



PLANNING MEETING FOR THE DESIGN OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Honiara, Solomon Islands

17-18 March 2010

Opening

1. The planning meeting for the design of the second phase of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP II) was opened by the meeting facilitator, Ms Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP) based at the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The meeting Facilitator welcomed participants and stressed the need for a full and frank discussion of all aspects of the implementation of OFMP II. It was noted that due to the disruption of flights caused by cyclones Tomas and Ului, representatives from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York and Fiji and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pacific Programme were unable to be in Honiara for the meeting. A list of participants is appended as **Attachment A**.

Introduction

2. The meeting Facilitator introduced the purpose of the meeting and outlined the proposed work schedule. The meeting agreed to the draft work schedule appended as **Attachment B**.

Introduction to GEF (Global Environment Facility)

3. Mr Joe Stanley, GEF Support Adviser, provided an overview of GEF, outlining the key aspects of funding and the process by which GEF projects are approved. GEF funding cycles are replenished every four years, with the current GEF4 scheduled to end in June 2010. GEF5 is likely to be funded under one of three scenarios, at USD4.5 billion, 5.50 billion or 6.5 billion with USD450 million allocated to the International Waters focal area. The GEF Council will approve the replenishment for GEF5 in June and the commencement of the work programme. The GEF Support Adviser pointed out that with GEF, everything is negotiable and countries can identify key priorities for GEF support.

4. UNDP is one of the three original GEF project implementing agencies and was chosen for the first phase of the OFMP because of its existing and established links in the Pacific Region. Currently there are 10 GEF implementing agencies competing for project implementation in the region, particularly the World Bank, which encourages co-financing, a major requirement for GEF-funded projects.

5. GEF recognises national political and operational focal points in each country and expects that they are engaged and familiar with GEF activities, even those executed through regional organisations rationalising that countries are members of those organisation and must have ownership of the project, making the roles of the focal points more critical. Project design is important and there are opportunities following periodic reviews, to redesign the project including with respect to the roll-over of funding.

GEF Co-Financing

6. The GEF Support Adviser further advised that GEF projects must contribute to global environmental benefits and support of this function, GEF financing is intended to build from a baseline, defined as a “business as usual” scenario, i.e. what the region would be doing anyway, without GEF financing. It is not intended that projects form or support the establishment of a baseline. GEF’s funding mechanism, therefore, is set up as a co-financer with its main objective being to provide seed money for projects that would then encourage co-financing from other sources. Incremental costs are those contributions made by the project beneficiaries to leverage co-financing. On average, the global ratio of GEF financing to co-financing is 1:4. In the Pacific it is about 1:1. In the Project Identification Form (PIF) for phase II, the co-financing ratio is currently at 1:6.

GEF5 International Waters Strategy

7. The Lead Expert, Mr Les Clark, presented an overview of the GEF5 International Waters Strategy. The focal area is the promotion of collective management for trans-boundary water systems and subsequent implementation of the full range of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments that contribute to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. The work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and consequent obligations on its member countries falls into the category of a trans-boundary water system. Two key objectives under the International Waters Strategy that relate to the OFMP are to:

- Catalyze multi-state cooperation to rebuild marine fisheries and large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and their coasts while taking account of climatic variability and change;
- Promote effective management of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) directed at preventing depletion of fisheries and biodiversity.

Project support under OFMP II, for the second objective will depend on the level of GEF5 replenishment and may be included should GEF5 global funding levels reach USD5.5 billion.

UNDP as a GEF Implementing Agency

8. The meeting Facilitator made a presentation on the comparative advantages of UNDP as an Implementing Agency. These included:

- Strong presence in the region with focal points in all Pacific countries;
- GEF identifies UNDP as the best vehicle for design and delivery of GEF capacity building and technical assistance projects;
- Good fit between UNDP, FFA and SPC;
- Good record of effective delivery – the Mid-Term Review (MTR) noted a high degree of personal interest and commitment by UNDP to OFMP.

Update on WCPFC

9. The Lead Expert provided an update of the successful implementation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) including that it has a membership of 25 coastal and distant water fishing States, an approved 2010 budget of US\$3.4m and a functioning structure (Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee, Commission Sessions and Working Groups). The Commission currently has a large number of relatively comprehensive CMMs in place. Challenges include high seas rights, SIDS/DWFN conflicts, revenue needs, budget limits and control, and species conservation trade-offs. Many initiatives are groundbreaking in global fisheries management, including with respect to the high seas boarding and inspection regime, the regional observer programme and the vessel monitoring system.

OFMP II – Mid-Term Review/ Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Outcome

10. The meeting Facilitator provided background information on the establishment of OFMP and the outcome of the MTR. The MTR concluded that the project was well designed and managed with significant achievements in scientific monitoring and assessment as well as enabling many countries to meet their WCPFC obligations. Although increased capacity of Pacific SIDS to meet their WCPFC obligations was noted as a significant achievement, there was also a weakness identified in a lack of focus on the smaller island countries who are still struggling to meet their WCPFC obligations and specific national needs. The MTR and RSC recommendations included the need for strengthening of long term capacity building activities, as well as a greater focus on building the scientific capabilities of Pacific SIDS.

Project Identification Form Status

12. The Meeting Facilitator outlined the status of the PIF, which was developed on the basis of the recommendations of the MTR and member country requirements. The focus of the PIF is on national implementation of WCPFC conservation and management measures (CMMs), the Knowledge Management Strategy and geared to the requirements of smaller island countries. The key elements are:

- Strengthening legal and policy frameworks and performance;
- Near real time info for fisheries ecosystem management;
- Improving understanding of LME;
- Protecting biodiversity;
- Deterring IUU fishing;
- Knowledge management and civil society partnerships; and
- Project management.

13. It is expected that PIF submissions could potentially be submitted to UNDP/GEF by June/July this year for GEF CEO approval to forward to the November GEF Council meeting for inclusion into the work programme.

14. Details of OFMP II and the outline of the PIF are as follows:

PIF Title: Implementation of the Regional & Global Oceanic Fisheries Conventions in the Pacific Islands (OFMP II)

Pacific SIDS (including Tokelau)

- 5 years
- USD13.7m
- Implementing Agency: UNDP
- Executing Agencies: FFA, SPC (WWF, IUCN etc)

Major Objectives:

- Achieve global environmental benefits and strengthen contribution of oceanic fisheries to sustainable development of Pacific SIDS, through enhanced collective conservation and management of trans-boundary oceanic fishery resources;
- Implement global and regional fishery conservation and management instruments, particularly the implementation of practical stress reduction (reduced fishing mortality) measures adopted by the WCPFC

Components of the PIF:

- Component 1 - Governance: Strengthening of legal and policy frameworks and performance, including deterring IUU fishing;
- Component 2 - Science: Improve collection and processing of scientific data, including incorporation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, toward more effective monitoring of compliance with conservation and management measures; improve understanding of climate change and its impact on oceanic fisheries;
- Component 3 - Knowledge Management: Increase understanding and awareness across broad sectors of society through greater stakeholder participation, including in WCPFC;
- Component 4 - Project management: Monitoring and evaluation.

15. The methodology for co-financing estimates for each component covering WCPFC, FFA, SPC, NGOs and Pacific SIDS contributions was discussed and the estimate of 1:6 was calculated. The method for OFMP II will be to identify three or four key areas of co-financing for the smaller member countries. This will allow a streamlined approach to the reporting process.

Legal and Policy Issues & Deterring IUU fishing (Component 1)

16. Mr Maruia Kamatie of the FFA gave a presentation on elements of Component 1. Mr. Kamatie pointed out that the WCPF Commission is fully functional and the recently-adopted South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) relating to demersal species, will soon be operational. The main focus for FFA is now on implementation and coordination of WCPFC CMMs and national requirements with particular focus on the requirements of smaller island nations.

17. Legal aspects were covered by Dr. Manu Tupou-Roosen, FFA Legal Counsel. Dr. Tupou-Roosen noted an increased focus on national level work and especially the needs of smaller island members including with respect to issues relating to WCPFC, building capacity and assisting with strengthening legal frameworks.

18. Mr Andrea Volentras, FFA Director of Operations, gave background information on the proposed activities in the area of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). Work will focus on in-zone matters in line with the Regional MCS Strategy including continued observer training and the development of observer training capacity in-country, high seas boarding and inspection training, strengthening national capacity to deal with high seas IUU fishing activity, and attachments to FFA.

19. The Lead Expert advised that proposed activities for inclusion in OFMP II such as workshops, attachments and training, need to be formulated into an aggregated budget over the next few weeks.

Provision of Information (Component 2)

20. Mr Don Bromhead, SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme, presented a summary of proposed SPC activities under OFMP II relating to scientific information provided by Pacific SIDS that contribute to the development of WCPFC CMMs. Key focus areas will be: capacity development in fishery and ecosystem monitoring at the national level, improved data management systems, and improved quality and credibility of scientific advice for management.

21. Regarding proposed SPC activities related to improving understanding of impacts from climate change on ocean fisheries in the warm pool large marine ecosystems, the Lead Expert suggested that in order to streamline the project, the climate change element should be incorporated into Component 2.

Knowledge Management & Civil Society (Component 3)

22. The meeting Facilitator introduced Component 3, Knowledge Management & Civil Society. OFMP II's objective under this component is to increase understanding and awareness and participation in the project itself, in addition to raising awareness about WCPFC activities. OFMP's current activities include information dissemination through websites, publications, promotional material, IWLEARN networks, and other fora. Current stakeholder awareness activities involve coordination with ENGOs and INGOs, and this has proved relatively successful. Under OFMP II, there will be greater emphasis on knowledge management.

Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation (Component 4)

23. In response to the MTR for OFMP I which concluded that the Project Management Component was under-resourced, it is proposed that this component under OFMP II will be strengthened to include an additional finance and administration post at FFA as well as co-funding of the information officer at FFA. In addition the SPC component will be boosted with the addition of an administration officer. These enhancements will allow for improved Knowledge Management, more streamlined reporting and release the Coordinator to focus more fully on overall project coordination.

Project Design Issues

24. The Lead Expert lead the discussion on design issues associated with developing the PIF.

These included:

- Co-financing: determines the balance between high and low incremental costs. Co-financing of 3:1 is already covered through regional fisheries bodies (Commission, FFA, SPC. At a minimum, regional experts will need to collect information from countries on what is already committed (eg. participation at meetings). The regional experts will take template endorsement letters for explanation to country GEF focal points. A background note on GEF and OFMP II, along with a project timeline will be sent in advance of the country missions and discussed with fisheries officials and focal points in country.
- National Coordination: NCC failure: Inter-ministerial, cross-sectoral coordination, including stakeholder involvement on international fisheries management. Is import to GEF. Mechanism options include tapping into existing consultative mechanisms such as boards of authorities or consultative committees (eg Tuna CC). National request need to be referred to a group of stakeholders by the national coordinator where consultative mechanisms do not exist. The country mission exercise should identify the appropriate mechanism in each member country. In-country GEF funded activities need to be identified by the PCU so that countries are aware and can inform and involve stakeholders as appropriate.
- Scientific Training: MTR identified a weakness in the regional scientific and environmental capacity and indicated the need for long term tertiary training. There is currently \$100,000 included in the project to develop a strategy to set up an appropriate tertiary program.
- PCU Strengthening: additional support staff to enhance the effectiveness of the PCU is included in the project in line as per the recommendation by the MTR to strengthen the PCU.
- Knowledge Management: enhanced capacity included through addition of a part-funded communications specialist. Public domain documentation/technical reports should be made available through a PCU database in coordination with agencies such as FFA and SPC.

- Pacific Plan Links/Forum Secretariat: greater links to Pacific Plan is required and broader requirement for integration with other CROP agency activities. For OFMP II the Project Coordinator should provide a report to the Marine Sector Working Group to ensure greater awareness among and coordination with related activities of other CROP agencies with regional marine responsibilities. Regional experts will need to find out who the Forum Smaller Islands States national focal point is and the PCU should make contact with the Forum Secretariat SIS Adviser.
- Gender/human rights: UNDP advises that gender and human rights concerns are represented through all UNDP policies and projects. The project needs to have a clear policy/strategy on equality between male and female eg. Human resources development. Each activity notice should require gender equity and reports of workshops etc should include gender disaggregation. There should be included a statement in ProDoc in line with GEF, UNDP, FFA and SPC gender policies and gender issues should be dealt with in the baseline for the ProDoc. There needs to be a study to inform the project on the matter. Human rights: communal values versus individual rights an issue in the Pacific. Community participation in policy making can be characterized as “human rights” in the ProDoc.
- Industry Participation: MTR questioned why there wasn't more industry participation in the project. Industry participation at Commission meetings can be counted as co-financing and this would make them a stakeholder in the project and their contribution would be accounted for. GEF's philosophy is to incorporate industry to contribute to co-financing.
- Stakeholder Analysis: Stakeholders were identified and classified during OFMP I country missions and reports were produced on stakeholders. Are stakeholder analyses required in the ProDoc? – Need to seek clarification from UNDP/GEF on whether a stakeholder report is required.
- Cash Cow: At the donor level, there is an increasing feeling that the types of activities undertaken in OFMP should not be funded on a long term basis and should be funded by those who benefit directly from the activities, e.g. fishing industry. Building capacity is OK, but cost recovery is an issue. The view is that funding for these activities should be built into countries' core budgets. OFMP II focus is on smaller island countries that don't get the same benefits from oceanic fisheries as larger island countries, therefore warranting a need for continued support.
- IUCN: Involvement is not budgeted for in OFMP II presently. IUCN has expressed interest in SPRFMO and Marine Ocean Policy, with a special interest in Marine Protected Areas and seamounts and any initiative they intend to pursue should add value (something useful that FFA and SPC can't do).
- Climate Change: There are some key policy and legal aspects that need to be addressed, e.g. what happens to EEZs when islands simply cease to exist or become uninhabitable due to sea level rise? The PIF will include information on scientific and legal aspects of climate change in the context of fisheries, although it is noted that some of this is only abstract at the moment.
- Ecosystem Services: GEF introduced a change in wording in their strategic objective from “maintaining biodiversity” to “maintenance of ecosystem services”. This changes the approach from one of conservation for science's sake to one of conservation for people's sake. It is still unclear as to what ecosystem services means and the definition of this needs to be clarified with the GEF Secretariat.
- Smaller Island States Needs: OFMP II will fund one FMA/ Smaller Island States position to be based at FFA. Legal element will be emphasising assistance to Smaller Island States in order to meet their obligations under the WCPFC. From a GEF

perspective, funds for International Waters projects come out of a regional allocation and in theory, all members should get an equal share. However, the WCPF Convention makes explicit mention of the special needs of smaller island States and the Forum Secretariat has a dedicated Smaller Island States Unit, justifying OFMP II focus on SIS.

- Coordination with other GEF funded projects: A number of other regional projects can add benefit to OFMP II, such as PIPA, Coral Triangle Initiative, WCPFC Indonesia-Philippines Data Collection Project, Micronesia Challenge and the Phoenix Islands MPA.

National Missions

25. The Lead Expert outlined the aims of the country missions and the information collection requirements. These include the need to assess implications of WCPFC to oceanic fisheries management in Pacific SIDS, an analysis of incremental actions being undertaken to meet WCPFC obligations, and preparing a summary of the extent of Pacific SIDS implementation of WCPFC conservation and management measures and decisions.

Approach and Timing

26. The meeting Facilitator outlined the current timeline for development of the PIF and Project Document and advised that this timeline would need to be confirmed with UNDP and GEF. An essential requirement for the completion of the PIF are endorsement letters from FFA member countries and the template for the letter needs to be obtained.

Country Missions will take place from March to May 2010. This will be followed by a 1 day Design Workshop directly before the May 10-14 FFC in Honiara. The PIF will then be formally presented to FFA member countries for their endorsement at the annual FFC meeting. The PIF together with member country letters of endorsement should be submitted to UNDP for technical review in July 2010 or as soon as possible, with the view of submission to the GEF Secretariat September 2010 for Council review in November 2010. The timing of the STAP review of the project on a full project document is unclear. When completed, the Project Document can be submitted to the GEF CEO for final endorsement and posting on the web for any final comments from Council members. The issue of whether or not there needs to be endorsement by member countries of the Project Document also requires clarification. Ideally, the OFMP II should come on line before the March 2011 conclusion of OFMP I. The projected timeline is appended as **Attachment C**.

Close of the Meeting

27. The meeting Facilitator thanked all participants for their contribution to a successful meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Les Clark
Lead Expert

Ms Barbara Hanchard
Project Coordinator

Mr Joe Stanley
GEF Support Advisor
Pacific Regional Environment Program

Ms Lynelle Popot
United Nations Development Programme
Solomon Islands Regional Sub-Office

Mr Don Bromhead
Oceanic Fisheries Programme
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Dr Manu Tupou-Roosen
Legal Counsel
Forum Fisheries Agency

Mr Andrea Volentras
Director of Fisheries Operations
Forum Fisheries Agency

Mr Maruia Kamatie
Fisheries Management Officer
Forum Fisheries Agency

Ms Anouk Ride
Information Officer
Forum Fisheries Agency

Mr Colin Brown
Regional Expert

Ms Rhea Moss
Regional Expert

**Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II - Global Environment
Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project Design Planning Meeting**

AGENDA

**17 – 18 March
FFA HQ Honiara, Solomon Islands**

Purpose

1. To develop a shared vision among the key participants of the process for designing the OFMP II project.
2. To agree a detailed work plan for design activities with identification of responsibilities.
3. To prepare in particular a template for the reports of the national missions

<i>Wednesday 17 March</i>		
0900	<i>Opening/ Introductions/Purpose</i>	<i>FFA</i>
0915	Introduction to the GEF/International Waters (global environmental benefits/incremental costs/co-financing IW Strategies etc) and update on GEF5	GEF Pacific Advisor
1000	<i>Morning Tea Break</i>	
1015	<i>UNDP as a GEF Implementing Agency</i>	<i>UNDP</i>
1030	OFMP II - Mid Term Review/Regional Steering Committee Outcome	PCU
1000	WCPFC Update	Clark
1130	Project Identification Form (PIF) Status	PCU
1215	<i>Lunch (to be provided)</i>	
1315	OFMP II Outline	Clark
1400	SAP II Project Document Outline	Clark
1430	Project Components	
	.Provision of Info & Climate Change	SPC
1500	<i>Afternoon Tea Break</i>	
1530	.Law and Policy, & Deterring IUU Fishing	FFA/PCU
1600	.Knowledge Management, & Civil Society	FFA/WWF

1630	·PCU, including monitoring and evaluation	PCU
Thursday 18 March		
0830	Project Design Issues	Clark
	·Co-financing	
	·National coordination – NCC failure	
	·Indicators	
	·Scientific training/MTE proposal	
	·PCU strengthening	
	·Knowledge management	
	·Pacific Plan links/Forum Secretariat	
	·Gender/human rights	
	·Industry participation	
	·Stakeholder analysis	
	·The cash cow	
	·IUCN	
	·Climate change - policy and legal aspects	
	·Ecosystem services	
	·“Smaller” island states needs	
1000	<i>Morning Tea Break</i>	
1030	National Missions	Clark
	Report Template	
	Approach & Timing	
1130	Design Work Plan Review	
1230	<i>Lunch (to be provided)</i>	
1330	Round-Up & Report: Review of Meeting Progress & Issues Arising	

Timeline for submission of PIF / ProDoc & Projected OFMP Phase II

Event	Indicative dates 2010 – 2011/timing
Country Missions	March – May 2010
Design Workshop (national reports)	7 May 2010 (Honiara)
FFC Endorsement	10 – 14 May 2010 (Honiara)
GEF5 commencement	July 2010
GEF OFP endorsements of PIF	Before July 2010
GEF OFP endorsement of co-financing	?
PIF (with country endorsements) submission to UNDP (who submit to GEF Sec on monthly basis)	July (UNDP sighted versions of the PIF without endorsements)
PIF submission to GEF Sec	Advice from UNDP NY that PIF will not be submittable until the end of summer (September 2010) for the November 2010 GEF Council meeting
GEF CEO clears PIF to go to Council work programme	Allow for 4 weeks before GEF Council meeting for review by all GEF Agencies, STAP review (PIF & STAP review comments posted in the web
GEF Council Meeting (PIF for inclusion in the GEF work program)	November 2010
Submit full Project Document	Submission date ? (GEF Sec review with 10 working days of receiving draft ProDoc, the circulate to GEF Council who have 4 weeks to comment)
GEF CEO endorsement	?
First GEF5 work program	Early 2011
Phase I conclusion (no-cost extension)	End March 2011
Phase II commencement	April 2011 (potentially)

