

## December 2011 Newsletter for our Tuvaluan friends and supports



For many reasons, including Gilliane's health, we have not been able to make the trip since a long while. As written in our June newsletter, there's always a good for a bad and this was the opportunity for her to enjoy spring in France. An occasion which had not occurred since her first trip in Tuvalu in 2003. The summer was very busy but enjoyable with a short trip to Brittany, France west coast, where they have the biggest number of pigs and where we hope to see biogas soon.

Speaking of biogas, more equipment has been purchased and we are finally able to send Sikeli, Alofa Tuvalu biogas specialist, to overlook at the digesters implemented last September in Nanumea. (see below)

### What we are taking with us and some of the objectives of the December trip :

#### As always:

- DVDs of the videos shot last year and edited over the last months : King Tides Festival activities, the IRWM water quizz, Fagogo clinic construction etc..
- half a dozen films about climate and other topics such as « fly over Paris » ☺. We are aiming to organize a few public screenings.



*Aider Tuvalu à survivre, c'est assurer notre avenir à tous.  
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- other DVD's include some news reports about Tuvalu aired in Europe and for which we assisted the journalists : Ellen Grans –dutch tv- who did a subject about Tuvalu soccer team ; Lasse & Christian – Danish journalists who stayed at the Alofa Tuvalu house and sent a small subject about waste and Ampelamo's efforts ; Niels Buengen whose subject for German tv was seen by 5 millions people !!, Same number of viewers for the France2 (national TV) documentary shot by our French colleagues during the King Tides Festival. Of course all are in native language.

- A few hundreds pictures for the annual exhibition/distribution at the Vaiaku Lagi hôtel.

- 2012 Press Cards for some of the Tuvalu media journalists

- French perfumes... that may come handy if the black weeds return.

### We are also taking with us:

- The Home Affairs HD camera that was fixed, last year in Los Angeles, thanks to Chris who spent much of his time finding the place that could do the repair and following up.

- Spare parts that Gilles had purchased last year to complement the TMTI biodiesel unit which was implemented thanks to the US Embassy in Suva in 2009. We are also hopeful to be able to carry the new gasifier kit that has been waiting in Los Angeles at Chris' place since a very long while.

- Last but not least, we are bringing a small donation made by 2 primary schools from the South of France (254 children) for 2 Tuvalu primary schools.

**Arriving by sea** : as said above, more equipment for the Nanumea biogas project has been purchased and is presently waiting in Suva to be shipped. We were very pleased to see this moving forward after such a long period of « stand by » mode due to GEF 18 months disbursement delay ! Thanks to Teu, Lopati, Eti, John, Sikeli, Sarah, Chris and Gilliane joined efforts, Sikeli is finally booked on January 12th to look at issues encountered since he and Sarah left October 2010.

**Other planned activities** include setting up the basis for the restitution Marine Life study. The 200+ page report's reviewing is not far from being finalized. Thanks to Sandrine, Dani and Alofa Tuvalu treasurer and Marine PhD : Severine.

**Now for those interested, below is some of what happened since June 2011 :**

### Alofa Tuvalu projects

apart from the mentioned biodiversity and biogas projects :

- the Alofa Tuvalu (temporary title) film has found a friendly production company to co-produce.

The presentation is still in the writing process. Gilliane feels the draft won't be ready to present to broadcasters till discussed with you. Chris has been actively helping and studying the purchase of a new camera to replace the old one Gilliane watered down last year.



- Reports to ADEME and to French Embassy who allowed to advocate Tuvalu's case worldwide, including with internet comic book translations.
- New projects proposals include: booklets (english/french) on biomass valorization for children and improving the website to better fit people's need for reproduction of the Small is Beautiful activities. ADEME agreed to help on this. We have not yet found a co-funder for the children marine biodiversity booklet or for the marine study restitution and diving training.
- Electric bikes and solar chargers : not much happened on this one since one of our potential funders had to close its call for projects before we had finished discussing with some of you. We found though a supplier for a « suntree », a solar charging terminal.
- Kaio made us very proud by writing the basis for a liflet about Daily environmental habits on a ship. We will discuss more in depth with him when we meet.
- Sarah wrote a couple of scientific articles about international aid based on Tuvalu's case for the Nottingham Trent University and scientific publications.

### *Assistance to other people projects:*

- Students requests are numerous and coming from various fields : architecture and urbanism, sociology, anthropology, geography or climate change awareness etc...
- We were also very pleased to be able to provide Soma with studies on biomass for his courses in Japan
- Comic books were sent, as always, to many schools and organizations such as :
  - the NGO « Au fil des miles », « frenchies » sailing around the world. We also helped them with contacts in Tahiti and Fiji.
  - Belgium National Climate and Development Committee : Comic books in Flemish and French

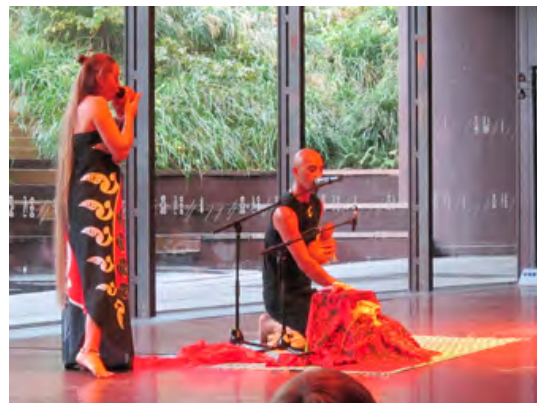
- Along with comic books, pictures, informations and assistance were given to the Hunamar school project who, after collecting and selling plastic bottles, was able to gather 500 Aus\$ for a donation to the Tuvalu primary schools.
- On the reproduction of biomass projects field, as each year, we exchanged on biogas with a few people. Among the most interesting encounters : the Lazare Ponticelli professional school who decided to create a course on the technology. And our new friends from Easter Islands. (See below)

### On the event side, just to mention a few:



First a short story: In September, Leonie Smiley's (CanadaAid) friends, from Te Papa museum, came over to set up the Maori exhibition at the Paris "Premier Arts" Museum, dedicated to cultures outside the western world. They came for a drink at the office and we were sorry not to attend the opening (we were in Brussels for a conference). We promised to go and see... when we

return from Tuvalu... However... the world is very small. A couple of Easter Island people contacted us to reproduce biogas... To our amazement, they happened to be the guides of this exhibition with Polynesian tales and legends for children. It was such a coincidence that we went as soon as we could with Gilliane's grand son...



Very interesting show and Varua and Celine are very nice. We had contacted the Museum before its opening 5 years ago. They were not at the time interested in Tuvalu. Today, thanks to this coincidental meeting, there's an opening. We were asked to think about an event for a kid awareness tour in France that the Museum would like to put together in 2012. We met again with Varua and Celine to speak about biogas for their island. Their NGO is called "the man with the naked feet head".

Amongst other friendly visits of people some of you know : Michel Monnier and his nice wife, previously French ambassador in Fiji and Sarah who came over on her way to a dog show. Amongst surprises, a student who had made the trip in Funafuti last January and who would like to become a trainee in 2012 with Alofa Tuvalu. No visit but email exchanges with Alain Nicolas, previously Cultural Counselor for the Embassy in Fiji, who created a NGO about water issues in the South of France.

## Now for a quick flashback:

Nov. 4&5, 2011 : "Tuvalu Earth Hour 2009" video edited by Gilliane for Alofa and TuCan was selected for a short film festival. Some of you voted for it, fakafetai ☺ We did not win, but most important is to participate.

Oct. 27, 2011 : Chris Horner is invited to debate after "Trouble in Paradise" screening by the "wesaidgotravel.com" organisation, a network of sciences teachers in Los Angeles (California). They liked it to the point that they promised to write a letter to President Obama and his goodwife Michele !!

Oct. 19, 2011 : Fanny participates at a roundtable on Biodiversity and people of the world, by the Plant and Earth association.



Oct. 4, 2011 : "Climate Migrants" seminar in Brussels. 3 countries were represented at this conference : Peru, Mali and... Tuvalu. Gilliane held a half hour conference and showed some video. Many comic books were distributed in 4 languages (French,



Flemish, Spanish, English). However, we left frustrated not to have been able to say talofa to Tuvalu Ambassador, Tine and his good wife Lilian. They were in Tuvalu at the time for Te Kakeega reviewing.

Sept. 10, 2011 : Paris Association Forum

August 2011 : With Brazil Contemporary Viagens : meeting about sustainable tourism in Tuvalu and providing of comic books in Portuguese.

## We were also present at most meetings organized by networks we belong to :

**Climate Action Network France (RAC)** : 3 Boards meetings, 2 strategic consultations and support to the RAC communication for Durban/COP17

**Climate & Development PlatForm:** several meetings and contribution to their adaptation study

**International Solidarity Group and Education League** : "No School No future" campaign, International solidarity week meetings

**Worldwide Ocean Network** : International Ocean Day organisation

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## On the media side:

- We got a request from the most popular youth magazine Mon Quotidien, which had published Fatiau's interview a few years ago. They want to do another article about Tuvalu, with 2 tuvaluan kids. Following Lilian's suggestion, Faioa kindly answered the journalist. We suggested to them to use extracts of Voices of Children recorded during the 2010 King Tides Festival, as well.
- Lasse and Christian, the Danish young filmmakers who stayed at the Alofa Tuvalu House last august did a cute & poetic 12min edit for the danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They are still working on a longer film about climate. We'll try to show the copy we received to those who don't have a reliable internet.
- Ellen Brans (Newsuur, Dutch tv national news) to who Gilliane had given a hand too, sent us copies of her reportage to be distributed to the soccer team who would not have gotten it from the captain yet ;-).
- One earth production from the US, whom we assisted when in Tuvalu last year. contacted us again for specific footage for their movie "7<sup>th</sup> Generation" to be released at the Sundance Festival in January and the Cannes film Festival in May 2012. We'll bring a copy next year.
- John's water reports on our blog caught the French daily newspaper Figaro's attention. They released an article about the drought in October.
- The major Educational book publisher, Hachette has been using extracts of "Trouble in Paradise" and "Our planet under water" comic book for now 2 years in his multimedia interactive school books for grades 7 and 10. This year they added grade 8.
- Another publisher, Glenat, selected pictures for a book published in French in 2010 and in German late 2011.
- Our biological seeds supplier Kokopelli released an article about seeds distributions in Tuvalu.
- Unfortunately France O tv channel that Fong had kindly agreed to assist, changed their mind and favoured to shoot in French Polynesia.

**Amongst contacts (other than the ones mentioned higher) who travelled to Tuvalu**, you may have seen our friend Jocelyn and Scott (Displacement solutions) when they came over last September. More recently, Leon Vogel, from Switzerland landed to Funafuti. From our web exchanges he seemed very kind



and trustworthy. John who met him confirmed this first impression. We will be pleased to meet him as he'll still be on location when we land.... in a few days.

Last but not least, Jean, one of Alofa Tuvalu's biggest fans, working at the market next door, was appointed: *chevalier in France's National Order Of Merit* of those who care for the planet and... Tuvalu. ☺