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OUTLINE SAP II PROJECT: NATIONAL PROJECT PREPARATION REPORTS

Solomon Islands

Foreword

This brief report was prepared by Ian Cartwright and Seremaia Tuqiri during a visit to Solomon Islands from 12 to 16th July 2004. It aims to assemble information relating to Solomon Islands necessary for the preparation of the GEF SAP II Project.

The main aims of the report are to:

- make an assessment of the implications of the WCPF Convention for Solomon Islands;
- identify possible activities to support implementation by Solomon Islands of the WCPF Convention;
- make an analysis of the incremental costs to Solomon Islands of activities related to the Convention;
- undertake an analysis of stakeholders in Solomon Islands with interests in the regional oceanic fisheries resources;
- identify relevant consultative mechanisms in Solomon Islands for the GEF SAP II Project; and
- collect information relating to available indicators of performance in areas related to the WCPF Convention and to the financial sustainability of Solomon Island's participation in the Commission and implementation of the WCPF Convention.

The report is based on available published information and information provided to the mission by the stakeholders listed in Annex 3.

1. Background

1.1 Status of Oceanic Fisheries

Solomon Islands is an archipelagic state with an EEZ of 1.34 million km². Beginning in the 1970s, Solomon Islands has one of the longest histories of domestic fishing, and management polices (closed and reserved areas/vessel limits) have encouraged this activity. The 1999 political unrest had a substantial impact on domestic fisheries. The domestic tuna fishing company National Fisheries Development (NFD) shifted their operations from to Noro, Western Province. NFD continues to operate three purse seiners from Noro, fishing in Solomon Islands waters and transshipping their catch to various canning markets. The Soltai tuna longline fleet has seen catches fall substantially due to the unrest and the condition of its aging fleet. In 2003 11,000 tonnes (50% of the former peak catch) were landed to the Noro processing plant for processing into smoked products (arabushi), canning, and loins for export to Italy under an arrangement with Tri-Union. A longline company, Solco Ltd (formerly Solgreen) has reduced its domestic fleet from a maximum of 22 vessels in 1999 to 11 vessels in 2003. In 2003 these vessels landed a total of 1,000 tonnes, of which 830 tonnes was exported to Japan as fresh sashimi tuna.

DRAFT

Solomon Islands license a number of vessels from DWFN fleets. There are current bilateral agreements in force with Japan, Korea, and Taiwan fishing associations, and an agreement with the EU has been initialled and is due to enter into force in January 2005. Regional access to SI waters is permitted for US and FSM Agreement purse seine vessels. US vessel activity in SI waters has increased following an amendment to the US multilateral treaty to permit fishing east of 163°E.

Honiara is a seasonal transshipment port. Since 2000 virtually no transshipment occurred due to the unrest until the 2003/4 season. Between November 2003 and May 2004, 166 shipments totalling 78,854 tonnes were recorded. Most vessels transshipping are Korean or Taiwanese purse seine vessels.

The value of the 2003 domestic Solomon Islands tuna catch was estimated at SI\$177million¹, with exports worth approximately SI\$117 million. In 2002 the domestic tuna industry accounted for some 900 jobs, approximately equally split between shore based facilities and on fishing vessels. The value of the tuna catch is estimated at SI\$177(2003) with exports worth approximately SI\$117million. Fisheries as is currently Solomon Islands' second most significant industry, behind Forestry.

1.2 Oceanic Fisheries Management

The objectives of the Solomon Islands Tuna Development and Management Plan (1999) remain current and are:

- ***to ensure that the tuna resources of the Solomon Islands are not exploited beyond their optimal sustainable yields; and***
- ***within the limit set by this conservation objective, to harvest the resource in such a way that maximises the economic and social benefits received by the people of the Solomon Islands***

There is extensive commercial tuna fishing in Solomon Islands using purse seine, pole and line and longline operations. Of these vessels, three purse seiners carry Solomon Islands flags. Key fishing agreements exist with Korea, Taiwan, Japan and the US. New Zealand and the EU are currently negotiating bilateral tuna fishing agreements, with the latter having initialled (provisionally agreed) a Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

The 1999 Tuna Development and Management Plan lays down detailed oceanic fisheries conservation management strategies based on licence limitations and area restrictions. Due to political unrest, the plan has not been implemented, although there is growing reference to its provisions as stability is restored to Solomon Islands.

Notwithstanding the Management Plan, there are no restrictions on catch currently applied. Before licensing purse seine vessels, reference is made by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR) to the PNA vessel limits to ensure these are not exceeded, thereby applying a limit to capacity, at least in a regional sense. There are currently no restrictions on the number of long-liners licensed in SI waters. Other management measures applied are spatial limits on US Treaty vessels and a reserved area of waters for pole and line vessels, the inner Main Group Archipelagic (MGA) waters, shoreward from 30 miles outside archipelagic baselines).

¹ As at 5 August 2004, US\$1.00 = SI\$7.33

DRAFT

There is an intention to review the Management Plan and establish a management framework for the offshore fishery as priority activities.

1.3 Oceanic Fisheries Institutional Arrangements

Oceanic fisheries management in Solomon Islands is a national government responsibility, undertaken by the DFMR, within the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Department has a total establishment of 41 staff positions, of which only 24 are currently occupied. There is no one section of DFMR devoted to oceanic fisheries management, with the research and resource management, licensing, surveillance and enforcement, and statistics and information sections all undertaking activities related to oceanic fisheries. DFMR has an annual operating budget of S\$1.7 million and receives these funds from consolidated government revenue. A provision in the 1998 Fisheries Act to establish a Fisheries Management and Development Fund, which is to receive 50% of the revenue from access fees and other charges, has not been enacted. In the past, DFMR has had difficulty in accessing observer levies from DWFN and domestic vessels that have been paid to Government, to the point that observer services have had to be suspended. Despite financial constraints which are limiting activities, oceanic fisheries are a high priority within the Fisheries Department.

The main government agencies involved in oceanic fisheries management in Solomon Islands are the:

- Attorney-General's Chamber which provides legal advice, drafts legislation and attends meetings as legal advisors;
- Maritime Division of the Solomon Islands Police, which usually undertakes surveillance and enforcement duties using two ocean-going patrol boats; and
- Department of Foreign Affairs which is active in the international aspects of fisheries policy, including work related to the WCPF Convention and other regional and international aspects of fisheries affairs.

Fisheries policy is almost exclusively driven by Fisheries Department. Consultation with government departments and other stakeholders is very ad hoc, and there are currently no consultative committees operating. A Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) was established under the Fisheries Act of 1998 but met only once, in 1999. Similarly, the Tuna Management Committee established under the Tuna Management Plan has not been active in recent years. The Ministry has stated an intention to activate the consultative process outlined in the Management Plan and invitations to sit on the FAC have been issued to prospective members. Similarly, there are plans to re-establish the Tuna Management Committee.

There is no association currently representing the Solomon Islands tuna industry. Soltai and NFD are active members of the Chamber of Commerce and have used that forum to lobby government on numerous issues, especially the goods tax.

The Department of Environment and Conservation, Ministry of Forests, Environment and Conservation is responsible for broader aspects of environmental management.

1.4 Donor involvement

The major ongoing donor involvement is the provision of two Pacific Patrol Craft and associated training and logistical support by the Australian Defence Force. A range of

DRAFT

donors contribute to the regional programmes of oceanic fisheries assistance provided by FFA and SPC.

1.5 Other Oceanic Fisheries Management Issues

Solomon Islands experienced severe economic, social and other pressures as a result of the social unrest in 2000. These events severely impacted on the delivery of fisheries management outcomes and while peace has been restored, the state of the economy continues to restrict the efforts of DFMR to sustainably manage oceanic fisheries resources. Other significant issues that arose in the mission to Solomon Islands, most of which are related to the effects of the year 2000 events, include:

- urgent need for an effective overall management framework for oceanic fisheries;
- limited appreciation of implications of WCPF Convention and a desire to develop a comprehensive national strategy to address these implications;
- lack of consultative processes to engage all relevant government agencies, industry and environmental NGOs and the wider public;
- the tuna development management plan, which includes a wide range of conservation and management measures agreed by all stakeholders, requires updating and implementation;
- severe reduction in surveillance capability due to funding constraints on the patrol boat programme and alternative police/security priorities; and
- constraints on the oceanic fisheries management output of DFMR with respect to capacity, personnel and funding.

2. Solomon Islands and the WCPF Convention

2.1 Overview

Solomon Island's primary aims in the MHLC and PrepCon process have been:

- to achieve effective management for oceanic fisheries resources in the high seas;
- to cooperate with and learn from other participants, thereby improving fisheries management in Solomon Islands;
- limit catch and effort to strengthen property rights and thereby the degree to which domestic industry development can be leveraged; and
- limit the size and scale of Commission and make full use of existing regional organisations (FFA and SPC) and systems (VMS, regional register etc) to minimise duplication and costs to member countries.

As a Member of the Commission and a Party to the WCPF Convention, the early establishment of an effective oceanic fisheries management framework in Solomon Islands to meet national and Convention requirements is a priority. Specific short term issues that have major implications for Solomon Islands are seen as follows:

- need to update the 1998 Fisheries Act to comply with the requirements of the WCPF Convention;
- need to update and implement the national Tuna Fisheries Development and Management Plan, including the introduction and enforcement of effective catch and effort limits and other management measures;

DRAFT

- better control of IUU by reactivation of surveillance capability, including increased oceanic fisheries-related patrol boat activity;
- improvement of port sampling procedures; and
- establishment of flag state control procedures, including a process to authorise Solomon Island flagged vessels fishing on the high seas.

2.2 *Implications of the Convention*

2.2.1 *Legal*

The Fisheries Act 1998 has not been revised to reflect and implement the requirements of the WCPF Convention. The need to address this has been accepted by DFMR and the AG's office as a priority, and means to fund a review are under consideration. FFA has been requested to review the Tuna Development and Management plan, and it would be prudent to ensure harmonisation between these two activities.

There remains limited appreciation of the rights and obligations under the WCPF Convention both in the legal sense, and in how legislation can be related to management measures. This situation will be helped by improving communication between departments having some responsibility for oceanic fisheries management.

The 1998 Environment Act makes specific reference of fisheries (including oceanic fisheries) as a 'prescribed activity' requiring some level of assessment of environmental impact. Regulations for this act are yet to be drafted, and some guidance from/liaison with DFMR would be useful.

The table below summarises the status of Solomon Island's adoption of relevant international legal instruments and declarations.

Instrument	Status
WCPF Convention	Ratified
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	Ratified
UN Fish Stocks Agreement	Ratified
Convention on Biological Diversity	Ratified
Driftnet Convention	Ratified
FAO Code of Conduct	Accepted
FAO Compliance Agreement	Status uncertain, not accepted as at 31/01/01
FAO International Plans of Action	Adopted, not implemented
WSSD Fisheries Targets	Not formally adopted
FFA Minimum Terms and Conditions	Implemented

The AG's Chambers have 11 lawyers, one of which has some fisheries experience, and a severely restricted budget. The lack of resources has constrained the AG's ability to service the needs of DFMR. The Office of the AG agrees that there is a

DRAFT

need to have specific legal advice available within the DFMR to deal with drafting regulations, fishing agreements and updating the Fisheries Act and Tuna Development and Management Plan. While DFMR has a vacant legal adviser position within their organisation chart there is some controversy about the post.

There is a need to improve communication between DFMR and the AG's Chambers and both would benefit from capacity building to increase knowledge of SI's responsibilities under current international agreements, including the WCPF Convention.

2.2.2 Policy/Institutional

The oceanic fisheries management framework in Solomon Islands is in limbo, awaiting reviews of the Fisheries Act and Management Plan and the financial resources and staff to give effect to them.

Solomon Islands participation in the WCPF Commission will continue to be led by Foreign Affairs and DFMR. While it is intended to re-open lines of communication with stakeholders, consultation will be undertaken on an ad-hoc basis until the Tuna Management Committee is re-established.

The cost of financial contributions for Solomon Islands to the WCPF Commission is expected to be in the range of US\$10-14,000 per year once the Commission is fully established, although it may be more in the first year or two if major fishing states delay becoming members of the Commission. The establishment and operation of the Fisheries Management and Development Fund would bring much needed financial resources to the Department. This additional commitment by Government to recurrent funding, reinforced with donor assistance will be necessary to enable Solomon Islands to meet its obligations under the WCPF Convention.

2.2.3 Compliance

Compliance activities are carried out by the Solomon Islands Police (Maritime Division) that operates two Australian funded patrol vessels in collaboration with its land-based police counterpart, and the DFMR. The Maritime Division falls under the Department of Police and National Security. DFMR observers carry out compliance and monitoring activities however no enforcement activities are currently being undertaken due to lack of capacity² and other priorities related to land-based police activities. The role of the Maritime Division at the present time is largely reactive and there is considered to be a need for regular communication between DFMR and the Division.

While there is no collaborative compliance arrangement in place, there is clearly an intention to explore this, probably under Niue Treaty arrangements. There have been initial talks with PNG on compliance collaboration.

The licensing framework currently deals with three forms of access agreements: bilateral access agreements; development agreements; and agency agreements. There is a need to revise and apply transparent licensing procedures outlined in the Tuna Management Plan.

The FFA VMS facility is managed and operated by the DFMR. The Fisheries Act recognises the compulsory use of the FFA VMS as a prerequisite for a foreign fishing

² At the time of this meeting, one of the two patrol boats was undergoing a refit and maintenance check at Fiji's naval base while the second was alongside in Honiara.

DRAFT

vessel in obtaining a license, however there is some doubt as to whether this occurs in all instances. There is strong support for the MCS programmes of the new Tuna Commission to be compatible with current regional and national programmes including the FFA VMS.

The Solomon Islands has flag state responsibilities for the three purse seiners presently flying its flag if and when they fish outside Solomon Island waters. There is currently no authorization process in place to deal with high seas fishing.

Overall there are substantial challenges facing Solomon Islands in meeting the compliance responsibilities under the Convention. Capacity building, knowledge of the Convention requirements, and funding are three of the key areas that need to be addressed.

2.2.4 Monitoring

Levels of logsheet coverage of the domestic longline, purse seine and pole-and-line fleets, and foreign purse seine fishing are high, although there are significant data gaps in the coverage of all components of the foreign longline fleet. Landings data from domestic vessels is readily available (although data gaps exist) and some data from recently re-commenced transshipments are now being collected. DFMR maintains a licensing database with vessel details, although information is incomplete, particularly for a number of vessels that fish in the EEZ and do not call into Honiara.

The Solomon Islands observer programme ceased during the disruption to domestic fishing operations that occurred in 2000, restarted in 2001 and ceased in April 2004 due to funding and administrative difficulties. These difficulties were resolved and observer activities resumed from 19th July 2004.

20% coverage for domestic vessels has been reached and exceeded, and while the coverage of foreign vessels is uncertain, DFMR estimate that it is of the order of 5-10%. It has been proposed to increase coverage to 30% for longline, 40% for pole-and-line, and 100% for purse seine.

Prior to 2000, port sampling occurred in Noro and Honiara. Since then there has only been limited port sampling in Honiara during the 2003/4 transshipment season.

Scientific Analysis

Solomon Islands has very little capacity to undertake scientific analysis, both in terms of staffing numbers and the background of those staff. Following the unrest in 2000, it has been difficult to build on the software and training assistance provided by SPC prior to this time. Two staff members have received some preliminary training in data analysis last year (2003). Other than data entry and transmittal to SPC, there is no analysis of oceanic fisheries data.

The data provided by SPC is considered adequate to meet management needs and support decision making, although a new national tuna assessment is seen as a priority requirement. DFMR wishes to expand their capability in data analysis and to make more use of regional stock assessments than is currently the case. The Department would also like to rely less on waiting for SPC to provide data analysis.

There is support for a tuna tagging project given that the previous tagging data is now relatively dated. It was however realised that implementing basic fisheries management frameworks and capacity building were of greater priority at this time.

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Ecosystem analysis

Understanding and dealing with the oceanic fisheries ecosystem and related effects of fishing is not a priority for DFMR. Some limited data has been collected, and there is recognition from comparison of observer/non observer trips that gross under-reporting of by-catch, including sharks, is occurring.

While there is some appreciation of ENSO effects, DFMR are keen to expand their capability to make use of regional models that could be used to predict catch levels and thereby income from access and other sources of fisheries-based revenue.

3. Potential Contribution of SAP II Project

Potential areas in which the SAP II Project could contribute to assisting Solomon Islands in the implementation of national activities related to the WCPF Convention are summarised in the table below.

Activity	Incremental Actions	Possible Interventions
<i>Legal</i>		
Revise Legal framework	Provide legal advice in support of review of 1998 Fisheries Act	Legal review, harmonising the Act and (soon to be revised) Man. Plan
Support Commission participation	Provide legal input into national positions	Training for dedicated fisheries legal officer
Implement Commission decisions	Understand legal implications	Regional Legal Workshops on rights responsibilities under the Convention
<i>Policy</i>		
Participate in the Commission and new regional management arrangements	Meet commission financial contributions Additional Commission and FFA meeting participation Develop regional and national vision for future management arrangements	Institutional Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Training/Consultations Workshops on alternative fisheries management strategies, including new rights-based approaches
Strengthen In-Zone Management/ Provide data to the Commission	Review and implement a sustainable oceanic fisheries management framework, including licensing procedures	Review management plan, with an emphasis on establishing binding and transparent management measures and processes
<i>Compliance</i>		
Increase IUU deterrence in-zone	Increase understanding and implementation of legal instruments Support for collaborative surveillance operations. Re-start surveillance operations	Technical assistance and training on meeting the compliance requirements of the Convention MCS working groups at regional and sub-regional levels, with technical support. Development of risk assessment and compliance strategies to maximise use of scarce resources

DRAFT

<i>Activity</i>	Incremental Actions	Possible Interventions
<i>Monitoring</i>		
Improve at-sea data	Re establish a sustainable observer programme and increase coverage	Possibly through SPC, develop a new, sustainable observer scheme that accesses observer levies Ongoing assistance from SPC with training and overall monitoring strategy
Improve catch composition data	Expand Port Sampling Programme	Capacity building focussing on training programmers and data analysts
<i>Science</i>		
Improve understanding of oceanic resources and ecosystem	Strengthen national capacity to analyse national data Strengthen national capacity to interpret and apply regional analyses	Training on interpreting the national impacts of large scale oceanographic changes on fisheries and related ecosystems Maintain and expand national fisheries assessments, incorporating capacity building

ANNEXES

- Annex 1 Incremental Cost/Co-financing Analysis
- Annex 2 Stakeholder Inventory and Analysis (including consultative mechanism inventory)
- Annex 3 Record of Stakeholder Consultation
- Annex 4 Indicator Availability
- Annex 5 Sustainability Analysis

DRAFT

Annex 1 Incremental Cost/Co-financing Analysis

Summary

National Funding		
Theme	Total 2005-2009 Baseline	Total 2005-2009 Incremental
	(SI\$ 000)	
1 Law	141	435
2 Policy/Management	716	3025
3 Compliance	2790	875
4 Monitoring	1900	925
5 Science	560	365
Total	6107	5625

Base Data

Institution	Programme	Theme	2004 Budget	%OFM	2004 OFM Budget
DFMR	ExecutiveMgmt	Policy/Mgmt	250	80%	200
	Offshore				
DFMR	Fisheries	Monitoring	500	95%	475
DFMR	Data Anal.	Science	200	70%	140
DFMR	Reg&Enforce	Compliance	480	85%	408
Police Maritime	P. Boat Ops	Compliance	1800	10%	180
For Aff A/G Chambers		Policy/Mgmt	8480	4%	339
	Legal Services	Law	805	5%	40
Total					1782

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Incremental cost analysis

Theme	Institution	Programme	2004 OFM budget	2004 WCPF Increment	2004 Non-WCPF Baseline	2005-2009 Baseline	New WCPF Increment						Total Incr	
							2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total		
1 Law	A.G.	Law	40	12	28	141	75	75	75	75	75	375	435	
2 Policy/Mgmt	Fisheries D	ExecutiveMgmt	200	100	100	500	158	158	158	158	158	158	658	
3 Compliance	For Aff	Pacific	339	240	99	496	60	60	60	60	60	300	1500	
	DFMR	Compliance	408	30	378	1890	25	25	25	25	25	125	275	
4 Monitoring	Police Mar.	Patrol Boat Ops	180	0	180	900	120	120	120	120	120	600	600	
	DFMR	Offshore Fisheries	475	95	380	1900	90	90	90	90	90	450	925	
5 Science	DFMR	Offshore Fisheries	140	28	112	560	45	45	45	45	45	225	365	
			1782	505	1277	6387							2233	4758

Oceanic fisheries and their management in Solomon Islands have been severely affected by the 1999 political unrest. The situation has now stabilised and rebuilding, including of public sector administration such as Fisheries (DFMA), is underway. The domestic fleet has continued operating and will hopefully consolidate and expand on the back of increasing political and economic stability. Access fee fishing remains significant and interest in fishing in the SI zone is high. Budgetary constraints are an issue, although the planned activation of the Fisheries Management and Development Fund established under the Fisheries Act, combined with observer levies and use of ‘targeted activity’ funds from the recently signed EU bilateral access agreement will assist with meeting Commission obligations.

Co-financing cost estimates are based on:

Law: Appointment of Fisheries Legal Adviser

Policy/Management: Commission participation and related activities: Commission financial contribution; management plan revision

Compliance: increased patrol boat operations

Monitoring: Additional observers

Science: New data analyst post

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Annex 2 Stakeholder Inventory and Analysis (including consultative mechanism inventory)

Stakeholder inventory data sheet

Country: Solomon Islands
 Date: 14 July 2004
 Data Recorder: Seremaia Tuqiri E-mail: stuqiri@wwfpacific.org.fj

Stakeholder	Representative / Post	Contact details Country Code (677)	Description of interests (factors that may influence participation)	Stakeholder analysis and preliminary participation plan		
				1 st stakeholder (role in decision making)	2 nd stakeholder (2-way flow of information)	
Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources	Edwin Oreihaka Director General (Act)	P.O. Box G13 Honiara Tel: +677 38694 Fax: +677 38730	Fisheries Administration.	X		
Solomon Islands Police (Maritime Division)	Edward Tokuru Maritime Commander	Department of Police & National Security P.O. Box G30 Tel: 22563 / 22564	Fisheries Surveillance and Enforcement.	X		
Department of Foreign Affairs	Peter Forau Permanent Secretary	P.O. Box G10 Honiara Tel: 28612 Fax: 20351	Foreign policy and treaty administration and negotiation	X		
Department of Police & National Security	Sam K. Tagana Under-Secretary	P.O. Box 404 Tel:+677 22208 Fax: +677 24823	Prosecution and other aspects of enforcement		X	
Attorney General's Chambers	Jean Gordon Senior Crown Counsel	P.O. Box 111 Honiara Tel: 28395 Fax: 25498	Drafting of legislation and provision of legal advice		X	

DRAFT

Soltai Fishing and Processing Ltd	Milton Sibisopere General Manager	PO Box 965 Honiara Solomon Islands Tel: +677 61012 Fax: +677 61029	Private sector	X		
National Fisheries Development	Adrian Wickham Director	PO Box 717 Honiara Solomon Islands Tel: +677 61131 Fax: +677 61109	Private sector	X		
Solco Ltd	Mr Kazuo Nagasawa General Manager	Advance Nishikasai R/NO,401 6-20-13, Nishikasai Edogawa-ku Tokyo, Japan	Private sector	X		
The Nature Conservancy	Mr William T. Atu	PO Box 759 Honiara Solomon Islands Phone: +677 20940 Fax: +677 26814	General Conservation interests		X	

Note: NGOs in Solomon Islands with an interest in fisheries concentrate on inshore fisheries. At the present time two international environmental NGOs namely Greenpeace and WWF South Pacific Programme have oceanic fisheries components. Both are based in Suva, Fiji but their focus is regional. Neither have offices in Honiara at the present time

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Inventory of Project-related national consultative mechanisms³

Consultative body	Parent/host body	Representative /contact details	Area(s) of interest	Frequency of meetings	Members and affiliations
1. Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) Designated by the 1998 Fisheries Act	Ministry for Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources	NA	Provides advice to the minister on matters relation to the conservational, protection and development of fisheries in Solomon Islands. Administers Fisheries Management and Development Fund	Ad hoc	To consist of 5-7 persons. Planned membership as at July 2004 is: Permanent Secretary, DFMR (Chair) and one representative each from: from the following sectors: Industry, NGOs, Fisheries (DFME), Dept of Trade and Industry, and Civil Society (with fisheries specialty)
2. Tuna Management Committee. (Designated under Section 8 of the Schedule to the 1998 Fisheries Act)	Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources	NA	Originally envisaged under the Management Plan as a sub-committee of the FAC. Provides the operational Authority for implementing the Management Plan.. Charged with advising the Director the strategic direction of the tuna fisheries under the Management Plan. Also has the function of coordinating the activities of key divisions of the Government of Solomon Islands related to the management of tuna.	Ad hoc	FAC to appoint a Chairperson to. The Director (Secretary) of Fisheries shall be an <i>ex officio</i> observer. The other members of the Committee to be selected by the Council but will normally comprise a balance of public officials from agencies involved in the management of the tuna fisheries, representatives of the tuna fishing industry and representatives of NGOs with interests related to the tuna fisheries.

³ Note: the above consultative mechanisms are indicative and are allowed for under the 1998 Fisheries Act and the National Tuna Development and Management Plan, 1999, but are yet to be implemented. The mechanisms are still considered relevant, and are currently being reactivated

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Annex 3 – Record of Stakeholder Consultation GEF SAP II Country Mission – SOLOMON ISLANDS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Wednesday, 14th July 2004

Commonwealth Youth Programme

Honiara

Participant List

Edwin Oreihaka, Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources (DFMR); George Boape, (**CHAIR**), DFMR; John Leqata, (**TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**) DFMR; Jean Gordon, Attorney General's Office; Moses Biliki, Department of Environment; Kenneth Bulehite, IWP-Solomon Islands; Kitchener Collenson, SI Tuna Fishing Agency; Kristina Fidali, ECANSI (local NGO); Barbara Hanchard, (Forum Fisheries Agency).

The mission to the Solomon Islands held a primary stakeholder consultation after the public forum. Nine participants representing government, non-governmental, tertiary, and regional agencies attended the Stakeholder Consultation. An obvious absence was representation from the fishing industry. Mr Ian Cartwright gave a presentation on GEF SAP II Project: Strengthening National Fisheries Management in relation to the implementation of the new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention.

Mr George Boape as Chair noted that the GEF mission was important in raising the understanding of tuna fisheries management particularly as it affected (the economic well being) of the country. He also noted that development opportunities for the Solomon Islands would largely depend on how it reacted to the Convention and the management framework that it will put in place. Issues raised in the discussion were as follows:

Issues raised during the consultation were as follows:

- The importance of understanding the relationships between, climate, oceanography and ecosystems and target species in order to fully appreciate the dynamics of the tuna fisheries.
- The need to implement effective in-zone fisheries management and exercise flag control in order to meet the obligations of the Convention.
- Engagement of all stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management, and the need for effective communications between government departments, the private sector and the broader community.
- The differing roles of the Commission and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) noting that there was a place for FFA under the new Convention regime
- The process of resource allocation needs to be fully understood, both under the Commission process, and at a national level in the context of using the process to encourage domestic industry development.
- With respect to budgetary allocation, the SI Government does not seem to be devoting sufficient resources to fisheries management, as required under the Fisheries Act. Staff are poorly resourced, require additional capacity building and are well below strength if Convention obligations are to be met.

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Other consultations were held prior to and after the two one-day meetings. These were with:

Government

- Mr Fred Ganate, Permanent Secretary, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources (DFMR)
- Mr Edwin Oreihaka, Acting Director General, DFMR
- Mr George Boape, Deputy Director (Licensing), DFMR
- Mr Robert Maneiria, Principle Fisheries Officer (Statistics & Information), DFMR
- Mr John Leqata, Senior Fisheries Officer (Research), DFMR
- Mr Edward Tokuru, Chief Superintendent & Commander, Solomon Islands Police (Maritime Division)
- Mr Sam K. Tagana, Under Secretary, Department of Police and National Security
- Mr Moses Biliki, Director of Environment⁴ and GEF Focal Point
- Peter Forau, Permanent Secretary, Dept. of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Francis Waleanisia, Chief Crown Counsel, Attorney General's Chamber

⁴ The Team had been earlier advised that the Solomon Islands GEF Focal Point was the Director of Environment who presented himself as such. Mr Tom Twining-Ward (UNDP Samoa) during a chance meeting in Honiara advised that the GEF Focal Point had been moved to the Office of the Permanent Secretary. The Team was not able to meet with the Permanent Secretary.

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GEF SAP II Country Mission – SOLOMON ISLANDS

PUBLIC FORUM

Wednesday, 14th July 2004

Commonwealth Youth Programme

Honiara

Participant List

Edwin Oreihaka, Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources (DFMR); George Boape, (**CHAIR**), Deputy Director, Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement, DFMR; Gideon Tiroba, DFMR; John Leqata, (**TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**) DFMR; Sam K. Tagana, Department of Police & National Security; Philip Fafe, Department of Foreign Affairs; Jean Gordon, Attorney General's Office; Moses Biliki, Department of Environment; Kenneth Bulehite, IWP-Solomon Islands; Albert Wata, Parauru Agency; Kitchener Collenson, SI Tuna Fishing Agency; Starling Daefa, Solomon Island College of Higher Education (SICHE); Alex Makini, SICHE; Lucian Kii, SICHE; William Atu, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Kristina Fidali, ECANSI; David Lidimani, Student; N. Barbara Hanchard, FFA.

The Mission to Solomon Islands held a public forum prior to the stakeholder consultation, to create awareness of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention and the tuna industry in the Pacific Islands. The forum was chaired by the Deputy Director (Licensing) of the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources.

Mr Ian Cartwright gave a presentation on the WCPF Convention and the Management of Oceanic Fisheries in the WCPO.

Issues raised in the public forum were as follows:

- Need for involvement of all relevant stakeholders in SI in the oceanic fisheries management process so as to keep abreast of regional developments, especially those at the Commission. This was also important if ownership of the process is to be achieved.
- Good communication and effective working relationships between government departments will be essential to the development of a oceanic fisheries management framework. Information dissemination from DFMR will be pivotal in this regard.
- Tendency for AGs to become involved from discussions on fisheries issues and developments in fisheries policy, and yet are expected to draft relevant legislation, e.g. for the Act to be in compliance with the WCPF Convention.
- Regional fisheries data collection programmes did not always seem to result in direct benefits/relevance for Solomon Islands. There is a need to ensure that if data is collected, then it is analyzed and presented in a form that is useful for management and development purposes, as well as to provide key information on sustainability issues.

Annex 4 – Availability of National Indicators

Indicator	Availability	Current Value, if easily available
1. Coverage of:		
a) catch and effort log-sheets: domestic fleet	✓	
b) catch and effort log-sheets: foreign fleet		
c) port sampling	✓	
d) observers: domestic fleet	✓	
2. Levels of budgets and staffing for these programmes	✓	
3. Levels of fleet capacity and fishing effort	✓	
4. Catch of target species,	✓	
5. Levels of mortality of related species, including by-catch and seabirds	×	Not easily available

Note: this analysis does not include a range of national indicators which are known to be available for all countries such as status of legislation, undertaking of national reforms etc.

Annex 5 - Sustainability Analysis

Annual Government Revenue from Licensing: SI\$9.4m

Annual In-Zone Catch Value:

Annual Domestic Catch Value:

(Data above to be estimated by FFA)

Annual Production Value (including value of processing): =SI\$8.0 million

Expected Annual Commission Contributions: US\$8,000 -12,000

Estimated Annual Government Incremental Costs: SI\$1.08m