

### 4th and Final Newsletter

Dear Reader,

The final ECOPAS Newsletter is in your hands, but do not despair! After three years with high levels of activity at the crossroads of Europe and the Pacific, the EU-funded ECOPAS project has come to an end. We will stay alive, however, through our Facebook page where stories about climate change and Oceania will still be shared from our ever growing network. In this Newsletter you can read about some activities through our last year of work. A particular focus has been the *Moana* performance from the University of the South Pacific, unveiled already at our first conference in Suva in 2013. In 2015 *Moana: the Rising of the Sea* has brought the Pacific to Europe, giving an emotional and deeply human dimension to climate change. With soaring voices and spectacular choreography, the Moana artists even performed deep in the European Parliament, as well as to all who attended the Brussels ESfO conference (subject of Newsletter No. 3).

The contributions to this Newsletter are joint efforts of ECOPAS participants. Make sure you follow us on Facebook and make good use of our Pacific research database at [pacific-studies.net](http://pacific-studies.net)! Meanwhile new side activities arise from our platform, including "Understanding Gender Inequality Actions in the Pacific", an EU-funded interdisciplinary effort of 14 ECOPAS scholars, bringing new case studies from 10 Pacific nations.

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*Newsletter Editor and Designer*

### ECOPAS at SIDS Apia, Samoa September 2014



The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held in September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, with the overarching theme being "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships". 115 States and the European Union were represented at the conference, as well as a large amount of intergovernmental organizations, commissions, agencies, United Nations offices, non-governmental organisations and many more. Members from the ECOPAS team, Dr. Tony

Crook and Doctoral Fellow Camilla A. Borrevik, were present at the conference and participating in some of the many events that took place. Allan Alo from the ECOPAS Creative Team also choreographed the cultural ceremony at the opening night in front of a high level audience including the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Mr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr Wu Hong-bo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations. Many of the events that took

place during the conference were of particular interest to ECOPAS as they provided insights into global policy and decision making arenas with focus on climate change and sustainable development. The conference also brought together representatives from all Pacific countries and states which opened up for deep and valuable dialogue. The conference is only hosted every ten years and was as such a great opportunity for ECOPAS to participate in important discussions regarding the future for all island nations.

## “Resources, boundaries and governance: What future for fisheries in the Pacific?”

### Third Problem-based Workshop in Marseille and Pacific Connections Roundtable in Brussels

The third and final problem-based workshop of the ECOPAS project, organised by WP2 in collaboration with WP3, was held in Marseille on 13-14 October, 2014. Discussions centred around the future role of fisheries in the Pacific with regard to resources, boundaries and governance. The workshop included participants and presentations from WPs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and associate experts from the Pacific and Europe.

The presentations and discussions of the workshop examined multiple aspects of coastal and oceanic fisheries in the Pacific.

They showed that fisheries do not raise economic and ecological issues only: fisheries reveal and are embedded in significant social changes, (geo)political asymmetries, geostrategic rationales, developments in legislation, customary dynamics, etc. It was also suggested that to under-

stand the current state of fisheries in the Pacific, it is necessary to deal simultaneously with deeply entangled international, regional, sub-regional and local processes. This point was particularly well illustrated with regard to Overseas Countries and Ter-



*Photo by Edvard Hviding*

ritories (OCTs) through several case studies focusing on French Polynesia and New Caledonia. The workshop also highlighted the importance of establishing a constructive and ongoing dialogue around fisheries between social scientists and environmental scientists, between

scholars from Europe and from the Pacific Islands, and between these experts and the various stakeholders and policy-making institutions involved in the Pacific region.

After the workshop in Marseille, discussions continued at the

European External Action Service in Brussels on October 16 with a Pacific Connections event organised by WP3. The roundtable included participants and presentations from WPs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and associate experts from the Pacific and Europe. A panel debate included Pacific diplomats and

officials from EEAS, DG-MARE, DG-DEVCO and DG-RTD. Pacific fisheries and marine resources constitute a particularly complex field of debate between the region and Europe, and the workshop and roundtable were timely and forwards-looking.

## ECOPAS at ANU in Canberra, Australia

The ECOPAS coordinator visited the Australian National University in March 2015 as a guest of the ANU Pacific Institute and the chair of the ECOPAS Advisory Board Professor Margaret Jolly. A master-class on long-term anthropological fieldwork and a public lecture entitled “Living in the Ring of Fire” were given. The 2013 film version of “Moana: the Rising of the Sea” was screened twice,

to an ANU audience (followed by panel discussion) and to diplomats of Pacific and Nordic countries. A final agreement between the ANU’s Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and the University of Bergen was signed, giving PMB its first European member library. Meetings were held with Canberra-based representatives of PACE-Net and climate change NGOs, a lunch with Pacific and Nordic diplo-

mat was generously hosted for the ECOPAS coordinator by HE Charles Lepani, High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Australia; separate meetings were held at the Solomon Islands High Commission and the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and advice on Pacific matters of climate change and governance was given in special meetings with Labour MPs at the Australian Parliament.

### Moana: the Rising of the Sea The European Tour



In 2015 ECOPAS has had the good fortune of cooperating with coordinator host institution, the University of Bergen (UiB), on an ambitious and



large-scale effort to raise the presence in Europe of the Pacific, with particular attention to the climate change challenges currently facing Oceania. UiB provided a substantial budget for the travel between Fiji and Europe of the 32-member cast for "Moana: the Rising of the Sea" (the Oceania Dance Theatre and the Pasifika Voices choir) and for their residence 25 May-7 June at the Bergen International Festival. A series of high-profile performances, including two packed theatre shows of "Moana", were given in Bergen. UiB's generosity provided a unique opportunity for the ECOPAS coordinator team to organise a subsequent

European Tour for "Moana" (with coordinator Edvard Hviding as executive producer and Nora Haukali of the Bergen team as tour manager). Between 7 and 26 June, "Moana" was staged a total of 10 times at St Andrews, Scotland; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Brussels, Belgium. The Scotland residence followed immediately after the Bergen International Festival and provided for smaller-scale shows in close touch with the local community; and in Copenhagen "Moana" was performed twice at the international CPH Stage festival. Brussels saw "Moana" performed first in the heart of the European Parliament (invited by member of parliament Maurice Ponga and attended by parliamentarians and their teams), and finally to a large and diverse audience at the 500-seat Viage Theatre as part of the conference of the European Society for Oceanists (see ECOPAS Newsletter 3). Directed by some of Oceania's leading creative forces – writer and producer Vil-

soni Hereniko, choreographer Peter Rockford Espiritu, composer Igelese Ete and lead actor Allan Alo – the professional dancers and singers from the University of the South Pacific's Oceania Centre took on a dedicated identity also as climate change warriors. The artistic power and political impact of the European Tour attests to, as Vilsoni Hereniko writes in the stage programme, the power



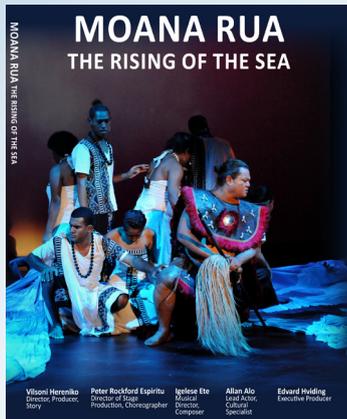
of the arts to "move the debate of climate change from your head to your heart". Never before has Europe seen such a Pacific presence. At the conclusion of the Tour this presence was further expanded by the gathering in Brussels – for the conference

and for the performance – of large numbers of Pacific diplomats, dignitaries and scholars, as well as Pacific Islanders resident in Europe.



### Moana Rua

#### A film about climate change and sea level rise in the Pacific



ECOPAS, in association with the University of Bergen and the Bergen International Festival, proudly presents a new film of the stage performance "Moana: the Rising of the Sea". On 31 May 2015, the second show in Bergen, at the state-of-the-art Oseana Theatre by the sea south of the city, was recorded by a professional team with six cameras in HD format. During subsequent months, a film of 56 minute duration (the performance in total being ca 70 minutes) was edited by Varde Media and by "Moana" producer and executive producer Vilsoni Hereniko and Edvard Hviding. Both filming and editing were funded by the University of Bergen as part of its sponsorship of "Moana" for the Bergen International Festival. The final film was named "Moana Rua: the Rising of the Sea", "rua" being a widespread Pacific word for "two", signifying this film being the second after an original shorter DVD made from the premiere performances of

"Moana" in Suva in 2013.

On 18 November 2015, "Moana Rua: the Rising of the Sea" had its world premiere at the Damodar Cinema in Suva, Fiji. The premiere was kindly sponsored by the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific,



ic, and was attended by the "Moana" cast with family and friends and by a large number of guests from the University of the South Pacific, European and Pacific embassies in Suva, and regional political and activist organisations. A press conference was convened, and media coverage of the premiere included newspapers and television. In subsequent days, "Moana Rua" and a short film adapted from it entitled "The Chief's Speech to the United Nations" were screened in Honolulu at the Hawaii International Film Festival and at side events there.



At the COP21 conference in Paris, "Moana Rua" was invited to play a key role of the main side event of 4 December, Oceans Day. A high-level full-day programme with state leaders and diverse dignitaries was concluded with the screening of a some-



what shortened version of "Moana Rua", presented by lead actor and creative director Allan Alo and executive producer Edvard Hviding. Once again, Pacific arts were given the privilege of setting its own tone for the climate change debate, this time at the pivotal context of COP21. Since the timing was beyond the funding period of ECOPAS, the University of Bergen kindly funded Alo's travel between Samoa and Paris and other expenses.

"Moana Rua" is being made available on DVD and will in due course be uploaded for open-access streaming. Meanwhile queries can be directed to [ecopas@uib.no](mailto:ecopas@uib.no). The distribution of the film should provide a lasting impact in terms of the overall ambition of the ECOPAS project of "restoring the human to climate change in Oceania".

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