1. INTRODUCTION

The following issues were reported to IODE XVIII by GE-MIM:

- Pacific Islands Regional Group of IAMSLIC (PIRG) was re-established at 30th IAMSLIC Conference/GE-MIM VIII.
- IOC Capacity survey clearly showed there is a major need for capacity building marine information and data management in the Pacific region.
- Survey results have been passed on to PIRG, and GE-MIM requested PIRG develop a proposal for submission to donors.
- Possible future capacity building activities in the Pacific region should be done in conjunction with/or build on any existing initiatives, such as the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA).
- GE-MIM Chair was to liaise further with Pacific marine librarians.

GE-MIM Chair attended 1st Meeting of the Pacific Regional Group of IAMSLIC, at Offices of Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Noumea, New Caledonia, in April 2006. (See Attachment 1 for full report). The meeting agreed to develop a proposal for request for an ODIN. Since then 5 out of 7 major instigators have left the Pacific Region, and their jobs have just been filled or are about to be filled by new staff. This has resulted in no proposal being developed. However, the MIM workers in that area continue to seek support and assistance, and the regional needs in MIM and DM remain unaddressed.

2. CURRENT ISSUES

The following issues in data management and marine information are of concern for the Pacific region:

Region-wide:
- The region is vast, covering almost a third of the globe
- Travelling distances between countries are very large, and airline routes are very indirect and expensive
- Region population is small (9 million compared to Africa’s 900 million)
- There are many countries, many languages and many cultures
• Internet access is hugely variable around region (some ok such as New Caledonia, some countries are simply unusable)
• Region has very high staff turnover in agencies (average contract is for 3 years)
• Infrastructure levels & resources are hugely variable around region

**Marine information management issues:**

• Qualifications and technical knowledge of marine information managers/librarians vary hugely across region (many have secondary school education only, with no university qualifications at all)
• Status of marine information management is mostly very low (with some exceptions such as SPC)
• PIMRIS was established in 1987, and was ahead of its time. Its goals appear to match very well with that of an ODIN. However, it has gradually lost its resources, financial support, and status. PIMRIS currently has no operational budget at all! (staffing costs are covered by University of South Pacific, as they regard the PIMRIS Coordinator position as the Branch Librarian for their Marine Studies Collection)
• A real need exists for e-repository, as more and more outputs from agencies becomes 'grey literature'. Documents re-distributed by email, and hence are lost at an organisational level. If authors, librarians & publications officers are responsible for adding to the e-repository there might be a better chance of catching material.

**Data management issues:**

• Sharing of data between regional organisations is next to non-existent, due to data being owned by national organisation, but managed by regional ones. A central metadata repository/warehouse showing availability of data would be beneficial.
• Need to standardise development of applications. (eg “Pacific maps” package looking at coastline data, maritime boundaries, vessel catch data). Technically it is not too difficult – it is more difficult to get regional organisations to work together politically.

3. **DESIRED FUTURE OUTCOMES**

Can the IODE help foster the sharing of marine information and data programmes and activities between regional organisations and Pacific Island countries?

IODE needs to provide practical support to the Pacific (eg metadata repository, e-repository, developing standards, and assist with building sharing mechanisms between regional/country-based agencies.

In order not to duplicate effort already done, there is a strong view that MIM components of a Pacific ODIN could build on work/networks already existing in the Pacific (for example: the PIMRIS network which needs revitalising its effort; SOPAC; the Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN)). The PEIN program is currently funded by the EU Environment Section, which is based in Suva, Fiji, and is funded till June 2008. The project is aimed at sharing information and resources about environmental issues and programs in the Pacific. It is suggested that these programs should not duplicate or compete with an ODIN, but would assist with support for an ODIN.

The Pacific Region has a large regional planning statement, which highlights areas of greatest need for support and development. The statement is called Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA). The development of an ODIN clearly fits in under this plan. Is there a possibility of funding from other IOC programs, because of this (such as IOC Capacity Building program?).
As I have already mentioned, the Pacific Group of IAMSLIC has been reformed, and is very positive about the idea of an ODIN, but the group is in its infancy, and may need some assistance with the development of their proposal. Since being reformed, there has been a very large staffing change in several major agencies.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That GE-MIM continue its efforts to encourage the Pacific Islands region to develop a proposal for the development of a region-based ODIN, which will incorporate existing programmes in marine information management and data management.

2. That GE-MIM Chair approach agencies such as SOPAC, PIMRIS, and SPC to form a working group to jointly develop such a proposal.

3. That GE-MIM investigate possible opportunities for an ODIN associated with the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA)
Report on 1st Meeting of the Pacific Regional Group of IAMSLIC, SPC Offices, Noumea, New Caledonia, 6-7 April 2006 : Report to IODE

by Suzie Davies, GEMIM Chair

8 April 2006

Brief Highlights & Introductions

National Fisheries Authority

- Currently employed to improve NFA library for PNG
- Used CDS/ISIS in the past, but has recently installed KOHA
- Undertook 1 day KOHA training with Ben Hall of Fisheries Forum Agency, Solomon Islands
- Networking with other libraries is big problem in PNG
- Currently undertaking major scanning project using KOHA
- Is IAMSLIC member

World Fish Centre

- Small library in Philippines, main WFC library now in Penang, Malaysia
- Is IAMSLIC member & Uses IAMSLIC very heavily for interlibrary loan requests

Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS)

- Network of regional libraries across Pacific, established in 1987, and based at University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji
- Is IAMSLIC member
- Used CDS/ISI in the past and is now investigating move to KOHA
- Established a regional union catalogue called MOANA, which had high level of input for first 1-5 years
- no updates have occurred for several years
- no training has occurred for many years
- many trained staff have left (Pacific region has very high turnover in staff)
- PIMRIS was established to:
  - collection & catalogue material,
  - disseminate information (using interlibrary loans, literature searches, Q&A services
  - Undertake training & capacity building
  - Cooperate with similar networks
- PIMRIS has no operational budget at all
- Staffing salaries are covered by University of South Pacific (1 professional staff, and 2 non-professional assistants)
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Web site http://www.spc.int
- Was using dbtextworks, now has moved to KOHA cataloguing module
- Librarian Rachelle Oriente is about to leave. Jan Haasperleh will be new Librarian
- Library facilities are substantial & well resourced, has 2 ½ professional staff
- SPC facilities are extremely good
- Input for ASFA
- Is IAMSLIC member & uses IAMSLIC ILL services heavily

Institute of Research and Development (IRD)
- Used to be called ORSTOM, and has been in Noumea since 1946
- Undertakes marine research for French government, and has offices around the world
- Centre si large (about 200 staff)
- Library is large and well resourced, has 2 professional staff
- Provides services to Ifremer & IRD
- Input for ASFA

South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)
- Has 2 professional staff
- Is IAMSLIC member
- Has responsibility for library, archives, and publications dissemination (has extra administrative staff to assist with these tasks)
- Uses dbtextworks
- Librarian manages a major project called Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN),
  - funded by EU Environment budget (560,000 € from 2000-2003) and (2005-June 2008). Large amount of money went into building infrastructure at SPREP (library/archive building), IT infrastructure for member countries, and training
  - EU Environment office is based in Suva, Fiji
  - Project is now part of SPREP Core Program till 2014, but EU funding runs out at 2008.

GEMIM / Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Web site http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au
- Library is well resourced, with 2 professional staff and 1 non-professional staff
- Library manager is also GEMIM Chair
- Library uses Horizon Library Management System
- Is IAMSLIC member

Re-establishment of Pacific Regional Group of IAMSLIC

It was agreed in 2004 to re-establish the Pacific Islands Regional Group of IAMSLIC, but to leave out the ‘islands’. This was supported again at this current meeting. The ‘island’ omission is intended to encourage both Australia and New Zealand to join. The meeting stated that both Australia & New Zealand have a history of support & positive involvement with the Pacific, and can provide a wide range of knowledge, expertise & technical support to the group.

IAMSLIC members in the following countries are to be encouraged to join:
- Australia
- New Zealand
Satui Bentin (of SPREP) has been appointed Chair of Pacific Group. She will write to all IAMSLIC members in those countries inviting them to join. The Pacific group has applied to host the 2008 IAMSLIC Conference in Suva, Fiji, with a suggested theme of ‘Sharing traditional knowledge in a world of digital divides. There was considerable discussion regarding rough plans for the conference.

Discussion of ODIN for Pacific

I gave a 15 minute presentation to the group on the IODE ODINs. I discussed the following issues:

- What is GEMIM
- How GEMIM & IODE interact
- The establishment of the positions of National Coordinators for Marine Information Management within the IODE structure
- What is an ODIN
- Examples of existing ODINs
- Achievements of ODINS and advantages for marine libraries
- Example of most recent ODIN – ODINECET
- IOC capacity survey for the Pacific in 2004, discussed results
- Put the proposal of an ODIN PACIFIC – discussed options

There was initially some confusion over inter-agency relationships, and who does what, but we spent most of a day discussing the ODIN issue. By the day’s end, I believe everyone was much more comfortable with the concept and were looking at how it could be applied to the Pacific region.

Issues for the Pacific Region

The group raised the following issues of concern for the Pacific region:

- The region is vast, covering almost a third of the globe
- Travelling distances between countries are very large, and airline routes are very indirect and expensive
- Region population is small (9 million compared to Africa’s 900 million)
- There are many countries, many languages and many cultures
- Internet access is hugely variable around region (some ok such as New Caledonia, some countries are simply unusable)
- Infrastructure levels & resources are hugely variable around region
- Qualifications and technical knowledge of marine information managers/librarians vary hugely across region (many have secondary school education only, with no university qualifications at all)
- Region has very high staff turnover in agencies (average contract is for 3 years)
- Status of marine information management is mostly very low (SPC and IRD are exceptions)
- PIMRIS was established in 1987, and was ahead of its time. Its goals appear to match very well with that of an ODIN. However, it has gradually lost its resources, financial support, and status. PIMRIS currently has no operational budget at all! (staffing costs are covered by University of South Pacific, as they regard the PIMRIS Coordinator position as the Branch Librarian for their Marine Studies Collection)
I explained IODE’s current difficult financial situation, and a need for a new ODIN to get support form a number of sources. I highlighted the ODINECET as an example of developing under a joint umbrella of support agencies (eg Euraslic & IOC).

The group were keen not to duplicate effort already being done by some programs. But they suggested that there was a role for an ODIN in the Pacific.

The PEIN program is currently funded by the EU Environment Section, which is based in Suva, Fiji. It is a large project funded till June 2008. The project is aimed at sharing information and resources about environmental issues and programs in the Pacific. To join the network, agencies/programs must have a community audience/involvement. It was felt that this program would not duplicate or compete with an ODIN, but it could assist with support for an ODIN.

It was felt by members that if an ODIN were established in the Pacific, it would be mirroring the goals and aims of the PIMRIS program. It is a network of libraries & information centres concerned with fisheries and marine resources. Participants include Fisheries Forum Agency, South Pacific Regional Environment Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and SOPAC. However, PIMRIS has fallen on hard times. The PIMRIS Coordinator (Chris Nelson) currently has no operational budget. His salary & that of 2 administrative assistants are covered by University of South Pacific, as they regard him his as the Branch Librarian for the Marine Studies Section of the University Library (which he is not supposed to be).

When established in 1987, PIMRIS developed a union catalogue of Pacific information resources, undertook training & capacity building, and assisted with infrastructure development in marine libraries in about 20(?) member regional countries. However, no training has happened for many years, most people in libraries are new, the union catalogue has no been updated for many years, and no ongoing infrastructure assistance has happened for many years. As I said before, PIMRIS has no operational budget at all – it has been languishing for some years.

In order not to duplicate effort already done, the group felt that a Pacific ODIN could build on work/networks already done by the PIMRIS network over past years, with the goal of revitalising this effort. There are already some experienced professional information managers/librarians in the Pacific region who could be called on to assist with developing & providing training (instead of bringing students from the Pacific to Ostende, maybe it would be cheaper to take the trainers to the Pacific?)

As I have already mentioned, the Pacific Group of IAMSLIC has been reformed, and is very positive about the idea of an ODIN, but the group is in its infancy, and may need some assistance with the development of their proposal.

The Pacific Region has a large regional planning statement, which highlights areas of greatest need for support and development. The statement is called Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action (PIROF-ISA). The development of an ODIN clearly fits in under this plan. Is there is a possibility of funding from other IOC programs, because of this (such as IOC Capacity Building program)?

I stressed the need to nominate people for the MIM NC positions, and their usefulness when managing an ODIN. I left them with the current list of NCs and the list of member states and address list for IOC contacts.

It is my belief that the Pacific group are intending to develop a proposal to IOC for an ODIN. Rachele Oriente is due to return to Canada in May 2006, as her contract is finished. This is unfortunate as she has a lot of energy & committment, but she will continue her involvement
from Canada. Jan Haspeslagh is to be the next SPC Librarian. This may assist the group with the development of the ODIN proposal, as he has fresh experience with ODINECET. I have suggested that they contact Peter Pissierssens and me to seek further information / clarification if required.

**Presentation of GEMIM/ODIN talk to the 6th Heads of Fisheries Meeting, SPC, Noumea**

The PIRG Meeting coincided with the 6th Heads of Fisheries Forum Meeting, also being held at SPC, Noumea from 3-7 April 2006. This meeting of about 80 people, included Heads of Fisheries departments (CEOs), some Ministers for Fisheries, and senior technical fisheries scientists involved in fisheries research & management throughout the Pacific.

There was an afternoon session allocated for Information Services for Fisheries. The following librarians gave presentations:

- Rachele Oriente (SPC Librarian) – Explained SPC Library Services
- Chris Nelson (PIMRIS Coordinator) – Explained PIMRIS Services
- Suzie Davies (GBRMPA Librarian & GEMIM Chair) – Described role of GEMIM, highlighted need for MIM National Coordinators & explained the role of ODINS, & suggested the possibility of an ODIN PACIFIC.
- Satui Bentin (SPREP Information Centre Manager) – Explained the Pacific Environmental information Network (PEIN)

The presentations were well received, and we received several very positive comments back over the next 2 days. It gave me an excellent opportunity to plug the need to MIM National Coordinators for the Pacific.

**List of attendees:**

Clare AME  
Librarian  
Gillett Preston/National Fisheries Authority  
Port Moresby  
PNG  
came@fisheries.gov.pg

Satui BENTIN  
Information Resources Centre Manager  
South Pacific Regional Environment Program, (SPREP)  
PO Box 279, Apia, Samoa  
stauib@sprep.org.ws

Suzie DAVIES  
Librarian  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville Qld 4810  
Australia  
s.davies@gbrmpa.gov.au

* Rachele ORIENTE  
Librarian  
Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)  
BP D5  
98848 CDEEX
Noumea, New Caledonia
RacheleO@spc.int
(* Rachele is leaving SPC in May and returning to Vancouver, Canada. Her replacement is to be Jan Haspeslagh)

Chris NELSON
Librarian/Coordinator
Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS)
Lower Campus Library
University of the South Pacific
PO Box 1168
Suva, Fiji
nelson_c@usp.ac.fj

Anne GILBERT
Assistant Librarian
SPC
BP D5
98848 CEDEX
Noumea, New Caledonia
AnneG@spc.int

Isabelle PERIN
Librarian
Institute of Research and Development (IRD)
BP A5
98848 CEDEX
Noumea, New Caledonia
Isabelle.Perin@noumea.ird.nc

Daisy DALISAY
WorldFish Center
Los Banos, Laguna 4031
Philippines
d dalisay@cigar.org