

Extracts from the Alofa Tuvalu June 2011 Newsletter sent to our
Tuvaluan friends and supports



Some of you might wonder “what the hell is happening with Alofa Tuvalu Europe”... Well... here is a mixed bag of news about Alofa Tuvalu’s activities and some of the reasons why I have not made the trip yet this year.

Whatever projects I initiated in my lifetime, I’ve always totally invested myself. In 2003, I stopped producing films and basically left my overseas friends and family stranded favouring Tuvalu and Alofa Tuvalu.

When I returned from my 5 months stay in 2010, medical issues reminded me that I had to take care of myself too. A first round of surgery occurred in March after I postponed and postponed... and postponed.

Being forced not to travel allowed me to be present for my friends/family and to enjoy Spring in Paris for the first time in years... My first priority, though, was to secure my revenues. It is not a secret that I’ve been volunteering, often putting my savings into Alofa Tuvalu. My main revenues coming from a couple apartments rental I had first to conduct renovation works.

The last months were full of emotions too. One of them, the dismay of having made a bad casting mistake with the young legal trainee we sent to Funafuti and whom we had to fire for breach of contract, got on both Fanny’s and my mental state for months. We hope that he and his girl friend were of some assistance to a few of you.

Last but not least, our dear Elega passed away, leaving us with much sorrow and apprehension to get back to the Peninsula house without her there.

More emotions on the global level, with the depressing fact that after so many years of warning, the Climate crucial issue fell behind other short term priorities for governing bodies and citizens alike. Delaying further our global capacity to address this issue could be considered a crime in future years if there’s still a human alive to testify. This is pressing NGO’s like us to think over strategies and communication plans: how to remind the world that the clock is still ticking... only faster.

One great thing with having worked non-stop for 8 years is that much got achieved and is ongoing. One bad thing when slowing down: getting overwhelmed and having to accept the notion that “whatever is not done will wait”... Thanks to Fanny’s faithful assistance and constant soft reminders, what is due gets achieved even if it takes a bit longer... To mention just some of the most time consuming or important activities of the last months:

Aider Tuvalu à survivre, c'est assurer notre avenir à tous.
Helping to save Tuvalu means helping to save your world too.

- Reporting to our old time funder, ADEME, who helped on most of our kids events since 2005 such as the comic book Spanish version released for COP16 and the Tuvaluan version reprinting for the Ka Lofia te Paneta during the King Tides Festival and a week event in Paris.

- Same exercise for the French Embassy in Suva. The legal junior fiasco was part of the contract that also helped with the Spanish/Mexican activities and more generally on communication about Tuvalu. We met in Paris with the French Embassy Counselor for cooperation and culture. The 2011 press-cards were handed to him for his colleague making the trip to Funafuti to give them to TMD perpetuating AT yearly tradition to provide international press cards to Tuvalu .

- After having solved, in 2010, our differences with Sprep/Piggarep, seeing our legitimacy, goodwill and quality of work recognized, we had to unknot another situation with UNDP/GEF about the Nanumea Biogas project. We now hope we'll get the installment planned for April 2010 soon ☺. Isn't it ironic for a small NGO or country to advance funds to international institutions?

- Thanks to the Total Foundation and Sue Devitt's support, the marine life 2010 fieldwork report was finished last September. Sandrine and Dani have been working on the technical reports since. We are currently rewriting and trying to secure funds for the restitution as well. It was great to catch up with Annie Wheeler, (NZAid Large Marine Species project), around a lovely dinner in Paris, discussing possible future cooperation.



- The electric bike project was discussed but declined for 2011. We are polishing up an application and researching more technical and financial opportunities.

- Editing water quiz test, Fagogo and Ka Lofia te Paneta of which you can find a short clip at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AlofaTuvalu>

- Last but not least, after Trouble in Paradise 2004 release, essential in raising awareness about Tuvalu worldwide, we are developing a second film (Alofa Tuvalu, temporary title). Right now, exchanging notes and writing with Chris. Crucial round in September to convince broadcasters and co-producers.



Other time consuming activities include replying all kind of internet requests and networking activities to set up events and discuss strategy. Key player of the United Nations Decade for Education in Sustainable Development, Alofa Tuvalu is member of: the French Climate Action Network board, the Collective for International Solidarity at the National League for Education, and the European Society of Directors for Environment (SERE). We also are an invited member at Coordination South's platform for

Climate & Development. Those networks allow energy examples demonstrated in Tuvalu to be seedling elsewhere. At these gatherings, we cant help realizing that, even at a slower speed compared to the last 8 years furious pace, we are amongst the most active and do our share advocating Tuvalu's case and promoting sustainable solutions... with dignity.

*Aider Tuvalu à survivre, c'est assurer notre avenir à tous.
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Below you'll see some of the other awareness activities we initiated or participated into since our October 2010 newsletter: 20+ events en 2010, 12 in 2011 to this day. Our weblog is regularly updated: www.alofatuvalu.tv/blog

So all in all, despite some hardship and less energy, it has been pretty active and life was pretty good the last 6 months. For the near future, just a few lines about some of our members or supports making the trip to Tuvalu:

- From Europe :

* Landing in Funafuti on Tuesday 12th of July: a team of Danish young AT supporters, Lasse and Christian from the Danish School of Media and Journalism. They'll stay for a month at the AT house. We met only by email but despite our last bad experience with students, we are trustful. Their objective -to make their documentary available to all schools in the Danish educational system- is great for international awareness and future positive environmental attitudes.

* the UK Scout Association is sending three members to Tuvalu in October for nine months to help the country with the development of scouting. We are not sure whether the local organization is aware of this and don't have a current email address to check with them. If anyone can pass the news it would be great.

- From the Pacific:

*Our dear friend Jocelyn Carlin, (considered as one of AT founding members, and photographer) and Scott Leckie (Displacement Solutions)- who bought a Trouble in Paradise copy- will be arriving early September and staying a week.

*Sikeli, AT biogas specialist, will make the trip to assist Teuela and the Nanumea people with their biogas, as soon as we hear back from GEF/UNDP. Hopefully it will be September too. (Sarah will be available a bit later).

A last appointment with a surgeon in August will confirm when I can fly. From there, Fanny and I will plan our trip.

Fetaui to all... and welcome back to Soma and Pepe !!

GiGi, Fanny and the overseas Alofa Tuvalu team

SOME OVERSEAS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2010 /JUNE 2011

2011

- June 19th, 2011 : GiGi and Fanny are Alofa Tuvalu (AT) booth keepers during the Bergeyre Hill back yard sale. Hundreds of visitors. (Paris 19e)

- June 4th, 2011: Lilian Falealuga-Leuelu's Asia Pacific Women Association Charity Bazaar in Brussels. We crossed fingers but our tickets did not win and AT General Secretary, Cyril, a Belgian resident, arrived too late to enjoy Faioa, Fatiau and Lisa's dancing performance ☺



- May 28th, 2011 : Fanny is AT booth keeper at the "Students for sustainable development" 4th National meeting at the International "Cité Universitaire" (Paris 14e). Many students of all nationalities.



- May 21st, 2011 : Marie-Jeanne, AT volunteer, at the "Solidarity books fair" organized by the International Solidarity Network of NGOs we belong to. Hundreds of visitors. (Paris 13e)

- The Spanish version of "our planet under water" comic book is sent to Fiji at Tafue's request for some to be brought by TuCan to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues happening in New York from May 16th to 27th, 2011. (US)

- May 4th, 2011: Exhibit about Tuvalu and AT's Small is Beautiful plan by and with Sarah Hemstock. at Notts Trent Uni Environment & Sustainability Research Network Exhibition, DICE Centre Conference Suite, City Campus. (UK)

- April 8, 2011 : Gilliane is a key speaker at the Saint Quentin University's conference, "bye bye culture" about CC and culture loss at the Palais de la Decouverte, (Paris, 8e).



- From April 1st to 7th, 2011 : Thanks to AT Treasurer Severine, "Our planet under water " comic book is used as a tool for the kids awareness workshops for the national week for sustainable development in Ste Luce (Martinique).



- April, 1st, 2011 : Workshop on CC at the International "Cité Universitaire"'s House of Portugal. Many "Our planet under Water" portugese version distributed (Paris, 14e).

- March 26th, 2011 : Fanny replaces GiGi as a key speaker at a Conference focusing on climate migrations with a screening of the "Paradis en sursis" documentary promoting Alofa Tuvalu activities in Tuvalu, at the National "Cite for Immigration" (Porte Doree Palace in Paris 12e). This film, shot in 2007 for a national broadcaster, has proved a great tool for communication.

- March 26th, 2011 : Laurent, AT active member, debates with the audience after "Trouble in Paradise" screening, as part of the Cinema Ecology Festival 3rd edition, at the Lycee Michelet theater in Vanves, (92)

- March, 23rd, 2011 : "Trouble in Paradise" screening and lecture by Sarah on Climate and AT 's activities, for the Pacific Islands Society of the UK and Ireland at St Philips Church, Earls Court, London. (UK)

- March, 11th, 2011: "Trouble in Paradise" screening and lecture by Sarah on Climate and Alofa Tuvalu activities, for students of Nottingham Trent University. (UK)

- December 21st 2010 – 7th January 2011: "Biomass" exhibition by Sarah at the Refectory Gallery, Nottingham City Artists, Hooton Street, Nottingham. UK.



2010

- December 6th to 8th, 2010: Sarah was invited to speak at the International Conference on Renewable Energy & Climate Change in Fiji. Choosing to limit our gas emissions, Sikeli Raisuqe, AT Fjian biogas specialist, made the presentation from a PowerPoint Sarah supplied.... (Suva, Fiji)

- December 7, 2010: GiGi is a key speaker at "Environment on Tuesdays", discussing Alofa Tuvalu 2010 activities and displaying pictures of the Nanumea biogas implementation last September along with exclusive footage of the « big top event » : Ka lofia Te Paneta held within the 1st ever 2010 Tuvalu King Tides Festival. (Paris 8e)

- December 2010 : Release of "Our planet under water" Spanish/Mexican version for COP16.

- November 19th to 21st, 2010: "Our planet under water" German and English versions at the "European and Pacific Responses to climate change in the Pacific" conference in Berlin (Germany), with Alofa Tuvalu's UK faithful support, Clemmie James, invited to display some of her work about Tuvalu and her generous project "Climatefriend "

October 20th, 2010: workshop on international negotiations at USP (Tuvalu)

October 9th to November 20th, 2010: "We are all Tuvalu" exhibition and "Trouble in Paradise " screening, by Sarah at the Mansfield Museum (UK.

This list is limited to very close members activities, we cant mention all AT supports's undertakings, such as Laurent Weyl and François Gemenne, in France, many many other worldwide friends keep spreading the word.

This does not include either the many schools small events put together by teachers who keep asking us to send comic books in French. All other languages are actively downloaded from the internet, the version that was copied the most, after the English, is the Tahitian!

