

About the contributors

Allison Woodruff currently works as a natural resource economist with the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). Her experience working in the natural resource sector in Canada, Southeast Asia and the Pacific includes economic research and policy development in energy, disaster management, mining and climate change, as well as the design of economic instruments for supporting environmental policy. She holds masters' degrees in environment and development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and development economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Chris Hartnady is the technical director of Umvoto. He received his PhD in geology in 1978 from University of Cape Town, where he also lectured for many years and rose to the position of associate professor in the Department of Geological Sciences. His area of expertise is structural geology and tectonics, with emphasis on southern and central Africa. He is internationally recognised in these fields, has authored and co-authored 40 papers in peer-reviewed journals and books of high standing, and has made more than 80 contributions to international conference proceedings and other publications.

Constance Vigilance works at the Commonwealth Secretariat as the economic adviser responsible for small states. She holds a master's in international affairs in economic policy management from Columbia University, New York, and has worked as an economist for several years.

David Barrett has been an environmental professional specialising in energy for more than 13 years, an occasional guest presenter at national, regional and international forums and a part-time lecturer. He has a MSc. in energy and the environment from the University of Calgary and a MPhil. in zoology from the University of the West Indies. David is the regional representative for FINDER Caribbean Ltd, founding executive member of the Jamaica Solar Energy Association, and member of the Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals and the Private Sector of Jamaica. Until 2006, David was the manager, energy and environment, at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica.

Deirdre Shurland is the former director of the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST). She specialises in sustainable tourism destination strategies and environmental management enterprise tools and programmes.

Derrick Akintade is currently an adviser in the Enterprise and Agriculture Section, Special Advisory Services Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat. He holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics (Imperial at Wye) and masters' degrees in business administration (University of Wales College of Cardiff) and international relations (University of Sussex). For several years, he provided advisory support to the Rural Livelihoods Department of the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Subsequent to that, from 2003 to 2005, he was the DFID livelihoods adviser on secondment to the Regional Unit for Technical Assistance (RUTA) based in Costa Rica. Other previous assignments include DFID associate professional officer (natural resource economics) based in Ghana.

Dylan Blake is a geologist at Umvoto. He completed his BSc. (Hons) in geology in 2006 and has worked on a wide variety of hydrogeological and disaster risk reduction projects.

Janet Strachan advises on sustainable development at the Commonwealth Secretariat. She co-ordinated the Commonwealth Secretariat's strategies for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2005 Small Island Developing States Summit in Mauritius, and the development of its work on climate change. She organises ministerial dialogues on issues such as: environmental governance, globalisation, sustainable tourism and partnership approaches to water and sanitation.

Marc Overmars is currently adviser for the water sector at the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). He holds an MSc. in hydrology from the Free University in Amsterdam. Prior to joining SOPAC, he was involved in conducting groundwater recharge research at a Polytechnic Institute in Southern Taiwan, working on groundwater remediation programmes at former petrol stations with a consultancy firm in the Netherlands (SGS EcoCare). He also spent two years at UNESCO's regional office in Jakarta as an associate expert in tropical hydrology, implementing hydrological activities within UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) for South East Asia and the Pacific.

Padma Narsey Lal was formerly the sustainable development adviser at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), which serves the independent small island states of the Pacific. She has more than two decades' experience as a resource and environment economist, working in the Oceania region, including in Australia and in most of the Pacific SIDS. She has published widely on the subject of natural resource and environment management. Since joining the PIFS, she has led the Pacific Plan Initiative on strengthening national sustainable development strategies-based planning and budgetary processes and decision-making at other levels. Her work with member countries has produced some very tangible outcomes, including in improving aid effectiveness.

Rowena Hay is the managing director of Umvoto. She has an MSc. in marine geology from the University of Cape Town. After working in the mining and nuclear waste disposal industries, where she developed an interest in hydrogeological modelling, she founded Umvoto Africa in 1992. The name derives from the respectful name some Xhosa brides use for water. She has also gained extensive experience in the related field of disaster risk reduction, and has carried out work in this field for clients such as the United Nations, World Bank and Commonwealth Secretariat.

Saki Hirano works in the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Veniana Qalo is currently an economic advisor with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, and a registered barrister and solicitor in Fiji. She holds a bachelor of laws degree and a professional diploma in legal practice from the University of the South Pacific, and a master's in international law and economics (magna cum laude) from the World Trade Institute joint Universities of Neuchatel, Fribourg and Berne in Switzerland. She worked for six years with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, as a research assistant and trade policy officer, before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat in London in August 2004. Ms Qalo has written and published pieces on a range of trade and international law issues.