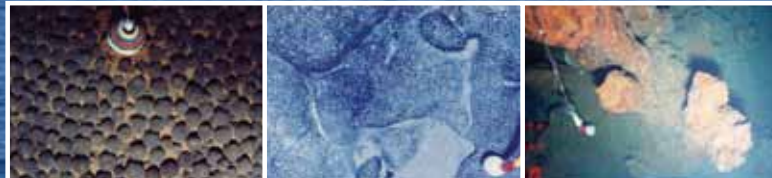


The Prospect



Issue 6. January 2015

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC DEEP SEA MINERALS PROJECT

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Strong Pacific Islands Presence at 20th Annual Session of the ISA

The 20th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was held in Kingston, Jamaica on 14-25 July, 2014. The ISA is an autonomous international organisation created by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and is the mechanism through which State parties manage the seabed mineral resources of international waters, known as 'the Area'. UNCLOS designates the Area and its seabed resources as 'the Common Heritage of Mankind'. The ISA is tasked to manage exploration and mining of seabed mineral resources, and to distribute any proceeds derived from them in a manner which is equitable and beneficial to all.

The ISA holds annual meetings to review and discuss the setting of rules for the exploration and extraction of seabed minerals and environmental management of the Area. These meetings decide

whether or not to approve applications for contracts and are for overseeing the implementation of those rules and contracts.

The DSM Project coordinated the participation of Pacific States at the 2014 ISA sessions. The DSM Project held additional side meetings with Pacific island representatives where delegates were encouraged to make interventions during the ISA Council and Assembly meetings and to declare their country's interest in the Area.

Delegates were also encouraged to approach investment partners and initiate discussions on potential collaboration and joint ventures. The Tongan Ambassador, Mr Mahe Tupouniua, emphasised the importance of the region working together at the ISA meetings. In May 2014, the DSM Project held a half-day preparation session



DSM Project sponsored participants. From left to right: Mr Asavi Kendua (PNG), Mr Lameko Talia (Samoa), Mr Paul Lynch (Cook Islands), Ms Tebete England (Kiribati), Mr Christopher Ioan (Vanuatu), and Mr Faatasi Malologa (Tuvalu).

Initiated in 2011, the SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project is helping Pacific Island countries to improve the governance and management of their deep-sea minerals resources coordinated way within the Pacific Region.



Pacific delegates at the DSM Project organised side meeting.

in the Cook Islands to go over the importance of attending the sessions and what to expect. The DSM Project prepared a briefing paper, which outlined points of consideration and issues that the States may want to raise at the session in Jamaica, prior to the ISA sessions. All Pacific-ACP States are Party to UNCLOS and are thereby members of the ISA.

However, the level attendance to the ISA annual meeting by Pacific Island countries has been low. It is of critical importance for them to represent their region and their specific interests in such an international forum, especially when the ISA makes decisions that will ultimately affect them as the Pacific Region has the highest potential for seabed resources. The DSM Project sponsored six delegates to attend the 2014 ISA Session: Mr Paul Lynch (Cook Islands), Ms Tebete England (Kiribati), Mr Asavi Kendua (PNG), Mr Lameko Talia (Samoa), Mr Faatasi Malologa (Tuvalu), and Mr Christopher Ioan (Vanuatu). Representatives from Tonga and Fiji as well as other officials from Cook Islands and Kiribati attended the meeting with funding from their respective governments.

A total of 16 representatives from 8 Pacific countries were present at the 2014 ISA Sessions. Chief Geoscientist of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (AGTD), Mr Kifle Kahsai, and Head of Geo-survey and Geo-

resources Unit within AGTD, Mr Akuila Tawake, also attended the sessions to provide advice and assistance as necessary to these representatives.

Issues raised by Pacific island representatives during the Council and Assembly meetings included: capacity building, environmental management and protection, Environmental Management Plan for the Area, development of national policy and law, finalisation of the Environment Regulations, partnership with exploration companies, assessment of the contract that will expire in 2016/2017, criteria for exploration contract renewal and the possible establishment of a smaller ISA office in the Pacific/South East Asia region.

The DSM Project was pleased that its member countries were recognising the importance and value of attending the ISA sessions with eight Pacific Island countries attending the 2014 sessions, and increase from three in 2013. The successful outcomes of the ISA sessions for the Pacific were:

- Tonga was elected to the ISA Council for the first time for the period 2015–2018.
- Fiji, a current Council member, was re-elected to the Council for the period 2015–2018.

Jamaican training for Alex Herman

SEABED Minerals Authority Legal Officer Alex Herman has been selected for a capacity building internship with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Jamaica.

This is a fully-funded one month training programme at the ISA Secretariat in prepara-

tion for and during the ISA annual meetings.

Last year, Tonga and Fijian Government minerals lawyers were chosen to participate in the 2013 ISA Internship. This year the Cook Islands and Kiribati were accepted.

Alex will return to her work

here in the SBM Authority, when the ISA placement ends at the end of July.

"We acknowledge with gratitude the generous assistance of the SOPAC Division of SPC to make this ISA training possible," Seabed Minerals Commissioner, Paul Lynch says. ■ ME

Tonga – A World Leader in Seabed Minerals Law

In August 2014, the Kingdom of Tonga became the first country in the world to put a law in place that manages seabed mineral activities within its national marine space and under its sponsorship in international waters. Tonga's Seabed Minerals Act 2014 was prepared with the assistance of the DSM Project and received Royal Assent from the King on 20 August.

Now, the requirements of the Seabed Minerals Act must be followed before any seabed mining can commence. These include a stringent vetting process by the Government on any new project proposals, and public consultation if mining is proposed. Environmental Impact Assessment and ongoing monitoring are legal requirements under the Act, and the Government is given enforcement powers in order to maintain compliance with required performance standards.

The Act also highlights the importance placed by Tonga on the

protection and preservation of the marine environment, recognising the need to balance economic development for the people of Tonga against conservation of the marine biodiversity.

Tonga is currently undergoing development of Seabed Minerals Regulations which, combined with the Act, will equip Tonga with a set of tools that will allow it to manage its deep sea resources to maximise the benefits of deep sea mining for its population, while being clear about environment commitments.

Mr Taaniela Kula, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources and the DSM Project focal point in Tonga, thanked a wide range of stakeholders for their involvement in the law's development, which commenced in 2012, including government colleagues and partners in the private sector and civil society – with special thanks to the DSM Project's legal assistance in preparing an initial draft of the Act.

FSM Conducts State-Wide Consultation on Seabed Resources Bill

In July, the DSM Project assisted the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to conduct state-wide consultations on the Draft Seabed Resources Bill.

The Bill was transmitted to Congress in May and was introduced on the floor on 7 July 2014. The aim of the meetings was to provide an overview of seabed mineral issues, including FSM's geological potential, seabed mineral developments across the Pacific region, and legal and environmental issues. Obtaining the views of the States to inform the Bill's passage through Congress is of critical importance for FSM to progress further with DSM developments.

Ms Hannah Lily and Ms Alison Swaddling from the DSM Project accompanied the five-person FSM team (Secretary Marion Henry - Department of Resources and Development (R&D), Mr Hubert Yamada - R&D and DSM Project focal point, Mr Alik Jackson - Legal Counsel to Congress, and Mr Jun Bacalando - Assistant AG [replaced by Mr Joses Gallen, for the Pohnpei consultation]). Ms Lemman Helgenberger - National Oceanic Resource Management Authority Officer also joined the consultations, to discuss fishery issues at the Yap and Chuuk State consultations.

Consultation meetings were held in all four States: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to present the Bill and consult upon it with State Executive, Legislature and other stakeholders.

In addition to the State consultation meetings, Ms Lily and Ms Swaddling also held a special session with Congress members and, at the request of President Mani Mori, provided him with a personal briefing on deep sea minerals. President Mori emphasised the importance of managing jurisdictional and competing issues, such as State/National responsibilities and environment/commercial implications. President Mori also expressed the need for further regulations on financial and environmental aspects.

Ms Lily and Secretary Henry also met with the Governor of Yap State, Mr Sebastian Anefal, who expressed support to the National Government for taking this consultation initiative. He highlighted that although he did not anticipate it being a problem, future discussions may need to be held in relation to traditional ownership claims over seabed mineral resources, and sharing of revenue between national Government and State.

FSM's Seabed Resources Bill 2014 establishes a national seabed resources authority, which will implement and manage licensing, monitoring and enforcement activities. The Bill will require more detailed regulations in due course (e.g. for environmental management, and revenue management and distribution).

Overall, 126 officials across FSM were briefed on the Bill and DSM issues.



DSM Project team and FSM National Government Consultation Team with some of the consultation participants in Chuuk State.



Briefing President Mani Mori in Pohnpei.

Special Mentions for the DSM Project during UN SIDS Conference by Tonga



Ms Alison Swaddling and Dr Suka Mangisi at the Ocean, Seas and Biodiversity Partnership dialog session of UN SIDS.

The 2014 United Nations Small Island Developing States (UN SIDS) conference held in Apia, Samoa in September. The conference was themed “The sustainable development of Small Island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships” and was well attended by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) with a delegation of 24 staff, including Ms Alison Swaddling, Environment Advisor at the DSM Project.

The four-day UN SIDS joined participants from UN member states and partners, including 166 governments, 85 UN entities and other inter-governmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 civil society organizations. This year’s event had more than 120 side events and covered wide range of topics, including Sustainable Economic Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Social development in SIDS, Health and NCDs, Youth and Women, Sustainable energy, Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity, Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Waste Management.

Deep sea minerals was mentioned in two of the six partnership dialog sessions; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity, and Sustainable Economic Development. Dr Suka Mangisi, Counsellor and DPR at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN, made an intervention during the Ocean Seas and Biodiversity Partnership Dialog session, acknowledging the DSM Project as a successful partnership between Pacific countries, SPC and the European Union, working to assist Pacific States to improve the governance and management of their deep sea mineral resources.

Mr Mangisi commended the DSM project on the development of the Pacific Regional Legislative and Regulatory Framework (RLRF), which has been used by Pacific States to draft national legislation.

The RLRF was used by Tonga in the development of its Seabed Minerals Act, which recently received Royal Assent.

Additionally, the Japanese Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF) held a side event at UN SIDS titled ‘For the better conservation and management of islands and their surrounding areas’ to which SPC’ and specifically the DSM Project, was invited to present. Ms Swaddling gave a brief presentation on DSM in the Pacific, the objectives and achievements of the DSM Project, and potential collaboration with OPRF and other partners. Ms Swaddling also participated in the panel discussion. The purpose of the side event was to launch an ‘Islands and Ocean Network’. UN SIDS was a great opportunity to internationally recognise the SPC-EU DSM Project’s successful partnership.



Ms Alison Swaddling giving a presentation on DSM in the Pacific.

Fiji Holds Meeting to Discuss Challenges and Opportunities of Seabed Mining



Participants of the seabed mining meeting in Suva, August 2014.

The Fiji Minerals Resources Department (MRD) in collaboration with the SPC, the European Union, the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), and the University of the South Pacific (USP), held a meeting on 'Challenges and Opportunities of Sea Bed Mining in the Pacific Island Region' in Suva, in August. This meeting was convened to gather stakeholders and discuss issues relating to deep sea minerals. The program included a youth debate and panel discussion with the aim of raising awareness of deep sea minerals in the Pacific region, and address options methods and solutions to determine the best way forward for developing countries such as Fiji.

The meeting was attended by representatives from MRD, SPC, KIOST, Korean Embassy, European Union Delegation for the Pacific, USP, University of Arizona (UA), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fiji Mining and Quarrying Council, Fiji Navy, Attorney General's Office, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, iTaukei Land Trust Board, Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources - Lands Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Information, Bluewater Minerals and Nautilus Minerals, Inc.

The panel discussion was moderated by Mr Stanley Simpson, a freelance journalist. The panelists were: Mr Malakai Finau (Director, Minerals Resources Department, Fiji), Mr Akuila Tawake, (Head of Geo-survey and Geo-resources Unit, AGTD, SPC), Mr Greg Morris (Country Manager, Namosi Joint Venture), Ms Sally Bailey (WWF), and Mr Jang Bang (Tonga-Fiji Country Manager, KIOST).

Mr Malakai Finau stated that the MRD is the regulator for Deep Sea Minerals explorations and mining in Fiji. He acknowledged the challenges and opportunities in Deep Sea Minerals faced by the government to have technical environment expertise and the necessary supporting officers in place. He also mentioned the need for a robust legal framework, and the importance of the Offshore Mineral Policy and for the Mining Act to incorporate Deep Sea Minerals.

Mr Akuila Tawake advised participants that SPC, through the DSM Project, stands ready to assist Pacific ACP States, including Fiji on any issues related to DSM, whether it is policy and legislation development, capacity building or providing advice.

University Students Spread Awareness through DSM Debate

A debate on issues relating to seabed minerals development took place in August 2014 as part of the discussion meeting on the challenges and opportunities of seabed mining in the Pacific islands region (see previous article). The DSM project collaborated with the University of the South Pacific, the Korean Embassy and KIOST to organize this side event.

Eight students from USP participated at the event debating on the merits and challenges of deep sea mining.

The DSM Project sponsored the event and supplied prizes. The Best Individual Debater award was given to Mr Ziyad Parvez, a first-year law student. The DSM Projects congratulates Mr Parvez and his colleagues for a well-researched and entertaining debate on deep sea minerals.



Mr Parvez receiving the Best Individual Debater award from Chief Geoscientist of AGTD, SPC, Mr Kifle Kahsai.

PACIOCEA Workshop: Linking Marine Management and Trans-boundary Co-operation

The Pacific Ocean Ecosystem Analysis project (PACIOCEA)Project, funded by the European Best Funds and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, organised a workshop in Noumea, New Caledonia in August, for marine experts from various disciplines to analyse current environmental and socio-economic issues in the Pacific region and to identify the areas of interest for marine management and cooperation.

The Applied Geoscience Technical Division sent two staff: Maritime Boundaries Technical Officer, Emily Artack and DSM Project Environment Adviser, Alison Swaddling participated at the workshop. The technical workshop enabled sharing of prior analysis in ocean topics and on marine management topics of which related to DSM: deep sea environments and deep sea mining. The group used these analyses to identify intersecting areas in ecological and socio-economic issues.

Ms Swaddling was pleased to see that the participants acknowledged the importance of DSM activities as future priorities when considering marine activities planning.

This workshop was the second in a series of three workshops. The first workshop was held in Fiji in November 2013, and a third will be held later this year, to take the technical findings to higher level decision makers.

The aim of the PACIOCEA project is to ultimately support regional and national planning processes, and to link multiple scales of marine management and assist in trans-boundary cooperation. The results and outcomes from these workshops will be used as information resource for use at national and regional levels.



Participants at the PACIOCEA Project workshop in Noumea.

UMI Conference Strengthens Management and Development of Deep Sea Minerals

The annual Underwater Mining Institute (UMI) Conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September, 2014. At the invitation of the organisers, Mr Akuila Tawake attended this event together with three DSM Project sponsored government representatives: Mr Paul Lynch, Commissioner – Seabed Minerals Authority, Cook Islands; Mr Raymond Mohammed, Principal Mines Inspector, Fiji; and Mr Taaniela Kula, Deputy Secretary – Natural Resources Division, Tonga.

This International event has been run for the last 43 years, to promote discussion and sharing of scientific knowledge in deep sea mining, including geology, exploration, mining, technology and environmental issues and current activities relating to the management and development of deep sea minerals.

Mr Paul Lynch displayed a poster and gave a presentation on the Cook Islands manganese nodules potential, as well as the ongoing work of the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority.

The DSM Project encourages its member countries to use opportunities such as this to promote their respective deep sea minerals potential and establish networks with deep sea mineral experts including, researchers, scientists, engineers, lawyers and representatives of exploration and mining companies.

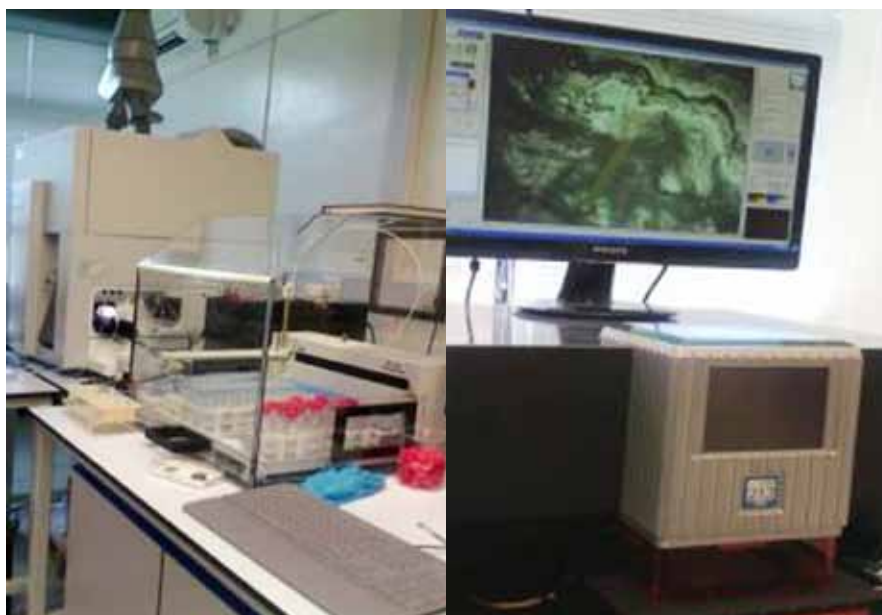


Pacific Delegation at the 2014 UMI conference in front of the Cook Island posters: from left, Raymond Mohammed , Paul Lynch , Taaniela Kula , and Akuila Tawake).

DSM Project Staff Attend Training Course at Leicester University to Learn New Methods of Analysing Manganese Nodules

On the back of the UMI conference, Mr Tawake took the opportunity to visit Leicester University, in the UK, to participate in a training course on Chemical and Laser Analysis of Manganese Nodules in an effort to keep up with the latest technology in geology data and analysis interpretation.

Using manganese nodules from the Cook Islands and Kiribati, the training course provided instruction on chemical and laser analyses and data interpretation. The training course also provided visits to local sites of geological interest and familiarization with the new lab equipment. This was an important training for SPC junior geologist, Ms Christine Prasad and Mr Tawake who represented the DSM team, who will use the learning from this training to provide up-to-date technical geological advice and assistance to member countries.



Equipment used for conducting analyses.

Capacity Building

Training Courses

Environment Training at Duke University

As part of the DSM Project Capacity Building Scheme, the DSM Project funded Mr Siale Vailea, a Senior Geologist from the Department of Land Geology section and Natural Resources in Tonga, to attend a 5-week course at the Summer Institute on Marine Conservation at Duke University, USA in June this year.

This annual program is an intensive 5-week course that utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to engage students and professionals with global marine conservation topics at the forefront of global ocean health and conservation of marine biodiversity.

The course covered topics such as: Human Dimensions and Marine Environment, Deep Sea Resources, Law and Policy, Marine Invasive Species, Marine Vertebrate Conservation and US Oceans Law and Marine Conservation Synthesis.

“It was a great opportunity for me to learn and extend my knowledge in Marine Environment and conservation,” said Mr Vailea.

Mr Vailea was able to gain a deeper understanding of the history of international law of the sea and marine governance, and the attributes of major deep sea eco-systems. More importantly, he learnt to place regional activities and prospects in the deep sea into a global perspective.



Mr Vailea second from right with other participants at the Duke University Summer Institute

This educational opportunity will be offered again in 2015. Interested member countries should send a request, including the curriculum vitae of their elected environment officer to the Project’s Environment Adviser, Ms Alison Swaddling (alisons@spc.int).



Participants at the Duke University Summer Institute on Marine Conservation in June. DSM Project sponsored participant Mr Siale Vailea first row on the left.

Tongan Scholarship Awardee to Rhodes Academy Shares Experience

In July this year, the DSM Project supported Ms Ofa Maasi Kaisamy, the first Tongan Scholarship Awardee, to attend the Rhodes Academy for Ocean Laws and Policy as part of its capacity building initiative.

Each year, the Virginia University runs a prestigious three-week course dedicated to fostering a better understanding of the main principles of oceans law. The Rhodes Academy provides a unique opportunity for participants to broaden their understanding of maritime law set out in international agreements and national state practice.

Ms Kaisamy, a Secretary for Tonga's Working Group on Education on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction Management shared her experience from the three-week course:

"When I applied to the Rhodes Academy for Ocean Laws and Policy, I had no idea what a continental shelf, continental margin or extended continental margin was. The three-week course discussed deep seabed minerals, navigation, continental shelf, maritime boundaries, fisheries regime, fishing, marine scientific research and marine protection. I gained experience necessary to make progress in my home country, Tonga. One of my personal interests is the discussion on deep-sea bed minerals and how we can regulate mining at the national level and, on the same note, meet the obligations under the UNCLOS."

"The three-week course was intense but was worth the time and stress. After written and oral examinations, I was awarded with a Diploma as a Scholar on Ocean Laws and Policy."

"My attendance at the Rhodes Academy was made possible through efforts of many organizations; the International Seabed



Ms Kaisamy receiving her Diploma from Judge Rudiger Wolfrum (left) at the 2014 graduation Ceremony.

Authority Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research, the Rhodes Academy for Ocean Laws and Policy, and the SPC-EU DSM Project for recognizing the need to build the capacities of the Pacific Islanders in the area of the Laws of the Sea. Special thanks to Mr Akuila Tawake, Ms Hannah Lily and the rest of the DSM Project team who work tirelessly at capacity building for the Pacific Island countries to better manage our resources."

To apply: Interested individuals should apply directly to the University of Virginia: <http://www.virginia.edu/colp/rhodes-academy.html> and contact the DSM Project for financial assistance once they have been accepted to the program.



Students with their Diplomas of Ocean Laws and Policy, Rhodes Academy Greece

Internship Programme

As part of its capacity-building initiative, the SPC-EU DSM Project has established a successful Internship Programme. To-date, this programme has focused on legal aspects of DSM with government officials and aspiring lawyers receiving first-hand experience with the regional and international law framework governing the deep sea minerals sector. The programme has recently expanded to include environment, geology and geographical information system (GIS) internships. The internship vacancies are available on a rolling basis and preference is given to applicants from the 15 Pacific-ACP countries covered by the SPC-EU DSM Project. For more information on the internships or to apply, please visit the website: www.sopac.org/dsm.

Internship	Number of Participants to Date
Legal Internships	16
Legal Government Attachments	8
GIS Internships	3
ISA Legal Internships	2
Geology Internships	2
Project Internships	1

Government Attachments

Name: Unaisi Narawa - Daurewa

Country: Nauru

Duration: September 1 – September 12, 2014

Unaisi is a Senior Government Lawyer (legislative drafting) in the Department of Justice and Border Control of Nauru. Her two weeks with the DSM Project has enabled her to work closely with DSM experts while she worked on finalizing Nauru's International Seabed Minerals legislation. Nauru is a sponsoring State in the Area and understands that it is important to put national laws into place.



Unaisi Narawa - Daurewa

"My time with the DSM Project was exciting. It allowed us to look in-depth at issues relating to DSM mining that could arise with the introduction of our new legislation. With the assistance of the very qualified staff at the DSM Project, I gained valuable insight into the world of DSM mining and the benefits that could be gained, as well as the importance of having strong legislation that could safeguard against potential disasters (whether small or large). It was a very fulfilling experience."

Name: Patricia Grundler

Country: Nauru

Duration: August 22 – September 5, 2014

Patricia is a current Law student at the University of the South Pacific and works as a Paralegal officer in the Drafting Division of the Department of Justice and Border Control in Nauru. She assists the division in the consolidation of Nauru's Legislation. She joined the DSM Project along with Mrs Narawa for two weeks to acquire knowledge, information and legal assistance regarding deep sea minerals in order to help establish the legal framework/DSM Bill for Nauru.



Patricia Grundler

"I found the two-week work attachment with the DSM Project very expedient and relevant. I not only enjoyed the in-depth training on DSM law, but also enjoyed and appreciated the warm company and environment that the DSM staff exhibited during our work attachment. I am grateful for the opportunity and sponsorship that has been offered to the Nauru Government by the DSM Project. It has definitely assisted us as legal officers in establishing a robust legislation and proper legal instruments to affirm that Nauru's actions on offshore minerals and mining are appropriate and are in line with UNCLOS."

Legal Intern

Name: Calvy Aonima

Country: Solomon Islands

Duration: August 4 – November 28, 2014

Aonima graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in 2012 from USP Emalus Campus, in Vanuatu. He is currently doing a Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting. Calvy worked in private law firms in Vanuatu as a legal practitioner at Boarlaw Company and James Tari and Partners before joining the DSM Project as a Legal Intern.

During his internship, Calvy drafted the Solomon Islands National Deep Seabed minerals policy and conducted a legislative review of the laws of Solomon Islands, relating to deep sea minerals.
















"I can't express how thankful I am to the DSM Project. The internship not only developed my understanding of DSM law and regulations, but also developed me to become a better professional in my career as a lawyer."

"A big plus in getting this internship was working alongside legal experts like Hannah Lily and Marie Bourrel who offer great professional advice and feedback that will no doubt help me later as a DSM lawyer."



Calvy Aonima

Overview of DSM activities in the DSM Project's member countries

Country	Mineral Potential	Exploration Licences Issued	Mining Licence Issued	Sponsoring State in 'the Area'	Law and Policy Development as at January 2015
Cook Islands 	Nodules	Tender process planned for 2014		Application submitted	DSM and fiscal laws enacted. Seabed Minerals Authority established. Seabed Mineral Policy published. Licensing and environmental regulations underway. Marine Park consultations underway.
Fiji 	SMS	√		Interest shown	Decree for State sponsorship in 'the Area' enacted 2013. Review of Minerals Act and DSM Policy Draft in place.
FSM 	Crusts (SMS?)	Interest shown			Draft DSM Bill with Congress.
Kiribati 	Nodules, Crusts			Has signed contract with ISA	Draft DSM Law in progress and draft DSM Policy with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development.
Nauru 	Unknown			Application submitted	Draft law for State sponsorship in the Area with Ministry of Justice.
Niue 	Nodules, Crusts				Draft DSM Bill and licensing Regulations with Crown Law.
Palau 	Unknown (SMS?)				Palau is considering a policy of declaring the EEZ a protected area. Offshore petroleum law is in place.
PNG 	SMS	√	√		Review of existing mineral law and finalisation of national DSM policy planned.
RMI 	Crusts				Draft DSM Bill and licensing Regulations with Congress and Cabinet.
Samoa 	Crusts			Interest shown	Samoa has a 'watch and wait' policy for DSM currently.
Solomon Islands 	SMS	√	Application received		Draft Policy in place and Legislative Review of Solomon Island laws finalised.
Timor-Leste 					Comprehensive offshore oil and gas regime.
Tonga 	SMS	√		Has signed contract with ISA	Tonga Seabed Mining Act 2014 enacted and Environment and Licensing Legislation underway with Tonga's AG office.
Tuvalu 	Nodules, Crusts			Interest shown	Tuvalu Seabed Minerals Act 2014 passed, awaiting assent from Governor-General with the Licensing and Environment Regulations underway,
Vanuatu 	SMS	√			Policy consultation underway now, in all Provinces. Relevant law to be drafted subsequently.

Profile

Marie Bourrel

Legal Advisor, Deep Sea Minerals Project



Marie Bourrel

Marie joined the DSM Project as Legal Adviser in September, 2014. Marie has a background in International Law, as well as European Law. Prior to joining the DSM Project, Marie worked as a Policy and Legal Adviser for the Economic Development Division (EDD) of SPC with a particular focus on maritime issues (maritime safety and environment protection). She holds two Masters of Laws degrees (Law of the Sea; International Law and Economics with honours) from the University of Nantes, in France. She has managed a range of international law of the sea related research and several cases in law for international organisations, industry and governments from both developing and industrialised countries, within and outside the Pacific islands region.

1) What do you hope to achieve in your new role?

I am deeply committed to improving the living conditions of Pacific People. More specifically, I wish to work very closely with all of the 15 P-ACP countries, to assist as much as possible to provide strong, robust, and comprehensive policy and legal advice that can be used to support their national development outcomes for sound and sustainable management of their natural resources. I wish to assist them in both national and regional contexts.

2) What do you like most about your new job?

The depth and diversity of culture amongst the Pacific countries, the dedication of our counterparts in countries and the challenges raised by the importance of ensuring that any informed decision-making process related to deep sea mining takes into consideration the economic opportunities of such an industry for the interested countries but, also, the potential risks and impacts that may occur.

3) Where you from and what was it like growing up there?

The first half of my life I lived in Africa. I was born in Senegal and moved to Djibouti, a country located in the Horn of Africa, facing the Arabic

Peninsula when I was nine years old. Growing up in these two countries was fantastic as I was able to experience several civilizations and cultures, where the nature is astonishing and ruthless. Magic and rituals fed my imagination and curiosity. A piece of every place and every visage I have seen follow me everywhere.

4) What do you like to do when you're not at work?

I am passionate about music, art and cooking. So, every Saturday morning I love using my spare time to cook incredible vegetables and fruits found in the Suva market and to be initiated to the Pacific gastronomy. I am also passionate about the ocean and nature. So, when I can, I like to spend hours talking to the fish and other marine animals.

5) Why did you choose to become a lawyer?

As far as I remember, I have always been determined to become either a lawyer or an astronaut. When I realised that I could not go to Calisto (one of the satellites of Jupiter) as it would be improbable for the technology to develop a space ship while I am alive, I naturally decided to become a lawyer. Immediately it was clear that I wanted to work with the marine environment. I have found that many years later, my dream has come true and I am an International Law of the Sea and Marine Environment Lawyer.

6) What's the one thing you'd really like to do that you have not done yet?

To sail around the world for 1, 2 or 3 years.

7) What are the five things you can't live without?

Cheese (I am French!), nature and ocean, my family, art and hope.

8) What is one thing people do not know about you they'd be surprised to know?

I can do palm reading!

Get Involved

DSM Project Internships

The DSM Project offers internships in Law, Environment, Communication and Geology. For more information on the internships, visit the website: www.sopac.org/dsm

DSM Project LinkedIn Group

The DSM Project has set up a LinkedIn Group Page: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Deep-Sea-Minerals-Project-6646605>

Subscribe to this newsletter

This newsletter is available on the DSM Project's website. If you would like to receive automatic notification of its publication, please email dsmproject@spc.int

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