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# Fisheries Management Project

PACIFIC ISLANDS



OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



## Project Sustainability & Follow-up

4th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the OFM Project  
17 - 18 October 2008  
Apia, Samoa



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# Introduction

## Working paper RSC4/WP 8 (Project Sustainability & Follow-up)

- overview of project sustainability and a brief account of some of the relevant outcomes of the 2007 Annual Review and the Mid-Term Review that support the rationale for assistance beyond 2010;
- explanation of the process to develop a project concept for the fifth round of GEF funding (GEF5) and the GEF system; and
- synopsis of other funding initiatives that are being developed and which may have the potential to impact on the design of a further project.



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# Purpose

- Purpose – to generate discussion on project sustainability and the potential to develop a further phase of assistance for Pacific regional oceanic fisheries management
- Need to consider – progress in the current project including wins, risks & emerging parallel initiatives
- Recall that the premises for GEF grant to the Pacific for OFM is to address global concerns for unsustainable fishing and negative impacts on ecosystems
- Attachment A – summary overview of the project



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# Sustainability

- To understand gains, must know the baseline (2002 & 2005)
- Comprehensive analysis of the status of the fisheries stock, the robustness of the available science, level and quality of the management as well as economic and development aspects
- Ongoing assessment of the role of OFMP & GEF assistance to support regional initiatives to ensure tuna stocks & ecosystems (2007 Annual Review & Mid-Term Review)



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# Sustainability

Since 2005 it became clear that PacSIDs would need :

- to elevate their efforts to ensure legislation, policy frameworks were aligned to meet obligations to WCPFC CMMs
- Improve the understanding of the population dynamics of tuna, related species & by-catch and environmental issues (oceanic ecosystems & oceanography)
- Immediate issue is the sustainability of OFMP project activities to be able to continue where necessary when GEF support stops & if there are actions that can be taken within the project to ensure those programmes necessary will continue



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# Sustainability of Project Activities

- Differences between regional activities for the 2 technical components:
  - C2 budget committed to consultancies, workshops & attachments so little at stake in terms of sustainability
  - C1 committed to funding 4 posts at SPC/OFP & more concerns in terms of sustainability
- Major achievement is to have the Stock Assessment posts in phase 1 now taken up in the WCPFC budget & contributes towards the sustainability of the core science function
- Posts funded for coordination of monitoring, national scientific support and ecosystem analysis support training activities (observers & port samplers) and along with compliance training of inspectors raise the issue of continuity.
- Likely need to shift focus from regional organisation providing this training to training service providers with sustainable cost recovery-based funding
- Strategic thinking is required



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# At National Levels

- Mixed pattern
- Some signs of PacSIDS growing benefits from oceanic fisheries & enhanced awareness of need to improve oceanic fisheries management → increased resources available for national oceanic fisheries programmes (monitoring, compliance, policy analysis, participation regional fisheries affairs)
- But, PacSIDS role of fisheries is small and harder to make the case for increasing resources for programmes such as port sampling, observers, MCS, meeting participation & therefore difficulties in sustaining national programmes
- Outcomes are dependent on perceived economic value of increased oceanic fisheries management efforts



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# Sustainability of Commission Related Activities

Two issues:

- Funding for Commission itself, largely from Member contributions, but in future perhaps from cost recovery charges should not be a major issue because of the relatively small budget in relation to the value of the fisheries – funding issues are more likely to be political efforts to obstruct Commission activities by tightening budgets rather than a failure to meet financial commitments.
- Pacific SIDS participation: likely to be less of a problem than it could be because of the unique provision in the WCPFC financial regulations (funding provided for a Pacific SIDS member to all WCPFC meetings, including meetings of working groups and other subsidiary bodies)





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## Follow-up

- While it is relatively early in the OFMP execution period to talk about follow-up, it is important that planning for any further GEF involvement should begin early enough for a further phase to be taken into account in planning at the GEF, and within the work programmes of FFA, SPC and other organisations involved in executing project activities.
- Any follow up should also follow logically from what has been a decade long stream of work both on the WCPFC Convention beginning in earnest with the Majuro meeting of 1997 and the preparation of the Pacific Islands IW SAP which was also initiated in 1997.



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# Developing ideas for follow-up

- Phase I – preparation of an international legal instrument & supporting PacSIDS to “*conclude & bring into force WCPFC*”
- Phase II – support PacSIDS in institutional development & strengthening, as they “*participate in the setting up and initial period of operation of the new Commission....., and as they reform, realign, restructure and strengthen their national fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programmes to take up the new opportunities which the WCPF Convention creates and discharge the new responsibilities which the Convention requires*”
- Also significant progress towards adopting CMMs & closing the gap of unregulated high seas fishing
- However, CMMs are stopgap measures aimed at “holding the line” & capping fishing effort at recent levels & not long term strategic approach to the utilisation of resources & protection of LME. More strategic approach required



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## Some ideas

Further GEF assistance could be aimed at (away from institution building):

- Strategies and Measures for the sustainable use of target stocks
- Strategies and Measures for the protection of non-target species affected by fishing, and for protection of the marine environment
- Ecosystem analysis and protection, including work on climate change
- Compliance with measures, possibly based on implementation of the FFA Regional MCS Strategy by Pacific SIDS

Should also consider:

- Targeting smaller PAC SIDS struggling to participate at WCPFC (AR 2007 & Mid-term Review)
- Linkages with Indonesia and the Philippines



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# Developing a Concept

- Attention of higher regional level (FFC, HOFs etc) & possibility to raise this at special FFC68 net week
- GEF processes (outlined p.6 & Attachment B) but should appreciate that there are some unknown factors concerning GEF5 for which there are currently no answers e.g.
  - Whether RAF (Resource Allocation Framework) will extend to all GEF Focal Areas
  - How this will work for IW LMEs
  - How it will affect the allocation under IW for Pac SIDS



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## Other issues

- West Pacific-East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA)
  - Administered by the WCPFC Sec for Indonesia, Philippines & Vietnam
  - improve knowledge of oceanic fish stocks & ecosystems & strengthen national capacities in OFM
  - Funding sourced from GEF Council approved (April 2008) support programme for USD 72m for “Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries & Food Security (CTI-CFF)”



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**CTI-CFF**

- Development phase – two meetings, one recently in Honiara
- 6 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, PNG, Philippines, Solomon Is & Timor-L'este). Poss inclusion of more countries
- ADB Implementing Agency



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## RSC4 is invited to:

- i. note the emphasis on sustainable fish stocks and ecosystems results and their contributions towards global environment concerns as underpinning the rationale for GEF assistance;
- ii. discuss the merits of the potential to seek assistance from GEF for a further phase of the OFM Project;
- iii. note emerging initiatives and other issues that need to be taken into account in the design of a further phase; and
- iv. forward to the special FFC68 for consideration recommendations concerning the possibility of a further phase of assistance from GEF after 2010.



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