

## FIFTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC) FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Honiara, Solomon Islands  
7 November 2009

### SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. The fifth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFM Project) was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, 7 November 2009. Representatives from the following participating country governments and organizations were present: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the United Nations Development Programme. A list of participants is appended at **Attachment A**.

#### *Opening of Meeting*

2. The Project Coordinator briefly welcomed the FFA member delegates, UNDP and other organizations attending the meeting. The national representative from Tonga, Siliveinusi Ha'unga, Ministry of Agriculture & Food, Forestry & Fisheries (Fisheries Division) opened the meeting with a prayer.

#### *Introductory Remarks*

3. Knut Ostby, UNDP Multi country office Resident Representative Suva, made introductory remarks that explained the importance of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP) and objective of the meeting. A copy of his introductory remarks is appended at **Attachment B**.

#### *Opening Remarks*

4. Dan Sua, Director-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency made a opening address. A copy of his opening address is appended at **Attachment C**.

#### *Procedural Issues*

5. The Co-Chairs for this meeting were Knut Ostby, UNDP and Antonio Mulipola Director of Samoa Fisheries. The Co-chairs welcomed participants and representatives from various organizations and outlined procedural issues.

#### *Apologies*

6. Apologies were received from National Focal Point from the Federated States of Micronesia, these apologies were relayed by Eugene Pangelinan who was sitting in on the meeting on his behalf.

#### *Adoption of Agenda*

7. The provisional agenda was adopted, with the removal of the agenda item 'Next Meeting' and a copy is appended at **Attachment D**.

## SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION

### *Agenda Item 1: Annual Reports*

8. The Project Coordinator presented the Annual Report, detailed in the previously circulated *RSC5 Working Paper 4* including project achievements for this period. Attention was drawn to the main points in the report, including Attachment A which includes details of the project rating as 'highly satisfactory' and the Mid Term Review which viewed the project as being successfully implemented and recommended a further phase. A special mention was also made of the contribution of the late Gordon Anderson for his invaluable contributions to the Project. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

9. The Committee noted and endorsed the Report.

10. Dr Don Bromhead, Fisheries Scientist, Oceanic Fisheries Programme from SPC presented a report on SPC activities under Component 1 of the Project over the last 12 months. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

11. Cook Islands asked about whether future planned in-country data auditing would be done by SPC staff or by consultants. SPC was uncertain and responded it would consult with colleagues for further information about whether SPC would be only coordinating that activity or also undertaking those audits in country. Cook Islands also asked whether future updates of National Tuna Fishery Status Reports (NTFSRs) would be conducted by OFP, another agency or left to countries to conduct themselves. SPC reassured delegates that it will undertake reviews and updates of National Tuna Fishery Status Reports upon request by countries and that wherever possible (i.e. depending on in-country resources and capacity), and that these updates be done collaboratively with an assigned fisheries officer(s) from the countries fisheries department.

12. FSM reiterated the importance of SPC's activities for small fisheries administrations especially given WCPFC and related science needs. FSM noted this was made evident with the recent FAD closure and FSM was able to achieve the level of coverage expected by the WCPFC conservation and management measure with SPC assistance. This was also important for compliance and allowed fleets to continue to operate resulting in benefits to flow to the country such as employment of observers. FSM noted that delivery of the national fisheries report, provided under the Project, was a very important tool for FSM for policy makers. Stock assessment workshops were also valuable and FSM expressed particular support for the inclusion of capacity building regarding science based management and further work on the effects of climate change effects and El Nino in plans for future work.

13. Regarding the tagging program, FSM questioned the map presented to the meeting which appeared to show most of the tagging was in EEZs? FSM noted given the recent WCPFC management measures regarding high seas tagging in these areas was seen as important. The SPC delegate indicated that he would check whether the map reflected only in-zone tagging, but noted that logistical issues (in particular the need to obtain live bait from suitable baitgrounds) may have constrained tagging activity to within EEZs to date. High seas tagging is a consideration for future tagging phases.

15. UNDP noted the impressive number of scientific publications and asked whether there are plans to synthesis information regarding outputs across all PIOFMP scientific activities and make the information accessible to non-scientific audiences?

16. SPC responded specific components had reports produced for a non-scientific audience but the idea of a synthesised report had merit and would be taken back to SPC for consideration.

## SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION

17. Niue reaffirmed FSM's comments on the importance of SPC work through the Project, noting some constraints in its ability to address issues specific to countries (e.g. stock assessment and stock contraction issues specific to particular countries). Niue expressed appreciation for assistance with the national fisheries report which had provided a very useful resource to inform policy makers and the national tuna management plan. Niue noted as WCPFC progresses and with its obligations on small island developing states, the need for assistance from regional organisations will likely increase.

18. Nauru also supported the statements of FSM and Niue on the importance of SPC's work under the project and thanked SPC for the recently produced NTFSR and other contributions to small island developing states.

19. The Co-Chair (Samoa) reiterated these thanks to SPC and the Project and asked about seamount studies and whether this would include bottomfish or just pelagic species noting the importance of other species this to some countries.

20. SPC responded that project was meant to focus on pelagic species and bycatch around these species but there might be some limited data available on nonpelagic species associated with those fisheries, if those species were incidentally caught during fishing and sampling around seamounts. Recent requests had been made to SPC regarding research into deep sea snapper and further details of future plans in that area of research will be made available after further consultation with relevant SPC staff.

21. Tuvalu thanked SPC for its work under the Project and noted the gap in funding from the project and how this may impact National Data Coordinators – SPC responded it was a common concern and one that would be discussed in the afternoon's session (Agenda Item 4). OFMP Project Coordinator responded data coordinators were designed to be co-funded by countries so there is some obligation for countries to examine how to continue these positions, in cases where it is not possible for small administrations to do so, this needs to be prioritised for the possible next phase of the Project.

22. Kelvin Passfield, Marine Programme Officer, IUCN made a presentation on the IUCN activities under Components 1 and 2 of the Project over the last 12 months. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

23. The Co-Chair (Samoa) noted that countries may have interest in IUCN's expertise regarding seamounts and FADS and that Kelvin was available to respond to these out-of-session.

24. Niue asked of seamounts close to surface if there is a change in bycatch species? Niue noted that in its waters there are large seamounts and no-fishing areas and it had interests in the effects of broader stock contraction and impact around seamounts to inform how to manage fisheries and expressed an interest in future work on this issue if opportunities arise. Niue noted a lack of scientific information on this issue.

25. IUCN responded that fishermen had indicated bycatch species around seamounts included pomfrets, oilfish, barracuda, and the occasional snapper and grouper. IUCN drew attention to the report of their work under the project for further details. IUCN also referred to work undertaken in Australia on swordfish which shows initially high catch rates around seamounts decrease significantly after maybe 2 years. Work conducted at Cross Seamount near Hawaii showed some pelagic species are resident for some time, perhaps weeks or months, but do eventually move away. IUCN noted the planned longline and seamount workshop could easily be extended to include work on the issue of juvenile catch of bigeye and yellowfin around FADS, and feedback would be sought from the Steering Committee on that issue.

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23. The Committee noted the report. IUCN noted an electronic summary paper would be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

24. Manu Tupou-Roosen, Legal Counsel, FFA, presented an outline of Project activities on legal reform under Component 2.1 of the Project. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

25. FSM thanked FFA for the work conducted so far under the Project and commented national capacity in FSM remained an issue as justice staff currently did not have expertise in maritime law and fisheries law and so there was a reliance on FFA for assistance to ensure national legislation enabled fulfilment of WCPFC obligations. FSM requested an in-country legal seminar and an FFA legal attachment in the following year to assist in this matter.

26. FFA responded it would discuss out of session a legal fellowship and legal in country seminar for FSM. FFA noted that one of the key challenges for all FFA members was legislative changes to be compliant with WCPFC and other relevant obligations. FFA noted a template was available with WCPFC regulations and provisions but the next step was making legislative changes. FFA identified national consultants to assist in that work to ensure national capacity is strengthened rather than heavily reliance on FFA staff. FFA will be in contact with these legal consultants and countries to ensure that legislation was updated in a timely manner.

27. Moses Amos, Director of Fisheries Management, FFA, presented a report on policy reform activities under Component 2.2 and 2.3 of the Project. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

28. Niue thanked FFA for the presentation and FFA for the assistance to small island developing countries to participate at WCPFC and develop conservation and management measures at the same time as managing their national fisheries and looked forward to the continuation of this collaboration.

29. Andre Volentras, Director of Fisheries Operations, FFA presented a report on compliance strengthening activities under Component 2 of the Project. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

30. The Committee noted the report.

31. Seremaia Tuqiri, Fisheries Conservation Officer, WWF, made a presentation on Environmental Non-Government Organisation performance under Component 3 of the Project over the last 12 months. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

32. UNDP questioned what were the funders for the community website created and whether logos could be included on the website of funders.

33. WWF responded that the raising of this issue was timely as the website was not yet launched but funders and logos could be acknowledged appropriately before website launch.

34. The Committee noted and endorsed all Annual Reports.

35. Anna Tengberg, UNDP Technical Adviser, outlined the Mid Term Review – Responses & Actions, as provided to the Committee as *RSC5 Working Paper 5*. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

36. FSM thanked UNDP for this summary of the Review but asked for clarification about the recommendation on focusing capacity building on smaller island states.

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37. OFM Project Coordinator commented there was a disparity between Pacific Island states and that recommendation relates to the next phase of the Project. Project Coordinator noted in implementing WCPFC conservation and management measures, the countries that will struggle most will be the smaller states. Some states had received assistance under the institutional strengthening activities of the project.

38. Consultant Les Clark affirmed this disparity in national capacity had also been found in other studies done by other organisations. Les noted the Forum Secretariat already has a smaller islands programme and this institutional framework already in place may provide guidance to the second phase of the Project. For the next phase of the Project, there would be examination of where the needs are greatest, and responses planned accordingly as part of responding to all countries needs.

39. FSM reiterated that with the pressures on coastal states to protect the fish stocks, there will be a shift in administrative burden to all small island developing states. A balance is needed to build up the smaller states but also address those states that are major resource owners so all are able to keep up with management measures they are required to implement.

40. The Committee noted the report.

### *Agenda Item 2: National Project Reports*

41. National project reports (verbal) were provided to the meeting by all except Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea following the template available in *RSC5 Working Paper 6*. Copies of written National Reports submitted to the PCU so far are provided in **Attachment E** and further reports will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

42. Project Coordinator noted the statements regarding the difficulty for countries to determine which activities were funded under the project, as many were provided by FFA and SPC as part of their work programmes. Noting an effort had been made to improve branding of OFMP activities and the provision of an annual summary report on activities, Project Coordinator recognised this as an ongoing concern and welcomed any further suggestions to address this.

43. Project Coordinator thanked all for their reports and noted the challenges and items to respond to countries concerns.

44. Niue commented on the difficulty of identifying OFMP activities and for small administrations to participate in all management meetings. For the future, all capacity was consumed by regional and international issues not allowing sufficient time for attention to the national fisheries and food security and this was a matter to be addressed.

45. FSM commented that the development of longline vessel day scheme is an important undertaking for the region and expressed a desire for FFA and SPC assistance to advance this work to enable better control of the longline fishery and zone-based management which would have particular implications for bigeye tuna.

46. UNDP in responding to the concern on identifying OFMP co-financing that this needed to be addressed in this project phase for reporting and evaluation. The urgency of this reporting was emphasised.

47. Project Coordinator noted this and said planning was underway to get this done.



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48. Co-Chair (UNDP) thanked countries for their positive comments about the funding and what it enabled and also to the in-country officers for their work, without which the achievements would not be possible. Co-Chair (UNDP) took note of the challenges and asked the Project Coordination Unit to take up these and work to address them. However, Co-Chair (UNDP) noted broader challenges such as administrative pressures from WCPFC and others stating this goes against the intent of such initiatives as a point to consider in designing of the next phase of the project in considering national and regional elements to national administration's work programmes.

### *Agenda Item 3: Financial Reporting, Work Plans and Budgets*

49. Royden Gholomo, Project Finance and Administration Officer, presented financial reporting as detailed in *RSC5 Working Paper 7*. This included the 2009 Financial Report and Auditors Report for the previous year, a separate report on IUCN activities, a 2009 Interim Financial Report, a report of the 2009 estimated carry forward and the draft 2010 Budget and AWP. His presentation will be available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef)).

50. Carry Forward was discussed with a note it may be redesigned to meet priorities. Project Coordinator explained some of this was due to loss of staff working on institutional strengthening activities and Project Finance and Administrative Officer noted this was the case as well as the unspent funds in private sector project activities accounted for much of the Carry Forward.

51. Co-Chair (UNDP) noted the time delay for project funding for the next phase and emphasized that some of this was in the hands of the PCU to present a project document immediately when the next GEF funding comes on stream.

52. UNDP confirmed that there were projects coming to an end next year and they are reviewing full project document for GEF 5 currently to ensure their proposal is in early when funding comes on stream.

53. FSM supported the approach suggested by Project Coordinator to support priority activities to minimize the impact on countries benefiting.

54. The Committee:

- Endorsed the 2008 Financial Report noting the 2008 Auditor's Report and the change of Auditors in 2010 ;
- Noted the 2009 Interim Financial Report;
- Noted the 2009 Estimates and Carry Forward projections with the understanding the Carry Forward activities may be redesigned to address priority activities and activities for necessary preparations for next phase of the Project will be brought back to the Committee for consideration;
- Noted the progress of amendments made to the IUCN approved budgets and activities; and
- Provisionally endorsed the draft 2010 Budget & AWP, with the view that a revision taking into account the third dot point, will be circulated as soon as possible.

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### *Agenda Item 4: Implementation of Regional and Global Fisheries Conventions in the Pacific Islands: Concept for a Further Project Phase*

55. Project Coordinator presented the Concept for a Further Project Phase, noting that this had already been presented to the Forum Fisheries Committee previously and details were available in RSC 5 Working Paper 8. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef))

56. Anna Tengberg, UNDP Technical Adviser, presented on the next GEF Project Phase. This presentation will be made available online ([www.ffa.int/gef](http://www.ffa.int/gef))

57. FSM queried GEF5 Objective 4 (areas beyond national jurisdictions) and noted that discussions currently are not going well regarding demarking the northern boundary of the SPRMO area. FSM is exploring the option of a marine protected area to address the gap in management.

58. UNDP outlined that with higher replenishment scenarios this may be possible. As it is a new area, GEF is planning to pilot a few activities and Indian Ocean seamounts are potentially a priority but with some awareness raising the Pacific Ocean could also be considered.

59. Niue noted the preparation in the paper and its presentation to FFC and supported recommendations as outlined by Project Coordinator.

60. Project Coordinator noted on areas of jurisdiction beyond national boundaries that the project objective is designed in such a way conscious of demands on countries due to SPRFMO. This was highlighted with IUCN and current work on seamounts and the current project identification form takes that into account. Details of timing of submission to GEF and co-financing details are yet to be incorporated into the Project proposal.

61. IUCN noted there is a workshop in French Polynesia in a week on MPAs and areas outside national jurisdiction and this was an opportunity to raise issues of concern to countries if need be.

62. Kiribati noted that this objective was currently underway in work in-country and they would appreciate further support if available.

63. Cook Islands noted the potential closing of high seas pocket between Kiribati and French Polynesia could also fall under this Objective.

64. FSM pointed out one of the areas to move forward in closing of high seas pockets is marine protected areas which could be looked into further as a management option for areas beyond national jurisdiction.

65. UNDP pointed out the project should be developed so in the case replenishment is not high enough to fund these activities there are arrangements in place.

66. Project Coordinator responded this Objective was titled "Implementation of International and Regional Fisheries Agreements" so SPRFMO falls in this category, with work in marine protected areas and high seas areas additional to this.

67. Consultant Les Clark confirmed that the possibility of add-on activities does not require change of title or Objective of the next project phase but amplification of some of the activities under it.

68. SPC thanked UNDP for the presentation and clarification on potential length of gap between phases. SPC was concerned about the length of bridging period, particularly to keep data

monitoring activities in country and with a shorter period and potential bridging funds this may be easier to address.

69. UNDP outlined GEF will not provide any new funds for the bridging period but Carry Forward or new funding from countries or other donors could be used. Many projects globally are making preparations for the next phase so the imperative was to progress work on the next phase of the Pacific Islands project to ensure timely submission to GEF 5.

70. Co-Chair (UNDP) summed up discussion and noted the PCU will come back with specific plans for the gap period.

58. The Committee noted the:

- work done to date on development of the Concept for a further phase of funding and the revised draft PIF; and
- timing of submission and potential funding gap and made consideration of implications for Pacific Islands countries.

#### *Other Matters*

59. There were no other matters.

#### *Adoption of the Summary Record of Proceedings*

60. The Summary of Proceedings will be provided in a week and a week will be provided for countries comment and then the Summary of Proceedings will be endorsed in one month from this date.

#### *Close of the Meeting*

61. Project Coordinator noted the progress of the Regional Steering Committee and focal points over the life of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project, thanked UNDP as the implementing agency, and highlighted the role of the project in fisheries management in the region.

62. Co-Chair (UNDP) thanked the Committee and looked forward to the opportunity to having another phase of the Project and committed to support the next phase, noting Pacific fisheries were not the only environmental resource under threat but working together had made significant progress and UNDP was proud to assist Pacific Island countries.

63. Dr Transform Aqorau, Deputy Director of FFA, thanked the Co-Chairs and the participants for their participation and achievements over the life of the Project and wished all a safe journey home.

64. The meeting closed at 4.40pm.



**ATTACHMENT A**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)  
FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Honiara, Solomon Islands  
7 November 2009

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**STATEMENT BY UNDP**

**Opening Address by Mr. Knut Ostby, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Multi-Country Office**

**On the Occasion of the Fifth Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management (PIOFM) Project**

*7<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Honiara*

**Acknowledgement:**

- Honorable Representatives from Pacific governments
- Director-General of the Forum Fisheries Agency (Mr. Su'a Tanielu)
- Representatives of the Council of Regional Organisations of the South Pacific (CROP) agencies
- Development Partners
- Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management (PIOFM) Project Coordination Unit
- UNDP Colleagues

I am greatly honored and privileged to greet you on behalf of United Nations Development Program (UNDP). I wish to share with you three key messages to set the scene for this “Fifth Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting of the Pacific Island Oceanic Fisheries Management (PIOFM) Project”.

**Key Message 1:**

- UNDAF: sets out strategic five-year programming focus for UN in the Pacific Sub-region. A product of partnership between 14 UN agencies in Fiji and Samoa.
- UNDP, MDGs & Support to Sustainable Environmental Management in the Pacific: support to address (among other environmental challenges) climate change, which threatens to alter ecosystem dynamics in the Pacific Ocean through changes in circulation patterns and ocean acidification. UNDP continues to assist with linking science to policy ensuring that climate change is mainstreamed into national policies and development planning, making the island communities more resilient to climate change.
- Alignment with GEF Focal Area to achieve global environmental benefits by enhanced conservation and management of trans-boundary oceanic fishery resources in the Pacific Islands region and the protection of the biodiversity of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (LME).

**Key Message 2:**

- As we're all aware, there is a real and urgent need to ensure sustainable management of oceanic fish stocks and biodiversity. The sustainability of tuna fish stocks is at very serious risk unless urgent and immediate action is taken. While the Western Pacific Ocean represents the world's last great tuna stocks, fishing pressures have intensified at alarming rates. For example, the Western Pacific's catch has gone from 500,000 tons a year in 1970 to 2.4

million tons in 2008 (60% of the world catch) worth US\$3.9bn. As a result, Pacific stocks have decrease by 50%-80%. This has direct implications, posing serious threats to our Pacific Island economies including the state and well-being of local communities, which the PIOFM is helping mitigate.

- We recognize and acknowledge that excellent results of the project is due to hard work and commendable dedication of the three executing agencies (Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the World Conservation Union) and, of course, strong coordination efforts of the Project Coordination Unit. I acknowledge with deep appreciation the role and contribution of national governments, national focal points, communities of the Pacific, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and support of the UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok.
- The PIOFM Project is empowering Pacific nations with skills and knowledge needed to ensure conservation as well as maximization of economic and social benefits of fisheries development with specific examples such as: awareness-raising and scientific training, technical support and institutional reforms in various countries.
- UNDP is pleased to note significant key achievements to date such as:
  - ✓ Negotiation and coming into force of a major international fisheries Convention, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention;
  - ✓ Establishment of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for the Convention and early progress on putting in place conservation and management measures for the region's highly valuable tuna fisheries; and
  - ✓ Understanding of Convention obligations and effective national consultation processes.
- UNDP is aware of challenges due to diversity in national capacities and country-specific needs. The impact of global financial crisis on our island economies should be an opportunity to clarify our priorities that would lead to strategic actions. On this note, we wish to inform of the Pacific UN Conference on *The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis in the Pacific* (Vanuatu, 10-12 February 2010) organized to discuss the global economic crisis in the Pacific focusing on the impacts of the crisis on the most vulnerable categories of people including children, youth, women, people with disabilities, urban and rural poor, and others. It will seek to identify short-term and long-term responses to mitigate these impacts, to face future crises with greater resilience, and strengthen abilities of those most affected to formulate adequate coping strategies. The outcomes of the conference will be reported to the Pacific Forum Leaders at their 2010 Meeting.

**Key Message 3:**

- UNDP acknowledges the key purpose of this meeting: to analyze progress, what can be our new horizons, and reflect on critical steps needed to be taken to improve delivery in the remaining 11 months of the PIOFM project. In this regard, UNDP is looking forward to the presentation and discussion of the Annual Programme progress report (**for the period of July 2008 – 30 June 2009**), the executing agencies' presentations, as well as financial reports on work plan and budget. Equally important, we note National Project reports to be presented by National Programme Focal Points, which will give us

indications of actual impacts on the ground, key challenges as well as lessons learnt.

- We also look forward to an update of the 2008 Mid Term Review/Evaluation and how its outcomes have been incorporated into project implementation, in particular monitoring and evaluation aspects. Furthermore, we're keen to be updated on *progress of recommendations that were endorsed at the fourth RSC meeting* (e.g. involvement of University of the South Pacific (USP) & Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) and execution of seamount research).
- The 4<sup>th</sup> RSC meeting endorsement of a further project phase after 2010 is also of interest particularly for more emphasis on national level impacts. UNDP will do its best to secure resources for support Phase III.

**Ladies and gentlemen**, the main agenda items are in front of us. On behalf of UNDP, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the previous four RSC Meetings. This is the **fifth** and **final** RSC meeting of the PIOFM project. We therefore request your undivided attention and commitment to this important meeting. We are convinced that productive deliberations of this meeting will strengthen partnerships and coordination so that sustainable development of Pacific oceanic resources becomes a reality for present as well as future generations.

**Thank you.**



**FFA STATEMENT**

**Address by the FFA Director General, Su'a N.F. Tanielu to the Fifth Meeting of the Pacific Island Oceanic Fisheries Management Project**

**FFA Headquarters, Honiara, Solomon Islands  
November 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me to make some brief opening remarks to this opening session of the fifth and final meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP).

A warm welcome to the National Focal Points to the OFMP. Many of you will have been wearing other hats over the course of the last two weeks and have participated in the US Treaty Renegotiations meeting, Management Options Workshop and the Special FFC. It's been a long and hard two weeks and I thank you for your contributions to the series of meetings and perseverance. The annual fisheries agenda in this region is as challenging as ever and we will continue to look for ways to minimise the burden of meetings on fisheries officials.

I'd like to acknowledge the presence of UNDP representatives who are central in the coordination and implementation of the OFMP, in particular the Regional Representative for the UNDP Fiji Multi country office, Mr Knut Ostby who will co-chair this meeting and the UNDP Technical Advisor to the project Ms Anna Tengberg.

I will also take this opportunity to thank the staff from the secretariats for the FFA and SPC and representatives from IUCN and the WWF who have worked diligently over the last four years to ensure that the objectives of the OFMP have been successfully met.

What steady and satisfying progress we have made in oceanic fisheries management over this time and it really would be remiss of me if I did not express sincere gratitude to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the funding assistance this project has contributed towards ensuring a sustainable fisheries and responsible management in

the Pacific region. 11 million US dollars over the five year life of the OFMP is not an insignificant investment, one which we are demonstrating is sound and which contributes greatly to global returns for the GEF International Waters portfolio and its objectives.

The overwhelming significant ‘win’ that GEF assistance contributed to was of course the means for Pacific Islands States to negotiate the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) to its successful conclusion and the establishment the Commission for the Convention. It goes without saying that Pacific island members to the WCPFC were, and are, major players in the arrangement and this is not a position they have achieved without a great deal of assistance from many avenues. Pitted against larger more resourced developed countries with other agendas, the FFA members should be very proud of their progress towards ensuring the conservation and management of a migratory fisheries resources that represents for them livelihood and economic development opportunities.

While the current phase of the OFM project concludes at the end of the coming twelve months, I am aware of the precarious situation of some of our smaller members as they struggle to cope with the burden of obligation placed on them by the Commission and other international and regional fisheries instruments. We have made very good progress under the current project but even the experts that undertook the mid term evaluation of the project concluded that the project was well designed and implemented but that further assistance should be directed towards strategic and long term capacity building, especially in the smallest of Pacific small island developing States (Pac SIDS).

You will hear today that while GEF have agreed in principle to a further phase of assistance to Pacific SIDS, the timing of the funding cycles of the GEF is not going to allow for the back to back implementation of the current and the next phase of the project. This means that as much as 15 months will elapse before funds from the fifth GEF Replenishment will be available. This poses a bridging dilemma for countries and priority activities of assistance that they currently receive through the project and a dilemma that we will have to address.

We have a draft concept to present to GEF when we are permitted to make the submission and I would urge you to take the opportunity to cast your eye over it again to ensure that we have the principles right with which to deliver on assistance that will focus on the implementation of regional and global oceanic fisheries conventions relevant to the Pacific. We are pleased to say that these principles are not inconsistent with the strategy that GEF have slightly adjusted for its fifth replenishment in International Waters.

Again, let me say that I am very appreciative of your perseverance and your attendance at this steering committee for the OFM Project. It is the last time that the Committee will meet formally but it is not the last time that you will be required to provide your feed back on the projects progress, achievements and short falls. The project will undergo a terminal evaluation at the end of 2010 and I would encourage you to contribute to that independent evaluation openly when it takes place next year.

Let me conclude by wishing you all a success day today, with hearty deliberations and realistic and practical outcomes.

Thank you.

**ATTACHMENT D**

*5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee*

*FFA Headquarters*

*Honiara, Solomon Islands*

*7 November 2009*

**ADOPTED AGENDA**

- a. Opening of Meeting**
  - Introductory Remarks
  - Opening Remarks
  - Procedural Issues
- b. Apologies**
- c. Adoption of Agenda**
  - 1. Annual Reports**
    - UNDP/GEF Annual Project Report (APR)/Project Implementation Report (PIR) and the GEF IW Results Framework Report
    - Presentations (project activities) by Executing Agencies
    - Mid Term Review – Response and Actions
  - 2. National Project Reports**
  - 3. Financial Reporting, Work Plans and Budgets**
  - 4. Implementation of Regional and Global Fisheries Conventions in the Pacific Islands: Concept for a Further Project Phase**
  - 5. Other Matters**
- d. Adoption of the Summary Record of Proceedings**
- e. Close of the Meeting**

**NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORTS  
TO THE RSC5**

(1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009)

1. **Country:** NAURU

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources continues to benefit from the various types of assistance rendered under the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project either through country - specific projects or via sub regional activities.

The reporting period saw greater emphasis on Component 1 of the Project with several scientific workshops and technical advice being rendered to members either on a country level or on a regional basis. The majority of Component 2 projects were delivered on a regional basis.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**National level activities**

*Component 1: Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement:*

- a) IT Support – SPC is ready to undertake training of nationals on the operation of the TUFMAN database system upon establishment of the NFMRA computer network system. The TUFMAN will enhance the data collection functions of the Authority into a streamlined and well coordinated system that will greatly assist the data reporting obligations under the WCPFC regime.
- b) NTSFR/ – The National Tuna Status Fishery Report was completed and handed to NFMRA in the second quarter of 2009. It will provide a valuable scientific input into the fisheries management decision making process because of the comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the key species in Nauru's tuna fisheries. Copies have been forwarded to various stakeholders in the fisheries sectors.
- c) Scientific advice was provided in country during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008 during in-country EAFM consultations

*Component 2: Law, Policy and Institutional Reform, Realignment and Strengthening*

- a) The Institutional Strengthening Project has entered its second phase and has already in place an ISP Advisor to coordinate the various activities and projects designed to build capacity in NFMRA to achieve its resource management objectives. The ISP is now funded by AusAid but the initial scoping study work that laid the foundation for the project was a GEF funded project.

*Component 3: Coordination, Participation and Information Services*

- a) The National Consultative Committee was established in 2007 to coordinate and identify national projects amongst the relevant stakeholders. It has conducted 2 meetings since its formation.

## **Regional level activities**

### *Component 1: Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement:*

- a) NFMRA participated in a 1 week advanced stock assessment workshop conducted by SPC-OFP in Auckland during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009. Though this course was not funded by the GEF, it was a follow up advanced course for the same participants who have built up their knowledge by attending earlier stock assessment courses funded by GEF. During the same period NFMRA also participated in a GEF funded SPC- OFP workshop on Tuna Data Management in Auckland
- b) Scientific briefs were provided to FFA members during Sub regional management workshops and also to the FFA science working group prior to Scientific Committee 5.
- c) Tagging exercises were conducted in the Nauru EEZ during the regional Pacific TunaTagging Programme between November 2008 and June 2009

### *Component 2: Law, Policy and Institutional Reform, Realignment and Strengthening*

- a) Legal inputs to Sub regional WCPFC workshops in 2008 provided improved advice to member countries with regards to operationalising WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures. In 2009 GEF funding assistance allowed Nauru to send extra delegations to the PNA Sub Regional workshop which dealt with the operationalising of 3<sup>rd</sup> IA regulations.
- b) Briefs provided to FFA members prior to WCPFC technical committees and Conference were partly funded by GEF and provided valuable input to the development of consolidated FFA positions. Some of the key issues include: bigeye and yellowfin, transshipment, ROP, and VMS.

## **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered:**

- a) Increasing obligations from the WCPFC process with greater implications on the status of the tuna stocks and economic aspirations of Small Island Developing states have placed enormous strains on small administrations such as NFMRA
- b) Growing complexities in WCPFC issues such as MCS measures and data collection requirements have increased demand for building capacity in those areas at NFMRA.

## **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- a) Project coordinator has an established framework comprising of the 3 components to deal with relevant problems on a case by case basis.
- b) Regional steering committee provides useful forum for discussing outstanding issues and ways of resolving them.

## **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

a) Given the increasing level of obligations and complex issues being placed before Small island developing states in the WCPFC forum, the GEF Project should be focused on assisting these members in identifying the main priority issues and addressing them both on a national level and a regional level. A balanced approach using all the 3 components should be adopted throughout the region, but on national levels member countries should be able to select which of the three components it will need further assistance on.

## **10. Report Prepared By: Ms Peta Gadabu, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.**



1. **Country:** Federated States of Micronesia

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The project has been very helpful in many areas. The three components of the project and their various activities have been most useful to the national fisheries administration and other related fisheries sectors in the Federated States. Because of its usefulness and relevancy in addressing the current issues in the FSM fishery and assisting the FSM to better able to understand and participate fully in the various work programs of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and implement its decisions, the FSM feels the project has been very successful.

The Federated States of Micronesia has greatly benefitted from the country specific and regional activities of the project that it has participated in as outlined below.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

National level activities

**Component 1: Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement**

- The OFP developed software package named TUFMAN (Tuna Fishery Data Management System) has been running for some time now. Updates and assistance are ongoing and OFP has been very good in provide assistance in both areas.
- The FSM National Observer Programmes has been active for sometimes. Training of more observers has been provided in June to prepare for the August to September FAD closure. OFP provides continuing support, guidance, funding for activities, information sharing and materials to these programmes during this period. Aside from the training materials observers' workbooks were also provided.
- The FSM also has a very active port sampling program. The program is expected to expand as transshipment bases reopen in the other three FSM States. The program through OFP provides continuing support, guidance, funding for activities, information sharing and materials to these programmes during this period
- The project again through the OFP provided support in every aspect of the FSM National monitoring programs. Training of personnel and program support were extended.
- Observer workbooks, calibres and other supplies for both the observer program and port sampling program were provided. The debriefing forms were made available. New log forms were trialled.
- A cadet observer training course was conducted in June.
- Assistance in the preparation of the 09 Part 2 report to the Commission was provided.
- National Tuna Fishery Status Report for the FSM was finalized and delivered.

- Participated in another stock assessment methods and analysis workshop.
- An Ecological Risk Assessment was done for the FSM purse seine fishery.

### **Component 2: Law, Policy, Institutional Reform, Realignment and Strengthening**

- Work started on an Operational Plan and the Tuna Management Plan review & drafting for FSM both based on FSM Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Reports.
- FAD Management Plan was developed for the FSM
- National legal Reviews on-going.

### **Component 3: Coordination, Participation and Information Services**

- NGO representation at meetings of the WCPFC in 2008;
- Industry representative participated in two NGO WCPFC workshops in Solomon Islands and PNG;
- Benefitted from support for industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes;
- Industry representative participated representing the regional tuna industry association at WCPFC meetings (TCC & SC, including the 2008 Busan Commission meeting);
- Industry representative participated at the FFA meetings (MOC) in Apia Oct 2008.

#### **Regional level activities**

### **Component 1: Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement**

The Federated States of Micronesia either benefitted directly or through participating in the various program activities listed below. In some cases the outcomes of these activities are useful and relevant to the fisheries management and development in the country. Such program activities are as follows:

- Two tuna tagging cruises gone through the FSM with a good number of fish tagged and released. A good number of tags have also been turned in by fishers and port samplers and observers;
- Project assisted Pacific Island participants in participating in the development of various reporting templates for reporting and data/information provision to the Commission;
- Ecosystem-based management options assessed with SEAPODYM for analysis benefiting MPA's & understanding climate change impacts;
- SPC advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission;

- Scientific briefs provided to sub-regional MOCs & FFA Science WG prior to WCPFC Science Committee & Science Committee and US Treaty (March 2009) & consultation on longline VDS;
- Training of national technical and scientific staff to understand regional stock assessment methods, and interpret and apply the results; and to use oceanographic data. 2 Stock Assessments Regional Workshops June/July 2008 (WCPFC Jap Trust funded);
- A template for national integrated monitoring programs including logsheet, observer, port sampling and landing data collection and management; and provision of data to the Commission;
- TUFMAN revisions (latest ver. 4.46.) and data entry forms updates;
- Work on the Observer Data module for TUFMAN completed and the review of the WCPFC Reporting module is expected to be included in the overall review of the TUFMAN system;
- Changes to licensing & national fleet components of TUFMANS;
- Observer Trip Viewer System & CES updates;
- FFA VMS data imported to MS SQL Server;
- Catch Estimates by Broad Ocean Area added to TUFMAN specifically to address WCPFC reporting obligations;
- National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customized to meet national needs;
- TUFMAN 4.43 installed in all Pac SIDS and training provided; and
- Inter-sessional Working Group for WCPFC ROP & 8th Reg Observer Coordinator's Wkshp.

## **Component 2: Law, Policy, institutional Reforms, Realignment and Strengthening**

As is the case with regional activities of Component 1 of the project, the Federated States of Micronesia benefitted from these activities either directly or by participating in regional workshops, materials developed for the region or the Commission. The Federated States of Micronesia attaches great importance to these activities to keep up with all the new requirements and obligations coming in with every new measure adopted by the Commission.

- Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programs, and for Commission conservation and management measures.
- 2008 FFA sub-regional WCPFC workshops □ reports on bigeye & yellowfin, albacore & swordfish management options, transshipment, ROP, VMS, IUU, fishing vessel records (carriers & bunkers) CNM, sea turtle conservation, significant outcomes of WCPFC4.
- Annual MOC □ Oct 2008.

- Contribution to briefs for Pac SIDS at pre FFA meetings to/and for SC4, TCC4 & WCPFC5.
- Advice to VDS Steering Committee.
- High Seas Pocket Compliance study for high seas closures.
- FFA support for Japanese/Pac SIDS consultation Nov 2008.
- FFC70 advice on strategies for WCPFC6 – enhance fisheries development & investment, improve fisheries management & conservation & ensure effective MCS.
- FFA support for Pacific SIDS at IWG-ROP.
- FFA support & brief for Pac SIDS at JTRFMO.
- MOC WCPFC5 outcomes & preparations for WCPFC6.
- Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention
- Legal contributions to Pac SIDS WCPFC briefs for Special FFC, WCPFC5 & TCC Sept 2008.
- Legal input on compliance issues to the MCSWG.
- Legal contributions to sub-regional WCPFC meetings.
- Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs
- VMS Technical studies to support Convention & observer programme.
- 12th meeting of the MCS WG April 2009 – operational issues to address IUU.
- Regional MCS reports to sub-regional WCPFC workshops June & July 2009,
- Legal contributions to sub-regional WCPFC workshops for Pac SIDS July 2008 (included strategies to give effect to WCPFC CMMs).
- Sub-regional legal workshop for PNA. (Jan 2009).
- New draft laws, regulations, agreements & license conditions in line with WCPFC Convention prepared and shared with PacSIDS
- Updated Legislative matrices to reflect WCPFC4 outcomes.
- Development of WCPFC regulations template.

### **Component 3: Coordination, Participation and Information Services**

- ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes
- Regional NGO representation at meetings of the WCPFC in 2008.
- Development of a WCPFC website for NGOs established by WWF Pacific Program.
- Convening of two NGO WCPFC workshops in Solomon Islands and PNG.
- Reports available on the project website. Planning (with FFA) for further WCPFC NGO workshops.
- Collaboration on the WCPFC fact sheets with FFA. Ongoing website work (www.pasifika.org) Attendance SC5 & TCC5 & WCPFC5.
- Website upgrades and maintenance.
- Development of WCPFC fact sheets.
- Development of a series of promotional material including a news template, project flyer, fact sheets and wall posters.

#### **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

The project has so many activities for the three components. It is often difficult to remember all the activities and which are project activities and which are the normal activities provided by the two Secretariats (SPC and FFA) to their membership.

#### **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

Project Coordinator has been providing the appropriate information.

#### **8. Recommendations for Future Action**

This project is of vital importance to the SIDs particularly at this stage of the Commission where we are still trying to put in all the necessary mechanisms to operationalize the Convention and the conservation and management measures to address the current state of affairs in the tuna stocks.

**9. Report Prepared By:** Bernard Thoulag, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

1. **Country :** TONGA
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 JULY 2008 – 30 JUNE 2009
4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**  
Tonga, like all FFA member countries participated in all regional workshops and meetings where GEF OFM Project had made contributions.
5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved**

**National Level Activities:**

- TUFMAN – An in-country TUFMAN training was held in June 2009.
- Observer Program - National observer program, for Tonga, is running well thanks for the workshops that Tonga participated in on 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008.
- An in-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding workshop in Tonga in November 2008. Tonga also shared and participated in sub-regional workshops related to regional and national legal issues.
- Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis – Tonga was one of the countries identified as target countries for longline fisher interviews. This was completed during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2009. A fisheries officer from Tonga participated in a Fellowship Attachment in Honiara middle of 2009 which was conducted on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).
- Policy Reform – Tonga received in-country assistance in developing and completion of Tuna Management Plan during the reporting period.

**6. Regional Level:**

- MCS – Tonga MCS staff participated in regional meetings, trainings and workshops on MCS related issues.
- Stock Assessment – Tonga with other pacific countries participated in workshops at the last quarter of the reporting period on stock assessment methods.

**7. Challenges/Issues Encountered:**

Challenges and issues encountered with the project activities within this reporting period

(July 2008 – June 2009) included the following:

- Tonga NFP still encountered challenges of being unable to follow projects assisted by GEF. This is mainly due to invitations for meetings and



workshops assisted by GEF being mostly directed to other departments in the Ministry and can be unknown to the NFP.

8. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

- National Focal Point to keep close communication with coordinator and follow through quarterly reports.

9. Recommendation

- Maintain good communications with coordinator and acknowledge quarterly reports.

**Prepared by:** *Siliveinusi M. Ha'unga*

*National (OFM Project) Focal Point of Contact, TONGA*

1. **Country:** COOK ISLANDS

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The Cook Islands continues to be pleased with the progress of the project to date. The assistance and opportunities to participate in regional meetings, workshops and trainings, has enabled the Cook Islands as well as other FFA Member countries to participate effectively at the meetings of the WCPF Commission and its subsidiary bodies – the Science Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**National level activities**

- TUFMAN Database development – System up and running smoothly, regular upgrades made with assistance of SPC.
- Local consultancy to draft Turtle Plan based on the Regional Turtle Plan developed by FFA.

**Regional level activities**

- Licensing/VMS Officer participated at the 12<sup>th</sup> MCS Working Group Meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands, April 2009.
- The MMR Legal Adviser participated at 12<sup>th</sup> MCS Working Group Meeting whilst attached to FFA
- MMR's Data Manager attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop in Auckland
- Data Analyst attended Data Management attachment at SPC
- Benefits of reports and briefing papers prepared by FFA and SPC to participants at WCPFC Meetings – Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

6. **Challenges/Issues Encountered**

The Cook Islands is very grateful for the assistance provided enabling us to develop and further enhance our capacity. The increased reporting requirements for the WCPFC have at times been difficult to meet the deadlines.

Being able to identify what trainings and workshop have been funded by this Project, is a challenge in itself and makes preparing this Report difficult to complete.

7. **Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

The WCPFC reporting requirements are being revised all the time so as to be easier to complete. A point to note is that WCPFC Part 2 Report is being further revised.

Identifying the GEF funded projects has been made easier with the Project Coordinator providing a summary of such.

8. **Recommendations for Future Action**

**National**

- Legislative Review
- Tuna Longline Management Plan review
- MCS Strategic Plan

- MCS Operations Manual
- National Fisheries Information System
- MMR Website

**Regional**

That the GEF OFP through the FFA and SPC will continue to provide expert and technical assistance to the Cook Islands and other FFA members and it is our duty to continue to be proactive in our approach at WCPFC Meetings so that we receive maximum benefits from our fishery resource.

**9. Report Prepared By:** Peter W Graham, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

1. **Country:** Republic of Kiribati
2. **Project title:** Oceanic fisheries management: Implementation of the strategy action program of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period covered:** 1 June 2008 – 30 June 2009
4. **Summary of overall project progress:**

The project has been very helpful and beneficial to Kiribati in a number of ways. Over the past several months several government officials have engaged or took part in a number of workshops, training and attachments around the region which has greatly enhance their understanding and gained practical experiences on fisheries management subjects.

5. **Specific outputs/results achieved**

National level activities:

- Installation of TUFMAN and an in-country training conducted by SPC staff for the Oceanic Fisheries staff.
- Provisioning of Catch Effort System regular updates –catch in our waters by national and distant water fishing vessels are updated regularly which are very important for fisheries consultations purposes.
- National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports (NTFSR) – Kiribati report is nearing completion and we hope it will be available very soon.
- Scientific Committee requirement – SPC provides assistance in the preparation of the SC Report Part I.
- Provisioning of computers and accessories – SPC provides a computer and a scanner for artisanal tuna data collection, FFA provides three sets of computers for Oceanic Fisheries Unit.
- Observer and port sampling training - conducted in June this year and 32 new observers successfully completed the course and ready take up observer duties.
- EAFM Implementing Plan – FFA is yet to finalize this plan.
- Institutional strengthening reforms supported by FFA – report is pending

Regional level activities:

- Stock assessment workshop – One Fisheries officer attended.
- Provisioning of observer workbooks – Kiribati continues to received observer workbooks.
- Ecological risk assessment workshop – one fisheries staff attended.
- Tuna tagging project – Early 2009, substantial number of tuna were successfully tagged in Kiribati in which one fisheries officer joined the scientific tagging program as an observer.
- MOC – FFA provides strategic support for the members on important issues related to the WCPFC meetings

- Preparation of regional briefs for SC, TCC and WCPFC meetings.
- Regional surveillance operations – Kiribati participated in a number of regional surveillance patrols that has resulted in the arrest of one unlicensed fishing vessel – the vessel was fined US\$1.3 million.

**6. Challenges/issues encountered**

- Due to lack of information on all the activities that this Pacific SAP II had undertaken, it is very hard to identify or to take into account all activities implemented under the Pacific SAP II project.

**7. Solutions applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- Summary of project activities implement by the project should be provided to the beneficiaries for their information and for compiling of their national reports.
- New focal point: Principal Fisheries Officer, Mr Beero Tioti (beerot@mfmrd.gov.ki)<sup>1</sup>

**8. Recommendations for future action**

- PCU to provide a schedule of programs that PCU/OFM will undertake each year.
- We would like to extend our thanks to Barbara for her good leadership in managing this project effectively, not to forget GEF and UNDP as an implementing agency for the project.

**9. Report prepared by: Mr Raikaon Tumoia (Principal Fisheries Officer)**

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<sup>1</sup> Tooti Tekinati former focal point resigned and Mr Beero Tioti is replacing him.

1. **Country:** PALAU

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

- Regional and National activities were held during this period which helped Palau tremendously in the areas of Fisheries Management and Operations especially towards building further capacity within our own administration, in addition to understanding the impacts and requirements of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Palau has benefited by the GEF particularly through the SPC-OFP and the FFA programs with activities which ranged from workshops, briefings, trainings and national visits.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

*National level activities*

Palau has benefited directly from GEF funded projects as outlined below:

- Funding for a Support Staff (Assistant National Tuna Data Coordinator) whom was recruited locally in November 2006 through the SPC-OFP has continued to support the licensing and data collection section within the Oceanic Fisheries Section;
- A national visit was undertaken by SPC-OFP staff to support the coordination of national monitoring program through their review of our national tuna data system.
- A national visit by SPC-OFP staff in the collection of sampling data, especially stomach contents and tissue samples. Licensing and Port Samplers, and Industry were informed and trained of the purpose of this sampling data.

*Regional level activities*

Palau benefited from the regional level activities through participation of workshops and trainings held during this period. Programs include:

- 2008 Management Options Consultations held in Samoa;
- Upgraded TUFMAN database;
- Upgraded versions of the Catch and Effort System;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop held in Auckland;
- 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Observers Coordinators Workshop and Observer Data Management Workshop held in Noumea;
- Contributions and scientific advice through the FFA Science Working Group prior to the Scientific Committee of the WCPFC were very helpful;
- Presentation of scientific briefs in preparation of the FFA Sub-regional workshops;
- Training workshop on the Ecological Risk Assessments delivered by the SPC-OFP held in Auckland;
- 2008 FFA Sub-Regional workshops and their assistance in providing legal, scientific and management reports and advice on targeted stocks and bycatch including other outcomes of the WCPFC meetings and its subsidiary bodies; and



- 2008 preparatory meetings leading up to Science and Technical Committees of the WCPFC

#### **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

- GEF funded projects are particularly difficult to distinguish from other donors or source of funds used to run a program or project. Summaries of GEF funded projects would be helpful on a quarterly basis to focal points in order to monitor ongoing funded programs. Too many projects, donors, and countries involved!

#### **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- Address internal capacity issues. Project Coordinator and staff have been extremely helpful in providing useful information including online directions when needed.

#### **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

- These GEF funded programs are enormously helpful to small island developing states like Palau and we certainly welcome these opportunities specifically in upgrading our monitoring capabilities to meet the requirements of the numerous conservation and management measures of the WCPFC. Programs through the SPC-OFP and the FFA should be continued in order to provide useful advice and policy directions to FFA member countries.

#### **10. Report Prepared By:**

**NANNETTE D. MALSOL,  
National Focal Point, Palau**

1. **Country:** Tuvalu

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** 30 June 2008 – 1 July 2009

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Tuvalu received a number of funding support and assistance throughout this reporting period. Most of these supports were channeled through the provision of technical assistance and in kind contributions from FFA-OFM and SPC-OFP to assist in the formulation of management and development plans for our marine resources. Funding assistance for local staff capacity building was also received from the project in this reporting period.

Marine resources are critical to the communities and economies of people of Tuvalu. Tuvalu is looking forward for the continue support and assistance in terms of funding for its ongoing programmes.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**National level activities**

***Fishery Monitoring***

- a) TUFMAN has been running in our system for sometimes and we continue to receive updates from the programme;
- b) MOU for the provision of equipment and parties obligations were provided by the project;

***Stock Assessment***

- a) In-country Stakeholder workshop for EAFM Process,
- b) Provision of fund for our NTDC – funding from SPC-OFP,
- c) Tuna Tagging Programme – one officer was able to get onboard as observer;

***Capacity Building*** (Tuvalu received a number of funding support for the following);

- a) In country support to Tuvalu on preparation for WCPFC5,
- b) IS scoping study in Tuvalu; - though we are still waiting for the final report;
- c) 2 weeks short term training programme for local officer at Wollongong University, Australia;
- d) 4 weeks observer training in Santos, Vanuatu for 3 Tuvaluan observer

**Regional level activities**

- a) Tuvalu has been participated in many meetings and workshops funded by this project, such as the EAFM Workshop and Stock Assessment for Pacific SIDs in Auckland and distribution of information.
- b) Incorporate of SEAPODYM to simulate distribution pattern of tuna stock in the region;

6. **Challenges/Issues Encountered**

- a) As a SIS Tuvalu is starting to feel the strain and pressure in trying to live up to meet its obligations in regional organizations such as WCPFC,
- b) Shortage of equipment such as computers, fax machine in our Fisheries Research Section and Fisheries Licensing and Surveillance section;
- c) Need for a full time legal officer within the department to fast rack legal matters that are pertinent to Tuvalu, and to meet our national and regional obligations in the Commission;
- d) General concern – NTDC funded under this programme (our concern is the continue funding for this very important position within our department).
- e) Very hard to identify and tracking areas that can be funded by the project.

#### **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- a) Most of these challenges we find it hard to find solution as it requires funds to fulfill them;
- b) Request has been sent to FFA-OFP for such assistance on equipment and fund for the employment of a local legal officer and provision of computers for the Fisheries Department.
- c) Provide some summary guidelines on what exactly does the Project can offer in terms of funding for member countries;

#### **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

- a) For future arrangement of the Project, Tuvalu likes to see special attention for the needs and aspirations of Smaller Island States.
- b) Finally Tuvalu would like to convey its heartfelt appreciation and thanks to GEF for all the assistance and support rendered to Tuvalu throughout this reporting period and past years;
- c) Tuvalu would also like to convey special thanks to the Project Coordinator (Ms Barbara Hanchard) for job well done, and we hope to continue working together with the same team when the project revives again in the near future.

#### **10. Report Prepared By: Sam Finikaso, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.**