

The Registrar of Titles
Titles Office
Suvavou House
Suva

10 November 2001

Dear Sir,

**Annual Report of PACIFIC PESTNET,
for the period June 2000 - June 2001**

PACIFIC PESTNET was registered on 20 June 2000 under No. 570 under the Charitable Trust Act. Under this Act, we are required to lodge Annual Reports with your office.

Please find enclosed the Annual Report for your files. We herewith comply with the requirement to file Annual Reports with your Office.

Yours sincerely,
PACIFIC PESTNET

Wilco Liebrechts
Secretary

C/- PO Box 5406
Raiwaqa PO, Suva.

Pacific PestNet

Annual Report 2000 - 2001

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at Treasure Island Resort, Nadi, on 24 November 2000.

Present: Dr. Grahame Jackson, Dr. Matairangi Porea, Mr. Bob Macfarlane, Mr. Wilco Liebrechts.

Opening

The meeting was opened at 9 am by the interim Chairperson, Dr. Grahame Jackson, who welcomed the members to the first AGM of Pacific PestNet.

Apologies

Mr. Taholo Kami, Mr. Yee Wah Sing

Approval of Agenda

The interim Chair asked for any comments on the proposed agenda. No comments were made, and the Chair requested for the Board to move for adoption of the agenda. Dr Porea moved, Mr. Macfarlane seconded the adoption of agenda.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson

The interim Chairperson asked for nominations for the Chairperson. Mr. Wilco Liebrechts nominated Dr. Jackson, and was seconded by Mr. Bob Macfarlane. No other nominations were submitted, and the Interim Chairperson declared Dr. Jackson duly elected as Chairperson unanimously by the Board.

Secretary

Dr. Jackson then took over as Chairperson of the Board to proceed with the election of office bearers, and asked for nominations for Secretary. Dr. Mat Porea nominated Mr. Wilco Liebrechts, and was seconded by Mr. Bob Macfarlane. No other nominations were submitted, and the Chairperson declared Mr. Liebrechts duly elected as Secretary by unanimous decision of the Board.

Treasurer

The Chair then asked for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Bob Macfarlane nominated Mr. Wilco Liebrechts, and was seconded by Dr. Grahame Jackson. No other nominations were submitted, and the Chairperson declared Mr. Macfarlane duly elected as Treasurer by unanimous decision of the Board.

Synopsis of Pacific Pestnet

Pacific PestNet, an e-mail based service run by volunteers, was set up specifically for Pacific Island countries to receive instant information on

quarantine and crop pests and diseases. It provides online discussion, and a question and answer service through which international experts assist people in the Pacific at no cost. A major feature of PestNet is that it allows for the posting of digital photographs of pests, diseases, weeds and their symptoms, and their distribution to all subscribers. PestNet is therefore also an important means to provide extension services and contributes to improving education in pest recognition and plant protection.

The Pacific PestNet listserv was established in December 1999 with the free listserv provider Egroups in the USA. In view of its success, and to facilitate any funding support from interested donor organisations, a not-for-profit charitable organisation was established and registered in Suva, Fiji, on 21 June 2000. The Domain name 'Pestnet.org' was registered in 2000 in the US, for future use as a web portal on plant protection information.

On 3 September 2000, the membership list of Pacific PestNet included 237 subscribers, of whom 84 were residents of 19 Pacific island countries (PICs), with the balance of subscribers residing in 18 countries outside the region (non-PICs), giving a ratio of 1:1.82. Most subscribers (resp. 63% for PIC subscribers and 58% for non-PIC subscribers) were related to or directly employed by government agencies, with the balance taken up by NGO, educational institutions, or individual subscribers.

Many Pacific Island members and organisations have acknowledged the impact of PestNet and support its further development. They stressed that identification of pest problems remains a constraint and that PestNet has gone a long way in providing a cheap and sustainable way of overcoming the difficulty.

Approval of Accounts as per 31 October 2001

Mr. Wilco Liebrechts, as Interim Treasurer for the period June - October 2001, presented the accounts.

No income had been derived in this period. Unspecified expenses, but not exceeding a total of F\$ 1000.- incurred by Board members for telecommunication and domain registration would be reimbursed when funding allowed.

The Chair moved for approval of the accounts, seconded by Dr. M. Porea. The Chair announced the accounts approved.

Development of a proposal for a FAO TCP Project

The meeting discussed briefly the intent to develop a TCP proposal for submission to FAO. The proposal would focus on increasing Pestnet's outreach to the farming community in the Pacific islands, as well as increasing the number of subscribers in the islands. The Chair indicated that the forthcoming 3 days would be needed to prepare a draft proposal for FAO.

Other Matters

PestNet promotion

The meeting discussed a number of ideas to promote PestNet among farmers, quarantine, agricultural research and extension staff, non-government organisations, agricultural produce exporters, and policy makers.

Web Site / portal development

The development of a web site and portal was discussed. It was agreed that this was a priority, but that any initiatives to develop the website and portal would require funds.

Closing of the Meeting

There being no other matters, the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12 noon.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of Pacific PestNet

Date: 24 November 2000.

Venue: Treasure Island Resort, Nadi

1. Opening
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Election of Office Bearers
5. Synopsis of Pacific Pestnet
6. Approval of Accounts as per 31 October 2001
7. Development of a proposal for a FAO TCP Project
8. Other Matters
9. Closing of the Meeting

Overview of Pacific PestNet Subscribers per Country:
3 September 2000

<i>Pacific Island Countries:</i>	
American Samoa	1
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas (CNMI)	5
Cook Islands	1
Fiji	10
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	4
French Polynesia	2
Guam	4
Kiribati	1
Marshall Islands	1
New Caledonia	2
Niue	3
Palau	6
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	5
Samoa	11
Solomon Islands	3
Tokelau	1
Tonga	5
Tuvalu	1
Vanuatu	4
SPC	10
FAO	4
TOTAL (19 PICs)	84

Overview of Pacific PestNet Subscribers per Country:
3 September 2000

<i>Non- Pacific Island Countries</i>	Total
Australia	71
Belgium	1
Chile	1
Costa Rica	1
France	1
Germany	2
India	2
Indonesia	1
Ireland	1
Mexico	1
New Zealand	26
Switzerland	1
United Arab Emirates	1
United Kingdom (UK)	5
USA – Continental	14
USA - Hawaii	8
Vietnam	1
Yemen	1
CABI	4
FAO	2
Unidentified (hotmail etc.)	12
Total Subscribers:	153
Total: Countries (excl. undet. hotmail addresses, CABI & FAO)	18

Ratio:

PICs Subscribers / Non-PICs Subscribers: 1: 1.82

Pacific PestNet Subscriber Categories

GOV: Government; **NGO:** Non-Government Organisation;
UNI: Educational Institution; **IND:** Individual Subscriber or Company

<i>Pacific Island Countries:</i>	GOV	NGO	UNI	IND.
American Samoa			1	
Commonwealth of Northern Marianas (CNMI)			4	1
Cook Islands	1			
Fiji	4			6
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	2	1	1	
French Polynesia	2			
Guam	1		3	
Kiribati	1			
Marshall Islands	1			
New Caledonia	2			
Niue	3			
Palau	3	1	1	1
Papua New Guinea (PNG)	4			1
Samoa	7	1	2	1
Solomon Islands	1	1		1
Tokelau	1			
Tonga	3	1		1
Tuvalu				1
Vanuatu	3	1		
SPC	10			
FAO	4			
TOTAL (19 PICs)	53	6	12	13

Pacific PestNet Subscriber Categories

	GOV	NGO	UNI	IND.
<i>Pacific Island Countries:</i>	63%	7%	14%	16%
<i>Non- PICs:</i>	58%	1%	16%	25%

Pacific PestNet Subscriber Categories

GOV: Government; **NGO:** Non-Government Organisation;

UNI: Educational Institution; **IND:** Individual Subscriber or Company

<i>Non- Pacific Island Countries</i>	GOV	NGO	UNI	IND.
Australia	53	2	6	10
Belgium				1
Chile			1	
Costa Rica				1
France				1
Germany			1	1
India	2			
Indonesia				1
Ireland			1	
Mexico	1			
New Zealand	17		3	6
Switzerland				1
United Arab Emirates	1			
United Kingdom (UK)	1		3	1
USA – Continental	3		3	8
USA - Hawaii	2		6	
Vietnam	1			
Yemen	1			
CABI	(4)			
FAO	(2)			
Unidentified (hotmail etc.)				12
Total Subscribers:	88	2	24	39
Total: Countries (excl. undet. hotmail addresses, CABI & FAO)	18			

Comments from PestNet subscribers:

- Mr. Sione Foliaki, Head, Quarantine and Quality Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tonga. Date: Wed, 19 Jul 2000
“I totally believe that PestNet needs financial support a.s.a.p. and if anyone with me, we should all support that we urgently need donor financial support to our PestNet. We all know how capable this thing can do, as the only fastest way to get help/ assistance from experts far away.”
- Mr. Sauni Tongatule, Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Niue. Date: Wed, 19 Jul 2000
“Just to lend my full support to the existing PestNet, Myself and my little country finds it a very cheap and useful network no doubt. It's the fastest way of getting assistance and information in this field. We will be encouraging our farmers to use the network.”
- Dr. Pita Taufatofua, Deputy Director, MAF Research-Extension, Tonga Date: Sun, 2 Apr 2000
“To the wise mature hands like Peter M., Gillian W., Bob M., Barbara R. And many others, your support in PestNet is much appreciated by your resource scarce colleagues from the Islands.”
- Dr Nicholas King, Director, BioNET-INTERNATIONAL, the Global Network for Taxonomy, Surrey, UK Date: Thu, 20 Jul 2000
Congratulations on the success and progress made to date with Pacific PestNet - it is precisely the type of tool which is needed in most developing country sub-regions, quick, easy to use, comprehensive, free, and accessible. I fully endorse the principle of no-cost, etc, as espoused. I look forward to its further development and expansion and its use by PACINET, whereby we try and build the capacity within the region to use such tools to their full potential.
- Dr. Joel E. Miles, Associate Professor, Agricultural Science, Palau Community College, Palau Date: Fri, 21 Jul 2000
“PestNet has in just a few months proved useful to me several times. And I have also been able to offer assistance to others once or twice. I am so grateful to those who have created this net and kept it going.”
- Dr. Christian Mille, New Caledonia Date: Mon, 24 Jul 2000
“I really enjoy Pacific PestNet for the time we save. The project for the identification by sent pictures would be a very good updating for this tool.”
- Dr. A. Lee Eavy, IPM and Crop Protection Team Leader, CNMI/CREES, Northern Marianas College, Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas. Tue, 25 Jul 2000
“Thank you for your efforts to create and maintain the PestNet service. I have used it several times in the past few months, and find it of great use. Please count on our support when applying to funding NGOs or foundations for continued support.”