

International Help Fund Australia

... for a sustainable Pacific



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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WHO WE ARE

International Help Fund Australia is a non-sectarian, independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation. We focus on assistance to Pacific Island Countries and Territories in the areas of environment, health, education, water sanitation and supply, economic sustainability, and cultural preservation. We do not discriminate against religious, political, social, cultural, age or gender background.

Our Vision

‘Economic, social and cultural prosperity founded on the ecological integrity of the Pacific Region now and into the future’

Mission Statement

“International Help Fund Australia’s mission is to develop and implement practical environmental management initiatives, economic, cultural, health and education programs and projects that promote ecologically sustainable development and self reliance for Pacific Island communities.

Activities of International Help Fund Australia are undertaken in collaboration with local, regional and national governments, civil society organisations, businesses, universities and non-government organisations in the context of protecting and enhancing Pacific Island ecosystems, cultures and economic wellbeing.”

We Value: Ecologically based sustainable development, cooperation between government, business, international and regional bodies and the community, practical responsiveness, cultural integrity, empowerment of the individual and community access to quality education and health services.

What is Ecologically Sustainable Development? Among the many appropriate definitions of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), we accept the definition of ecologically sustainable development as meaning, ‘to use, conserve and enhance resources in a manner that ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, as well as enhancing social equity, so as to continuously improve present and future quality of life’ (after Brundtland 1987, Australian Commonwealth Government 1990, Mark Diesendorf 1999).

Why We Work in the Pacific

Australia is a significant member of the Pacific community with a long and special relationship with Pacific Islanders. According to the World Giving Index, Australians are among the most generous and caring people in the world. We are in a position to extend our knowledge, experience and technology to support the developmental aspirations of our neighbours and help protect the beautiful, fragile and threatened environments in which they live. By supporting a sustainable ecological and economic foundation, we can help ensure long term security in the Pacific Region for future generations.

WHERE WE WORK

International Help Fund Australia (IHFA) currently makes its programs available to the following independent island states which are classified as developing by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Niue, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kingdom of Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tokelau, Fiji, as well as East Timor. Additionally, IHFA works in the following territories which do not benefit from Australia development aid as such but which have experience and resources to assist other island states or which can benefit from Australian environmental technology: French Polynesia, Easter Island, Wallis and Fatuna, Northern Marianna Islands, American Samoa, and New Caledonia.



Figure 1. Current areas of operations.

How We Implement Our Programs

We implement our programs and projects by working directly through the island Government, Council, or community organisation with which we have signed an agreement after extensive community consultation. Our projects and programs generally involve multiple partners including universities, and international, regional and Australian businesses and donors. Importantly, however, it is the islanders themselves who do the majority of the actual implementation

MESSAGE FROM CEO AND THE BOARD

Looking back on our previous annual reports and messages from our CEO, building a solid foundation for International Help Fund Australia while implementing projects and programs has characterised our contemporary years. When we first founded International Help Fund Australia, it was with passion and a 'can do' drive to implement projects we could see were doable and sustainable. We decided that implementing programs and projects before embarking on fundraising campaigns to protect the Pacific environment and its people was going to be our method of work. We targeted only those organisations that could assist us in realising specific projects that were desired by Pacific Island communities.

As a small and growing environmental development aid agency we have been operating for 7 years now on shoe string cash budget but with sizable assistance from business, government departments and passionate individuals who are inspired by the work we do.

Nonetheless we face challenges both as an organisation seeking to have a remunerated core staff under a long dark cloud of global financial instability, changes in policy of various governance bodies, changes in the direction of Australian government developmental priorities, and challenges in fundraising for issues such as ecologically sustainable development. But it is passion and drive that keeps us going. The generosity and enthusiasm from companies and individuals who support smaller organisations like ours keeps us very much focused on our reason for being.

Pacific Islanders cherish their homeland, as much as we Australians love our country, and we at International Help Fund Australia cannot countenance the idea that some Pacific Islander communities will actually have to leave their Islands forever if current trends of climate change continue and sea levels rise permanently above low lying atolls, inundating them forever. This is an example why International Help Fund Australia is guided by the principles of ecologically sustainable development, which is a challenging concept for most to interpret, much less implement under the dictates of global economic trends and other social and cultural beliefs and behaviour. In this era of the global financial crisis, we have elected to spend a large

chunk of our time this year working on our foundations, on simplifying and managing compliance and sustainability and involving ourselves in international development policy. On the program front we were very excited to see that home composting is now an official policy in Tahiti and we assisted the Societe Environnement Polynesien procure a sample tumbleweed composting bin for trial.

We also had continued success on the compliance front. International Help Fund Australia is committed to transparency and good governance, and in 2009 we were again certified by the Australian Council for International Development as having met the financial and annual reporting requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct. As always we will endeavour to maintain this high standard. This year the ACFID Code Management Team introduced a new online Compliance Self Assessment tool for Signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Compliance Self Assessment Checklist will allow Signatories to access and monitor compliance with all aspects of the Code, although annual and financial reporting will remain to be assessed on an annual basis by the ACFID Code of Conduct Compliance Working Group (CWG).

The Compliance Self Assessment Checklist was made available on a voluntary basis from 1 July 2009. We have elected to commence self assessment in the 2010-2011 financial year when self assessment becomes mandatory. As we look to the financial year 2010-2-11, we will continue to cement our foundations, policies and procedures and revisit our strategic plan that will see us build on 7 years of cooperation with all our partners and stakeholders. Our Board's continued thanks goes to our many donors, supporters, volunteers and volunteers staff who repeatedly stand by us.

Petra Campbell, Founder and CEO and the Board of International Help Fund Australia

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

SCRAP

International Help Fund Australia has provided consultancy services to most Pacific Islands on scrap metal processing and recycling.

The accumulation of scrap metal throughout the Pacific Islands is a major environmental problem. This program is designed to assist islands to sustainably collect, sort, process and remove scrap metal and plastic for recycling abroad.

Countries Involved in Scrap

Niue: 375 tonnes of scrap metal was processed on island and sent to Auckland for recycling.

Tahiti: Tahiti successfully trialled the exportation to Auckland of the first consignment of its 2,500 annual tonnes of baled cars and continues with its program.



Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshal Islands: SCRAP provided training and institutional capacity assessment and building in the removal of scrap metal.

Easter Island: SCRAP has provided training, capacity building, equipment and organisational services for the removal of scrap metal.

Tuvalu and Kiribati: International Help Fund Australia and Sims Pacific Metal continued assistance in the delivery of scrap metal despite the global downturn in metal prices.

International Help Fund Australia co-produced a “How to Process Scrap Metal on Your Island” instructional DVD as well as the film “Niue Scrap Metal Pilot” which were distributed to Waste Management Departments of the Pacific by the Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment Program.

International Help Fund Australia completed and distributed Pacific wide an instructional video titled “How to Process Plastic on Your Island” in partnership with the French Development Agency, the Société Environnement Polynésienne and Air Tahiti Nui.

SHOPPING BAG PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Plastic bags are a significant marine, terrestrial and waste management issue in the Pacific and Islanders feel a special need to protect the marine resources they so depend on. This program seeks to assist Islands to reduce their plastic shopping bag use with alternatives such as calico, paper, traditional bags as well as strong reusable recyclable plastic bags. The program is supported by educational, logistical and legislative services. International Help Fund Australia has provided consultancy services to most islands on reducing reliance of plastic bags for shopping.



International Help Fund Australia and its partners assisted Tuvalu in minimising the use plastic bags via funding, campaign design, public information brochures, 7,800 replacement calico bags, replacement paper bags and wrapping, assistance with sourcing replacements for continuity, negotiating free freight for replacement bags, physical support during the campaign, production of a video for public information and for promotion throughout the Pacific, and draft tax legislation to manage plastic bag imports.

WASTE MANAGEMENT DESIGN OVERVIEW

Waste management in general is a significant concern in the Islands. Few Pacific Islands have effective waste management systems and most islands have little space to dispose of wastes. International Help Fund Australia encourages regional cooperation to share experience and technical expertise which has the added benefit of keeping costs down.

Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

International Help Fund Australia has had a long association with Easter Island (and Tahiti) which began when we partnered with the Tahitian Waste Management Department, the Société Environnement Polynésienne (SEP), to design a waste management program for its neighbour, Easter Island. We provided containers for the storage and recycling of used recreational batteries, used motor oil, and car batteries.

International Help Fund Australia co-produced two television commercials in both Rapanui and Spanish for Easter Island TV as part of the public information



campaign. Also produced were posters and brochures in both Rapanui and Spanish. The Société Environnement Polynésienne (SEP), trained the Easter Island Waste Management Department in solid waste management and recycling. Significant Progress has been made since.

In March 2009, the Head of the Interministerial Coordination Department at the Office of the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr Ricardo Brodsky, contacted International Help Fund Australia requesting a report detailing recommendations for waste management in Easter Island. Ricardo Brodsky advised that the government of Chile had made funds available to address the issue of Orito landfill and other significant environmental threats. International Help Fund Australia's CEO, Petra Campbell, authored "*Options for Solid Waste Management in Easter Island*" for the Government of Chile.

The report covered:

- General Action Required
- Previous work of IHFA on Strategic Solid Waste Management in Easter Island
- Removing Non-Hazardous Recyclable Waste from Orito Landfill

- Management of Plastic, Paper, Aluminium, Glass, Plastic Shopping Bags, Scrap Metal, Solid Hazardous Waste, E-Waste, Used Motor Oil, Lead Acid Batteries and Other Batteries
- Exportation to Chile
- Hazardous Non-Recyclable Waste
- Expired Pharmaceuticals, Laboratory Chemicals, and Disused Pesticides
- Organic Waste
- Home Composting
- Non-Recyclable Wastes
- Landfill versus Incinerator
- Waste Water Treatment for Hanga Roa and Remote Locations
- Compostable Baby Nappies
- The Transportation of Equipment to Easter Island

International Help Fund Australia was subsequently invited by the government of Chile and the Municipality of Easter Island to Easter Island to plan strategies moving forward. Following this meeting visit in Easter Island, Mr Brodsky announced numerous projects by the government of Chile, such as remediating Orito Landfill, closing the open burning rubbish tip at Hanga Hemu, building a water waste treatment facility also at Hanga Hemu, launching a green waste composting program, and authorising and initiating the exportation of hazardous and recyclable wastes back to Chile.

Pacific Islands are limited for space to dispose of wastes, therefore processing and exportation of recyclables is a priority. International Help Fund Australia assists Islands with processing recyclables on Island and finding markets for them abroad. This includes sourcing appropriate technology and equipment.



WATER SANITATION

Ninety five percent of the toilets in Easter Island are pit latrines. More than 50.000 tourists a year visit the Island of 3,900 permanent residents, yet the Island currently has little water sanitation and its drinking water sources are in imminent danger of contamination. International Help Fund Australia provided the UNESCO listed World Heritage National Parks with Australian designed Rotaloo composting toilets and is also trialling the domestic model.

COMPOSTABLE BABY NAPPIES

Disposable baby nappies are a scourge on the Islands, a threat to drinking water, and can often be found on beaches, in the lagoons and in the environment in general. International Help Fund Australia has successfully trialed Australian designed Eenees compostable baby nappies in Tuvalu, Palau, Kiribati and Easter Island. In the US, Eenees have been accredited with the Environmental 'Cradle to Cradle' accreditation for biological nutrients.

CLIMATE CHANGE: PACIFIC COMPOSTING PROGRAM

International Help Fund Australia's main focus is on diverting organic waste from landfill via composting programs of various kinds. When organic matter decomposes in landfill it produces methane. Methane is 26 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. When organic matter decomposes in a compost bin it produces carbon dioxide and water. International Help Fund Australia runs the following activities.

Home Composting – The "Sponsor a Composting Bin" program promotes the use of the Australian Tumbleweed. The Tumbleweed is rat and dog proof – both of which plague the islands and make home composting unpalatable to many. It is also fly proof and does not emit odours while the lid is on.

Business Composting – Using the in vessel, Australian designed Biobin, resorts, hotels, markets and other business can manage their organic waste on site.



Tahiti Makes Home Composting National Policy

This year the Tahitian government made home composting an official policy. We worked with the Tahitian waste management department to send Rotaloo composting bins to Tahiti for trial.



CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

International Help Fund Australia and UNSW is jointly producing a study on the effects of Climate Change on Easter Island under three temperature change scenarios. The results will be reported in next year's annual report.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Supporting capacity building on Island is key to economic good health. International Help Fund Australia aims to support the development of environmental auditors around the Pacific Islands.

For the pilot, International Help Fund Australia was awarded an AusAID Australian Leadership Award Fellowship grant, and the University of New South Wales School of Safety Sciences agreed to provide the course pro bono. International Help Fund Australia issued an expression of interest and received numerous applications from waste management departments Pacific wide. International Help Fund Australia selected Kiribati candidate Noketi Karoua, a Pollution Control Officer working for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development in Kiribati to attend the course at the UNSW in Sydney.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The key to stability in the Islands is good governance and sustainable economic development. International Help Fund Australia's programs and projects center on, but are not limited to, assisting Islands to promote tourism through the arts which has the added benefit of promoting and maintaining regional artistic and cultural development.



HEALTH

International Help Fund Australia's developing health care program centres on non communicable disease prevention, notably diabetes prevention, access to basic health care through the Child Sponsorship Program, and women's reproductive health.

ADVOCACY

Ausaid Civil Society Engagement Framework

IHFA became involved in development policy for the first time this year. We have decided to present our submissions (or summaries of them) in our annual reports as well as making them available on our web site. This year we reviewed an AusAID policy draft on how AusAID can better engage civil society. AusAID considered three main drivers for an evaluation of how effectively AusAID is engaging with civil society:

1. Varied understanding across the aid program of the role of civil society in development and the role of a bilateral donor in supporting civil society.
2. Relatively little focus internationally on how aid effectiveness principles apply to the work of bilateral donors with civil society.
3. As the Australian government has flagged increasing support to non-government organisations (NGOs) and a more people-centred approach to the aid program, an evaluation will help inform a strategy for engaging with civil society organisations.

This call for submissions was important to the NGO sector given the Australian government's interest in increasing support to not for profit development aid agencies.

Our Comments were as followed:

Purpose

The purpose of the document is both clear and admirable.

Introduction

This section is generally quite good. Specific mention of sustainable livelihoods, equity, dialogue, accountability, responsiveness and complementarity is praiseworthy.

The phrase "*effective development*" that is mentioned absolutely needs further clarification. It might also be useful to expand somewhat on Millennium Development Goals so as to clarify potential misgivings.

The introduction acknowledges that "*international, partner country and Australian civil society organisations complement and reinforce the work of bilateral and multilateral development actors*", but this interaction should be two-way, wherein bilateral and multilateral development actors also complement and augment the work of the former.



Responses to questions:

1. *What changes do you hope to see as a result of the development of AusAID's Civil Society Engagement Framework?*

- More coherence & interaction between NGOs & AusAID
- More certainty of action, potentially more investment & activity in this sector

1 a. *How will we know if the Framework is successful?*

- Indicators – eg an increase in interaction between AusAID & NGOs
- Greater public awareness / dialogue (eg as seen in mass media)

2. *How does this definition (of civil society) reflect your understanding of civil society?*

This seems a reasonable definition, but society is more than just the sum of its parts – there are intangibles. We feel there needs to be some mention of culture or values. Also what does society do? It is a kind of framework of interacting opportunities we must work within in all our endeavours to realize our potential, so it plays an overarching role that needs recognition.

3. *Do these 3 areas (policy dialogue, program delivery, building community support) broadly capture the interactions between the aid program & civil society?*

3.a Program delivery:

Clearer definition or explication of more factors of *successful* program delivery would be valuable – after all, poor delivery is a waste of resources and opportunity and should not count. This also harkens to the mention of “*effective development*” in the 1st paragraph of the introduction, which really needs to be expanded upon for the benefit of all parties and better outcomes.

For example, factors such as PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal), community identification of projects, community “ownership” throughout projects – a crucial feature of project sustainability, capacity building – fostered through developing new skill sets / knowledge but noting that this occurs on many levels such as personal confidence and motivation,

“*Supporting government systems to work better for the poor*” – “poor” should be replaced with “marginalized groups and individuals” or just “marginalized” (as alluded to in the 5th bullet point of the intro).

Crucially, sustainability needs to be an explicit factor of all development work – this concept should be elaborated upon to clearly identify its pillars of social equity (inter- and intra-generational) and ecological sustainability (not jeopardizing or diminishing ecological systems' functionality or ability to meet future needs) and that a holistic approach needs to be taken – multifaceted issues require holistic solutions, or the problem merely changes character and persists, ultimately costing more in all terms.

A more sophisticated, *working* knowledge base is requisite. AusAID could facilitate this through enacting a more interactive and dynamic forum or arena for positive policy, program, theory & best practices discussion – for talks involving and not involving AusAID, and disseminating key points to the development aid community at large. This is the information age and the means are readily available, with considerable benefits for little effort. There is no need for every aid organisation to reinvent the wheel or experience hardship where a relevant pathway to success may be already known by other actors.

4. What are the most effective ways for AusAID to work with civil society in support of the Governments development objectives and those of our partner country governments?

Does this refer to AusAID's work with Australian or partner country civil society? In either regard, support is best furnished across all aspects:

- financial – not just grants but training in stretching the dollar further
- technical training / support / increasing knowledge base and capacity-building of organisations to undertake projects (the forum concept would prove invaluable in this). Possibly AusAID could financially support the training of independent organisations by other independent organizations,
- political support – backing of independent organisations in policy formulation (only in Australia)

4a. What are the key comparative advantages of civil society that the government should draw on in delivering development assistance?

- Less constraints, faster decision-making processes, lack of bureaucracy or political intrigue.
- Passion – many organisations are not-for-profit.

6. Are these suitable principles (respect, inclusiveness, diversity, effectiveness, efficiency & accountability, sustainability, sensitivity, integrity, partnerships) for AusAID's civil society framework? Are there others?

- Some definitions are inadequate, especially sustainability – which avoids any reference whatsoever to ecologically sustainable development principles (as discussed above).
- Integrity – proselytising is not promoted but should be banned from AusAID support, for being not only disrespectful but ultimately divisive regardless of the good intentions behind it.

7. Are AusAID's current monitoring frameworks capturing the right information with regards to the effectiveness of civil society programs?

7a. How could AusAID and civil society organizations work together to improve their monitoring and evaluation systems?

Pooling of experience of best practice M & E, as per the forum manner suggested under

Q3.

Overall

A good initial draft, with a lot of strong points, but still lacking in some key ways. There needs to be explicit mention, and indeed centering, of the **environmental / ecological aspect** in dealing with civil society. Civil society does not live in separation (despite the destructive prevailing mentality to the contrary) from the environment. It is in one sense, a factor of the environment, and its physical constraints are environmental ones. As mentioned above, solutions are either holistic, or they are in fact not solutions. This necessitates awareness and consideration of environmental aspects as real limiting (and empowering) factors.

Very much a part of this is a proper understanding and constant benchmark of **sustainability**. The knowledge base requisite to effectively work with these large and often ill-defined concepts includes working knowledge of **systems** (particularly CAS – complex adaptive systems) and **resilience** theories, which introduce the concepts of regimes and tipping points and a groundwork of what constitutes **vulnerability**.

Further to these, such concepts are not features of a separate environment. They are also features of society, and a more holistic and sophisticated understanding of the systems we inhabit is found in the literature of **social-ecological systems** (SES). In SES wherever people live or are active we have two intermingled systems, with mirroring in social systems of the complex linkages present in ecosystems found to effect the most adaptive and resilient, and hence sustainable, outcomes in terms of managing natural and social resources.

Central to effectively undertaking and sustaining all these programs is governance. **Adaptive governance** in particular is an area of enormous potential benefit, with insights linking best practices within narrow confines with the above broader understandings for newer, better ways of dealing with both the increasing sudden shocks of a complex

global civilization and the persistent pressures resultant of our ignorance and unwise practices. Cutting-edge work linking these aspects is notably found in work of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, which has gathered an extraordinary pool of global talent on this far-reaching topic.

Bundling all these profound insights into a deep, ***holistic understanding*** should be a priority of the highest order, as it relates to capacity building and efficacy on the donor side, thus raising the potential of how much empowerment in target communities can occur, as the level of assistance is limited by the level of the giver's own abilities.



UNIVERSITY COOPERATION

International Help Fund Australia maintains strong ties with universities in Australia. We believe they are a valuable source of academic research, good will and professionalism. Working with Australian universities has made much of our work possible. We have collaborated with the following Universities in implementing projects and programs:

University of New South Wales (The School of Safety Science): provided complimentary Environmental Auditing courses and tailored support for Pacific Island candidates for our Pacific Island Environmental Auditor training program.

University of New South Wales: co-authored and funded the field visit to Easter Island to effect a study on projected effects of Climate Change on Easter Island.

University of New South Wales (The Australian Graduate School of Management): awarded International Help Fund Australia's Founder and CEO, Petra Campbell, the annual not for profit Senior Manager Development Course scholarship.

University of New South Wales (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences): International Help Fund Australia's Founder and CEO, Petra Campbell, was appointed Visiting Research Associate at the Department of Pacific Studies for 3 years.

University of Technology (Shopfront Community Program): provided International Help Fund Australia with Master Degree Students, many of whom were already professionals in the business community, to develop five business reports for IHFA, and two rebranding and design projects.

The University of Western Australia provided assistance to International Help Fund Australia in the drafting of some of its policies.

Tongji University. International Help Fund Australia also works with universities outside Australia:

International Help Fund Australia's Founder and CEO, Petra Campbell, was one of 26 people from 17 Asia Pacific countries identified by the United Nations Environment Program as leaders in Education for Sustainable Development. The delegates attended The United Nations Environment Program – Tongji University Asia Pacific Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development, held in Shanghai and Wuxi, China in November 2006

In the 2009 – 2010 year we worked in partnership with the UTS on a project titled “*To assist International Help Fund Australia (IHFA) in assessing the viability and sustainability of using a social media strategy to increase the potential donor base of the organisation*”.



Figure 2: Social media starfish. Source: Brian Solis.

The project combined background research on social media, descriptions of styles of e-tools and strategies commonly explored to engage people in their use. Underpinning the background work the project also allowed a review of how social media could be engaged and what would need to be done to achieve this. The consulting team found evidence supporting the ability to increase the level of donations and interaction through social media between existing members. International Help Fund Australia was looking at how we can begin to use social media for several purposes and decided that we would introduce social media in the 2011-2012 financial year.

Looking to the year 2010-2011, we sought support from the UNSW's Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Networks for Settlements and Infrastructure, to jointly produce a report on climate change impacts for Easter Island'.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

International Help Fund Australia recognises that the business community plays an integral role in the ecologically sustainable development process. At International Help Fund Australia we work with corporations, as well as governments, foundations, universities and individuals, to help protect our Pacific region and those in need who live in the most vulnerable areas of our neighbourhood. International Help Fund Australia works with our Corporate Partners to tailor our relationship so that it is mutually beneficial while achieving the tangible results for which the support was sought. We wish to thank the following organizations for their valuable support over the years.

INTERNATIONAL

United Nations: Renewing our commitment to the Principles of Environment for Sustainable Development and the Wuxi Commitment

In honour of the Wuxi Commitment made by delegates to the Third United Nations Environment Program – Tongji University Asia- Pacific Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development, Shanghai and Wuxi, China in November 2006, IHFA renews its commitment to the principles of environment for sustainable development. IHFA's CEO is a signatory to the commitment made in 2006. The leadership program was developed as a means to provide training for emerging leaders from various backgrounds in the Asia-Pacific Region. International Help Fund Australia, International Fund for Animal Welfare and United Nations Environment Programme jointly drew up a statement at the end of the 2006 program titled the 'Wuxi Commitment'. As participants we called 'on on all governments, businesses and communities to adopt an integrated approach to future development in order to put into practice the principles of sustainable development'. The participants also committed to 'strive to translate the ideals of sustainable development from principles to practice in their respective work environments'.



International Help Fund Australia

... for a sustainable Pacific

their



STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

International Help Fund Australia seeks to ensure its executive staff and volunteers are as up to date as possible on compliance, training, policy and development and funding issues. Where possible we attend training and information courses given by the ACFID where there may be gaps in board director knowledge. At this point all staff capacity building is conducted at their personal expenses, unless courses are offered free of charge.

In the 2009-2010 International Help Fund Australia's CEO, Petra Campbell completed a Graduate Diploma in Quality Auditing. She is also currently completing a second Master degree in Science and Technology (environmental) and a Certificate IV in Carbon Management.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

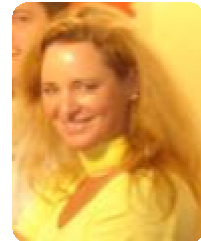
The Board of International Help Fund Australia is responsible for our overall corporate governance. The Board, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer each have terms of reference that define their responsibilities. The composition of the Board seeks to provide a relevant range of experience, skills, knowledge and perspective to enable it to carry out its obligations and responsibilities. In reviewing the Board's composition and in assessing nominations for appointment as non-executive directors, the Board uses external professional advice as well as its own resources to identify candidates for appointments as directors. The Chief Executive Officer has the responsibility for managing, directing and promoting the successful implementation of International Help Fund Australia's programs and is accountable to the board. The matters reserved to the Board for approval and the authority delegated to management are clearly defined in International Help Fund Australia's policy on exercise and delegation of authorities. The performance of the Board, its committees, individual directors and key executives is regularly evaluated according to our performance evaluation protocol. The Board's responsibilities include appointing the Chief Executive Officer; succession planning, approving major strategic plans; monitoring the integrity and consistency of management's control of risk; agreeing business plans and budgets; approving major program expenditure; approving funding plans and capital raisings; agreeing corporate goals and reviewing performance against approved plans.

International Help Fund Australia maintains a majority of non-executive directors on its Board, although their professional skills are frequently called upon. The role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are not separated due to the small size of the board. The Board currently comprises 5 directors. The Board meets at least 4 times a year, holds extraordinary meetings and communicates regularly by email for approvals, comments, updates and other general matters relating to our activities. Neither the board nor its executors are remunerated. The Board has in place a range of formal processes to evaluate the performance of the Board, Board Committees and executives. At the conclusion of the year, the Board carries out a review of its performance. The non-executive directors are responsible for regularly evaluating the performance of the Chief Executive Officer. The evaluation is based on specific criteria, including International Help Fund Australia's performance and short and long-term strategic objectives. International Help Fund Australia's directors and management are committed to conducting business ethically and in accordance with the highest standards of corporate governance. We believe that good corporate governance practices protect and enhance donor and member confidence. We believe that International Help Fund Australia's policies and practices comply with the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) Corporate Governance Council Principles and Recommendations, the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct and the Department of Gaming and Racing Best Practice Guidelines. We will continue to review and, where necessary, improve our governance practices to meet the expectations of regulatory authorities and industry best practice. International Help Fund Australia's accounts have been externally audited pro bono the past four years by Walter Turnbull, and as International Help Fund Australia evolved our accounts have been certified by the Australian Council for International Development for meeting financial and annual reporting requirements.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board

Petra Campbell. M.EM, Dip. Quality Auditing,



Petra is a journalist / producer / director / photographer by profession, a certified environmental auditor and environmental consultant. She has a Master in Environmental Management, and is currently completing a Master in Science and Technology and a Certificate 4 in Carbon Management. In 1991, as part of a program she was researching for 60 Minutes on the consequences of Russian nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, she came into contact with a German aid organisation. As a result of this meeting, Petra worked in the field as the charity's Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator for 13 years which gave her a solid experience and knowledge of conditions in Africa, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Asia. Her work as both current affairs producer/journalist, and aid worker led Petra to many of the world's disaster areas such as Ukraine after Chernobyl and Rwanda after the genocide. In 1998 Petra returned to Sydney, Australia and developed the Pacific Region Program for the same German charity. While this began as a Child Sponsorship Program it quickly became apparent to Petra that the Pacific Region was in need of specific developmental assistance. Petra then founded International Help Fund Australia to harvest the wealth of expertise, experience and generosity that fellow Australians can bring to their Pacific neighbours. In 2007 she was recognised by the United Nations Environment Program as an Asian Pacific leader in Education for Sustainable Development. Petra was a Visiting Research Associate at the Pacific Studies Department, School of Social Science and International Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, at The University of New South Wales. She is a member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, the Carbon Management Institute of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, is an environmental auditor with RABQSA, and the Australian Association of Building Sustainability Assessors.

Grant McCall BA Cal. Berkeley, BLitt Oxon., PhD ANU

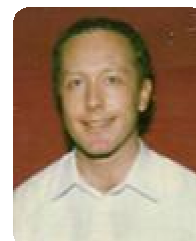


Grant McCall Grant is an anthropologist who researches and teaches about the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands. He has lectured at and been employed by universities in the USA, Europe, South America and Australia/New Zealand. For 22 years Grant was Director of the Centre for South Pacific Studies at the University of New South Wales as well an Associate Professor there. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, a Master of Arts in Social Anthropology and a PHD in Anthropology. Grant's role in the Centre for South Pacific Studies has brought him to research and teach in the field of development studies and Australia's role in the Asia-Pacific region. In 1996 he embarked on 'Teaching the Pacific Forum', a four year project of workshops and professional development for high school teachers of history and social science in the Pacific Islands. He is author of numerous books and articles about the Pacific Islands, migration and ethnicity. Professor Grant McCall is

currently associated with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney, where he teaches and writes about the peoples and cultures of the Pacific Islands.

Brett Hurley. LLB, BCom, MB, BS, BSc

Brett Hurley is both a lawyer and a doctor. He has a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Medical Science and a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery. He has vast experience in both professions and is currently working in several large hospitals in Australia. Brett helps International Help Fund Australia to develop sound and relevant health programs and provides legal advice by monitoring our compliance and risk exposure.



Dennis Mok BAppSc, BAppSc, M.BA, M.BA, MAICD, MAIMS, MNZIMLS, CAHRI, FAIM, FNZIM

Dennis is a Royal Australian Army Medical Corps Staff Officer of the Headquarters 2nd Division at Randwick Barracks in New South Wales. Dennis has extensive experience working in the field of health with the Australian Army. He has held the position of Officer in Charge of the Laboratory Platoon at the 1st Health Support Battalion at Holsworthy Barracks. He has served in East Timor at the United Nations Military Hospital, in the Solomon Islands at 1st Health Support Company, and in Indonesia at ANZAC Hospital.



Dennis has worked as Consultant Medical Scientist in the private sector during and between his military postings. His work has been recognised by the Australian honours system being awarded with: Australian Active Service Medal – for recognition of his active service in Dili, East Timor; Australian Service Medal – for recognition of his service in Honiara, Solomon Islands; and Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal – for recognition of his humanitarian service in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. He is a Member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of the Journal of Medical Laboratory and Diagnosis and Virtual Infection Centre; Member of the Review Industry Advisory Committee for the course of Master of Business Administration at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS); Convener of the Laboratory Leadership and Management Special Interest Group of the Australian Society for Microbiology; and Member of the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists Advisory Council. Recently, he has been elected to the position of Chair of the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists New South Wales Branch. Dennis has completed three Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accredited management courses at the UTS in 2011; and is currently working towards a Fellowship of the New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science.

Cass Campbell, Cass Campbell, Director

Cass is a retired school teacher who brings of experience to IHFA's education program.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

In 2007 the board of International Help Fund Australia (IHFA) adopted an environmental policy which is available on our website. IHFA is committed to the ecologically sustainable development of the Pacific Islands. As an environmental organisation we seek not just to follow our goals and objectives in the Pacific Islands by ensuring that our activities are environmentally sound, but also to ensure that our operational activities in Australia and elsewhere meet the highest standards of environmental management. IHFA's 2009-2014 Environmental Plan sets out the objectives, actions and targets required to manage our operations in Australia and in the Pacific Islands over the next five years. The Environmental Plan's actions and targets will be integrated into IHFA's business strategies and programs and targets were reported for the first time in our 2009 Annual Report. It is the goal of IHFA to be ISO 14001 compliant when IHFA can resource it. The Environment Plan is updated annually.

Environmental Policy, Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), and Ecological Objectives

IHFA aims to protect the environment by conducting its operations in accordance with the principles of ESD. These principles are incorporated into IHFA's Environmental policy. IHFA has interpreted the principles of ESD as:

Precautionary Principle – where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost – effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;

Inter-Generational and Intra-generational Equity – minimise the effects of our activities on the environment so that future and present generations may meet their current and future needs, and that all have their basic needs met and are fairly provided with opportunity regardless of social standing or geographical location;

Conservation and Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity – ensure that our activities maintain or enhance the range of native plants and animals in Australia and in the Pacific Islands; and

Improved Valuation and Pricing of Environmental Resources – properly value the true cost of using our natural resources and disposing of our wastes.

In implementing ESD objectives, IHFA will seek to prevent pollution from our offices by:

- Reducing the environmental impact of our discharges to air, water, and land by the use of improved technology, the use of renewable energy where possible, efficiency, conservation, recycling and minimisation;
- Reducing the use of energy, water and other material and substances;
- Re-using and recovering energy, water and other materials and substances; and
- Carbon offsets.

In implementing ESD objectives, IHFA will seek to prevent pollution in the Pacific Islands by:

- Offering energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling, waste minimisation and other programs;
- Biodiversity programs;
- Forestry programs;
- Soil conservation and composting programs; and
- Ensuring where possible our partners have environmentally sound practises in the Islands.

The IHFA Environmental Management System provides the framework for developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing environmental objectives, actions and targets as set in the Environment Plan. The objectives and actions drive management programs and commitment to continually improve IHFA's environmental performance.

2009/2014 Environment Plan: Operational Environmental Actions in the 2009/2010 Year

IHFA's current environmental performance, emerging issues and trends and implementing our EMS, are key considerations in the establishment of our first Environmental Plan. Key actions and targets have been identified to manage environmental risks and priorities. These key actions and targets are incorporated into corporate and divisional business plans and employee and volunteer manuals currently being drafted. Carried forward from the 2008/2009 year, the key programs identified in IHFA's 2009/2014 Environment Plan for the 2009-2010 year were:

- Ensure IHFA's home offices have undergone environmental audits.
- Targets will be set for energy efficiency by retrofitting, reduced water use by maintenance and water efficient fittings and appliances.
- The use of paper is minimised by reducing our printing and working towards an electronic office; whatever can be recycled will be recycled, including e-waste, and that home offices are composting;
- Raising funds and finding a corporate partner to implement our EMS; and
- Developing an effective carbon neutralising system to compensate for IHFA travels.

IHFA's objectives are measurable, consistent where practicable with our environmental policy, including our commitment to the prevention of pollution, to compliance, legal requirements where applicable and other requirements to which we subscribe. Where possible we consider our technical, financial, operational and business requirements, and the views of interested parties. In 2010, IHFA's CEO conducted an Initial Environmental Review of the organisations main new home head office at 297 Military Road, Dover Heights. New South Wales. The following practises and their limitations were in place prior to the audit.

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. IHFA Audit.

Action	Limitations
<p>Lights</p> <p>Replaced all incandescent lights with compact florescent light bulbs; Turned off when not in use; Unnecessary bulbs removed altogether.</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Installed two 9 L/min water efficient shower head; Both toilets are dual flush Short three minute showers taken; Washing done in cold water most of the time, with full load on economy cycle in a four star rated washing machine; No dishwasher. Dishes washed in tub with biodegradable washing liquid and rinsed in cold water.</p> <p>Office Equipment and Systems</p> <p>All but one computer is a laptop. The other is a desk top with a monitor; All computer screens are liquid crystal display (LCD); Appliances are turned off at the wall when not in use, except for the fax machine; Photocopy machine always set on double sided photocopying; Photocopy machine set on energy saver function; Use only 100% recycled paper or plantation paper with recycled paper content; Computer screens set to Blackle™; Scrap paper used for all drafts and faxes and other documents which do not absolutely require clean copy; Electronic storage and communication used where possible.</p> <p>Hot Water System</p> <p>Gas, large storage.</p>	<p><i>Cannot rewire as premises is leased.</i></p> <p><i>Cannot install water tank or grey water system as requires investment from landlord</i></p> <p><i>Lack of funding to replace plasma television with more energy efficient model</i></p> <p><i>Could not install instantaneous gas or gas boosted solar hot water as property is leased</i></p>

Actions

Energy (general)

Have gas for stove, oven, water and space heating;
Hot water set to 55°C;
Rarely use clothes drier;
No air conditioner. Use cross-ventilation and internal curtains to keep house temperature down in summer;
Energy efficient appliances for the most part;
Extensive air leakages under sealed with door snakes, and weather stripping;

Organics

100% recycling of kitchen scraps, including meat, into Tumbleweed composting bin or in green waste bin via Waverly Council's organic waste program;
100% recycling of green waste.

Plastics, Paper, Glass, Cans and Tins

100% disposal into council recycling bins
Batteries: stored in container for recycling;
E-waste: stored in plastic containers pending council collection days;
Ink cartridges: disposed of at Officeworks;
Detergents: mostly biodegradable, but not always.

Fauna and Mini-Beasts

Humid garden area home to much mini-beast life.

Travel

Public transport mostly used by CEO;
Unleaded petrol used in car when used;

Limitations

Do not have the budget to 100% offset with green power
Cannot install external shading as property is leased
No insulation: requires landlord investment
Cannot install photovoltaic's as requires landlord investment

IHFA cannot influence recycling strategy of council contractor: it is unlikely that 100% of disposed recyclables are recycled

Almost no land to plant native vegetation to attract native birds

No funding for hybrid vehicle purchase

COMPLIANCE

International Help Fund Australia's board has relevant financial, commercial and risk management experience and is charged with assessing the adequacy International Help Fund Australia's financial, operating and risk management controls, compliance with legal requirements and ethical guidelines affecting us. International Help Fund Australia adheres to the Australian Council for International Development's ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

International Help Fund Australia has its own Code of Conduct. At International Help Fund Australia we require that all directors, managers and employees maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty

Compliance to regulations, our Code of Conduct, ACFID Code of Conduct, and other principles to which we adhere such as the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the Wuxi Commitment, is of utmost importance to the integrity of International Help Fund Australia's reputation and operations. We are proud to announced that in 2009 International Help Fund Australia was again issued with the ACFID's Certificate of Compliance as having met ACFID's financial and annual reporting requirements for the year ending 2009. This initiative of ACFID rewards NGO's who uphold the principles of integrity, values and accountability for which the Code of Conduct was established. These Australian principles are among the highest in the world.



Code of Conduct

As a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, we are committed to high standards in financial reporting, management and ethical practice. Further information on the Code and its complaints handling procedure is available at www.acfid.asn.au.



The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID):

We have decided to report on ACFID activities for the year that were most relevant to us, to inform our members and supporters of the importance of remaining a member of ACFID. ACFID is the independent association of Australian non-profit and development agencies.

What the Australian Council for International Development did for its members in 2009-10 year. The following information is distilled from ACFID's 2009-10 bulletins to members and signatory NGO's

ACFID undertakes a number of roles for, on behalf of and with its members which include:

- Information and Resource Services
- Liaison and Relationship Activities
- Analysis and Interpretation of International and Domestic Aid Policy
- Research Activity and Submission Formulation
- Representation and Advocacy Services
- Hosting, Coordination and Facilitation Services
- Member Training and Development Activity

Key Activities 2009 – 2010

Information and Resource Services

A key role of ACFID is to facilitate the flow of information from all quarters concerning aid and development business. The scope for information flow is very broad and ACFID is continually challenged with the volume and scope of the information content.

The following is a series of examples of information and resource activities undertaken by ACFID in the 2009-10 year.

- Production of member e-bulletin, sector bulletin and web site information services.
- Analysis of speeches and international aid sector reports
- ACFID CEO forums
- ACFID briefing papers
- The Development Dividend: Making Trade Negotiations Work for Pacific Communities.
- Promoting and distributing members reports and findings
- Analysis of the Pacific Economic Survey

Liaison and Relationship Activities

A key part of the liaison and relationship activities is with AusAID, the Australian Government's Aid organisation. ACFID meets regularly with AusAID representatives at multiple levels to discuss a wide range of topical issues.

AusAID seeks the assistance and support of ACFID when undertaking analysis and research of its own. In turn, ACFID seeks its members' input and involvement into a wide range of aid and development issues.

Joint AusAID /ACFID working parties and committees also form a key element of the partnership. During the 2009-10 year an extensive range of issues and topics were considered. ACFID was instrumental in direct participation and facilitating member participation with AusAID on committees, working parties and focus groups. Examples of these activities are as follows:

- Committee For Development Cooperation – advising AusAID on policy and procedural matters relevant to NGO accreditation and AusAID NGO funding streams.
- AusAID Civil Societies Engagement Framework - evaluation to assess how well AusAID is supporting civil society in our partner countries.
- Review for the Australian Partnership with African Communities Program
- AusAID Reference Group on Disability- Inclusive Development
- AusAID Humanitarian Action Policy Review
- AusAID Multilateral Engagement Strategy
- AusAID Sustainable Development Group - Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives
- AusAID Donor Coordination in the Pacific Activity

ACFID also seeks to establish ongoing and positive relationships with the Higher Education sector institutions that run Aid/Development research and teaching programs. An example of this participation was the ACFID joint universities/NGOs Conference held late November, early December 2009.

Analysis and Interpretation of International and Domestic Aid Policy

ACFID analyses and interprets papers and documents and presents the views and findings to its membership. Some of the documents and reports considered in the 2009-10 year were as follows:

- Analysis of the Commonwealth Government Budget Papers
- Analysis of Government Media Releases
- Analysis of the CAIRNS Compact and Pacific Island Forum Outcomes
- Interpretation and analysis of AusAID's microfinance draft strategy
- Report into the Global Corruption Barometer findings of a public opinion survey that explores views of corruption and bribery around the world.
- Analysis of the Henry Tax Review proposals which considered the removal of FBT exemptions for Non-Profit organisations.

Research Activity, and Submission Formulation

ACFID conducts its own in-house research as well as participation in collaborative research activity with recognised Higher Education institutions. The research undertaken is aimed at keeping abreast with contemporary thinking on development theory and practice.

ACFID also develops submissions in response to various matters both by invitation and its own initiative. Some of the work undertaken in the 2009-10 year are:

- ACFID Development Effectiveness Research - focuses on capturing and sharing cutting-edge practice and demonstrating NGO effectiveness through innovative forms of accountability
- Submission to National Human Rights Committee
- Research Alliance with QUT - Non Profit Accounting Best Practice.
- Submissions to the AusAID Multilateral Engagement Strategy

Representation, Lobbying and Advocacy Services

As a major plank of its activities, ACFID undertakes the role of lobbying politicians of all political persuasions. As a peak organisation representing its members, ACFID states that it undertakes this task without fear or favour, representing its member's best interests.

ACFID undertook lobbying relating to the Commonwealth 2010 budget through its Pre-Budget Submission and the development of its Federal Government Election Platform.

ACFID Code of Conduct

During the year ACFID made the commitment to review and update the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct review and proposed changes included a set of self assessment procedures. During the year ACFID released of the draft Code of Conduct for member's analysis and contributions.

Hosting, Coordination and Facilitation Services

ACFID has a key role in member support and development activities. Some of these activities are focussed on training and development outcomes whereas others are to support professional development of members staff.

A selection of the activities undertaken in this space for the 2009-10 year included:

- Women in Development Network program
- SPHERE Minimum Standards review process
- ACFID Council meeting
- Symposium on capabilities, freedoms and policy making in the Pacific Region
- ACFID Humanitarian Forum – targeted at agencies working in insecure situations

- Civil Society Linkages between Australia and the Pacific Workshop – Victoria University
- Meeting the Millennium Development Goals - International Conference

Member Training and Development Activity

AFCID continued to place a high priority on membership development and to this end developed and delivered a range of member training programs at various locations across the 2009-10 year. These activities are conducted under different models including day seminars and lunchtime programs. Workshops/Seminars presented included:

- Rights-Based Approach to Development
- Control and Security of Funds Workshop
- Reviewing Human Resource Practices with People In Aid Seminar
- Code-Compliant Annual Report and Finance Workshop
- Risk Management Workshop
- Foreign Exchange Risk Workshop
- HR Capacity Training
- Gender Equity Training



