marketing and liaison with outside.

7. Community discussions for further development

Some time was spent with members of the community after the tourists departed. Discussions were held with George Bumseng in his capacity as treasurer of the Colihor Development Council, Isiah Bongnaim for guiding, and Douglas Solomon for accommodation. Members of the Fanla and Ranon community indicated they would like to see further development.

Essentially, the community wished to proceed further but were looking for assistance and advice regarding promotion and marketing. Discussions revolved around problems with Vila agents, and how these can be overcome. Draft advertising brochures were requested, these would be checked by the community and if acceptable, distributed to agents. Copies of the draft brochures are outlined in Appendix 4.

Those involved acknowledged that if the activity was to involve trekking through Emiotungan, that some of the profits must be distributed to the people of that area. George indicated that discussions would be forthcoming.

The community felt relatively comfortable with the venture, but recognized the need for skills training in certain areas. Business management/bookkeeping/recordkeeping for members of the community involved in commercial enterprises were mentioned, and perhaps further skills in guiding, along with marketing.

The long term direction was a concern for Douglas Solomon who is interested in developing his own enterprise, but does not want to be seen usurping the community project. This was discussed with George, who views the community project as a necessary start to private business development. It is felt that in time, the Lolihor Development Council may leave the accommodation and transport facilities to the private sector, and even encourage the development of a private trekking and guiding business. Such businesses would find it initially difficult to establish as a result of community jealousies, but if the benefits are seen to be spreading, then the community, through the Lolihor Development Council, may encourage further private development.

The importance of the Development Council is well recognized and assistance to the stability and freedom of this body should be encouraged. This is not just in respect to the tourism project, or even the PEP project, but the Council is seen to have the potential to be extremely effective in allowing for peoples development by the people. Support such as that provided By Neil Stevens Netaf, in assisting in the resolution of conflicts, is a worthwhile investment, and this, whilst not directly related to tourism, also a point covered by community discussions.

8. Promotion and Marketing

8.1. Introduction

It is felt that there is no doubt that the people of Lolihor have a tourism product to sell. Feedback from past visitors indicates the potential for low impact, low numbers, environmentally based cultural and soft adventure tourism.

The key to further development is in marketing and promotion, both of which largely is beyond the ability of the community at this stage.

This section looks at the past experience with marketing of tourism to Ambrym, and outlines comments made by travel operators both in country and overseas.

8.2 Past marketing experience

There have been tourism ventures on Ambrym in the past, and Millee bungalows along with Solomon Merakon bungalows have been open for quite a few years. There has been limited promotion and visitors have largely arrived from Vila having been forwarded by Vila based travel agents.

Unfortunately, there is little confidence in dealing with existing agents as a result of bad experiences in the past.

Often visitors arrive without adequate notification, there are disputes about charges, and in most cases, the Ambrym operators have not been paid by the Vila agents who have passed on visitors. This is a totally unacceptable situation, with the people on Ambrym having little control. Discussions with other small operators throughout the country indicate that the problem is not just related to Ambrym, but occurs across the whole industry.

In order to run an effective business, the money has to be forthcoming. Vila based agents do not give credit to visitors and they should not expect island based operators to extend credit to them, especially after they have already collected a fee from the tourist.

8.3. Marketing in-country

Following development of a trial tour itinerary, meetings were held with the majority of travel agents and tour operators in Vila. These companies were informed about the project and were asked would they be interested in marketing it. Discussions were held relating to payment procedures and commissions. The response was varied. Some felt that it just was not up market enough and would like to get involved if it was more a joint venture project in which they had more say. One company felt that it would only compete with Tanna in which that company was involved and did not think there was much to offer even though he had no personal experience.

Two other companies appeared enthusiastic, but did not want to be committed on how they would promote and what commission they would charge. It is interesting to note that one of these companies was approached and actually offered the tour at a price of over vt80000, twice the package costs. This commission is just seen as being opportunistic but with no real commitment to the people who actually run the project. Also, both these companies have a bad name for being difficult to get money forwarded. Another company indicated they could be interested and felt that with the commission they would get on the airline ticket, a commission of vt 5000 would be acceptable. Certainly, the commission should be no more than 20% of the island price.

One agent was already dealing with Douglas and was interested in promoting in New Caledonia. There had been a problem with money being passed on but this was discussed and the agent indicated that this could be rectified.

At this stage, the conclusion is that whilst there is lip service interest, there is little commitment within the country. There are certainly some agents that could be approached, but the rules must be spelt out by Lolihor, and not dictated to by the agents. It is reasonable to allow for a fair commission in return for promotion, but this should not be exorbitant as it actually may price the activity out of the market.

The question of payment should be resolved with no further problem. Whilst many Vila based companies may operate on extended credit, this is not the practice in the islands. The taxi driver will not wait 30 days for his fare! The agents do not allow the tourist thirty days credit. It is money up front. Therefore, the agent should take his commission but the rest of the money travels to the island with the tourists or a suitable arrangement is made to bank it immediately in Vila. If money is not forthcoming, any tourists should be apologized to, charged the full amount on the island or regrettably, they cannot be accommodated.

3.4. Overseas

Whilst there is a possible market originating from both expatriate residents and visitors to Port Vila, this type of venture is not really well established in the country. There is a large and growing segment of the tourism industry that specifically relates to ecotourism and adventure travel.

A number of companies were visited in Australia, the project discussed with them and their interest noted.

The leading operators for this kind of activity organize adventure travel to various parts of the world, generally on extended trips accompanied by qualified guides as well as working with local guides. Activities range from quite strenuous such as climbing in the Himalayas to low level fitness sight seeing tours to interesting parts of the world. The difference between these tours and conventional tours is that they tend to be either challenging, or educational in the sense that visitors experience a close relationship with the culture and environment of different places. They are often (but not always) culturally more acceptable.

Companies contacted included:

Intrepid Small Group Adventures

Niugini Tours Pty Ltd

Peregrine Adventure Travel

Youth Hostels Association

World Expeditions

Explore - small group exploratory holidays

Only two of these companies currently offer packages in the South Pacific outside PNG.

"Explore" offer a sail/trek package in Fiji, and a tour of Western Samoa using local transport and staying in villages.

"World Expeditions" offer sea kayaking trips in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Tonga.

Of all of the above companies, "World Expeditions", and possibly "Explore", could be the most interested in becoming involved. Most of the companies indicated their interest but indicated that they were multi-million dollar operations and they doubted if the volume, certainly of Ambrym alone, could justify them becoming involved. Certainly, there would be interest if a longer package could be arranged, perhaps incorporating more than one activity, and even more than one country.

As an example, most "World Expedition" trips are of two weeks duration, all in the field. The Solomons trip of 14 days is marketed at a price of A\$1875 ex Honiara. This would indicate that there is no problem with pricing of the Ambrym product, allowing for marketing overseas and building in agents commission. If it were to be attractive, however, it may need to be packaged with another activity elsewhere in Vanuatu.

9. Conclusion and recommendations

A trial tour was developed and implemented with four fully paying visitors participating. The tour was conducted without any major problems and feedback from the visitors indicated that the experience was worthwhile and at an acceptable price. Over the last two months, there have been a number of other people who have visited the area and the feedback has been generally positive.

Discussions were held with the residents of Lolihor and the feeling was that the venture should be developed further and commercially marketed, incorporating the changes outlined throughout this report.

Following the success of this venture and the interest and enthusiasm of the community, it is felt that a viable commercial enterprise can be developed to benefit the people of Lolihor. It remains to be seen as to the relationship between the commercial benefits and the concept of profitable environmental protection, but it is felt that the community awareness generated by the project, in conjunction with a recognition that a successful tourism venture depends on a well maintained environment, will lead to greater interest in fostering a positive attitude towards the natural environment.

The following recommendations are made in the light of the project

- That the Lolihor community be encouraged to proceed with eco/adventure tourism on a small scale along the lines of the trial tour.
- That assistance is given for the development of brochures based on the drafts outlined in Appendix 4 of this report.
- That the Lolihor Development Council be given every assistance, especially if conflicts arise, through the involvement of a community development specialist such as Mr Neil Stevens Netaf.
- That if possible, assistance be given initially for meetings with commercial tour operators to market the product. If possible, funding should be sought for allowing initial market work to be carried out both in Vanuatu and overseas.

- That the correlation between the profit making enterprise and environmental protection be monitored as part of the PEP project using local staff.
- That this project and the people of Lolihor liaise with the team preparing a tourism master plan for Vanuatu, especially in terms of the need for infrastructure, marketing, and general coordination.
- That, if possible, assistance be given to organizing Tee shirts initially, being quite clear that future funding has to come from the commercial enterprise.
- That Isiah Bongnaim and perhaps another guide chosen by the community be given proper first aid training.
- That as part of the Lolihor Development project, a small business training/bookkeeping/record keeping course be offered for business people in Lolihor at an appropriate time.
- As the project progresses, that one or more guides be identified to get further experience, probably overseas. This relates primarily to the trekking component.
- That copies of the consultants reports relating to tourism be made available to the Lolihor Development Council for their information and comments.

APPENDIX 1. CONSULTANT'S DIARY

- 15/5/94 Arrive in Port Vila.
- 16/5/94 FSP office Port Vila. Pre tour preparation.
- 17/5/94 Arrive in Ranon, Meeting with guides at Ranvetlam.
- 18/5/94 Pre tour preparation with George Bumseng and Douglas Solomon.
- 19/5/94 Pick up visitors from Craig Cove. Return to Ranon, Introduction to tour followed by free time.
- 20/5/94 Tour to Fanla to view custom dance, walk to Fanrereo and Ranon
- 21/5/94 Tour to cave followed by a visit to ~~the~~ hot river. Coast walk back from Ranvetlam and visit carvers in Ranon.
- 22/5/94 Hike to Volcano and camp in Caldera.
- 23/5/94 Hike from camp site to Emiotungan and then truck to Sanasap. Visit hot springs at Sesivi.
- 24/5/94 Sand drawings at Sanasap followed by departure of visitors from Craig Cove. Guides and consultant return to Ranon.
- 25/5/94 Evaluation of the tour and development of future stages, Ranon
- 26/5/94 Return to Port Vila, commence report preparation.
- 27/5/94 Evaluation of the tour from visitors perspective.
- 28/5/94 Report preparation.
- 29/5/94 Report preparation.
- 30/5/94 Meetings with FSP.
- 31/5/94 Meetings with FSP
- 01/6/94 Return to Australia.

APPENDIX 2. COSTS AND RETURNS OF THE TRIAL TOUR

Copy of financial statement prepared by Mr George Bumseng,
treasurer of the Lolihor Development Council.

Costs and Returns - Ecotourism - Lolihor, 19th - 24th May

INCOME:

4 people at 29100 vt	116400vt
1 person (part tour) at 6500 vt	<u>6500vt</u>
Money to North Ambrym	122900vt

EXPENSES:

Accommodation and Food

Ranon - 3 nights @ 2000 X 4	24000vt
Camping - 1 day @ 2000vt X 4 + 1000vt (food provided for additional member)	9000vt
Sanesup - 1 day X 2500 X 4	<u>10000vt</u>
	43000vt

Boat and Truck hire

CCV - Ranon	8000vt
Ranon - cave - hot water - Ranon	4000vt
Ranon - Ranvetlam	2000vt
Emiotungan - Sanesup	2000vt
Sanesup - Sesivi - Sanesup	1000vt
Sanesup - CCV	2500vt
Sanesup - CCV	2500vt
Ranon - CCV	<u>8000vt</u>
	30000vt

Entry Fees

Dance - Fanla	20000vt
Cave - 4 X 500	2000vt
Hot Water - 4 X 500	2000vt
Volcano - 4 X 1000 + 1 additional member	<u>5000vt</u>
	29000vt

Guide Fees

Ranon 1 X 500	500vt
Fanla 2 X 500	1000vt
Melvat 2 X 500	1000vt
Volcano 4 X 1000 + 1 X 2000	<u>6000vt</u>
	8500vt

Summary of Income and Expenses

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Charge to tourists	116400vt	
Extra tourist	6500vt	
Food & accommodation		43000vt
Transport		30000vt
Entry fees		29000vt
Guide fees		8500vt
Surplus - LDC		<u>12400vt</u>
	<hr/>	
	122900vt	122900vt

APPENDIX 3. DRAFT PROMOTIONAL BROCHURES

Fanla: The strongest custom village in North Ambrym. Traditional dancing ground and artifacts.

Ranon: Visit the village, an old plantation, relax at Douglas Solomon bungalows right on the beach.

Ranvetlam: The traditional owners of the access route to the volcano. Treks organized by experienced guide Isiah Bongnaim.

Volcanoes and ash plain: An unforgettable experience in an unbelievable landscape.

Sanasup: Enjoy a relaxing swim in the hot springs at Sesivi after your trek and then Relax at Enos Falau's Millee bungalow.

This is an adventure tour and reasonable fitness is necessary. All participants are required to sign an indemnity prior to embarking on the trek.

The price includes all travel from Vila, accommodation in local traditional guest houses and camping. All meals, guide fees and entry.

Sleeping equipment is provided but it is wise to carry personal effects in a rucksack.

Personal requirements are minimal and may include a change of cloths. Walking shoes or sneakers. Swimming costume. Toiletries. Camera. A sleeping bag may be useful

although sleeping sheets are provided.

AMBRYM

ADVENTURES

Enjoy the real Vanuatu and experience a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to visit an isolated and traditional part of Vanuatu famed for its culture and volcanoes.

Visit custom villages. Experience local hospitality. Explore the natural wonders. Experience real adventure climbing volcanoes and trekking through rain forest to ash ridges.

Tour Details

Tour 1. 6 days/5 nights
Depart Sat. Return Thu.

Day 1: Vila/Craig Cove/Ranon
Artifacts and Ranon village.
Day 2: Visit the bat cave at
Melvat and the hot river
Day 3: Visit Fanla/Fanrereo
* Custom dance at Fanla.
Day 4: Trek to the volcano,
camp on the ash plain.
Day 5: Trek to Emiotungan
along ash ridges and lava
flows. Truck to Sanasup and
hot springs at Sesivi. Relax
in the hot springs.
Day 6: Morning at Sanasup
Dept for Vila.

Price from Vila: Vt47500

Tour 2. 5 days/4 nights
Depart Tue. Return Sat.

Day 1: Vila/Craig Cove/Ranon
Artifacts and Ranon village.
Day 2: Visit Fanla/Fanrereo
* Custom dance at Fanla.
Day 3: Trek to the volcano,
camp on the ash plain.
Day 4: Trek to Emiotungan
along ash ridges and lava
flows. Truck to Sanasup and
hot springs at Sesivi. Relax
in the hot springs.
Day 5: Morning at Sanasup
Dept for Vila.

Price from Vila: Vt42500

* The custom dance at Fanla
depends on a minimum number
of 3 visitors. If less than
this, the dancing ground and
artifacts can be visited and
still photographs taken.
Dances may be performed by
negotiation at extra charge.

AMBRYM

ADVENTURES

is a fully developed
adventure and cultural tour
organized by the people of
the Lolihor region of North
Ambrym, and is managed by the
Lolihor Development Council
based at Ranon.

The money generated by your
visit is spread throughout
the Lolihor community and is
used to improve community
life and allow for provision
of development for and by the
people of Lolihor.

For information and bookings:

Contact:

Mr George Bumseng
Treasurer
Lolihor Development Council
Ranon
North Ambrym

Tel: 48405

Bookings can also be arranged
through any local travel
agent or through the National
Tourism Office.

Cost: Vt 2500

Includes accommodation and all meals.

Basic accommodation is provided. Mosquito nets. Washing facilities. No electricity.

Transport from Craig Cove to Ranon is by speedboat, the cost being Vt8000 one way

Boat and truck hire can be arranged, along with guiding facilities priced at Vt500, Vt1000 and Vt 1500 depending on the trip.

Bookings can be made through:

Mr Douglas Solomon
Ranon Village
North Ambrym

Tel: 48405

or

through any local travel agent or the National Tourism Office in Port Vila.

SOLOMON DOUGLAS
GUEST HOUSE

RANON

NORTH AMBRYM

North Ambrym is a very traditional part of Vanuatu famed for its custom and its artifacts.

Authentic artifacts can be purchased here made by one of the traditional carvers living in the area.

Douglas can arrange excursions to Fanla village, and other "custom" villages, organize sand drawings and inspection of artifacts.

Visits can also be arranged with experienced guides to look at the natural wonders of the area - the rainforests, coastal scenery, caves, hot rivers and volcanoes.

Solomon Douglas Bungalows

were originally established by Douglas's father in the mid 1980s.

The accommodation consists of small, traditionally built bungalows situated right on the Beach only a short distance from Ranon village.

The bungalows provide local hospitality and custom and offer a unique opportunity to live and experience the real Vanuatu.

All meals are based around local food and offer a delightful introduction to Melanesian cuisine.

APPENDIX 4. LETTER TO TOURISTS AND LIABILITY FORM

1. Copy of first letter sent to prospective participants regarding the trial tour to North Ambrym

Dear

The trek to the volcanos and ash plain of Ambrym has been rescheduled for May 19-24. As in the previously scheduled trek washed out by the two cyclones, Jeremy Challacombe and the guides from North Ambrym will lead the group. You are no doubt aware May 20 is a public holiday.

The plan is to fly to Craig Cove on Thursday, May 19th, and then travel on Ranon village, North Ambrym, by boat. On Friday and Saturday, there will be a variety of excursions around North Ambrym, including a boat trip to a "hot" river for a picnic and swim and then on to a limestone bat cave, a tour of the old George Mitchell copra plantation and a visit to the traditional village of Fanla, where you will be feted with a custom dance and shown local handicrafts, some of the best contemporary works in Vanuatu. Sunday morning, you will begin a leisurely climb to Benbow volcano, spending the night camped on the edge of the caldera. The next day the group will cross the ash plain and descend Sanesup village on Ambrym's southwest coast. Monday evening will be spent at Milee Bungalows in Sanesup. Transport will be provided to return you to Craig Cove for the Tuesday morning flight to Vila.

This trip is being organized by FSP's Profitable Environmental Protection Project in response to a request by the people of Lolihor, N. Ambrym, to assist them in developing tourism activity in their community. With the exception of airfares, all fees charged for this trip remain in N. Ambrym; neither FSP nor Jeremy benefit from your payment. The cost of the five day tour is VT42,500, and includes return airfare from Port Vila, all boat and truck transportation, all accommodations and food, custom dance, guide services, and access fees to the volcano and bat cave. The change from the previously reported price is due to Vanair's 30% price increase. The cost from points of departure other than Port Vila will be provided upon request. We will make all reservations and purchase tickets.

The number of participants is limited to eight persons. If you wish to join this trek, we request a deposit VT15,000 by April 29th, with the balance due May 17th. For more information, please call me at 22915. If you know of others who might be interested in joining this trek, please let me know.

Sincerely,

2. Copy of "what to bring" letter to trek participants

Dear

Just a few notes about your forthcoming trip to North Ambrym. Tents and sleeping gear will be provided, along with all food, cooking and eating utensils, water and water bottles, first aid kit and other equipment needed for the trip. The guides will be available to carry your personal gear if you wish.

We suggest that you bring the following:

- small pack
- rain gear
- personal clothing, including swim suit
- hat
- hiking boots
- toilet articles
- toilet paper
- towel
- mosquito repellent (malaria is a problem in N. Ambrym)
- sun block
- small flashlight
- camera

Note: although sleeping sheets will be provided, if you are a "cold sleeper", you may wish to bring a light blanket or sleeping bag.

In my recent letter to you, I noted that we would collect the balance of the vatu due for the trip on May 17th. Because of a scheduling problem from our side, it is necessary that this be done on Monday, May 16th. Henry Boe from our office will deliver your tickets and collect the balance of VT 58.200 on that date.

We can accommodate a few more people on this trip; if you know of anyone who might be interested, I would appreciate your letting me know. Please give me a call at 22915 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Copy of disclaimer form which all participants readily agreed to sign.

DEED OF UNDERTAKING

WHEREAS:

A. I have agreed to participate in the TREK TO MARUM AND BENBOW VOLCANOS ON AMBRYM ISLAND, VANUATU;

B. I understand, acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions under which such TREK is organized;

NOW THEREFORE, I _____ OF _____ HEREBY UNCONDITIONALLY AND WITHOUT ANY RESERVATION WHATSOEVER GIVE THE FOLLOWING COVENANTS, UNDERTAKINGS, AND INDEMNITIES TO THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (hereafter called "FSP"): -

1. I undertake not to make any claim howsoever described against FSP, its officers and servants in respect of any injury, damage, loss, expenses, costs or death incurred and/or arising out of any participation in the said TREK.
2. I undertake to indemnify and hold harmless FSP, its officers and servants in respect of any injury, damage, loss, expenses, costs of death incurred and or suffered by any person participating in the said TREK.
3. The undertakings an indemnities which I give herein shall bind all persons who are my lawful heirs, representatives, successors in title or any other person claiming through me.
4. The undertaking and indemnities which I give herein are irrevocable.
5. I agree and undertake to execute this Deed of Undertaking before I join the said TREK.

Dated at.....this.day of.....19..

SIGNED, SEALED AND)
DELIVERED BY THE SAID)
_____)

(Signature of person giving the undertakings and indemnities)

and in the presence of:)
_____)
(Name and signature of)
Witness)

APPENDIX 5. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Lopevi island
2. Paama and Epi islands
3. New water tank, guest house, Ranon
4. Kitchen and dining room, guest house, Ranon
5. Visitors and new guest house, Ranon
6. New guest house, Ranon
7. Outrigger on Ranon Bay looking towards Pentecost
8. View of Ranon Bay from the track to Fanla
9. Fanla guide getting coconuts to drink
10. Tofor's carving work area, Fanla
11. Luan dance, nasara, Fanla
12. Tam and black palm, nasara, Fanla
13. Tam, Fanla designs, with black palm and US flag
14. Old tam tams, traditional Fanla, nasara
15. Visitors and guides, walk to Fanrereo
16. George's kitchen and dining house, Fanrereo
17. Village nakamal, Fanrereo
18. Fanrereo village
19. Fanrereo village
20. View from Georges dining area, meal for tourists, Fanrereo
21. Island cabbage and Taro, Fanrereo
22. Visitors and guides. Track from Fanrereo to Ranon
23. Garden/farm near Fanrereo
24. Trading ship at Ranon Bay
25. Trading ship at Ranon Bay
26. New 2-room guest house, Ranon
26. Black palm figure, guest house, Ranon
26. Black palm figure, guest house, Ranon
27. Orchid, Dendrobium spp, on ash plain
28. Visitors and guides, lunch stop, lava flow
29. Visitors camp in caldera
30. Visitors, guides and cooks, campsite in caldera
31. Guide Isiah and trekkers on ash ridge
32. Trekkers Marite and David Tidman on ash ridge
33. Gudren Leys with guide George Bumseng on ash ridge
34. Guides and trekkers at lookout peak, Emiotungan ridge
35. Trekkers on last peak, Emiotungan ridge
36. Trekkers on Emiotungan ridge
37. Millee bungalow, Sanesup
38. Sand drawing designs, Millee bungalow, Sanesup
39. Local taxi, Craig Cove airport
40. Airport terminal, Craig Cove
41. Visitor survey, visitors and pig Fanla, Craig Cove
42. Visitors departing Craig Cove, Vanair twin otter
43. Visitors departing on vanair twin otter
44. Vanair taking off, Craig Cove runway

APPENDIX V

PROFITABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROJECT
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Inc
P.O. Box 367, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu (South Pacific)
Telephone (678) 36578, FAX (678) 36577

Fairstar Cruiseship
Champagne Beach, Hog Harbour

16 June 1994

Summary

On 16 June 1994 the cruiseship Fairstar called in to Champagne Beach, Hog Harbour. We travelled to Champagne Beach (arriving at 10 a.m. departing 3 p.m.) to observe and report our observations of the tourist experience.

Results

The following are our observations and comments:

A. The ship anchored midway between Champagne Beach and Elephant Island. Smaller tenders transported passengers from the ship to the beach. At approximately 2 p.m. a Fairstar tender hit a small coral patch approximately 50 meters to the northeast of a metal shallow water marker. The tender required a tow from two other boats in order to be removed. The boat was aground for approximately 30 minutes.

Two days later, we went back to the site and marked the coral head with fluorescent flagging. The coral head, in water approximately 10 meters deep, measured 8.3 m by 4.6 m or approximately 38 square meters in area. The top of the coral head was completely removed. The scar measured .7 m by .6 m or 4.2 meters in area. 60 pieces of broken staghorn coral were counted. The site was mapped and photographed.

B. The cruiseship divemasters took divers to the northeast corner of Mirror Reef. The divers use a Hog Harbour fishing boat to carry divers to the reef. The boat operator anchored once and attached a line and buoy to the anchor line. 20 divers visited the dive site.

C. Several tourists were seen standing on coral.

D. On the beach, ecowalks and snorkelling tours are advertised. It was not clear who leads these tours, where the tour takes place, how the ecotour is defined, or what kind of information is given out prior to the tour, i.e. basic snorkelling rules and etiquette.

E. One stall owner had a green sea turtle in a small wash bin on the beach, where tourists were permitted to take photos with the turtle for a fee. We were told the turtle would be released at the end of the day.

The law in Vanuatu states (Turtles Protection and Conservation Regulations 1974) " it is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to keep live turtles out of the water for 72 hours or to cause them unnecessary suffering or sell or expose for sale any turtle which has been embalmed". Spending the day in a small wash bin periodically picked up out of the water could be considered unnecessary suffering. As all sea turtles are globally endangered, at the very least this seems to send the wrong environmental message.

APPENDIX VI

HOG HARBOR WOMEN AND FISHERIES NETWORK INTERVIEW REPORT

Donna Kalfatak

1. Introduction

Women and Fisheries Network Research interview was carried out in Hog Harbor village to ascertain information about the situation of fisherwomen and their needs.

Women and Fisheries Network was founded by women researchers and activists interested in fisheries development issues especially those affecting women who are engaged in subsistence and small-scale fisheries activities in the region. The Network's concerns stem from a belief in the importance of women's fisheries activities to the health and economic and food security of Pacific families and communities and the fact of women's general exclusion from economic planning and fisheries development resources and training at both national and regional levels.

The Hog Harbor women were interviewed in the following areas; the general household information, household economic activities, women's fishing activities and knowledge. Fisheries knowledge and impacts and fisheries problems and solutions.

2. Results

A). General household information:

Water supply is provided to the village by a communal tap. About three or four households share the nearest tap installed. Most toilets are water-sealed. There is no electricity supply, the main source of light is kerosene lamp. The village cooperative store owns a diesel generator that provides light to the store.

B). Household Economic Activities:

All the fifteen households interviewed each own a plantation. The basis of ownership is mostly individual, plantations are inherited from ancestors. The village owns the places where members of the households fish. The majority of households do not own a boat but use canoes for fishing. Women's main fishing gear are handlines. The seafood caught and/or collected are sold at the Luganville market about 55km away from the village. After meeting their needs, women sell their surplus catch. Most women indicated that local demand for fish is limited. Households earned more income from agricultural activities than from fishing activities.

C). Women's Fishing Activities and Knowledge:

The majority of the women fish once a week. The main area of fishing is on the reefs, where women fish using handlines. Women do reef gleaning during low tides, the main type of seafood collected here are fish and shellfish. Shellfish are the easiest to collect. The main reason for fishing is for family meals. Today the villagers do not practice fish drives or any form of traditional fishing, like they used to do in the old days.

D). Fisheries Knowledge and Impacts:

Most women have been fishing since they were young. The survey shows that most have noticed a decrease in size and number of fish caught. They claimed it is due to overfishing for both consumption and sale. The majority of the women responded that they do not know if others have observed these changes as well. Most stated that no one is doing anything about these changes. Women do not participate in village decisions on fishing and the fishing areas. Very little fishing takes place when village ceremonial events are taking place or when bad weather prevails.

E). Fishing Problems and Solutions:

The interviews shows that the main problems faced by women are increasing scarcity of seafood and competing demands on their time from housekeeping duties, rearing small children, and gardening duties. Most women were silent about these problems and never voiced them to others. Some would but they believe no one would listen to them. The meetings with the fisheries department staff who visited the village only involves men though women were also informed about the meetings. The women stated that the Fisheries Department never help the women by providing information about fisheries development assistance as well

as no participation in any fisheries project or training programs. Some women mentioned that they are not happy with their knowledge on fish preservation, gears and methods used.

The overall outcome of the survey indicates that this village is primarily subsistence in terms of fishing activities. Very little income is gained from fishing by the village women. There is no restriction to the fishing gears used by the villagers. The fishing ground in front of the village is owned by the village.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The 17 pages questionnaire is too lengthy and should be reduced.
2. The questionnaires should be translated into bislama and better still the questions should be answered by the questionnaire designer into possible choices or categories, where the interviewee could easily tick the best answer that suits her. The advantage are; its less time consuming and are easier to respond to, especially when dealing with village women.
3. Personal questions about finances or money should be asked indirectly. For this survey most women were reluctant to respond to them.

APPENDIX VII

TRIP REPORT

May 19 - 24, 1994

AMBRYM, VANUATU

PEP TOURIST TREK

Anita van Breda

PURPOSE

I joined the trial run of a PEP sponsored tourist trek to the island of Ambrym for the purpose of observing the journey on behalf of PEP. The following report contains a brief chronology of the trip, as well as observations, recommendations and discussion.

SUMMARY

Jeremy Challacombe, tourist consultant to PEP, and George Bumseng, PEP Ambrym community facilitator, acted as group leaders for the trip. Challacombe and Bumseng proved to be capable, industrious and enthusiastic escorts.

Challacombe encouraged our various ni-Vanuatu guides to take responsibility for leadership and decision making. Direction and deliberation however, still seemed to initiate with Challacombe. As this was the trial run of the operation, I do not believe this was inappropriate or problematic, but a part of the learning and development process.

In general, the trip was a successful one. The other three "tourists" on the trip were three expatriates from Port Vila. They represented a cross section of likely future participants in terms of experience, capabilities and personalities. We experienced few delays or disappointments with logistics. The food provided was plentiful, tasty, and well prepared (although some suggestions for improvement were provided by the tourists for future reference).

Most guides were competent, others need more training. The pace of activities was well timed. We were not rushed, nor did we languish with long stretches of nothing to do. Accommodations were adequate but some improvements in the future, could also be made.

The nature and level of exertion required to complete the trip was greater than I anticipated. The level of exertion necessary, and the challenging nature of the climb to the volcano and walk across the island, was minimised. Explicit information detailing the hike along with other options for completing the trip (such as returning to the airport by boat), should be shared with future tourists. Fortunately, this particular group of individuals was capable of completing the trek. Despite the abilities of Bumseng and Isiah (the guide to the volcano), without Challacombe's capability for dealing with inexperienced acrophobic climbers, the trip would not have been possible. I doubt others would have expected the conditions we experienced, and would have had difficulty completing the hike.

I found the scaling of high ridges and rock climbing across peaks and down valleys of barren volcanic landscape fun and interesting; I found the long walks in between tiring and tedious. Others in the group felt just the opposite. Some expressed dismay at the climbing and saw little purpose to it, and thought we should not have crossed the island following the hike to the volcano, but returned on the same route to Ranvetlam.

Further PEP involvement in building this project should be continued if the Lohior community desires to proceed with tourist development. The enterprise has potential to conserve natural and cultural resources, but it is not yet capable of surviving without outside assistance, training, and institution building.

CHRONOLOGY

Thursday, 19 May 1994

Travel from Santo to Craig Cove, Ambrym arriving 11:45. Met by Challacombe and Bumseng at the airport. With Douglas Solomon, the operator of the Ranon guest house, we travelled by boat from Craig Cove to Ranon (a three hour trip), arriving 3 p.m.. Following a brief introduction to the bungalows and fresh water springs, we were given lunch and allowed to relax, walk the beach and chat with the Solomon family.

Friday, 20 May 1994

Departed in the A.M. for a walk up to Fanla village led by two young guides from the village. The guides offered information explaining the local names and uses for some of the vegetation along the trail.

In Fanla, we were greeted by the village chief, Tofor. Tofor and the village elders performed a custom dance for our group at the village Nasara. Villagers arranged a display of stone and wood carvings, flutes, masks and tree fern figures for our viewing. Following the dance, Tofor made a brief speech thanking us for visiting Fanla. He explained that till now only a small number

of tourists came on sailboats, he is pleased more tourists will visit (one of the guides translated Tofor's speech into English). Challacombe thanked Tofor and the villagers for hosting us. We were then invited to view the handicrafts and ask questions regarding the work on display. Several purchases were made by the tourists.

From Fanla, we walked to Fanrereo, George Bumseng's village. We were hosted by George's wife in their home for lunch. We then walked back to Ranon where, following a brief rest, we were met by the Chairman of the Lolihor Council for a guided walking tour of Ranvetlam. We walked from Solomon's guest house to the village of Ranvetlam about 3 km away. Our guide showed us the George Mitchell plantation, the village nakamal, the school and churches. We walked back along the beach to the guest house.

Saturday, 21 May 1994

Travelled by boat to the bat cave at Melvar. Our guides were a young man and woman, family of the custom owner. We walked for about one hour, exploring approximately 300 meters of various passageways. Challacombe caught a bat and explained the animals biology and behaviour to the group.

Both of our "guides" were young and inexperienced. Challacombe explained to them certain requirements for guiding, such as having proper torches and knowing the route before taking tourists. They will need much more tutoring before being competent to lead tourists unaccompanied.

We then travelled by boat (a one hour trip) to the hot river at Buwoma, picking up a picnic lunch from the Solomon guest house along the way. The hot river is on a black sand beach. We lunched and walked the short distance to where the river runs out of a cave.

On the way back to the guesthouse, the boat dropped off Challacombe and Bumseng at Ranvetlam to meet with Isiah, who was to lead the volcano trek. Myself and one other tourist elected to go with them and walk back along the coast to Ranon. We met Isiah and walked up to John Salong's family store in Ranvetlam. The men discussed logistics and preparation for the next day's tour to the volcano. We walked back along the sandbeach to Ranon. I then walked back to Ranvetlam with Douglas to visit his carving studio where he showed me several pieces in various stages of production, and where he had several stone carvings for sale.

Sunday, 22 May 1994

Left at 7:30 a.m. for the trek to the volcano. We drove by transport truck to Ranvetlam where we picked up Isiah and four assistants (three women and one young man), our tents and supplies. We then drove to the head of the trail where we were dropped off to walk to the foot of Mt. Marmum. The walk took about two hours to reach the ashplains. Once we reached the

ashplains, we dropped our camping supplies and walked the rest of the way to the volcano, stopping for lunch along the way. After viewing the volcano, we walked back to our campsite, setting up camp by 5 pm.

Monday, 23 May 1994

Left the campsite at 7:30 a.m. The four assistant guides left us, carrying our equipment back to Ranvetlam. With Isiah, the group went on to cross the island, scaling the base of the volcano after walking for 1 1/2 hours along the ashplain. The climb over the volcano ridges took longer than expected. We did not descend the caldera until 2 p.m.. We were to meet our guides to Sensup at midday at Emiotungan, another 2 hour walk away. We made it to Emiotungan around 4:00 p.m. and were transported by truck to Milee Bunglows in Senesup. We dropped off our bags and drove back to the hot springs at Sesivi for a swim. Dinner was served by Enos, our host at Milee bungalows.

Tuesday, 24 May 1994

I left the group early for my return flight to Santo. The rest stayed behind to tour Senesup village while Jeremy, Douglas, George, and Enos discussed the tourist trip.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As an educational tool, supply tourists with:
 - a) photocopy of topographic maps of the route to be travelled;
 - b) an orientation to the routes and maps by a guide;
 - c) a written description of natural history and cultural attractions such as: a narrative of the George Mitchell plantation; name and description of the bats and other wildlife and common vegetation; description of villages, rest houses and the people and families that own and operate them;
 - d) a suggested list of camping/hiking supplies: i.e toilet paper, torch, walking shoes, hat, sleeping bag, etc.
2. Design and distribute a narrative and drawings of handicrafts.
3. Custom stories and discussion lead by the guides (can be in Bislama) would add to the cultural aspect of the trip.

4. Explore possibility of traditional sailing canoe excursion as an added attraction.
5. Inform all accommodation operators that Pablo coffee has absolutely no redeeming value, and recommend in the future it be replaced with any other brand of instant coffee.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the above specifics, I believe a brief introduction to FSP and PEP would be appropriate. Such a discussion does not have to be an advertisement or recruitment speech, but the conservation and development aspect of the project was a bit lost on the group as a whole. An introductory discussion with a group leader would benefit the program. Suggested topics for discussion include: purpose of the project in terms of conservation and development; itinerary; orientation to the island and excursions; cultural sensitivity; and encouragement of cross-cultural exchange and learning.

I would also advise reconsidering the potential number in the group. Our group consisted of four "tourists" and three guides (Challacombe, Bumseng, and Solomon) for most excursions. I believe the size of the boat is a limiting factor. It is hard for me to imagine a three hour boat trip with an additional four people with luggage and supplies, in what was already a fairly full boat. Eight people would have been uncomfortable and borderline dangerous.

Jeremy Challacombe and I had several discussions about the project and the possible potential and pitfalls of tourism to North Ambrym. I believe Challacombe is an honest practical practitioner of what he preaches. He seems to view the project in realistic terms, in that it has potential, but still has a way to go before it can be a successful independent operation. I support several of Challacombe's specific ideas:

1. Guide training and certification.

All guides should be required to receive and keep current, first aid certification. The extreme isolation and lack of communication and thus medical assistance makes first aid training however secondary to accident prevention.

The guides must be self-confident and skilled at dealing with a range of situations and people. This can only be achieved with identification and selection of bright individuals with leadership capabilities. From my experience, this process is already underway, George Bumseng and Isiah were first rate leaders. Isiah directed most of the camping activities and supervised the four assistants. Our guides to Fanla were friendly, and outgoing, and with some additional training could guide tourists to Fanla without assistance. The guides to the

batcave were as inexperienced as the tourists and will need much cultivation and training. Our short time with these two individuals made it difficult to assess their interest in the exercise.

Some mechanism should be established to standardize guide training and certification; training and competence should be recognized and acknowledged. Much as park rangers or interpreters in other parts of the world, this group of people can act as ecological and cultural education specialists without losing their individuality or cultural identity. I doubt adventure tourists to Ambrym will expect or want to see guides in uniforms delivering canned talks while hiking manicured trails. The guides however may at least be supplied with t-shirts that identify them as someone with special skills. T-shirts could also be sold to tourists as a means of generating additional income.

Using the guides as potential monitors of the ecological conditions of the EMU has been suggested (see Challacombe, PEP Quarterly Report 9/93). Although of some potential value, this should supplement and not substitute monitoring and evaluation by trained scientists.

2. Ni-Vanuatu hotel/guest house association.

Currently tourism development in Vanuatu is directed to Vila and Santo. Tourists in search of a Melanesian experience are not cultivated. Organisation, development, and advertisement of a ni-Vanuatu hotel association could strengthen and support the individual operators as they learn from each other, while collectively advertising their unique attributes.

APPENDIX VIII

A brief resume for each of the three new PEP staff members;

1. SULIANA SIWATIBAU

Formal Qualification

M.Sc Hons in Botany, Auckland University, New Zealand.

Other Training

First and second year university courses on Biochemistry and on Medicinal Chemistry, National Institutes of Health, Maryland, USA.

Third year university course on Theory of Statistics, USP, Fiji.

Work Experience

Has worked as an employee for a range of organisations including the Fiji Government, the University of the South Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Has been engaged for some eight years, as a freelance consultant in areas of terrestrial resource use, women and development, community development, energy policy and planning, and NGO management and development. Now works as PEP Co-ordinator.

Publications

Published papers and books on issues of energy, terrestrial resources, environment, women in development, and justice and peace issues in the Pacific.

Other duties have included -

Membership of the IUCN task force on small island systems; Board member of the International Life and Peace Research Institute based in Uppsala, Sweden;

Member of the World Council of Churches Working Group on Poverty, Economy and Environment, based in Geneva;

Member of the Advisory Group of CUSO Vanuatu and Fiji.

2. STANLEY WOMACK

Formal Qualification

Diploma in Tropical Agriculture, University of the South Pacific.

Other Training

Six week study tour of FSM on black pepper cultivation.

Eight week study tour of Philippines Upland Farming.

Work Experience

Has had seven years experience as an Agricultural Extension Officer in different parts of Vanuatu. At promotion to higher level within the service, became a Pepper Development Officer, and lately a Senior Livestock Officer, which post involved development and delivery of farmer education materials. These promoted pasture improvement methods that involved use of pasture legumes. Now works as Environment Education Officer for PEP in Lolihor.

3. DONNA KALFATAK

Formal Qualification

B.Sc. in Environmental Sciences, University of the South Pacific.
International PADI scuba diving certificate.

Other Training

Training in Women and Forestry issues from the South Pacific Action Committee on Human Ecology and Environment (SPACHEE).

Work Experience

Has worked for the Vanuatu Government both in the Department of Finance and in the Statistics Office. Conducted a survey of women in fisheries in Santo, for the Women and Fisheries Network for the South Pacific. Now works as Environment Co-ordinator Assistant for PEP in Santo.

APPENDIX IX

TRIP REPORT

April 17th - May 6th

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, (GCSIDS) BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

John D. Salong

1.0 Acknowledgements:

I am gratified to;

- VANGO for delegating me as a VANGO representative,
- UNIFEM in Suva for raising funds, logistical arrangements, and co-ordinating the Pacific NGO participation in the GCSIDS,
- PEP for funding part of my costs,
- LOPETI SENITULI, SALAMO, RUTH LECKTIE, HARRY SAKULAS, and MOILANGI JACKSON their leadership in Barbados,
- and all the Pacific NGO delegates for being a united front in Barbados.

2.0 Background:

The GCSIDS resulted from the work of the Association of Small Island States, (AOSIS,) at the Global Summit in Brazil. AOSIS argued that Small Island States had to be given special attention because;

- they were particularly vulnerable to global environmental change,
- of their high bio-diversity,
- and the requirement for injection of only small resources to achieve sustainable development.

It was agreed that a GCSIDS was necessary to develop a program of action for the sustainable development in small island states.

The NGOs in Vanuatu first heard about the GCSDIDS at the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) sponsored Pacific Environmental NGO conference in Palau from 25-28 January 1994. A set of resolutions were made to be integrated;

- by national NGOs into national government position papers,
- into the government preparatory conferences,
- and into the Barbados Declaration and Action Program for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The resulting GCSDIDS was in fact two parallel conferences;

- the Official GCSDIDS,
- and the NGO Forum.

The Official GCSDIDS was in two parts;

- the main committee which negotiated the bracketed texts in the Action Program for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, (bracketed text indicated that no agreement had been reached at the preparatory committee meetings on how a position was to be worded),
- and the plenary which heard reports from all the countries represented at the GCSDIDS and some NGOs.

The NGO Forum had three parts;

- SUSTECH, which was supposed to demonstrate sustainable technologies appropriate for small island developing states,
- workshops and seminars,
- and VILLAGE OF HOPE accommodated the marginalised sectors of society and an Eco-Farm.

3.0 Process:

UN Conferences are usually preceded by technical meetings called preparatory committee meetings or "prep coms." The prep coms decide;

- issues to be covered in the documents,
- and wording of the documents to reflect national government positions.

The GCSDIDS was preceded by three prep coms held in Vanuatu, Trinidad and Tobago and New York. GCSDIDS secretariat produced a newsletter daily to report on proceedings the previous day and programs for the day. But the author did not know about it and did not access the information.

The NGO forum was supposed to come up with NGO positions to include in the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to come out of the GCSDIDS. But NGOs had not been included in the prep coms. While NGOs were conferring, the main committee was already finalizing the wording of the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The NGO forum itself had an executive which met daily to approve the program for the next day. An integrating committee was set up to record resolutions from small group discussions that were supposed to be held after each workshop. The product of the

integrating committee was supposed to be the NGO positions to include in the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

The Pacific NGO delegation met each day to;

- hear the next day's program from Pacific representatives in the executive,
- hear reports from the delegates to the various workshops and meetings,
- delegate people to the next day's activities,
- and deal with urgent issues of the day.

The Pacific NGO delegation had a drafting committee to write up reports given to the Pacific NGO meetings each day. The drafting committee would also come up with Pacific resolutions to the NGO position into the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States.

4.0 Barbados Declaration:

Having spent all the time in the NGO Forum, the author has yet to get a copy of the Barbados declaration.

5.0 Action Program for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

The twenty-eight chapters cover separate issues with each chapter outlining;

- international action programs,
- national action programs,
- and the local action programs.

But there was no commitment of additional resources from the Industrialized countries to implement the Action Program for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

6.0 NGO Forum Seminars and Workshops:

The following themes were addressed in the NGO forum workshops:

- Alternative Development Models,
- Coastal and marine resource management,
- Non-formal Education,
- and special issues sessions such as the Non-independent Small Island Developing Territories.

In general, the workshops were good. But time constraints, prohibited in-dept small group discussions and reflection. Even within the Small Island Developing States it was difficult to accommodate differing realities in the articulation of resolutions from the small group discussions.

Village of hope:

The village of hope had an indigenous tent, a women's tent, a youth tent and other tents all of which had different ongoing programs and displays. An eco-farm in the village of hope demonstrated organic farming, alley cropping, environmentally friendly pest control, renewable energy sources, bio-diversity and permaculture.

8.0 SUSTECH:

Sustainable technologies demonstrated technologies for;

- mapping resources,
- renewable energy sources,
- recycling plastic,
- containing oil leaks,
- and desalinating sea water.

But the most important display was a community managed marine park on Negril beach in Jamaica.

9.0 NGO Action Plan:

An NGO Action Plan was prepared and presented to the plenary of the Official Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It includes a preamble, recommended actions by governments and NGOs on;

- human and natural resource management,
- culture,
- governance and decision-making,
- economics, finance and trade,
- inter-sectoral partnership and co-operation,
- communication and networking,
- and science and technology.

10.0 Follow up:

An interim Pacific regional NGO co-ordinating committee was established including, PCRC, SPACHEE, and UNIFEM. The committee has sent out evaluation questions to all the Pacific NGO participants. And it is expected to fund-raise and organize a follow up meeting in Suva in November.

At the meeting, the Pacific region will, among other things, decide which country in the Pacific is to accommodate the next NGO Forum in 1999.

Meetings in Barbados led to FSP international planning to set up the Pacific Action Network for Sustainable Development. (PACNET)

11.0 Recommendations.

Out of the Barbados Conference, the author recommends the following for VANGO consideration;

- facilitate diplomacy training for VANGO membership,
- consider accreditation to the UN,
- consider inviting the next NGO FORUM in 1999 to Vanuatu,
- dialogue with FSP international about PACNET,
- obtain a copy of Agenda 21 from the UN,
- and prepare a representative for the Pacific regional follow up meeting in Suva in November 1994.

**UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)**

COUNTERPART/FSP OBSERVATIONS

A. The COUNTERPART/FSP delegation included:

- *Stan Hosie, Executive Director
- *Kathy Fry, FSP/Pacific Regional Director
- *Simione Kaitani, Program Director FSP/Fiji
- *Edwina Bume, Director FSP/PNG GROW program
- *John Salong, Forestry officer, FSP/PEP Team, Vanuatu
- *Dr Michael Hamnett, FSP Regional Adviser/Pacific (as a member of the U.S. delegation representing the State of Hawaii)

Also attending in other capacities were institutional members of the Washington, D.C. Ad Hoc Coalition of NGOs concerned with Pacific Island nations (COUNTERPART/FSP is a member of this coalition):

- *The Nature Conservancy -
Carolyn Shumway, Rosslyn office, member of U.S. Delegation
Paul Holthus, TNC Hawaii Office
- *World Wildlife/Worldwide Fund for Nature -
Joy Hyvarinen, Treaties officer,
WWF/International, Switzerland
- *Conservation International -
Stanley Malone
Yvette Merton
Lesley Ann Suttly

B. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS

The following were represented:

- *117 nations

*10 Associate members of regional commissions, e.g. Guam, New Caledonia
*10 Specialized agencies of the UN
*21 Intergovernmental Organizations, e.g. the Pacific Forum, SPREP, SOPAC.

C. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

87 non-governmental organizations also sent delegations.

D. WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference had several distinct parallel actions. Among these were:

1. A General Assembly of official governmental and NGO representatives where individual nations made their presentations. Two or three NGO slots were also provided each day. Many international NGOs spoke and many SIDS/NGOs.
2. A "Main Committee" met daily (and nightly) on the text of the UN Policy Statement on SIDS.
3. Another Committee met daily on the text of the "Barbados Declaration".
4. An "Eminent Persons" committee met for a week prior to the Conference and published a statement. Fetaui Mata'afa (Western Samoa High Commissioner to New Zealand) and Hilda Lini (Vanuatu Member of Parliament) were on this committee.
5. NGOs met separately at another location for the Barbados NGO FORUM. Resolutions from this Forum were transmitted to the General Assembly by friendly delegations or the UN Secretariat and, as far as possible, reflected in the language of the final Policy Statement.
6. The NGO Forum was sited at the Barbados Community College which, for the duration of the Conference, was converted into the "VILLAGE OF HOPE" - dedicated to exhibits of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, integrated biogas digesters, educational exhibits and workshops on all of the Global Conference issues.
7. An airport terminal was converted into a SUSTEK (Sustainable Technology) exhibit for commercial technologies.

THE CRUNCH NEGOTIATIONS

Besides the motherhood and apple pie issues such as global warming, threatened atoll island nations, ocean pollution, renewable energy, degradation of coral reefs, decimation of tropical forests, loss of genetic species, etc. there were hotly

debated political issues:

- a. The biggest issue was "new money" for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - urged by China and Brazil, with the developed nations holding the line on maintaining existing funding. This negotiation went on the entire Conference. There was some movement by the U.S. and Japan by way of shuffling existing funding commitments. (See later remarks on Pacific opportunities).
- b. An issue for developing nations was a growing demand for copyrights and payment of royalties for, e.g. forest or seaweed, etc. products which have pharmaceutical value. This, for many of the more radical NGOs, was part of a North-South confrontational stance.
- c. A concern of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas and the U.S. Virgin Islands, was language on environmental cleanup for island states. The Americans believe they are leading the way in environmental concern. However if the Treaty is universally adopted and approved by the U.S. Congress with generic language on coral reef cleanup, etc., American delegates feared the imposition of unfunded congressional mandates potentially bankrupting to Hawaii, etc.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ISLANDS-ORIENTED & SIDS NGOS

1. International Focus on the problems of Small Island States

This is a dramatic advance. Small Island Developing States as a global issue date only from the '92 Rio Conference. The kind of World attention on SIDS at Barbados is unprecedented in history.

The theme of the Conference was:

SMALL ISLANDS BIG ISSUES

The catchcry of the Conference became:

IF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD CANNOT ASSIST SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THEY CANNOT ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANYWHERE!

2. Funding for Programs in the Pacific Island Nations

Geographically-related USAID funding for the Pacific nations is phasing out with the closure of the USAID Pacific Missions.

However, the U.S. shares the global commitment on funding for small island states everywhere through GLOBAL INITIATIVES, such as biodiversity support programs, coral reef programs, coastal zone programs and related population programs.

e.g. on the occasion of the Conference the U.S. announced a new allocation of some four hundred million dollars to the GEF (Global Environment Fund) of the UN/World Bank.

e.g. in his speech to the General Assembly, Senator Tim Wirth, leader of the U.S. delegation, announced a new Coral Reefs Initiative - or at least new funding for coral reefs programs.

e.g. the U.S. delegation published a summary of its current overall programs in support of small island developing states. Many of these have not been accessible to NGOs but may be in the future.

3. It should be possible to tap into some of the global initiatives funding for ongoing Pacific Islands programs.
4. The ad hoc coalition of COUNTERPART and the Environmental NGOs in Washington, could lead to joint programming opportunities in the Pacific.
5. Pacific NGOs have similar doors opening in Australia, New Zealand and the rest of the world, including Japan which was very participatory in the SIDS Conference.

*Stan Hosie
Executive Director
Counterpart/FSP*