

**UNDP GEF ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT (APR)/PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT (PIR) 2006 – (November 2006)**

(1 October 2005 to 30 June 2006)¹

I. Basic Project Data

Official Title:	PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
------------------------	---

Country/ies:	Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.	PIMS Number	2992
		Atlas Project Number	Award No. 00041230 Project ID. 00046932

Focal Area	International Waters	Project Type (FSP/MSP)	Full-sized project
Strategic Priority	IW1 - Catalyse financial resource mobilisation for implementation of reforms and stress reduction measures agreed through TDA-SAP or equivalent processes for particular transboundary systems; IW2 - Expand global coverage of foundational capacity building addressing the two key programme gaps and support for targeted learning, specifically the fisheries programme gap.	Operational Programme	OP 9, Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area, SIDS Component.

Date of Entry into Work Programme	GEF Council endorsement – March 2005 GEF CEO endorsement – 24 May 2005	Planned Project Duration	Five years
ProDoc Signature Date	(See Attachment A)	Original Planned Closing Date	2010
Date of First Disbursement	28 October 2005 (USD628,676)	Revised Planned Closing Date	None currently proposed
Is this the Terminal APR/PIR?	No	Date Project Operationally Closed (if applicable)	While project activities should be completed by 2010 provisions

¹ **Reporting Period:** This 'annual' report does not cover a full calendar year of project activity but a nine month period between 1 October 2005 to 30 June 2005, taking in account project commencement in the fourth quarter of 2005.

			have been made for a post evaluation to verify IW indicator assessments in 2012
--	--	--	---

Date Mid Term Evaluation carried out (if applicable)	Not Applicable	Date Final Evaluation carried out (if applicable)	Not applicable
--	----------------	---	----------------

Dates of visits to project by UNDP country office	March 2005 (I Toorawa - UNDP HIR) June 2005 (Toorawa HIR, De Graff Suva)	Date of last TPR Meeting	14 October 2005
Date of last visit to project by UNDP-GEF RTA	RSC - 14 Oct 2005		

Project Contacts:

Title	Name	E-mail	Date	Signature
National Project Manager / Coordinator	N.Barbara HANCHARD	barbara.hanchard@ffa.int	22 September 2006	
Government GEF OFP ² (optional)				
UNDP Country Office Programme Manager	Asenaca RAVUVU	asenaca.ravuvu@undp.org		
UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	Randall PURCELL	randall.purcell@undp.org		

Project Summary (as in PIMS and ProDoc)

Summary

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have special conditions and needs that were identified for international attention in the **Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** and in the **World Summit for Sustainable Development's Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**. Throughout these instruments, the importance of coastal and marine resources to the coastal and marine environment to sustainable development of SIDS is emphasised, with the Plan of Implementation specifically providing support for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (the WCPF Convention).

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) identifies sustainable management of regional fish stocks as one of the major environmental concerns that SIDS have in common and as a target for activities under the SIDS component of OP 9, the Integrated Land and Water Multiple Use Operational Programme.

In addition, the GEF promotes the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to addressing environmental problems in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) through activities under the Large Marine Ecosystem Component of OP 8, the Waterbody-Based Operational Program.

Consistent with this framework, GEF financing for the International Waters (IW) South Pacific Strategic Action Programme (SAP) from 1995 to 2000 supported the implementation of an IW Pacific Islands SAP, including a pilot phase of support for the Oceanic Fisheries Management (OFM) Component, which underpinned successful efforts to conclude and bring into force the WCPF Convention. Now, GEF is providing support for a new Pacific Islands OFM Project to support Pacific SIDS efforts as they participate in the setting up and initial period of the new Commission that is at the centre of the WCPF Convention, and as they reform, realign, restructure and strengthen their fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programmes to take up the new opportunities which the WCPF Convention creates and discharge the new responsibilities which the Convention requires.

The goals of the Project combine the interests of the global community in the conservation of a marine ecosystem covering a huge surface of the globe, with the interests of some of the world's smallest nations in the responsible and sustainable management of their marine resources, which are crucial for their sustainable development.

The **global environmental goal** of the Project is to achieve global environmental benefits by enhanced conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources in the Pacific Islands region and the protection of the biodiversity of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem.

The **broad development goal** of the Project is to assist the Pacific Island States to improve the contribution to their sustainable development from improved management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources and from the conservation of oceanic marine biodiversity generally.

The IW Pacific Islands SAP identified the ultimate root cause underlying the concerns about, and threats to, International Waters in the Pacific Islands as deficiencies in management and grouped the deficiencies into two linked subsets – lack of understanding and weaknesses in governance. In response, the Project will have two major technical components.

Component 1, the Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement Component, is aimed at providing improved scientific information on the oceanic transboundary fish stocks and related ecosystem aspects of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WTP LME) and at strengthening the national capacities of Pacific SIDS in these areas. This work will include a particular focus on the ecology of seamounts in relation to pelagic fisheries and the fishing impacts upon them.

Component 2, the Law, Policy and Institutional Reform, Realignment and Strengthening Component, is aimed at assisting Pacific Island States as they participate in the earliest stages of the work of the new WCPF Commission and at the same time reform, realign and strengthen national laws, policies, institutions and programmes relating to management of transboundary oceanic fisheries and protection of oceanic marine biodiversity.

Component 3, the Coordination, Participation and Information Services Component, is aimed at effective project management, developing mechanisms to increase participation and raise awareness of the conservation and management of oceanic resources and the marine environment.

The design of the Project has involved a substantial consultative process, which has been warmly supported throughout the region. The outcomes of this process, the Project seeks to apply a regional approach in a way that recognises national needs; to strike a balance between technical and capacity-building outputs by twinning technical and capacity building activities in every area; and to open participation in project activities to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

The structure for implementation and execution of the Project builds on a record of successful collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), regional organisations and Pacific SIDS in past activities in oceanic environmental management, conservation, strengthened by planned new partnerships with The World Conservation Union (IUCN), a regional environmental non-governmental organisation (ENGO) and a regional industry non-governmental organisation (INGO).

II. Progress towards achieving project objectives

Project Objective ³ and Outcomes	Description of Indicator (quantitative indicator)	Baseline Level (quantitative numerical value)	Target Level (quantitative indicator)	Level at 30 June 2006 (quantitative indicator)
<p>Information and Knowledge Objective To improve understanding of the transboundary oceanic fish resources and related features of the Western and Central Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem.</p>	<p>Improved information on the biology and ecology of target fish stocks, including their exploitation characteristics and fishery impacts, the fishery impacts on non-target species and on the pelagic ecosystem as a whole. Substantially improved understanding of Seamount ecosystems, especially their relation to migratory pelagic fisheries.</p>	<p>Reports from the scientific structure of the Commission show improved information and assessment methods are providing a credible basis for the formulation and assessment of conservation and management measures, including measures to address broader ecosystem effects. Commission reports and project documentation show that the information is being used in the Commission; is reaching a broad range of stakeholders; and is contributing to improved awareness and understanding of issues associated with transboundary oceanic fisheries conservation and management.</p>	<p>Commission Members can establish, resource and manage effective data and research programmes. Project mechanisms contribute effectively to raising awareness and improving understanding within PacSIDS about oceanic fisheries management.</p>	<p>Considerable progress has been achieved towards the Information and Knowledge objective of the project since the start of the project in October 2005. Inaugural meetings of the Science (8 – 9 August, 2005), the Technical and Compliance (5 – 9 December 2005) Committees for the WCPF Commission convened, outputs of which feed into important conservation and management measures decision making at the 2nd Regular Session of the Commission held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 12 – 16 December 2005.</p> <p>Work continues to contribute towards improving the quality, compatibility and availability of scientific information upon which to make those decisions. Some delays are being experienced in terms of some parts of the project that would investigate the ecology of seamounts.</p> <p>Broad stakeholder participant at the Commission level (both Environment NGOs and the regional tuna association have observer status at the Commission) and in the implementation of the project in terms of awareness raising is well progressed, although the provision of publications material needs to be progressed. Much effort has been</p>

³ **Objective:** (equivalent to “Immediate Objective”). The overall result that the project itself will achieve, independent of other interventions. What the project is accountable for delivering. While the template instructs that there should be only one objective per project, the PI OFM Project in fact has **two principal Objectives**.

Project Objective³ and Outcomes	Description of Indicator (quantitative indicator)	Baseline Level (quantitative numerical value)	Target Level (quantitative indicator)	Level at 30 June 2006 (quantitative indicator)
				invested assisting Pacific SIDS improve their national capacities in oceanic fishery monitoring and assessment.
<p>Governance Objective To create new regional institutional arrangements, and reform, realign and strengthen national arrangements for conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources</p>	<p>The WCPF Commission established and functioning. PacSIDS amend their domestic laws and policies and strengthen their national fisheries institutions and programmes, especially in the areas of monitoring and compliance, to implement the WCPF Convention and apply the principles of responsible and sustainable fisheries management more generally.</p>	<p>Commission reports document the development of the Commission, its Secretariat and its compliance and science structures. Project documentation, including an independent review, shows measurable progress in PacSIDS national capacities in oceanic fisheries management.</p>	<p>The WCPF Convention is ratified by sufficient states to make the Commission effective. PacSIDS are able to secure financing and sufficient political commitment to make necessary legal, institutional and policy changes.</p>	<p>The WCPF Convention entered into force on 19 June 2004. This was largely due to the expeditious ratification of the Convention by Pacific SIDS. The WCPF Commission's inaugural session and 2nd regular of the Commission convened in December 2005. The Technical and Compliance Committee and the Science Committee of the Commission are operationally having agreed to their rules of procedures</p> <p>The progress by Pacific SIDS to realign their legislation and policies with their obligations to the WCFP Commission will take place at a steady pace over the life of the project. The complexity and burden that this places on small administrations and countries with small resource bases can not be marginalised. In the first nine months of the project significant progress has been made towards shifting policy approaches from emphasizing fisheries development by increasing catches to promoting sustainable fisheries through conservation and management.</p> <p>An independent review of the projects progress is expected to be conducted in 2007.</p>

Project Objective³ and Outcomes	Description of Indicator (quantitative indicator)	Baseline Level (quantitative numerical value)	Target Level (quantitative indicator)	Level at 30 June 2006 (quantitative indicator)
<p>COMPONENT ONE OUTCOME: Improved quality, compatibility and availability of scientific information and knowledge on the oceanic transboundary fish stocks and related ecosystem aspects of the WTP warm pool LME, with a particular focus on the ecology of seamounts in relation to pelagic fisheries, and the fishing impacts upon them. This information being used by the Commission and PacSIDS to assess measures for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources and protection of the WTP LME. National capacities in oceanic fishery monitoring and assessment strengthened, with PacSIDS meeting their national and Commission-related responsibilities in these areas.</p>	<p>Substantial, relevant and reliable information collected and shared between stakeholders with respect to transboundary oceanic fish stocks and related ecosystem aspects, (particularly for seamounts). The Commission using this information as the basis for its discussions and policy decisions on WCPF management. National technical capacity and knowledge greatly improved</p>	<p>Commission Reports, especially from the Scientific Committee show that the Commission has access to, and is using, on-going reliable statistics and scientific advice/evidence by end of project to formulate and amend policy on oceanic fisheries management within the WCPF system boundary. These reports show particular progress in relevant ecosystem analysis, including results of the seamount-related work undertaken in the Project. The reports also show that the results of the ecosystem analysis are being used to begin to operationalise an ecosystem approach to conservation and management. PacSIDS national scientific capacities improved to level whereby each national lead agency can supply relevant and effective data to SPC and the Commission, and can interpret and apply nationally results of regional data analyses and scientific assessments.</p>	<p>Commission membership prepared to accept scientific findings and statistical evidence in formulating what may be difficult policy decisions on management of the fisheries, and difficult management proposals for the ecosystems. Sufficient sustainability available or identified through project to support national capacity improvements in technical and scientific functions as well as to support continued regional data coordination and analyses.</p>	<p>Inaugural meetings of the Science and the Technical and Compliance Committees for the WCPF Commission produced outputs of which feed into important conservation and management measures decision making at the 2nd Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005. These included estimates of both sustainable catch and effort levels for bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore, biomass projections for bigeye and yellowfin tuna relative to 2003 catch and effort levels, including the effects on stocks of time/area closures, investigation of measures to mitigate the catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin including controls on setting on floating objects; and estimates of the mortality of non-target species with an initial focus on seabirds, turtles and sharks, as well as data and other issues requiring consultation between the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee (Resolutions and Conservation and Management Measures can be found at http://www.wcpfc.org/).</p> <p>To date five Resolutions and six Conservation and management measures have been adopted and entered into force since the establishment of the Commission on December 2005.</p> <p>A Planning workshop report (available at http://www.ffa.int/gef/) shows the in-roads into making arrangements for seamount related work to be undertaken as part of the ecosystems based analysis.</p>

Project Objective³ and Outcomes	Description of Indicator (quantitative indicator)	Baseline Level (quantitative numerical value)	Target Level (quantitative indicator)	Level at 30 June 2006 (quantitative indicator)
				While support for national scientific capacities to improve data collection and its interpretation and assessment is ongoing, concentrated efforts to augment this are being planned and specific workshops will take place in the second half of 2006.
<p>COMPONENT TWO OUTCOME: The WCPF Commission established and beginning to function effectively. Pacific Island nations playing a full role in the functioning and management of the Commission, and in the related management of the fisheries and the globally-important LME. National laws, policies, institutions and programmes relating to management of transboundary oceanic fisheries reformed, realigned and strengthened to implement the WCPF Convention and other applicable global and regional instruments. National capacities in oceanic fisheries law, fisheries management and compliance strengthened</p>	<p>WCPF Commission operating with a formally adopted framework of rules and regulations. Commission Secretariat has been established and the core science and compliance programmes and Committee structures are operational. PacSIDS are participating effectively in provision of information and in decision-making and policy adoption process for WCPF fisheries management. National institutions and supportive laws and policies have been reformed effectively to support national roles in Commission and to meet national commitments both to WCPF Convention, and to other relevant MEAs, and global treaties and conventions.</p>	<p>Reports of the Commission and its Committees show that within 30 months of the Project inception the Commission is functioning with a full programme of work in compliance and science. Commission reports show PacSIDS are effectively participating in Commission decision-making processes. Independent assessments show that national capacities significantly improved to meet commitments to Convention and to undertake MCS responsibilities.</p>	<p>Commission remains effective throughout project lifetime and beyond. Countries continue to meet financial commitments to Commission to ensure its sustainability. Enormous Convention area and project system boundary can be effectively monitored to ensure compliance. Programmes of information collection and data analyses can be sustained throughout and beyond project lifetime. PacSIDS able to participate in the Commission effectively.</p>	<p>Within the scope of this report it is premature to comment on the effectiveness and sustainability of the WCPF Commission. However, the WCPF Commission Secretariat has been established and appointments have been made for the Executive Director and other professional staff posts and science and compliance structures and programmes are well progressed and have begun to function in the manner for which they have been designed. Pacific SIDS have participated fully in all meetings of the Commission and significant efforts have been invested in providing them with coordinating briefs on issues of common position.</p> <p>A steady progression of effort over the next 12 to 24 months will support Pacific SIDS to reform national laws, policies and institutions to align themselves with their Commission obligations and other global commitments to conservation and management, particularly in terms of transboundary oceanic fisheries management and globally important LMEs.</p>

Project Objective³ and Outcomes	Description of Indicator (quantitative indicator)	Baseline Level (quantitative numerical value)	Target Level (quantitative indicator)	Level at 30 June 2006 (quantitative indicator)
<p>COMPONENT THREE OUTCOME: Effective project management at the national and regional level. Major governmental and non-governmental stakeholders participating in project activities and consultative mechanisms at national and regional levels. Information on the project and the WCPF process contributing to increased awareness of oceanic fishery resource and ecosystem management. Project evaluations reflecting successful and sustainable project objectives.</p>	<p>Project achieving its objectives. Project implementation and management is fully participatory with appropriate involvement of stakeholders at all levels. Information access is transparent and simple. Information available is relevant and significant. Public awareness raising at national and regional policy level is effective. High project evaluation ratings.</p>	<p>Project Implementation Reviews and Project Performance Evaluations provide justification that project is successfully achieving its objectives and deliverables. These are supported by findings of the Independent Evaluations (Mid and Terminal). Stakeholders confirm transparent participation in the project, and improvements in knowledge and awareness across all levels and sectors.</p>	<p>National commitment needs to be high to ensure fully participatory involvement in project over lifetime. Stakeholder commitment also needs to be high to ensure continued contributions, sometimes at own cost. Policy-makers are receptive to awareness-raising information and presentations.</p>	<p>The Project Coordination Unit was officially established in December 2005 with the appointment of the Project Coordinator and other staff soon after. Prior to this the Forum Fisheries Agency the principal Executing Agency performed coordinating functions to maintain the momentum and prevent disruption to proceedings.</p> <p>Broad stakeholder participation and national level commitments to project involvement are aggressively promoted by the PCU. A co-financing agreement has been developed with a major regional environmental NGO which anticipates the enhancement of awareness-raising information through workshops with targeted audiences.</p> <p>The first six months of 2006 have required a significant amount of effort to settle in the project and establish routine between the Implementing Agency and the project Executing Agency. A more concentrated effort on an effective information strategy and general awareness raising of oceanic resource management and ecosystems based management will commence in earnest in the second half of 2006.</p> <p>The mid-term review of the project will take place in late 2007, early 2008 and the terminal review at the close of 2010.</p>

Rating of Project Progress towards Meeting Objective

	2005 Rating	2006 Rating	Comments
National Project Manager/Coordinator	S	S	The establishment of a legally binding fisheries management arrangement in the WCPO is a major achievement which can only contribute positively towards global environmental benefits for transboundary oceanic fisheries, including sustainable conservation and management measures across a significant area of the global. The ability for Pacific SIDS to participate effectively in this arrangement remains challenging. Their capacity to absorb commitments to the growing complexity of international fisheries and conservation agreements will be assisted greatly by the objectives of this project but sustainability of that capacity becomes an issue for analysis within the review processes of this project, as will the status of resources and their overall management through the Commission process.
Government GEF OFP <i>(optional)</i>			
UNDP Country Office	S	S	The project achievements to date are satisfactory. The objectives identified in the project are long term objectives, and can be achieved through continued focus on the intended outputs. Given a year's operation, the project has established good institutional arrangements, and the PMU is vigilant in carrying out the project activities. It is highly recommended that the project continues to encourage strong stakeholder participation, especially of national counter parts in order to develop the much needed capacity for meeting obligations under the WCPF – developing scientific capability and responsiveness and understanding of scientific data.
UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	S	S	<p>The PMU has been established with quality hires at FFA and SPC. The Science and Technical Compliance Committees of the WCPF Commission are drawing on good science generated by the project. Five resolutions and six conservation and management measures have been adopted and entered into force since the establishment of the Commission. Its confidence is in no small part due to strengthening of national and regional monitoring and reporting programs. And as a result of awareness building, Pacific SIDS are already realigning their legislation and policies with their obligations to the WCFP Commission.</p> <p>There are challenges: perhaps the most important immediate substantive issue is determining the contribution the project can make to the study of seamounts and their effects on fisheries following IUCN's delay in delivering the research vessels. Options are being explored, including a refocusing on seamount mapping (these are activities for which budget will be needed in 2007). The project will also have to learn how to engage the private sector. It will need to develop a more robust knowledge learning system. And it must sustain capacity for monitoring</p>

			and assessment as people and politics in the region change.
--	--	--	---

Action Plan to Address Marginally Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Highly Unsatisfactory Rating

Where a project has received a rating of MU, U or HU describe the actions to be taken to address this:

Action to be Taken	By Whom?	By When?

III. Progress in Project implementation

List the 4 key outputs delivered so far for each project Outcome:

Project Outcomes	Key Outputs
Outcome 1: Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement:	
<p>1.1 Fishery Monitoring, Coordination and Enhancement Integrated and economically sustainable national monitoring programmes in place including catch and effort, observer, port sampling and landing data; Pacific SIDS providing data to the Commission in the form required; national capacities to process and analyse data for national monitoring needs enhanced; improved information on fishing in national waters and by national fleets being used for national policy making and to inform national positions at the Commission. Enhanced quality and accessibility of fisheries information and data leading to more effective development and improvement of the Commission's policy and decision-making process.</p>	<p>A template for national integrated monitoring programmes and provision of data to the Commission The SOC OFP is developing a standard software package named TUFMAN (Tuna Fishery Data Management System), which provides countries with a general purpose tuna fishery data management capability. Fourteen new reports were added to the TUFMAN database during this reporting period, including a report used to reconcile logsheets with telex reports. Data entry modifications were made to screens for licensing, logsheets, port sampling, telex reports and reference tables. The system was installed in Tuvalu for the first time and updates of the system were sent to the Cook Islands, Palau and the Marshall Islands. TUFMAN is currently installed and functional in Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu. PNG has an independently developed system in place. TUFMAN will be installed and training provided in the remaining beneficiary countries during the course of the project.</p> <p>Several Commission data reports have now been incorporated into TUFMAN. Further development of the Commission reporting module is envisaged during the next year.</p> <p>National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs All countries were given an upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES) in March 2006, and further upgrades were provided to FFA, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu in April/May 2006.</p> <p>Dedicated travel was made to: Palau, where the TUFMAN database was installed and the port sampling database upgraded, and the Marshall Islands, where the TUFMAN database was installed. Appropriate training was given to users in all countries.</p> <p>National observer programmes are now established in 10 of the 15 FFA member countries (Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, FSM, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa), while three other countries aspire to running observer programmes in the future (Vanuatu, Niue and Tokelau).</p> <p>There has been significant focus during this reporting period on putting in place the regional observer debriefing policy. This requires debriefers to be identified, a training course to be organised and the debriefing training format to be set up.</p> <p>A complete review of the port sampling programme in the port of Pago Pago, American Samoa was undertaken in collaboration with staff from NMFS, FFA and SPC during May.</p> <p>Time was spent substantially revising the monitoring support for both Tonga and Samoa. The new MOUs now include observer components and were put in place utilizing OFMP co-funding resources.</p> <p>Data collection from 25 port sampling sites is also supported by SPC utilizing OFMP and co-funding resources. All data received during the period were entered, checked and immediate feedback given to the port sampler supervisors.</p> <p>The centrepiece of this activity is the establishment of National Tuna Data Coordinators (NTDCs) in beneficiary countries. The status of</p>

NTDCs in each country and a summary of support being provided by the project is as follows:

- Cook Islands – NTDC is Pamela Maru. Position funded by Cook Is. Government. In-country support under review, likely in the area of port sampling and observer programme part-funding.
- FSM – NTDC is Steven Retalmai. Position funded by FSM Government. In-country support under review.
- Fiji – NTDC is Jone Amoe. Position funded by Fiji Government. In-country support under review, likely in the area of IT support.
- Kiribati – NTDC is Tamaurea Tebao. Position funded by Kiribati Government. In-country support under review.
- Marshall Islands – NTDC is Berry Muller. Position funded by Marshall Is. Government. OFMP provides 50% salary support for Observer/Port Sampling Program Coordinator.
- Nauru – NTDC is Karlick ?. Position funded by Nauru Government. OFMP providing IT support.
- Niue – NTDC is Vanessa Marsh. Position funded by Niue Government. In-country support under review.
- Palau – NTDC is Kathleen Sissior. Position funded by Palau Government. OFMP funding position of Assistant NTDC and IT support (scanner).
- PNG – NTDC is Donna ?. Position funded by PNG Government. Well developed fishery monitoring programme requiring advisory and training support only.
- Samoa – NTDC is Ueta Fa’asili. Position funded by Samoa Government. In-country support under review. Possible support for Assistant NTDC position.
- Solomon Islands – NTDC is under recruitment. Position funded by OFMP.
- Tokelau – NTDC is ? In-country support under review. Support for NTDC position requested.
- Tonga – NTDC is Tala’ofa Lotohead. Position funded by Tonga Government. POFM providing IT support (computer hardware, internet connection).
- Tuvalu – NTDC is Falasese Tupau. Position funded by Tuvalu Government. In-country support under review. IT support and/or artisanal tuna data collection likely areas of support.
- Vanuatu – NTDC is Tony Taleo. Position funded by OFMP.

A regional monitoring coordination capacity, to develop regional standards such as data formats, and to provide a clearing house for information on fishery monitoring

During this reporting period 466 observer workbooks, 695 observer waterproof pads and 150 waterproof port sampling pads were distributed to five countries with active sampling programmes.

The debriefing forms were printed and made available to relevant countries. Printed copies of the longline logbook were received from the overseas printer and communication was established with a number of fishing captains who are willing to trial the logbook.

Work continued on documenting all form change requests. The 7th Data Collection Committee (DCC) meeting has been re-scheduled for 2007, so the development of data formats will take a lower priority during 2006.

The first regional statistics workshop is planned to be held in the 4th quarter 2006.

Resource material production continues to focus on observer needs with the Longline Observer Guide being brought through the layout stage.

Work has started on the next edition of the newsletter – ForkLength. The intention is to make this available for publication during the 4th quarter of 2006.

	<p>Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers A full basic observer training course was conducted in Marshall Islands and Palau, with a refresher longline training course given in Tonga, while the observer component of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Officers course was presented in Nelson, New Zealand. A dedicated debriefing trip was also undertaken to Tonga.</p> <p>The OFP Observer and Port Sampler Trainer also attended the NMFS observer training course that was held in Hawaii. This activity utilised co-funding.</p> <p>There were attachments to the SPC/OFP during the reporting period - from Cook Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, PNG and Marshall Islands. Attachment training included (i) an overview of tuna fishery data collection, (ii) familiarisation with OFP-developed database query tools (e.g. CES) and TUFMAN, and (iii) having the trainees sufficiently advance their National Fisheries Report in preparation for the 2nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting (August 2006), using the skills obtained during the training.</p>
<p>1.2 Stock Assessment Detailed information available on the status of national tuna fisheries, including the implications of regional stock assessments and the impacts of local fisheries and oceanographic variability on local stocks and fishing performance; strengthened national capacities to use and interpret regional stock assessments, fisheries data and oceanographic information at the national level, to participate in Commission scientific work, and to understand the implications of Commission stock assessments.</p>	<p>National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff A significant amount of co-funding contributes to this output. During the reporting period, National Tuna Fishery Status Reports for PNG, French Polynesia (OFP funded activity), and Solomon Islands were finalised, while work on NTFSRs for Cook Islands, FSM, Vanuatu and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) was progressed.</p> <p>No work in-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports were conducted during this period although a timetable for provision of information was agreed with FFA, and significant contributions to briefs planned for 3rd quarter 2006.</p> <p>Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission No contributions to briefs on scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups were conducted during this period although a timetable for provision of information was agreed with FFA, and significant contributions to briefs planned for 3rd quarter 2006.</p> <p>Training of national technical and scientific staff to understand regional stock assessment methods, and interpret and apply the results; and to use oceanographic data The first regional stock assessment workshop was successfully held at SPC headquarters in Noumea. Extensive work on the development of workshop materials and other preparatory activities took place during the reporting period with positive output.</p> <p>No attachments or training of scientific counterparts in-country took place this reporting period, although planning for attachments is in progress.</p>
	<p>Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME 24 samples of stomachs, muscle and liver have also been collected during a longline observer trip.</p> <p>A complete list of the samples stored at SPC has been compiled. This information has been incorporated into the detailed list of the samples already analysed; The sampling strategy and work-plan report had to be postponed but will be finalized and sent to PICT observer programmes in July; it will also be presented as an Information Paper in the Ecosystems and Bycatch Specialist Working Group of the second Scientific Committee of the WCPFC in August 2006. Biological sampling should start in the 3rd quarter 2006. Some additional storage space has been added to the SPC biological laboratory to accommodate the increasing number of prey items preserved for reference.</p> <p>Two research assistants were contracted utilizing co-funding sources to continue lab-based analysis of stomach samples collected under the previous OFM project and new samples collected during the current project. This work will continue through 2006 and beyond,</p>

subject to the availability of funding. During the reporting period, the contents of 535 stomachs (from multiple observer trips) were examined and about 80% of the information has been entered into the database. Tissue samples have been dehydrated and sent to the University of Hawaii for isotopic analysis.

The prey item reference collection was augmented and now contains more than 600 specimens from about 110 families.

With specimens collected from the New Caledonia longline fleet, the feasibility of conducting a growth study on albacore using otolith seasonal structures was assessed. A lab assistant will be contracted for a 8 month period (using co-funded sources) to collect and analyse the otoliths required for the study

Isotopes of 350 samples have been analysed and entered into the database.

IUCN

In mid-June, IUCN was informed that the research vessel to be provided by DeepOcean Quest (DOQ) was experiencing delays in the refit. Given continued delays, and uncertainty of vessel preparedness, it became clear that IUCN could longer count on DOQ to complete their outputs in the OFM project. DOQ indicated that remained keen to do this expedition but were unable to provide assurance of i) when the vessel would be ready to sail; and ii) when she would be available in the central Pacific.

Hurricane Katrina and refit and repair contracting problems continued to hinder progress. DQO are attempting to address their problems by looking for a new shipyard and contractor to continue work within the next two months and had expected to test the vessel and submersibles in the Sea of Cortez and eastern tropical Pacific (Cocos-Galapagos corridor) in 2007. However, DOQ refuse to make any commitments until the vessel has been tested and is functioning, meaning that future cruise plans (e.g. IUCN plans for the Pacific) would not be confirmed before early 2007 at the earliest. This would mean the actual expedition would not occur before mid- to late-2008. IUCN continues to engage DOQ to press them to fulfill their original commitment and intends to obtain in a written commitment in early 2007 and proceed with the planned expedition but given the uncertainty have decided it would be prudent to develop alternative options. This will require a substantial reassessment of what types of activities are possible under the project. IUCN has employed a short-term consultant to assist Dr. Rogers in this planning, in close collaboration with SPC.

Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options

Delays in the IUCN led research survey meant that SPC OFP have not been able to support national scientist participation in the benthic biodiversity survey.

IUCN have indicated that project implementation on IUCN-led activities is slower than originally expected but still on target to meet objectives. The primary reason for the delays in project implementation are that delays in the re-fitting of the research vessel due to hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in late 2005 have meant two postponements in the dates for the seamount cruises. Current plan is for the cruises to take place from January – April 2007, but this can only be confirmed once the vessel re-fit is complete and it has been tested on the water. The vessel is expected to be ready for testing in early June 2006; once the seaworthiness is confirmed, exact dates for the cruises will be set, and project resources will start being expended at increased rates.

	<p>Estimate Levels of By catch in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean fisheries</p> <p>Work has commenced on this activity and will continue through 2006. A NZ-based consultant, Dr Brian McArdle, was contracted to assist SPC staff analyse observer data for the estimation of by-catch levels. This work is currently being documented and will be presented to the 2nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006.</p> <p>By-catch estimates and a preliminary ecological risk assessment for selected species will be presented to the 2nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2006.</p> <p>Results of ecosystem analysis and proposals for long-term ecosystem monitoring and operationalisation of the ecosystem-based approach for use by the Commission’s Scientific Committee, especially its Ecosystems & Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</p> <p>No work has progressed towards this output.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Law, Policy and Institutional, Reform, Realignment and Strengthening</p>	
<p>2.1 Legal Reform Major Commission legal arrangements and mechanisms in place, including provisions relating to non-Parties and sanctions for non-compliance; national laws, regulations, license conditions reformed to implement the WCPF Convention and other relevant international legal instruments; enhanced national legal capacity to apply the Convention and national management regimes, including domestic legal processes for dealing with infringements.</p>	<p>A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues The services of Professor Martin Tsamenyi of the University of Wollongong Australia have been secured to assist in national workshops and the analysis of legal implications from decisions adopted by the WCPF Commission. The specific outputs from this consultancy are the preparation of National Country Reports, the development of course material and where applicable draft legislation for PI countries. The work commence in second quarter of 2006 with the first of a series of in-country workshops for Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and Tokelau. Further workshops have been completed in advance of schedule for the Cook Islands and Vanuatu (originally scheduled for August/September and June respectively).</p> <p>In-country national assistance has been re-programmed to provide for Samoa, Kiribati, Marshalls, Palau, FSM , Fiji, PNG, Tonga and Nauru in the second two quarters of 2006</p> <p>Work has been completed in regards to a legal and technical review for Fiji on the implications of the decisions of the 2nd meeting of the WCPF Commission; the commencement of preliminary analysis on implications of WCPF Decisions for Tuvalu. A report was also prepared on the challenges facing the management of the region’s tuna resources for the 14th Annual Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Society of International law in June.</p> <p>A legal planning workshop for Pacific SIDS took place in Vanuatu in November 2005 with a significant contribution from a project consultant. The workshop outcome determined priorities for national legal work under the UNDP GEF project for National Consultative and the Regional Steering Committees consideration.</p> <p>A review of Samoa’s fisheries legislation has commenced as has work on the revisions for the Cook Islands Fisheries regulations to incorporate obligations under the WCPF Convention and the emerging decision of the WCPF Commission. These activities were funded by other sources.</p> <p>New draft laws, regulations, agreements & license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with PacSIDS Work in relation to the preparation of templates for legal provisions to implement the Convention for fisheries legislation has been deferred until the second quarter of 2006 when a team of legal experts will meet in Brisbane.</p> <p>TORs for a consultancy for the preparation of background materials for the development of guidelines to legislate for sustainable fisheries</p>

	<p>in the Pacific Islands has been completed.</p> <p>Harmonising with outputs from the previous section, assistance continued to be provided to Tokelau, Samoa and Fiji on the review of their national fisheries legislations. A contract has been signed with Consultant for legal reviews to be undertaken in all FFA members by October 2006. A request has been received from Kiribati for review of national legislations. At the time of this report, discussions are ongoing on the timing of the in-country visit to undertake the review.</p> <p>Mr John Haurae Maito'o of the Solomon Islands has been contracted to complete work in relation to the drafting of the Marshall Islands High Seas Authorisation. This short term consultancy will finalise the High Seas Fisheries regulations for the Marshall Islands establishing a High Seas Authorisation.</p> <p>A meeting on guidelines for national fisheries legislations took place in Brisbane in May. The report on the meeting together with the draft guidelines are being finalised.</p> <p>Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention A draft report for the Marshall Islands on how to implement the recent decisions of the first and second annual sessions of the WCPF Commission was prepared by the FFA.</p> <p>A paper has been prepared on implications of Commission measures for FFA members. The papers were presented to the annual meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.</p> <p>FFA has prepared a commentary on the Rules of Procedure for the Commission Scientific Committee. These were submitted to the Executive Director of the WCPF Commission.</p> <p>Regional consultations on the development of model legislation convened in Brisbane from 4 -8 July 2006 (outside the scope of this report but worth mentioning).</p> <p>Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues No Regional Legal Workshops to date</p> <p>An in-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding workshop took place in Pohnpei, FSM from 3 – 7 April 2006 in cooperation with the MCS Division at FFA. This exercise was co-financed with AusAID and NZAID funds.</p> <p>National workshops have been conducted in Samoa and Fiji on the implications of decisions of the WCPF Commission.</p> <p>An in-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding workshop took place in Pohnpei, FSM from 3 – 7 April 2006 in cooperation with the MCS Division at FFA. This exercise was co-financed with AusAID and NZAID funds.</p> <p>National workshops have been conducted in Samoa and Fiji on the implications of decisions of the WCPF Commission.</p> <p>A Ni-Vanuatu legal officer was attached to the Legal Division of FFA in June 2006.</p> <p>A second legal attachment was for a legal fellowship from Tonga. The legal attachment for Tonga was undertaken at the Centre for Maritime Policy at the University of Wollongong.</p>
2.2 Policy Reform	National oceanic fisheries management plans, policies and strategies

<p>Commission Secretariat and technical programmes established and conservation and management measures beginning to be adopted; national oceanic fisheries management plans, policies and strategies prepared, implemented and reviewed; adoption of a more integrated and cross-sectoral approach and, improved coordination between government departments (Fisheries, Environment, Development, Economy, etc); enhanced understanding by policy makers and enhanced national capacities in regional and national policy analysis for sustainable and responsible fisheries; enhanced stakeholder understanding of Commission and national policy issues, especially the private sector.</p>	<p>A fisheries management plan for Vanuatu has been undertaken by Dr Rick Fletcher from Western Australian Fisheries, which includes stakeholder consultations. Assistance has also been provided by regional based consultants and staff at Vanuatu Fisheries. This contract is co-financed with FFA funds from other sources.</p> <p>Work is being progressed on the Cook Islands Fisheries Management Plan. This work is being done with the assistance of Mr. Les Clark, an OFM Project funded International Consultant.</p> <p>Work for the Palau TMP is in the planning stage in consultation with the Palau Fisheries.</p> <p>Support and advice have been provided to RMI, FSM and Palau in addressing their pressing fisheries management and development issues, such as vessels reflagging, charter arrangements and IUU fishing in accordance with WCPFC decisions and resolutions.</p> <p>Work has yet to commence on a plan, policy and strategy review.</p> <p>Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programmes, and for Commission conservation and management measures</p> <p>On-going work. FFA and FFA consultant continues to work on analysis of management options for pacific islands input into the Commission meetings, SC2, TCC1 and WCPFC.</p> <p>Preparations for the FFC annual governing council in May will require the provision of advice and reports on oceanic fisheries management issues in relation to proposals for the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Fisheries management expert has been retained as an international consultant (co-financed by the OFM Project funds and other sources) and GEF funded Fisheries Management Advisor are undertaking work in this quarter in anticipation of the May meeting.</p> <p>Briefs for Science Committee and the Technical and Compliance meetings, FFC meetings to discuss issues that are relevant to island state interests have been completed.</p> <p>An FFA sub-regional EAFM workshop was held at Apia Samoa, 24 – 27 April.</p> <p>FFA Southern Tuna Management Workshop was held at Honolulu, Hawaii in March 2006. This workshop was to discuss issues pertaining to southern albacore fisheries as directed by the WCPF Commission 2 resolutions on conservation and management for tunas. This workshop was attended by Commission members (includes FFA Pacific Island members) and cooperating non-members.</p> <p>Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options</p> <p>Given the overall project structure, the activities to be conducted under the Policy, Law and Compliance Component, need to wait until the scientific research has been completed and initial analyses done. Therefore, very little expenditure is expected under this Component in 2006; in fact, most expenditure will occur in second half of 2007 and in 2008 if the research cruise is to commence.</p> <p>Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries</p> <p>The 2nd Management Options Workshop funded by New Zealand was held in Oct 2005. Consultancy services were provided by a GEF funded consultant and a facilitator for the workshop which assisted Pacific SIDS to consider fisheries management work anticipated to be considered by the 2nd meeting of the WCPF Commission in December.</p> <p>Support was also provided for Pacific Islander representation at the 2nd meeting of the WCPF Commission held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia in early December 2005</p>
---	---

	<p>A consultation of experts met at FFA in Honiara on 14 February 2006 to discuss and analyse the Commission resolutions to determine the obligations of the Pacific island parties.</p> <p>Communication has commenced with USP to discuss the joint delivery of a Train Sea Coast (TSC) Fisheries Management Policy course. The revision of the existing module of the TSC Pacific Islands Region Fisheries Management will be undertaken as part of an existing consultant contract for fisheries management. This is an on-going activity.</p> <p>A national consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Vanuatu regarding the review process for the existing fisheries management plan took place with the reporting period. Those consultations are on-going with Vanuatu as well as the Cook Island and Palau regarding the reviews of their TMPs.</p> <p>A newly appointed licensing officer from the Solomon Islands Fisheries department undertook an attachment at FFA in March.</p> <p>Arrangements are being finalised for the training of key personnel from selected pacific island countries to attend the train the trainers workshop in Vanuatu.</p> <p>Support was provided to the 2nd FFC Officials and Ministerial governing council in May for the provision of advice and reports on oceanic fisheries management issues in relation to proposals for the Commission and subsidiary bodies.</p>
<p>2.3 Institutional Reform Public sector fisheries administrations reformed, realigned and strengthened; capacities of national non-governmental organisations to participate in oceanic fisheries management enhanced; consultative processes enhanced to promote a more integrated approach to fisheries management and administration that encourages coordination and participation between diverse government and non-government stakeholders.</p>	<p>Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations The provision of advice and consultation with the Government of Nauru on their proposed fisheries institutional reform program has commenced. Efforts to recruit expertise identified in the TORs submitted with the request for assistance under the OFM Project has been progressed.</p> <p>The design of an institutional strengthening project for Nauru Fisheries has commenced. This work is expected to progress over the next half of 2006.</p> <p>A regional National Institutional Workshop has yet to be held. It is anticipated that work on an overall review needs to be completed first. The work in this area is not on scheduled but priority has been given to addressing this in the last two quarters of 2006 and early 2007.</p> <p>Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management Advice and support for national consultative processes in Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Palau have been provided.</p> <p>Consultations with and provision of advice to Vanuatu on the issue of ENGOs and INGOs participation in the Vanuatu Fisheries Management Plan review consultation scheduled for June 2006. An invitation to ENGOs and INGOs to participate in the Vanuatu Fisheries Management Plan review consultation scheduled for June 2006 was extended. The same procedure was also carried out for the Cooks.</p> <p>WWF Pacific have been invited to attend the Management Options Workshop. Support will be provided to Industry representatives to attend also.</p> <p>Until the full complement of fisheries management staff at FFA have been recruited attachments and study tours for non-stakeholder participants can not commence. This issues is expected to be addressed by second half of 2006.</p>

<p>2.4 Compliance Strengthening Realigned and strengthened national compliance programs; improved regional MCS coordination; strategies for Commission compliance programs; enhanced national compliance capacities (inspection, observation, patrol, VMS, investigation).</p>	<p>Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programmes An overall review of Convention implications for national compliance has yet to be conducted. Ongoing contributions to reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programmes under the auspices of activities in the legal sub-component continue.</p>
	<p>Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance activities The annual regional meeting for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance which includes as a prior meeting, an annual meeting for the coordination of aerial surveillance in the region was to be held in March 2006. However, to take into account the Commission schedule of meetings the MCS Working Group Meeting is now re-scheduled to take place in September.</p> <p>Additionally, Operations ‘Kurukuru’ and ‘Islands Chief’ supported by Australian Defence with contributions from FFA MCS Division, assists sub-grouping of Pacific Islands countries to undertake coordinated surveillance operations between and across national jurisdictions. These are expected to take place in the later part of 2006.</p> <p>Requests for assistance from some Pacific SIDS for the preparation of Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements have been received. Resources have been directed towards these activities.</p> <p>A review of the agreement between Palau, FSM and the Marshall Islands is being proposed with the possibility of this extending to include PNG and Kiribati.</p> <p>An agreement is in place between the Cook Islands and Samoa as at 2005.</p> <p>Dialogue between Vanuatu and New Caledonia is in progress and a draft document for surveillance exchanges between Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and Tuvalu has been completed</p> <p>Nauru has held bilateral dialogue with each of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and FSM on matters concerning a possible agreement.</p>
	<p>Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programmes Pacific SIDS convened at a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance workshop in Honiara in October 2005 to consider preparations for the first meeting of the WCPF Commission Technical and Compliance Committee held in December 2005.</p> <p>Terms of Reference have been drafted for the development of a regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance strategy for the Pacific. Expressions of interest will be called for. The strategy will take into account compliance issues under the Convention and other international instruments, including the requirement for the development of national plans of action for the prevention of IUU fishing.</p> <p>The annual regional meeting for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance which includes as a prior meeting, an annual meeting for the coordination of aerial surveillance in the region was to be held in March 2006. However, to take into account the Commission schedule of meetings the MCS Working Group Meeting is now re-scheduled to take place in September.</p> <p>Preparations have commenced for a meeting in the margins of the May FFC to discuss with Pacific SIDS issues relating to VMS and data sharing policies in relation to the Commission.</p>
	<p>Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS An in-country Dockside boarding and Inspection Workshop has taken place in FSM in the first quarter of 2006. The workshop was</p>

	<p>successfully completed with the assistance of the Australian Defence. Participants from Palau also participated. The workshop is seen as positive steps towards building and developing national capacity in maritime enforcement. Three more national workshops are planned for PNG, Vanuatu and a joint exercise for Fiji and Tuvalu third and fourth quarter.</p> <p>With the roll out of updated VMS hardware a series of VMS training for national compliance staff is scheduled for the third and fourth quarter of 2006.</p> <p>A Fellowship from Tuvalu undertook an attachment at the FFA Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division. A report of the work undertaken by the Fellow is on file.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Coordination, Participation and Information Services</p>	
<p>3.1 Project information System Enhancement of awareness about the Project and understanding of its objectives and progress; establishment of a Clearing House for lessons and best practices within the Pacific SIDS, as well as through linkages to other global fisheries and their issues; capture of up-to-date information and advice on related ecosystem management and innovative fisheries management approaches; transfer of lessons and replication of best practices through an active mechanism linked to the Commission; active participation with IW:LEARN</p>	<p>Project Information System for capture, storage and dissemination of project data, lessons and best practices, and provision of information products Service of a website design company were engaged to design the project webpage which is located on the FFA website at www.ffa.int/gef/. The webpage is operational. A project logo was also secured and this will also be used on project documentation and publications. Email request for IW Learn information and guidelines for developing websites unanswered. No follow up was done. Project Coordinator registered on the IW LEARN network and the BCLME Programme website as a comparable GEF project.</p> <p>A specific document cataloguing system was developed by the PCU.</p> <p>The process to engage a communications specialist to address awareness raising activities has commenced and it is expected that work will commence in late 2006 with the view for possible ongoing services throughout the project on a consultancy basis.</p> <p>The OFM Project website is operational and will be maintained and administered by FFA and the PCU.</p> <p>The webpage menu contains relevant links, project documentation, list of national OFM Project focal points and other project related information. Improvement in the upload of material to the webpage needs to occur.</p> <p>No progress has occurred to date but is expected to be addressed in the Communications consultancy.</p>
<p>3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Effective monitoring and evaluation of progress and performance, including monitoring of process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators; monitoring and evaluation outputs used in project management and in assessing the effectiveness of Commission</p>	<p>Knowledge management process identifying innovative, best practice and replicable ideas within the Project and relevant to the Project Knowledge Management Strategy to be progressed in the second half of 2006.</p> <p>Activities in relation to webpage and progress reports have occurred.</p> <p>Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project Mid-term evaluation is scheduled for late 2007, early 2008. Terminal evaluation will be conducted at the close of the project in 2010 The post evaluation will occur two years after the close of the project in 2012.</p> <p>This report constitutes the annual report for the project by FFA. It will be consolidated with reports from other contributing Agencies to feed into the reporting template (APR/PIR) and systems of the GEF & UNDP.</p> <p>Preparations for the production of the annual report for the project have commenced. This will be prepared according to formats required</p>

<p>measures.</p>	<p>by UNDP and GEF and taking into account the logical framework analysis and the results identified that require verification. UNDP will reflect evaluation of their identified results.</p> <p>The services of an independent Auditor has been secured for the audit of expenditure of project funds 2005. This relates only to the fourth quarter at which point the project commenced with the first advance being received early November 2005. An audit of expenditure of project funds 2005 was submitted to UNDP. A number of shortfalls were identified by UNDP and the PCU was asked to rectify these with the engaged auditors. After consultation with the Auditor's a revised management letter and audit report was submitted to UNDP.</p> <p>Analysis of process, stress-reduction, and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy</p> <p>Terms of reference are being developed for the engagement of consultant to identify environmental indicators for the project. These TORs are being designed by the consultant who is currently engaged under the project as an Fisheries Management Consultant. Calls for expressions of interest are expected to made once the TORs are agreed and finalised.</p> <p>The inclusive of indicator measures in progress reports will be progressed as a priority in the second half of 2006.</p>
<p>3.3 Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising Non-governmental stakeholder participation in national and regional oceanic fisheries management processes, including the Commission, enhanced; awareness of oceanic fisheries management issues and the WCPF Convention improved. Specific forums developed for NGO participation and discussion process; promotion of awareness of national and regional development and economic priorities and how these relate to sustainable fisheries management.</p>	<p>ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes</p> <p>A consultant has been recruited to perform a short term consultancy that will provide a database of regional environmental non-governmental organisations in the region. The main purpose of the consultancy will be the development of a strategy to engage ENGOs in project implementation to promote NGO stakeholder and public awareness of oceanic fisheries management issues and strengthen NGO participation in oceanic fisheries management at national and regional levels; established links with regional ENGOs (including contact details and point of contact); provide advice on the scheduling and framework for national and regional workshops for ENGOs; draft a co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO; and recommend ENGO representation at the Regional Steering Committee.</p> <p>The report of the consultant that will be develop a strategy to engage ENGOs in project implementation is due for submission early Q3 2006 and will be presented to the RSC in October.</p> <p>Visits to Suva based environmental NGOs took place in June and the consultant was accompanied by the PC to some of the organisations.</p> <p>The next annual session of the Commission meeting is scheduled to be held at Apia Samoa in December 2006. The next meeting of the Science Committee is scheduled for 7 – 18 August 2006 at Manila Philippines. Discussion for the provision of support for the attendance and participation of a Pacific ENGO at the Commission meetings will evolve in the course of the above consultancy.</p> <p>A proposal to also invite the Pacific ENGO representative to participate in the policy workshop for Pacific countries to consider management options for outcomes in the Commission has been agreed to. This is scheduled for October prior to the MOW workshop.</p> <p>WWF have observer status at the Commission.</p> <p>Greenpeace Pacific participated in the Legal Workshop in November 2005. Every effort is being made to facilitate the participation of Pacific ENGOs in project workshops across the sub-components.</p> <p>A Pacific ENGO will participate in the project Regional Steering Committee and the established practice by the PCU will be to include the transmission of all information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.</p> <p>National and Regional workshops for ENGOs forms part of the co-financing agreement with WWF Pacific Operations which is currently</p>

	<p>in a draft form. The agreement is currently with WWF.</p> <p>Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues forms part of the co-financing agreement with WWF Pacific Operations which is currently in a draft form and will also be conducted in conjunction with the PCU information strategy process.</p> <p>Organising regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation forms part of the co-financing agreement with WWF Pacific Operations which is currently in a draft form.</p> <p>Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes A newly formed Pacific tuna industry association has formed in principle but has yet to have an annual general meeting to confirm office bearers. Contact has been established with the interim president, Mr. James Movick.</p> <p>Discussions with the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association have been initiated and are ongoing with regards to project support for their representative participation in the Commission. The Association have to date obtained observer status at Commission meetings as have WWF.</p> <p>The provision of information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses is to be discussed in a formal co-financing agreement with the PITIA.</p> <p>Support was to have been provided for a meeting of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association that was planned for the first quarter of 2006. Due to the uncertainty of dates of other meetings which the Association meeting was to have convened along side it has been postponed until the third or fourth quarter of 2006.</p>
<p>3.4 Project Management and Coordination Project effectively managed and coordinated between implementing and executing agencies and other participants in the Project; effective participation in Project management and coordination by stakeholders; reports on Project progress and performance flowing between Project participants and being used to manage the Project.</p>	<p>Project Coordination Unit staffing and office Appointment of the Project Coordinator was made on the 29 December 2005. Mr. Royden Gholomo was appointed as the Project Finance and Administration Officer. He commenced work on 6 February 2006. Mr Daren Cameron accepted the post of Fisheries Management Advisor in January 2006 but due to prior commitments did not commence work until 18 March 2006. He joins FFA from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority where he was a Fisheries Manager for seven years.</p> <p>Computer hardware purchases for three positions have been completed. Software programmes are on order. Partial costs of a high end printer for project use have been committed.</p> <p>Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies The Inception Workshop in 2005 served as the preliminary collective consultations. FFA and SPC meet on a fairly regular basis at a range of regional fisheries meetings. A face to face meeting between Andrew Hurd (IUCN) and the Project Coordinator took place in the margins of the Third Global Oceans Policy held at Paris in January 2006.</p> <p>Letters of Agreements were completed in 2005.</p> <p>Communication with UNDP Suva began intermittently. We the departure of the Environment portfolio officer, Dr Jan MacDonald, UNDP staffing issues at UNDP Honiara has meant that most project related queries have been directed to Suva with delays. Matters arising have been addressed through the UNDP Honiara office. Face to face meetings have taken place with Mr Ismael Toorawa and the</p>

	<p>Project Finance and Administration Officer.</p> <p>Consultations were held between UNDP-Suva and the PCU at Suva, Fiji in May. The meeting was attended by: UNDP Suva – Deputy Resident Representative, Hans De Graaff, Cecilia Pau’u, Finance and Ruth Verevukivuki, Programme Portfolio Manager OFM Project Coordination Unit – Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator and Royden Gholomo, Project Finance and Administration Officer.</p> <p>The meeting was productive in that a number of issues both administrative and financial were discussed to achieve common understandings. A record of discussion is available on file.</p> <p>Regional Steering Committee Meetings and Reports An inception Workshop was held in August 2005 at the UNDP office in Suva Fiji. This workshop was attended by representatives from UNDP Suva and UNDP Honiara, UNDP/GEF Bangkok and FFA. A report of this meeting is available.</p> <p>The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee took place in Oct 2005. The Committee approved their terms of reference, a revised budget and the annual work plan and budgets for 2005 and 2006. The Committee also considered and accepted the Project Inception Report.</p> <p>Both FFA and SPC also take the opportunity to report project progress to their governing councils. SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting took place at Noumea New Caledonia in March 2005 and FFA will report project progress to the annual meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee and Ministerial meeting in May at Honiara, Solomon Islands.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee is scheduled for October 2006 in Honiara at which the PIR/APR report, revised 2006 budget, draft 2007 and reports by beneficiary countries will be discussed. A report of project progress was made to a Pre-FFC meeting held at Nadi, Fiji in June. UNDP Suva was unable to attend. FFA and SPC covered aspects of the project for which they are responsible for implementing. A report of the project is available at www.ffa.int/gef</p> <p>National Consultative Committee Meetings and Reports National Focal Points for the OFM Project have been secured. A list of these can be located on the project webpage.</p> <p>The Project Coordinator has commenced a schedule of visits to Pacific countries to provide support for the national level activities of the project. The assistance also includes reviewing the national priorities identified by the countries during the needs assessment missions of the design of the project in 2004. A visit was made to the Department of Fisheries at Port Vila Vanuatu from 22 – 26 March 2006. The Director for Fisheries Mr Moses Amos indicated that the management body that oversees fisheries management in Vanuatu is not operational but that they hoped to revive the committee soon and matters relating to the project would form part of that bodies agenda. A template for an AWP for national level activities was completed by the Fisheries Department during the visit.</p> <p>Visits have been made to Tuvalu and Cooks Islands. Draft National Annual Work Plans were developed for the Cook Islands and Tuvalu. Discussions relating to potential areas at which the countries will seek assistance at a national level took place. Reports of these visits are on file. Early indications are that the formation of national consultative processes in countries is proving to be challenging and this is reinforced by information collected by the DEVFISH EU Domestic Industry Project. While most countries have tuna management committees formed during the processes to develop and implement tuna management plans many are not operational and are in the processes of being re-establish. This does not apply to all countries.</p> <p>Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances A quarterly financial and narrative report was submitted to UNDP in January 2006 and the request for an advance was declined by</p>
--	---

	<p>UNDP. A further financial report of acquittal was also submitted at the end of February.</p> <p>A quarterly financial and narrative report was submitted to UNDP for the first quarter of 2006 at the end of March, beginning of April. While this provided financial acquittals it did not include a request for advance funds, as the outcome of the first quarter advance request was still pending.</p> <p>RSC1 approved the revised AWP and budget which has reflected the real project start date. The revised project AWP & budget spread the project over a 6 year period but still accounting for 5 years of 12 month.</p> <p>The Committee also approved the revised 2006 Annual Work Plan and Budget. The PCU will place before the next RSC in Oct 2006, a further revised 2006 AWP & Budget to better reflect expenditure and implementation progress, an acquittal of the 2005 finances and a draft 2007 AWP & Budget.</p> <p>The preparation of the required UNDP/GEF - PIR/APR is expected to commence in the next quarter. These will be facilitated by discussions with the UNDP/GEF Technical Coordinator during a visit to Suva in July.</p> <p>The preparation of the UNDP/GEF APR/PIR is coordinated by UNDP Suva. The PCU also takes the opportunity to present reports of progress to the annual meetings of the governing councils of FFA and SPC and did so in the first half of 2006.</p>
--	---

Rating of Project Implementation

	2005 Rating	2006 Rating	Comments
National Project Manager/Coordinator	S	S	While a settling in period of the project has delayed some aspects of the projects management and coordination; it has had minimal impact on the implementation of activities and outputs from the two technical components of the project, largely due to the professional dedication of the Executing Agencies. Overall the Executing Agencies have done well to 'catch up' on activities that did not occur immediately at the official commencement of the project in the last quarter of 2005 due to uncertainties relating to disbursement and some implementation guidelines from the Implementing Agency. The first six months of 2006 also contained an element of distraction while communication between the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agency were addressed. A significant activity that will not be implemented in accordance with the approved work plan, is the work in relation to research activities on benthic communities of seamounts. This sub-component of Ecosystems Analysis is to be performed by IUCN and circumstances beyond their control have hampered implementation. These events will be taken into account in revised work plans and budgets that will need approval by the Regional Steering Committee.
Government GEF OFP ⁴ (optional)			
UNDP Country Office	S	S	The project provides a more realistic scenario of fisheries management in the Pacific. The project is quick to adapt to these challenges and respond to the stakeholder and project demands within the confinements of the work plan. Alternate mechanisms proposed by IUCN to expedite activities in the light of the delays in the IUCN component is being factored into the work plan and closely monitored. Communication between the PMU and UNDP has also significantly improved resulting in quick resolutions of project issues. In terms of addressing further issues, project management training will be planned as requested by PMU.
UNDP Regional Technical Advisor	S	S	Project implementation is satisfactory. There have been challenges with respect to agreement between UNDP Suva and the PMU on financial management which are being resolved.

Action Plan to Address Marginally Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Highly Unsatisfactory Rating

Where a project has received a rating of MU, U or HU describe the actions to be taken to address this:

Action to be Taken	By Whom?	By When?
<i>Not applicable</i>		

IV. Risks (UNDP Suva)

Risk Type	Date Identified	Risk Description	Risk Management Response
Environmental		Exceeding catch and effort levels for bigeye, yellow fin tuna and other fisheries beyond its sustainable limits as produced by WCPF Commission highlights that Pacific SIDS lack necessary awareness and commitment to take the hard decisions involved in limiting fishing in their waters. This shows weak implementation of the WCPF convention by convention parties and may impede the conservation and management of fishery resources which the project is trying to address.	Project mechanisms contribute effectively to raising awareness and improving understanding within Pacific SIDS about oceanic fisheries management.
Financial		Under spending of GEF resources by PCU as per annual allocations. This may reflect weak delivery of project activities.	Efficient quarterly authorization of expenditure of funds by UNDP. Programme finance and management training for PCU provided by UNDP.
Operational		Commission becoming ineffective during the project lifetime (which in turn may affect the sustainability of the project).	Countries continue to meet financial commitments to Commission to ensure its sustainability.
Organizational			
Others			
		Difficult policy decisions on management of the fisheries and difficult management proposals for the ecosystems may be proposed as per scientific findings and statistical evidence of the commission.	Sufficient sustainability available or identified through project to support national capacity improvements in technical and scientific functions as well as to support continued regional data coordination and analysis. Country commitment to national and regional legal and institutional reviews as proposed by project for conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources.
Problem	April 2006	UNDP Suva office financial procedure imposing the withhold of the quarterly advance requests on the basis of under spending in the previous quarter.	Meeting held on 15 th May, 2006 between PCU & UNDP and confirmed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of the flow of project funds UNDP stated that while funds showed on their books they acted as a transfer point. • In response to the PCU's explanation of the difficulties it faced

			<p>with expenditure occurring across three different sites, UNDP also stated that their performance was judged across all their projects and the levels of under spending reflected badly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of whether or not UNDP does in fact impose a 70% expenditure benchmark and penalty at quarterly intervals is to be made. • UNDP indicated that obligations for the next quarter should include all costs for expenses such as salaries <p>UNDP confirmed that the ASL was determined by UNDP/GEF and that this was based on the approved project budget.</p>
Question			
Revision			

V. Adjustments to Project Strategy

Please report any adjustments made to the project strategy, as reflected in the logical framework matrix, since the Project Document signature:

Change Made to:	Yes/No	Reason for Change
Project Objective	No	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Project Outcomes	No	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Project Outputs/ Activities / Inputs	Yes	IUCN activities in relation to Benthic Survey on Seamounts experiencing delays. Alternative options are being investigated in consultation with the PCU and SPC.

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, evaluations or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes.

Change	Reason for Change
<i>Not Applicable</i>	

VI. Financial Information

Name of Partner or Contributor (including the Private Sector)	Nature of Contributor	Amount used in Project Preparation (PDF A, B)	Amount committed in Project Document	Additional amounts committed after Project Document finalization	Estimated Total Disbursement to 30 June 2006	Expected Total Disbursement by end of project
GEF Contribution	GEF	\$0.6m	\$10.9m	Nil	\$1.6	
Cash Cofinancing – UNDP Managed						
UNDP (TRAC)	UN Agency					
Cash Cofinancing – Partner Managed						
Project only: excludes PDF co-financing						
NZAID			\$0.4m	\$0.4m		\$0.8m
PNG NFA				\$0.1m		\$0.1m
Fr Pacific Fund				\$0.06m		\$0.06m
ACIAR				\$0.3m		\$0.3m
Uni of Hawaii				\$0.1m		\$0.1m
Under consideration						
EC				\$1.9m		\$1.91m
US Dept of State (OESI)				\$0.2m		\$0.2m
In-Kind Cofinancing						
Participating Govts (in cash and kind):			\$17.28m			\$17.28m
Reg Org (in cash and kind):			\$14.45m			\$14.45m
NGOs (in cash and kind):			\$0.6m			\$0.6m
NGOs (in cash and kind):			\$0.4m			\$0.4m
Other WCPFC Members (Commission contributions):			\$6.48m			\$6.48m
Other Estimated Co-financing						
Fishing States (in kind regulation costs):			\$32.25m			\$32.25m
Surveillance Partners (in kind):			\$7.20m			\$7.20m
Total Co financing			\$79.09m	\$3.07m		
Total for Project		\$0.6m	\$90.03m	\$3.07m		

Comments

Please explain any significant changes in project financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement:

UNDP – Suva - *Not Applicable*

VII. Additional Financial Instruments used in the Project

This section is not applicable to the OFM Project in this reporting period but two co-financing agreements relating to stakeholder participation and awareness raising are expected to be concluded in the last two quarters of 2006.

These agreements will involve a represented regional environmental non-government organization and a regional tuna industry association.

VIII. Procurement Data

Note: For projects or project components executed by UNOPS this section ***must not*** be filled in - data will be provided by UNOPS headquarters.

Please report the **US\$ value** (*in Thousands, e.g. 70,000 = 70*) of UNDP/GEF Payments made to GEF Donor Countries for Procurement. Please enter Project **expenditure accumulated** from project start up to the date of this report into the matrix against the donor country **supplying** the personnel, sub-contract, equipment and training to the project. Please report only on contracts over US\$ 2,000.

Supplying Donor Country	Personnel (US\$ thousands)	Sub-contracts (US\$ thousands)	Equipment (US\$ thousands)	Training (US\$ thousands)	Total (US\$ thousands)
	Code: 71400	Code:71200	Code:72200/72800	Code:74500	
	SPC \$237	SPC \$4	SPC \$7	SPC \$-	\$248
	IUCN \$24	IUCN \$5	IUCN \$-	IUCN \$-	\$29
	FFA \$65	FFA \$82	FFA \$11	FFA \$11	\$169
Total	\$326	\$91	\$18	\$11	\$446

IX. Lessons

Are there any lessons from this project that could benefit the design and implementation of other GEF-funded projects? Please list up to three and indicate which one/s could be worth developing into case studies of good/bad practice.

- | |
|--|
| i) In the design phase of the full project, a strategic decision to recruit regional fisheries experts to work alongside international experts to consult with stakeholders proved to be exceptionally beneficial in the final design of the project document. Notably, in designing the project emphasis is directed not only to the regional aspects of project assistance but a clear direction to address national level interventions to address the root causes and threats to international waters in the region, specifically deficiencies in management relating to governance and lack of understanding. A well executed terminal review of the first phase with clear recommendations also provided noteworthy guidance in the formation of the full Oceanic Fisheries Management project for the Pacific region. |
| ii) The Pacific region has a long history of regional cooperation on oceanic fisheries management matters and this is supported by the evolution of regional organizations whose technical and management competence have worked for the benefit of the small island developing States in this area. In the case of the Pacific these recognized and established mechanisms serve positively for addressing transboundary international waters concerns, particularly for migratory resources. |
| iii) A set of guidelines detailing the processes, including timeframes, involved from project concept to the official start date of projects might have prevented the delayed roll out of the PI OFM Project. While some delays by their nature of needing scheduled committee type approval are unavoidable, others concerning communication, preparation work and roles of responsibility could have reasonably been avoided with clear guidelines for all organizations involved. In the course of addressing the accessibility of GEF assistance to the Pacific region any advice provided should be inclusive of clear process guidelines with timeframes. |

X. Project Contribution to GEF Strategic Targets in Focal Area

“The global concerns addressed by the GEF in activities in the focal area include:

“Excessive exploitation of living and nonliving resources due to inadequate management and control measures (for example, overfishing...)” - Ch. 4. Operational Strategy of the GEF.;

and the overall strategic thrust of GEF-funded IW activities is:

“to meet the agreed incremental costs of (a) assisting groups of countries to better understand the environmental concerns of their International Waters and work collaboratively to address them; (b) building the capacity of existing institutions (or, if appropriate, developing the capacity through new institutional arrangements) to utilise a more comprehensive approach for addressing transboundary water-related environmental concerns; and (c) implementing measures that address the priority transboundary environmental concerns.” - Ch. 4. Operational Strategy of the GEF

Within the GEF IW focal area:

- sustainable management of regional fish stocks is identified as one of the major environmental issues that SIDS have in common and a target for activities under the SIDS component of OP 9, the Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area Operational Program; and
- the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to addressing environmental problems in Large Marine Ecosystems is promoted through activities under the Large Marine Ecosystem Component of OP 8, the Waterbody-Based Operational Program. Consistent with this framework, GEF financing for the South Pacific SAP Project has been supporting the implementation of an IW Pacific Islands SAP, including a pilot phase of support for the OFM Component, which underpinned successful efforts to conclude and bring into force the WCPF Convention”

The Pacific Islands OFM Project supported Pacific SIDS efforts as they participate in the setting up and initial period of operation of the new Commission that is at the center of the WCPF Convention and as they reform, realign, restructure and strengthen their national fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programmes to take up the new opportunities which the WCPF Convention creates and discharge the new responsibilities which the Convention requires.

GEF support for the Pacific Islands OFM Project includes the following elements:

- The Project will provide a contribution towards meeting the incremental costs of implementation by Pacific SIDS of the WCPF Convention, which is the first major regional application of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- The Project has supported Pacific SIDS in taking a leading role in the establishment of the new WCPF Commission. The establishment of the Commission will put an end to the situation where there is no regulation of fishing in the high seas of the Western and Central Pacific. With most of the Pacific SIDS’ major trade and aid partners involved in the Commission as fishing states, it is important for the Pacific SIDS to be able to look to an independent multilateral agency for support in this work.
- The Project will also support Pacific SIDS in making the necessary national legal, policy and institutional reforms for the implementation of the SAP and the WCPF Convention. With much of the catch and fishing in the WTP LME occurring in the waters of the Pacific SIDS, and an increasing share of the high seas catches being made by vessels of Pacific SIDS, successful implementation of the oceanic fisheries management component of the SAP and of the WCPF Convention depends heavily on the commitment and capacity of Pacific SIDS to apply conservation and management measures in their

waters that are compatible with arrangements for the high seas and to exercise control over their vessels fishing on the high seas. All Pacific SIDS will have to make substantial efforts to upgrade and realign their oceanic fisheries management regimes and programmes to meet the responsibilities and standards arising from the establishment of the new Commission. For many, this will require reforms of institutional structures to make the necessary incremental resources available at a time of general restraint on levels of core public service funds and posts. GEF is the most appropriate agency to support this effort. It has the necessary capacity and mandate to assist these vital reforms and to provide the necessary support to capacity enhancement and the sustainability of input from the Pacific SIDS.

- The Project will provide support to give effect to the adoption of the principles of the ecosystem approach in the new arrangements for transboundary oceanic fish stock management in the WTP LME. In the pilot phase of the OFM component of the South Pacific SAP Project, GEF support allowed work to begin in this crucial area. Following the design of an appropriate approach to biodynamic modelling of the WTP LME, biological sampling of ecosystem components, food web analysis and trophic level determination have been initiated as a first step in what will be a long-term effort. This pilot activity was also successful in leveraging additional complementary funding for collaborative ecosystem research on a Pacific basin scale over a longer time frame. GEF support for activities related to the operationalisation of an ecosystem-based approach will ensure that ecosystem analysis is given a high priority from the earliest stages of the establishment of the Commission. Through collaboration with IUCN, the ecosystem analysis will be broadened to support the first systematic efforts in the region to look at seamount-related aspects of an ecosystem-based approach.
- The implementation of the Convention will mobilise a major increase in resources for conservation and management from those who use the fishery resources of the region. Implementation of the Convention will see the establishment of substantial technical, compliance and science programmes under the Commission, also to be financed largely by those who use the region's fishery resources as well as requiring the commitment of resources to expanded compliance and science programmes at national level by those involved in fishing, especially in high seas fishing. In addition to increasing the resources committed for these purposes, this will reduce the burden on Pacific SIDS who have, until now, carried the major burden for research and monitoring of oceanic fisheries with funding from donors that could have been used for other socio-economic purposes.
- The approach of the Project closely matches the GEF approach to IW Projects noted above. It has its origins in the preparation of a SAP that identified transboundary concerns, the associated threats and their root causes. The Project itself is aimed at addressing the root causes identified in the SAP and it will assist Pacific SIDS to utilise the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional measures needed to operationalise sustainable development strategies for oceanic fisheries in the international waters of the Pacific Islands region. It will help them to better understand the transboundary environmental concerns related to oceanic fisheries and to work collaboratively to address them; to build a new regional Commission and strengthen the capacity of existing national institutions to utilise a more comprehensive approach for addressing those transboundary concerns; and to implement at regional and national level measures that address the priority transboundary environmental concerns identified in the SAP.
- The Project will contribute to achievement of IW Strategic Priorities for the period FY04-06 through its support for SAP-based management reforms, its SIDS focus and its LME and fisheries applications.

- GEF support for the Project will be the first tangible response by the global community to the call in Section VII of the WSSD JPOI for actions to:

“Further implement sustainable fisheries management and improve financial returns from fisheries by supporting and strengthening relevant regional fisheries management organisations, as appropriate, such as the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and such agreements as the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean”;

and supports the other relevant parts of the WSSD Plan of Implementation relating to SIDS noted above.

- There is a good basis for expecting that the Project will be effective. The SAP is in place and remains appropriate. The WCPF Convention was concluded and has come into force earlier than expected, assisted by the South Pacific SAP Project advisory and training activities - these have also led to some Pacific SIDS completing ratification of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The WCPF Commission has therefore been established and provides a very clear focus for much of the Project’s proposed activities.

ATTACHMENT A

Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Beneficiary Country Endorsements, Confirmations and Signatures on the Project Document

GEF Operational Points (at November 2004)	Dates of Endorsement/ Confirmation	Project Document S
Cook Islands Mr Vaitoti Tupa, Director, Environment Service	Endorsed: 13 October 2003 Confirmed: 24 December 2004	
Federated States of Micronesia Mr John Mooteb, Deputy Assistant Secretary Sustainable Development Unit	Endorsed: 6 November 2003 Confirmed: 29 December 2004	
Fiji Mr Cama Tuiloma, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Local Govern Housing, Squatter Settlement & Environment	Endorsed: 1 March 2004 Confirmed 1 February 2005	Endorsed: 29 August 2005
Kiribati Mr Tererei Abete-Reema, Deputy Director, Environment and Conser Division	Endorsed: 28 November 2003	
Republic of Marshall Islands Ms Yumiko Crisostomo, Director, Office of Environmental Planning Coordination	Endorsed: 16 September 2003 Confirmed 4 February 2005	
Nauru Mr Joseph Cairn, The Secretary, Department of Industry & Economic Development	Endorsed: 20 October 2003 Confirmed 14 December 2004	
Niue Mr Crossley Tatui, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Of	Endorsed: 9 February 2004 Confirmed: 24 December 2004	Endorsed: 27 July 2005
Palau Ms Youlsau Bells, National Environment Planner, Office of Environr Response Coordination	Endorsed: 22 October 2003 Confirmed: 17 December 2004	
Papua New Guinea Mr Wari Iamo, Director, Department of Environment and Conservati	Endorsed: 19 February 2004 Confirmed 2 February 2005	Endorsed: 10 August 2005
Samoa Mr Aiono Mose Pouvi Sua Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Endorsed: 17 October 2003 Confirmed: 23 December 2004	
Solomon Islands Mr Steve Likaveke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forests, Enviro Conservation	Endorsed: 11 October 2003 Confirmed: 20 December 2004	
Tonga Mr Uilou Samani, Director, Department of Environment	Endorsed: 26 January 2004 Confirmed: 3 January 2005	
Tokelau Mr Falani Aukuso, Director, Office of the Council of Faipule	Endorsed: 27 February 2004 Confirmed: 13 December 2004	Endorsed: 18 July 2005
Tuvalu Mr Nelesone Panapasi, Secretary to Government, Office of the Prime	Endorsed: 7 November 2003 Confirmed 1 February 2005	Endorsed: August 2005 (GEF Focal Point)
Vanuatu Mr Ernest Bani, The Head, Environment Unit	Endorsed: 17 March 2004	Endorsed: 24 August 2005

⁵ Status – UNDP Suva.

GEF Operational Points (at November 2004)	Dates of Endorsement/ Confirmation	Project Document S
--	---------------------------------------	--------------------

Other Project Document Signatures

Implementing Agency

United Nations Development Programme

Suva

Mr. Hans de Graff

Deputy Resident Representative

Endorsed: 30 September

Papua New Guinea

Ms. Jacqui Badcock

Resident Representative

Endorsed: 4 August 2004

Executing Agency

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

Mr. Feleti.P.Teo

Director General

Endorsed: 13 July 2004