

**GEF II PROJECT:
NATIONAL PROJECT PREPARATION REPORTS
*PALAU***

Foreword

This brief report was prepared by Dr. Tony Lewis during a visit to Koror, Palau from 1st to 6th July 2004. It aims to assemble information relating to Palau necessary for the preparation of the GEF SAP II Project.

The main aims of the report are:

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

The report is based on available published information and information provided in the consultations with stakeholders listed in Annex 3.

1. Background

1.1 Status of Oceanic Fisheries

The Palau EEZ is relatively small (630,000 km²), bordering those of Indonesia, Philippines and FSM to the south, west and east, with high seas areas to the north and south-east (the Palau-FSM-PNG corridor).

The tuna fishery primarily involves the activities of locally-based longline fleets (Chinese and Taiwanese vessels) and Japanese vessels (offshore longliners, purse seiners and pole-and-liners) licensed under access agreements. Landings by the locally-based longline fleet appear to be less than 2,000t in recent years but may be under-reported. Activity by the Japanese offshore longline vessels has been intermittent (catch of several '00t p.a.); very little purse seine activity has occurred in the Palau EEZ in recent years (though 2,000t was taken in 2003), and no pole-and -line fishing. There has been little or no fishing by USMLT or FSM Arrangement p/s vessels in recent years. A domestic pole-and-line fleet operated in the past (until 1982), taking up to 10,000t p.a. for shipment to PagoPago, but only a single small pole-and-line vessel continues to operate, supplying local markets.

It seems probable that the productivity of Palau's fisheries has been impacted by the very large and still expanding tuna fisheries of Indonesia and Philippines, where close to 30% of the region's tuna catch is taken by vessels of those countries.

Subsistence and small scale fishing for oceanic species, based mainly on trolling and FADs, remains important for food security and tourism. There is also a well developed tourism-based sport fishery targeting a range of inshore and oceanic pelagic fish operating from Koror.

1.2 Oceanic Fisheries Management

Palau developed a National Tuna Fishery Management Plan (NTFMP), with the assistance of regional agencies under the CSPODP II project in 1999, which was ratified in 2002.

The major objectives of tuna management and development policy set out in the NTFMP, under the overall intent of deriving greater benefits for all Palauans from Palau's tuna resources, are to:

- Conserve fishery resources by controlling harvesting within internationally and regional recognized sustainable limits
- Establish an efficient Government framework to harmonize the application of fisheries management policies and practices
- Minimize detrimental impacts of fishing on coastal and onshore environment
- Attain an optimal balance in relation to access to the resource between all stakeholders
- Enhance the overall economic balance between the necessity for Government to generate revenue, financial expectations of the commercial tuna fishery interests, and the interests of other users of the resource
- Promote Palauans in professional, administrative, research and development positions in the fishery and related industries and Government agencies
- Adherence by Palau to regional and international marine resources agreements

The Plan has yet to be fully implemented - there are no management measures in force involving target tuna species, and no major controls have been instituted that significantly limit effort or catch. Management measures have, however, been introduced in 2003 with respect to by-catch in the tuna longline fishery (prohibition from taking sharks, reef fish, turtles, rays, and marine mammals, and prohibition from using steel leaders), and closed areas applied to prohibit foreign fishing vessels from fishing within a 24 mile contiguous zone and a 50 nautical mile radius to the east of the reef entrance to Malakal Harbor. A tax on by-catch landings in Palau by the longline fleet of 25 cents per kg has also been imposed.

1.3 Oceanic Fisheries Institutional Arrangements

The Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management (BOFM) within the Ministry of Resources and Development, established by OEK in accordance with Republic of Palau Public Laws (RPPL) 5-7 and 5-8, is the primary agency responsible for oceanic fisheries management. "Being one of the very few FFA member countries with a separate government agency devoted specifically to management of pelagic fisheries resources, Palau is in the unique position of being able to focus the efforts of an entire department on management of the resources within its 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone".

Whilst oceanic fisheries management is seen as a very high priority for Palau, this is not reflected in the support provided to BOFM. The Bureau has an establishment of 28 posts, of which just 8 are filled (of which four are port samplers), and an annual operating budget for 2003/2004 of US\$122,000.

Executive Order No. 204 in 2001 established the Palau Fisheries Advisory Committee (PFAC) to make recommendations to the Minister of Resources and Development and to the President regarding national fisheries policies and the implementation of recommendations made in the National Tuna Fishery Management Plan. PFAC membership includes the Minister of Resources and Development, the Minister of State, the Minister of Justice, the Director of the Bureau of Marine Resources, and one member appointed by the President from the private fisheries sector. Under this order, the PFAC is thus the main consultative body relating to fisheries management matters and policy, with the following functions:

The formulation and coordination of national fisheries policies and programs for the conservation, management and sustainable utilization of tuna resources within the Republic of Palau's EEZ, the implementation of the NTFMP, the implementation and enforcement of oceanic fisheries polices, laws, rules and regulations, negotiations with domestic and foreign fishing companies seeking to fish within Palau's EEZ, and the issuance of fishing licenses and permits ,negotiations with other potential stakeholders interested in the development of offshore fisheries, and, in cooperation with the Minister of Justice, the coordination of maritime surveillance and enforcement of applicable fisheries laws, rules and regulations.

Nett revenue from oceanic fisheries in Palau is estimated to be around \$4 million per year, with the tuna fishery having an overall value of \$14 million in recent years (McCoy and Tamate, MS). These figures do not include the value of artisanal and sport fisheries to Palau, which may increase the overall value to close to US\$20 million. This has been much higher in earlier years.

Other government organisation with a significant role in oceanic fisheries management are :

- Justice (Attorney Generals' Office and the Division of Marine Law Enforcement)
- Ministry of State (Bureau of International Trade and Technical Assistance)
- The Office of Environmental Regulation Committee (OERC) in the President's Office, and the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB).

There is no mechanism for broad consultation with all stakeholders at present (see later), other than the PFAC which although powerful, is essentially Government-driven. There is a clear need to develop such a more inclusive consultative mechanism, involving other relevant Government Ministries/Divisions, the private sector, ENGOs, and communities.

Donor Involvement

There is no other significant donor involvement in oceanic fisheries management besides RAN support in the form of Maritime Surveillance Advisors for the patrol boat program.

1.4 Other Oceanic Fisheries Management Issues

Other oceanic fisheries management issues that arose in the mission to Palau include:

- IUU fishing in-zone and in adjacent high seas - given its contiguity to the very large and not fully regulated fisheries of Indonesia and Philippines, levels of IUU fishing in the Palau EEZ are believed to be high, on the basis of regular sightings and apprehensions. IUU fishing in adjacent high seas are also probably high.
- Delineation of maritime zones - Palau has formally declared its EEZ, but still needs to delineate most of its EEZ boundaries, involving FSM, Indonesia and Philippines – this will involve boundary agreements with these three neighbouring states.

2. Palau and the WCPF Convention

2.1 Overview

With a tuna industry based on foreign access and locally-based foreign longlining, Palau's primary aims in the MHLC and Prep Con process have been:

- i) to ensure the application of measures to ensure the sustainability of the region's tuna stocks and fisheries. Key elements of this for Palau have been:
 - ensuring the long term sustainability of the longline fishery targeting albacore, but with important catches of bigeye and yellowfin; and
 - implementing controls on the impact of purse seine fishing on juvenile bigeye and yellowfin because of the effects this could have on catches by Palau's longline fleet.

- ii) to ensure that Palau secures at least a fair share of access to the region's tuna resources.

Palau has yet to ratify either the UNFSA or the WCPF Convention, and has legitimate concerns of a small state about being able to meet necessary obligations under the Convention, along with the many other international Conventions that it is already a signatory to.

Major implications for Palau with the entry into force of the Convention are seen as follows:

- i) institutional strengthening - development of human resources to address and administer obligations under the Convention and the Commission
- ii) financial capacity to meet such obligations, including meeting costs of full and effective participation in the Commission, and
- iii) legislative revisions, to ensure compatibility with the Convention and UNFSA
- iv) strengthened arrangements for management of fishing in Palau waters, particularly to address IUU fishing;
- v) broader participation in the processes related to the Commission, including involvement of non-government interests, especially the fishing industry and NGOs.

Palau has made limited progress towards developing the capacity to implement its obligations under the Convention, and has few plans in place to complete this process.

2.2 Implications of the Convention

2.2.1 Legal

Palau has yet to ratify either the UNFSA or the Convention. RPPL 6-36 of 2003 attempted, *inter alia*, to harmonize the scope of the Republic's maritime jurisdiction with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), but assistance is needed to ascertain whether the existing legislation is compatible with these more recent instruments (UNFSA and the Convention).

Title 27 of the Palau National Code is the primary legal instrument relating to fisheries, and Title ... of the Code governs environmental activities. These are supplemented by Executive Orders and RP Public Laws, promulgated by the president and OEK respectively, and establishing subsidiary regulations or revisions.

There are several environmental NGOs active in the general fisheries area, including the Palau Conservation Society (PCS), and the Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Palau Fishermen's Association appears no longer to be active.

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

Instrument	Status
WCPF Convention	Not ratified
UN Fish Stocks Agreement	Not ratified
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	Ratified (1996)
FAO Code of Conduct	Principles accepted, but not included in new legislation
WSSD fisheries targets	Not formally adopted
Convention on Biological Diversity	Acceded
FAO Compliance Agreement	Accepted (check??)

FAO International Plans of Action	Not implemented
FFA Minimum Terms & Conditions	Implemented
Driftnet Convention	Ratified

Palau has good legal capacity in the Attorney General’s Office within the Ministry of Justice with growing experience in OFM issues, but office is probably overloaded and understaffed. Palau needs to ascertain, as noted, whether the existing legislation (Title 27 of the Code) is compatible with the Convention and UNFSA. Palau had had good success in pursuing prosecutions against fisheries violations, but will need assistance to build capacity in this area.

2.2.2 Policy/Institutional

The Palau fisheries administration has recently been restructured, to abolish the Palau Maritime Authority and transfer certain functions to the Bureau of Natural Resources. The BOFM, subsequently established by the OEK, is under-resourced and under-financed.

The PFAC has also recently been established, consistent with recommendations in the NTFMP. Policy is primarily determined by the Minister of Resources and Development, on recommendation of the PFAC, although the President and the OEK may intervene directly on some issues.

The Palau RTFMP, one of the first such Plans in the region, has yet to be implemented, despite being completed in 1999, and being ratified in 2002. This is seen as urgent if Palau is to seriously address the oceanic fishery management issues associated with the Convention.

Palau is presently not well placed to implement the WCPF Convention and decisions of the WCPF Commission, and to continue to develop and benefit from its oceanic fisheries. There is an urgent need for capacity building in fisheries management and policy making, particularly in areas related to the work of the WCPF Commission to ensure that Palau participates effectively in the work of the Commission, including being able to ensure that Palau’s interests are taken into account in this work; and to build support among stakeholders for the effective implementation of decisions of the Commission.

There is felt to be an urgent need for institutional strengthening to enable Palau to fully discharge all obligations under the Convention

- Strengthening of monitoring programmes, and compliance, statistics, law and science (resource assessment) programmes
- establishment of a National Consultative Committee,
- possible support for the strengthening of private sector stakeholder institutions

The cost of financial contributions for Palau to the WCPF Commission is expected to be in the range of US\$10,000 per year once the Commission is fully established.

2.2.3 Compliance

In line with the need for overall institutional strengthening of the BOFM and other Departments, little progress has been made in strengthening compliance activities, including:

- There is no National MCS Committee which would seek to improve coordination of MCS activities between BOFM and other agencies, notably the Law Enforcement Division (LED), Customs, Transport and Communication, and Immigration.
- The FFA regional VMS, hosted by the LED, appears to be utilized at less than full capacity, given restrictions on the number of trained staff available
- On the other hand, procedures for licensing appear to be working well, with an accessible operational licensing database housed at BOFM

- Good VMS Regulations have been in place, pursuant to Title 27, since 2000.

Palau has some capacity to enforce its fisheries laws, using one patrol vessel, the *President H.I. Remeliik*, (provided in 1996 and supported through the Australian Pacific Island Patrol Boat Programme) but is underfinanced in the operational sense. The suspected very high incidence of IUU fishing within the zone and probably also in adjacent high seas areas is currently largely unchecked. In the case of smaller Indonesian and Philippines vessels, it is often seen as not worth the trouble of apprehension and return of confiscated vessels to Koror. The compliance activities have already been successful in apprehending several larger foreign (Philippine) vessels involved in illegal fishing, most recently in May 2004.

Surveillance is also assisted by occasional surveillance flights by Australia and New Zealand.

There are no inspection programmes in place for landings in Palau, although there is extensive port sampling (see later) and Customs and MLED cooperate in in-port vessel inspections and clearances.

Flag State Responsibilities

Palau currently has no flag vessels fishing outside Palau waters, and only a handful in its own waters. The Maritime Safety Branch within the Division of Transport and Communication, Ministry of Trade and Commerce, operates the register of vessels and would assume this responsibility should it be needed in the future.

Monitoring

Palau has maintained monitoring programmes for some years, with assistance from SPC/OFP (including assistance under the current GEF IW Project), and from FFA. These include:

- *Vessel characteristics*: BOFM operates a licensing database that contains required information on vessel characteristics.
- *Logsheets*: the level of logsheet coverage of the locally-based longline fleet is considered to be high (approaching 100%), whilst the coverage of the Japanese longline fleet is also considered high.
- *Port sampling*: there is a well established port sampling programme in Palau, with a high level of coverage (close to 100%) of tuna landings by the locally-based longline fleet. Japanese access vessels land in home ports and are not sampled.
- *Landings*: Unloadings data are collected via the port sampling programme, and are routinely compared with the tuna export data. Individual weight data for air-freighted yellowfin and bigeye tuna are routinely collected.
- *Observers*: Palau currently has no regular observer programme in place, although two port samplers are nominally classed as observers, and at least three other observers trained in regional programmes are available. Some trips on locally-based foreign vessels have been undertaken. There is interest in re-establishing an observer programme. It would not be viable for Palau to establish its own training programmes for the small numbers involved, and Palau sees itself continuing to rely on the regional organisations for this function.

2.2.4 Scientific Analysis

Palau recognizes that national capacity for scientific analysis on oceanic fisheries is currently limited and its development is an important priority. Palau will continue to rely on SPC for stock assessment analysis and related advice – support in this area from SPC has been strong. Palau also wants to develop its own capacity to interpret and apply the regional results, but lacks trained manpower and the necessary positions filled within its establishment.

There is a national catch and effort database operated by BOFM. Some analyses of these data are carried and annual summaries sent to SPC/OFP, but some assistance may be needed to produce the verified estimates of annual catch by species, gear and fleet for Palauan waters expected to be required to meet the data standards established by the Commission.

Oceanographic influences on Palau fisheries may not be as significant as on other countries, but gauging impacts of the very large neighbouring fisheries of Indonesia and the Philippines is a critical issue.

3. Potential Contribution of SAP II Project

There is a strong need in Palau for in-country assistance from the GEF SAP II Project, as well as continuing support from the FFA and SPC regional programmes in law, economics, science and compliance. The specific areas in which assistance would be needed from the GEF SAP II Project are summarized below.

Activity	Incremental Actions	Possible Assistance
<i>Legal</i>		
Revise Legal framework	Revise Title and Regs	Legal review
Enhance oceanic fisheries-related law capacity	Provide training for legal officers	Attachments, regional workshops etc Prosecution Workshop
Support Commission participation	Provide legal advice	Regional Legal Workshops
Implement Commission decisions	Provide legal advice, change regulations, licences	Legal advice at national and regional level
<i>Policy</i>		
Participate in regional policy formulation	Commission financial contributions Commission meeting participation Establish National Consultative Mechanism	Regional Fisheries Management Training/Consultations Attachments
<i>Compliance</i>		
Increase IUU deterrence in-zone	Improve effectiveness of patrol, inspection, investigation, prosecution	Establish National MCS Committee Regional MCS Working Group participation In-country and regional Inspection, VMS staff training
<i>Monitoring</i>		
Improve at-sea data	Expand Observer programme	Ongoing in-country and regional training of port samplers by SPC and observers by FFA/SPC; technical support
<i>Science</i>		
Improve national statistical info.	Strengthen statistical capacity	Statistical support from SPC
Provide catch/effort estimates to the Commission		
Improve understanding of oceanic resources and ecosystem	Strengthen national capacity to analyse national data Strengthen national capacity to interpret regional analyses	Ongoing support from SPC Training for national scientific staff to interpret stock assessments and oceanographic information

ANNEXES

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

Annex 1 Incremental Cost/Co-financing Analysis

Summary

Theme	Total 2005-2009 Baseline	Total 2005-2009 Incremental
		(US\$ 000)
1 Law	225	100
2 Policy/Management	165+	150
3 Compliance	3575	200
4 Monitoring	275	100
5 Science	0	50
Total	4240+	600

Palau has modest requirements with respect to the Convention and Commission, as much is in place, but all obligations need to be fully implemented at national level.

Co-financing estimates based on :

Law: Legislative reform, training

Policy/management: Implement Tuna Management Plan; establish consultative mechanisms; participate in Commission activities; annual contribution

Compliance: Increased seagoing surveillance

Monitoring: Re-establish observer programme

Science: Database enhancement and training; verified catch estimates

Donor Funding (US\$ 000)				
Theme	Donor	Project	Total 2005-2009 Baseline	Total 2005-2009 Incremental
Compliance	RAN	Maritime Surveillance advisors		

Base Data

Institution	Programme	Theme	2004 Budget	%OFM	2004 OFM Budget
MRD	Executive	Policy/Mgmt/ PFAC	?	?	?
BOFM	Administration	Policy/Mgmt	40	100%	40
BOFM	Licensing	Monitoring and Licensing	20	100%	20
BOFM	Compliance	Port sample/obs	60	100%	60
Justice	AG	Law	500	10%	50
Justice	MLE	Compliance	660	100%	660
State	IT & TA	Policy/Mgmt	?	20%	?
Total					

Annex 1 Incremental Cost/Co-financing Analysis

Details

Theme	Institution	Programme	2004 OFM budget	2004 WCPF Increment	2004 Non-WCPF Baseline	2005-2009 Baseline	New WCPF Increment					Total Incr	
							2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 Total		
1 Law	A.G.	Law	50	5	45	225	15	15	15	15	15	75	100
2 Policy/Mgmt*	BOFM	Admin	40	5	35	165	15	15	15	15	15	75	100
	State	IT & TA	?	5	?	?	5	5	5	5	5	25	50
3 Compliance	BOFM	Compliance	60	5	55	275	15	15	15	15	15	75	100
	MLED	Maritime	660	0	660	3300	20	20	20	20	20	100	100
4 Monitoring	BOFM	Port sampling/observers	60	5	55	275	15	15	15	15	15	75	100
5 Science	BOFM	Stats	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	50	50
			?	25	?	?	95	95	95	95	95	475	600

* includes Commission annual contribution of US\$ 9,500 p.a. for 2005-2009

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

Country: Palau

Date: 2nd July, 2004

Data Recorder: Tony Lewis (alewis9@bigpond.com)

Stakeholder	Representative/ post	Contact details	Description of Interests [factors that may influence participation]	Stakeholder analysis and preliminary participation plan		
				1 ^o s/holder [role in decision- making]	2 ^o s/holder [2-way flow of information]	Other [Keep informed]
Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management (BOFM)	Director (Silas Orrukem)	Tel: 488 3997	National oceanic fisheries authority	X		
Ministry of Resources and Development / PFAC	Minister (Fritz Koshiba) Consultant (Vic Uherbelau)	Tel: 488 2701 Tel: 488 5004	Responsible ministry, policy formulation	X		
Office of Environmental Response and Coordination	National Planner (Yousau Bells)	Tel 488 6950	GEF Operational Focal Point		X	
Environment Quality Protection Board	EO (Terangue Gillham)	Tel: 488 1639	Environment issues		X	
Attorney General's Office	Asst AG (Quay Polloi)	Tel: 488 2481	Legal aspects		X	
Ministry of State (Bureau of International Trade and Tech Assistance)	Director (Ramon Rechebei)	Tel: 488 2490	Policy/coordination	X		
Marine Law Enforcement Division	Chief (Ellender Ngirameketii)	Tel: 488 5206	Surveillance	X		
Division of Transport and	Manager (Hayes)	Tel: 488 4343	Vessel register		X	

Communication, Maritime Safety Branch	Moses)					
Customs	Manager (Francisco Gibson)	Tel:	Ports operations		X	
Immigration	Benito Thomas	Tel: 488 2498			X	
Palau International Traders Inc. (PITI)	President	Tel: 488 1385	Tuna fishing co.		X	
Palau Marine Industries Corp (PMIC)	President	Tel: 488 2396	Tuna fishing co.		X	
Kuniyoshi Fishing Co. (KFC)	General Manager	Tel: 488 2113	Tuna fishing co.		X	
Palau Conservation Society	Belhaim Sokuma	Tel: 488 3993	Environmental issues		X	
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Andrew Smith	Tel: 488 2017	“		X	
Small scale fishers			fishing		X	
Palau Community College						X

Inventory of Project-related national consultative mechanisms

Consultative body	Parent/host body	Representative/ contact details	Area(s) of interest	Frequency of meetings	Members and affiliations
Palau Fisheries Advisory Committee (PFAC)	Office of the President / MRD	Tel: 21399	Palau fishery		Four Ministers, one private sector rep.

Annex 3 Record of Stakeholder Consultation

GEF SAP II Country Mission

Republic of Palau

Friday 2nd July, 2004

Stakeholder Consultation

The Mission held a stakeholders consultation at the Longshoremen's Inn, Malakal, to discuss the development of the SAP II project. Those present were: Silas Orrukem (Director, Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management), Noah Idechong (Delegate for Ngamil State, OEK), Vic Uherbelau (Palau Trading Company and consultant to MRD), Tiger Gillham (Environmental Quality Protection Board), Quay Polloi (Asst. Attorney General, Ministry of Justice) Hayes Moses (Maritime Safety Branch, Along Joseph (Division of Transport and Communication), Ramon Rechebei (Trade Division, Ministry of State), Belhaim Sakuma (Palau Conservation Society), Francisco Gibson (Palau Customs), Franny Reklai (Bureau of Marine Resources), Benito Thomas (Immigration) and Laurence Abraham (GEF TA).

The lengthy consultation combined a detailed presentation on GEF processes and project background, with a general awareness presentation about the Convention, current tuna fishery management in the WCPO, and implications of the Convention for Palau, then a detailed needs assessment for Palau. It was preceded by a working breakfast with Hon. Fritz Koshiba (Minister for Resources and Development) and key Government officials, to discuss the general policy framework in oceanic fisheries management in Palau.

Issues raised during the primary stakeholders' consultation included:

- Palau's existing shortcomings with respect to meeting its obligations under the Convention, and the need to ratify the Convention
- The need for capacity building in relevant areas, and the need to attract young professionals into the key agencies (BOFM etc) under attractive conditions of service
- The need for legal assistance with revising existing Palau legislation if model regional legislation does not exist
- Recognition that stakeholder input into the tuna management process is currently fraught, and the project should develop mechanisms to facilitate this; participation in the Commission's work will also need such a mechanism
- information urgently needed on the apparent steady decline in tuna catches in the Palau EEZ (impacts of the very large adjacent Philippines and Indonesian fisheries)
- need to implement the National Tuna Fishery Management Plan

Other one-on-one consultations held were with:

Bureau of Oceanic Fishery Management:

- Silas Orrukem, Director; Celestine Angilmau (DD), Kathy Sisor

Marine Law Enforcement Division

- Capt Capt Ellender Ngirameketii (Chief), Lt. Ian Turvet(CO), EO, Navigator

Private Sector (PITI, KFC)

Contact was not made with the GEF Operational Focal Point (Youlsau Bells (OERC)) who was on sick leave and not available.

The general awareness presentation was repeated for the Palau Congress (OEK) on Monday 5th July, with six Delegates, two Senators, and senior Govt. officials present.

Issues raised in the ensuing discussion included: reasons for observed declines in tuna stocks in Palau's EEZ; Palau's development aspirations and priorities re the tuna fishery; expected benefits from the Convention to Palau and conversely, its obligations; Palau, the Palau Arrangement and FFA, and steps needed to ratify the Convention. The consultation seemed to have paved the way for Palau to ratify the Convention before the forthcoming elections later in the year, based on the response of the meeting.

Media coverage of the Convention and oceanic fisheries management generally was extensive during the Mission's visit to Palau, with interviews given with the Palau Horizon newspaper (Bernadette Carreon), and Ecoparadise Radio Station (Patrick Moses).

Annex 4 – Availability of National Indicators

Indicator	Availability	Current Value, if easily available
1. Coverage of:		
a) catch and effort logsheets: locally-based fleet	✓	Around 100%
b) catch and effort logsheets: foreign access fleet	✓	High
c) port sampling	✓	~ 100%
d) observers: domestic fleet	✓	Nil (previous programmes)
2. Levels of budgets and staffing for these programmes	✓	
3. Levels of fleet capacity and fishing effort	✓	
4. Catch of target species,	✓	
5. Levels of mortality of related species, including bycatch and seabirds	×	

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

Annex V - Sustainability Analysis

Annual Government Revenue from licensing, access fees, export taxes,
USMLT and FSM Arrangement fees :

US \$ 1.3 million (2003)

Annual In-Zone Catch Value: US\$ 14 million plus artisanal, sport

Annual Domestic Catch Value: not known

(Data above to be estimated by FFA)

Annual Production Value (including value of processing): US\$ 20 million ?

Expected Annual Commission Contributions: US\$10,000

Estimated Annual Government Incremental Costs: