

# NATIONAL REPORT

*NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)*

**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

1. **Country:** COOK ISLANDS
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008
4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

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

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

**National level activities**

- TUFMAN Database development – System up and running smoothly, regular upgrades made with assistance of SPC and now using Version 4.3.3.
- Local consultancies to draft NPOAs for Sharks & Seabirds

**Regional level activities**

- The Executive Officer of the CIPPB Te Kukupa attended the Regional Evidence Training & Investigation Course, Kavieng, PNG Aug 2007
- The MMR Legal Adviser attended the Regional MCS Strategy workshop, Brisbane, Feb 2008
- The MMR Legal Adviser participated at 11<sup>th</sup> MCS Working Group Meeting March-April 2008
- The MMR Legal Adviser attended the Regional Legal & Policy Trends in the Implementation of International Fisheries Instruments Conference, Nadi, Fiji, April 2008
- The Acting Executive Officer of the CIPPB Te Kukupa attended WCPFC High Seas Boarding & Inspection presentation, Nadi April 2008
- MMR's Data Manager together with the Port Sampling Officer attended the Stock Assessment Workshops, in Noumea, 02 – 07 July 2008

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

The Cook Islands is very grateful for the assistance provided enabling us to develop and further enhance our capacity. The increased reporting requirements for the WCPFC have at times been difficult to meet the deadlines. Having someone available to attend all the meetings, workshops and training is sometimes difficult to meet.

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

Plans by the Ministry of Marine Resources to further develop its' Succession Plan, should help alleviate that minor problem of staff availability to participate and regional workshops and meetings.

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

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

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

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**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

1. **Country:** Kiribati
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

#### **4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Kiribati continues to involve and benefited from a number of activities/funding rendered under the project at regional and national level. Kiribati pleased to acknowledge the level of assistance provided under the project to facilitate capacity building at the national level, enable the country to participate well in the commission meetings and meet its obligation as required under the commission. The following the known list of activities provided with the support of the project for this reporting period.

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

##### **National level activities**

- Development of TUFMAN: With the assistance of OFP/SPC staff, the database was installed in May, 2008. The system has enhance the licensing system and more capable in accommodating more data sets as compared to the previous database used. Training provided was not enough and thus few problems have been encountered as still cannot activate some features of the database. Even-though SPC continue to assist when problem addressed to them, an in house training of staff was essential to better and fully utilize the database.
- EAFM workshop: FFA and SPC have delivered a series of consultations with fisheries staff and involved stakeholders for provision of an EAFM national report. Presentation of EAFM results have commenced and the full report has been submitted to the Fisheries in Kiribati.
- Prosecution & Dockside Workshops: The in-country workshop by FFA held in December, 2007 provide our staff with essential background for boarding of FFVs.

- NTFSR: Preparation of the report was still ongoing and Kiribati is expecting it whenever the report was ready.
- Computer support: Kiribati request procurement of 3 sets of computers to support, maintain TUFMAN in the offshore Division. The request have been approved and Kiribati is expecting one set this year and the remain two sets for 2009.

#### **Regional level activities**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop: Kiribati participated in the workshop hosted by OFP/SPC in Noumea in April, 2008. The workshop delivered technical skills and knowledge required to produce estimates for national fleets, another national obligation under the commission.
- Stock Assessment & ERA Workshop: Participant from Kiribati attended the workshop organized by OFP/SPC. The workshop facilitates scientific knowledge essential for participation in scientific committee as well as required in sustainable management of tuna resources.
- High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedure Workshop: Enable the country to meet obligation to the commission and upgrade skills for boarding and inspection of FFVs.

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

At this stage it is quite difficult to capture full report of activities supported by the project due to lack of readily available information. Kiribati still lack the understanding of some projects supported under GEF.

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

- Increase the level of awareness on all activities implemented under the project.
- Proper liaison between the Focal Point and Project Coordinator.
- Country visits by relevant staff of the Project.
- Built national data base to record and to keep track of Project activities that are funded under the GEF project for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

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

To better fully understand the project and to enable Kiribati to participate effectively in the project, a follow up on all activities implemented under the project to ensure maximum benefits is derived and full understanding of the Project realized at national level.

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

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**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

1. **Country:** MARSHALL ISLANDS

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

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:** As in the previous reporting period, the RMI continued to benefit from various assistance and support under the overall project umbrella. A few of the highlights from this current reporting period include:

- As briefly reported in National Report from previous reporting period, a very timely in-country visit by the PCU finally commenced in early July 2007 and was a success. Among other things, the PCU updated the RMI Needs Assessment Report which was done in 2004 for the development of the OFM Project. Project brochures were also handed over to MIMRA during the brief visit.
- RMI hosted 2007 Operation Bigeye in mid-September 2007 which was the largest thus far in the Bigeye and Island Chief series at the time. Level of support to MCS initiatives from OFM Project quite prolific given vast array of technical issues involved.
- WCPFC Meetings:
  - a. MIMRA Director and Chief Fisheries Officer, Oceanic & Industrial Affairs, attended SC3 meetings in Honolulu in August 2007 and subsequently they, along with RMI Attorney General and industry representatives, attended pre-TCC3 (FFA briefing) and main TCC3 meetings in Pohnpei, FSM in September 2007;
  - b. Honorable Minister and Chairman of MIMRA Board led RMI delegation to WCPFC4 meeting in Guam in December 2007 (delegation included MIMRA Director and Deputy Director as well as large number of domestic industry representatives).
  - c. Director attended WCPFC Chair's briefing in Canberra in April 2008 prior to attending Access Negotiations Workshop alongside Deputy Director in Honiara.
  - d. It is well understood and fully acknowledged that the Project contributes significantly in the form of assisting with FFA briefs for all the above meetings.
- The TUFMAN database at MIMRA was upgraded to version 4.0 during this reporting period (latest upgrade to current version 4.43 recently completed and will be part of next National Report); in addition, MIMRA was also provided with all the latest periodical updates to the CES during this period.
- Deputy Director and industry representative attended MOW4 meetings in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in October 2007. Due to logistical difficulties, RMI was not able to attend related important meetings including RSC3 meeting.
- Deputy Director and industry representative attended Special PNA meeting in Honiara in February 2008; Deputy Director also attended US Treaty consultations in Rarotonga in March 2008.
- Director and Deputy Director attended Annual FFC67 Meeting in Koror, Palau in May 2008.

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

### **National level activities:**

- Due to scheduling conflicts and other logistical misfortunes, the RMI was not able to attend the last FFA WCPFC Sub-Regional Workshop. Instead, MIMRA opted to formally request FFA DG's assistance in allowing for WCPFC National Workshop to be held in Majuro in September 2008.
- As with the first Sub-Regional hosted by RMI in 2007, RMI stakeholders greatly benefited from the workshop and there was lot of active discussions on WCPFC issues and their implications on national fisheries development efforts.

### **Regional level activities:**

- Chief Fisheries Officer, Oceanic & Industrial Affairs, attended and further refined her scientific analysis and stock assessment skills at the following:
  - a. FFA Sea Turtle Mitigation Workshop: 11-12 March, 2008 (Nadi)
  - b. WCPFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop: 7-11 April, 2008 (Noumea)
  - c. SPC ERA Workshop: 26-27 June, 2008 (Noumea)
  - d. SPC Stock Assessment Workshop: 30 June-4 July, 2008 (Noumea)

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

- Overall, there is some considerable improvement with regards to familiarization and linkages of the Project to the wider regional fisheries management umbrella especially with ongoing efforts and developments stemming from WCPFC obligations and related challenges and issues. While challenges and related issues still linger, it has become much clearer how the overall project progress impacts upon national and regional initiatives. The RMI acknowledges that it had to take some time and will require even more as the Project ebbs along with the region's ongoing efforts to effectively manage its fisheries resources.

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

- Increased awareness and up to date liaison with PCU. Establishment of routine contact with PCU via email has been well-received and very responsive. While often times overlooked, the existence of Project website has also been very beneficial in keep up-to-date on Project progress throughout the reporting period and overall during calendar years since inception. RMI considers this to be a big plus and thus very positive engagement.
- Hence, the need for more frequent liaison with PCU. In-country visit has really helped RMI in ongoing efforts at familiarization of the project and related cross-cutting issues at the national and regional levels.
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## **9. Recommendations for Future Action:**

- Periodic in-country visits have proven to be beneficial not only in terms of familiarization but also optimization of Project outputs.
- Possible assistance needed on formal initiation of NCC in RMI; additional briefing for relevant stakeholders inevitable.
- Informal discussions with both FFA and SPC on EAFM and NTFSR processes; possible start in early 2009 pending confirmation of agreed dates as per schedule of meetings and other relevant factors; periodic updates and ongoing correspondence.
- Ongoing communication with PCU on progress both at national and regional levels.

## **10. Report Prepared By: Samuel K. Lanwi, Jr., National (OFM Project) Focal Point.**

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**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

1. **Country:** Nauru

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

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Nauru continues to receive benefits from the Oceanic Fisheries Management projects through both initiatives on the regional and national level. The level of assistance rendered through this project has relatively improved the capacity of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority to address the issues raised by the WCPFC Convention and to an extent discharge with some of the new responsibilities as required under the Convention. The following is a list of the specific output/results achieved for the current reporting period:

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

**National level activities**

- Establishment of the GEF OFM National Consultative Committee (NCC) – NFMRA received funding support from the Program to help establish a NCC to oversee and coordinate the implementation of national projects under the program. The Nauru NCC has been established and has had two meetings since its establishment in November last year. The reports for those two meetings are being prepared for the Project coordinator.
- National Tuna Fisheries Status Reports – the SPC OFP and NFMRA project collaboration is ongoing and is in its final stages before completion
- In-country consultations – for 2007 and 2008 several workshops for stakeholder consultations under the national EAFM process were held with the assistance from FFA and SPC staff. Consequently the EAFM report will be ready for completion by end of this year.
- Training attachments – opportunities for attachments to train in operating the TUFMAN system was made available to the Nauruan participant at the SPC Tuna Data Workshop in Noumea during 2007.
- Ecological Risk Assessments (ERA) – the ERA report was completed for Nauru in 2008 in conjunction with the work being progressed with the EAFM.

## **Regional level activities**

- Training Workshops – Nauru received several training opportunities under during the reporting period and these included the a) Tuna Data Workshop - SPC Noumea 2007, b) Stock Assessment Workshop -SPC Noumea 2008, c) Regional Evidence Training Workshop- Kavieng PNG 2007
- Legislative review – reviews on national fisheries legislative gaps in relation to the WCPFC Convention were provided as part of a regional initiative to assess existing fisheries legislations amongst member countries.

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

Increasing level of obligations by the WCPFC Convention has strained the capacity of small island states such as Nauru and the level of support needed from the regional agencies such as FFA and SPC has often been stretched due to the fact that there are many members of the FFA who rightfully rely on the limited resources of these agencies and hence not all needs can be catered for.

Some examples include the review and amendments of national fisheries legislations to meet obligations under the WCPFC Convention where there is only a limited level of personel at the FFA to cater for such services. Nauru is also in need to establish a National Observer program and training opportunities have been very hard to come by as they are focused on states that already have National programs in place. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Implementing Agreement recently adopted by the PNA as a proposed Conservation and Management Measure for WCPFC generally requires 100% observer coverage.

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

An Institutional Strengthening Project ( ISP) with Ausaid Donor support is being implemented to strengthen the governing process within the Authority and to specifically address some of the shortcomings being faced in relation to WCPFC Obligations. The ISP includes support for training and short term consultancies that can be utilized to meet those needs that cannot be sufficiently addressed by the SPC and FFA.

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

The GEF OFM should take a more proactive approach and look at the outsourcing of essential services to member countries where support from traditional service providers is in high demand and therefore strained e.g. legal and scientific fields, so that members can strive to meet the growing demands and obligations being imposed by the WCPFC Convention. Nauru is confident that the upcoming ISP project will achieve a greater part of this objective and encourage the GEF OFM to continue looking at ways or means of supporting members that would relief some of the burden from the traditional service providers which in turn may provide more efficient services to the members.



**10. Report Prepared By:** Peta Gadabu- Chairperson Nauru National Consultative Committee and Terry Amram (OFM Project) Focal Point.

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**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

**Country:** Niue

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

**Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

## **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The project has been beneficial to Niue in numerous ways especially in institutional strengthening of Niue's fisheries by way of office equipment to aid in lacking resources which enables staff to give a much better performance.

Niue fisheries have benefited in capacity building initiatives and programs by OFP using GEF funds, stock assessment workshops has given Niue more meaningful participation in scientific meetings and enables Niue's participant to carry forth stock assessment using its national data.

The allowance for the inclusion of legal staff that aides in formulation of legislation that incorporates new management measures and agreements from organizations that Niue is party to. Legal input has also given rise to policy and legislative review of national laws that enables a platform to further develop Niue's aspirations in responsibly develop its fisheries.

MCS which is the most important component in monitoring and policing the management measures agreed on therefore achieving the objectives set out that ensures the sustainability of harvested marine resources is further encouraged by Niue via its participation in regional workshops and exercises some was funded by the GEF program.

Formulation of national fish stock status report has given Niue the advantage to make informed management decisions on how to pursue responsible fishing within its national waters, and gives a platform for ecosystem based approach to draw from.

Niue the smallest FFA member has benefitted and would continue to benefit from the project as it further evolves.

## **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved(as per work plan):**

### **National level activities**

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

##### **Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring, Coordination and Enhancement**

SPC OFP initially before the commercial fishing vessels began operating carried out an in country training of fisheries staff in port sampling entries and requirements. The set up also of a port sampling program had Niue in its initial stages of the fisheries covering 100% port sampling of all its vessels, however this was scaled down (50%) due to the workload and number of staff.

Log sheets being part of the licensing terms and conditions where all vessels fishing in Niue should complete and hand over to Fisheries upon the completion of each trip.

These logsheets are therefore checked monthly and then forwarded to SPC on a quarterly basis, this also holds true for portsampling data that is collected.

The MCS officer is tasked with this component of the fishery, with the assistance of other staff members.

Niue's National observer program is in the process of development and has requested assistance from FFA in the development of the program. Niue a party to WCPFC is also concerned with the activities of its domestic fleet and credibility that reports give would further be enhanced with the presence of observers.

Niue Fisheries also uses VMS data to verify positions of sets made by fishing vessels and this is checked with logbook entries by commercial fishing vessels.

Niue has had assistance from SPC in the past to install TUFMAN program and train Fisheries officers how to operate to use it, however to date, the program is not successfully installed and is yet to be used.

### **Sub-Component 1.2 : Stock Assessment**

Training has been undertaken by Niue's Officer in stock assessment, resulting in Niue with the aid of OFP finalizing its fishing reports (Part 1). The stock assessment covers interpretation of scientific reports to the scientific committee and to any assessments that scientists has on any Highly migratory species. The training also gives rise to the understanding of models used to calculate parameters in stock assessment and giving answers that produces sound management decisions, such as stock status reports, catch rate, CPUE, etc..

Niue as mentioned earlier has a TUFMAN program but has not been able to run it, and is awaiting assistance from OFP in providing training to be able to quickly produce scientific calculations based on queries in relation to stocks and catches.

### **Sub-component 1.3 : Ecosystems Analysis**

The preparation and completion of the national tuna and fish stock status report that was completed by OFP and Niue's fisheries staff that was attached to OFP for two weeks has given the estimates of stock status of not only tuna but also migratory fish that is important to Niue around Niue's EEZ.

The report also focuses on the distribution of the stock via catch log data off FADs.

The report splits the catch by area and time periods in relation also to the effects of natural phenomenon's that influence the behavior of fish to catch rates.

Logbooks also includes bycatch by not only the commercial fleet but the artisanal local vessels, this is also incorporated into the report, where the report will form basis for an eco system management approach to be carried out in 2009 by FFA.

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

### **Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reforms**

In respect of Output 2.1.1 – Since September 2008, the Fisheries Division (FD) together with the Crown Law Office (CLO) has agreed on a work plan for activities on regional and national legal issues. Activities relating to regional legal issues involve close coordination between the Fisheries Division and Crown Law Office on regional meeting attendances. This gives opportunity for CLO to increase awareness and exposure to fisheries legal issues. At the same time, CLO will be able to build the necessary experience as a pre-requisite to drafting a new fisheries law.

In respect of Output 2.1.2, new draft laws and regulations is pending. We requested a model law from FFA and have been informed that this project is current and a final draft may be available by February – March 2009. In light of this, we await the model law. In the meantime, consideration is given to review of the current "License Terms and Conditions 2007" with a view to drafting a "Fishing License Regulations".

In respect of Output 2.1.3, Niue implemented the Convention through the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Amendment Act 2006. Current review of our fisheries law will in the same manner implement the Convention.

In respect of Output 2.1.4, a representative from the Crown Law Office received training by attendance at the FFA Legal Workshop in April 2008.

### **Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform**

#### **Output 2.2.1 National oceanic fisheries management**

Niue's Tuna management plan is still in its skeletal format and needs to be further progressed in terms of inclusion of all stakeholders involved, a set up of a decision making body that decides issues concerning Niue, taking into account the views and concerns of all parties.

At present Niue fisheries strategic plans are initiated by fisheries and goes into cabinet for approval under the corporate plan.

This does not completely cover the interest of other stakeholders, therefore further exploration into this approach would be beneficial for the whole of Niue.

Reporting will be done not only to the government but to the larger audience in disseminating information that would benefit stakeholders.

### **Sub-Component 2.3 : Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations**

Under sub-component 2.3 of the OFMP summary of Activities, there is a limited amount of funds available to assist the smaller fisheries administrations with equipment and facilities. Niue is the smallest state participating in the project and for that fact Niue needs to strengthen its institutional capacity in oceanic fisheries management.

Subject to the visit of Project co-ordinator Barbara Hanchard in April of this year, discussions with fisheries personnel have identified equipment and office improvements that could be funded by the project. Since then, Niue fisheries have proceeded with all legalities and protocols for the funds to be transferred to Niue to be utilized accordingly. Niue received on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008, a total of NZ\$18,252.90 from the fund provided and is currently being used by fisheries.

### **Sub-component 2.4 : Compliance Strengthening**

Niue has recently utilized the NTSA subsidiary agreement via an MOU with Cook Islands to patrol its EEZ. This has given rise to strengthening relationships in order to combat IUU activities with bordering countries and is monitoring the progress of this arrangement and learn from this experience to further consider other arrangements with other neighbouring countries.

Niue in mid 2008 participated in a MCS subregional exercise (Operation Tuimoana) this also included Niue Police where intergovernment relationships were enhanced in our efforts to combat IUU.

The use of VMS data was highly prominent and VMS data sharing was encouraged and enhanced during the exercise, this subregional approach was a success in pooling all countries' limited resources to monitor vast sea areas, where as a single state would find it difficult to achieve.

Further encouragement is the use of the IUU Vessel list by WCPFC, which gives SIDs an opportunity to detect and report vessels that carry out IUU in our waters.

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

OFF SPC visited Niue and included all stakeholders to a seminar introducing the stock status report on highly migratory species on Niue and species of national interest. The seminar covers all aspects of environmental conditions that affect stocks in terms of abundance and behavior that in turn influence catch. The seminar highlights the linkages and interdependence of stocks to environmental influence or other fish species.

Another visit by FFA secretariat held another seminar for stakeholders in order to clarify the work of FFA and WCPFC where Niue is a party to. The seminar highlights the current and past projects on the

Island and the what Niue requirements are with WCPFC, for reporting or to incorporate in at the national level.

Niue Fisheries also is responsible for dissemination of information to the Niue public, and submitting scientific and compliance reports to WCPFC and to SPC and FFA.

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

-Niue a party to WCPFC did not envision the enormity of reporting requirements and meeting management measure requirements has very limited staff to be able to really engage in depth the issues that is brought forward at commission meetings and workshops.

-Niue is only able to send one officer to these meetings as per special requirements for SIDs and it should be in a position to send a trainee as well as a senior officer to aid in these meetings accompanied with legal advisor for drafting purposes as most meetings are policy oriented.

- In further strengthening of reporting requirements Niue seeks to establish a national observer program.

-Niue's interests of gaining economic benefits from the sea has transport and marketing issues to the outside markets, this isolation has seen fuel prices and costs rise.

- Niue lacks major capital such as a launch to deploy FADs and carry out research projects.

- Staffing to enable work to be carried out in the national level and meeting regional and international obligations.

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

- UNFSA funding that has enabled extra participant to the meetings

- Request to FFA and SPC for an Observer expert to set up the observer national program

- Further participation of another staff in stock assessment workshops to combat turnovers or staff leave.

-deploy much lighter and easier FADs inshore

- Employ more staff via project oriented schemes

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

That the above constraints and possible solutions should be noted and addressed.

**Report Prepared By:** James Tafatu and Sinahemana Hekau, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

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**Reporting Period, October 2007 – June 2008**

1. **Country:** PALAU

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

3. **Period Covered:** 1 October 2007 – 30 June 2008

#### 4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

- Regional and Sub-regional and workshops were held during this period where Palau was able to participate in building its capacity on issues relating to its obligations and commitments to the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) in the areas of Stock Assessments (2<sup>nd</sup> SA) and Management Options. Again, Palau is appreciative and satisfied with the outcome of these workshops. In terms of awareness and capacity building issues, Palau was able to expand its cooperative efforts to include agencies involved in fisheries related activities to attend and gather exposure of the numerous measures and obligations required under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

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

##### **National level activities**

- An Assistant National Tuna Data Coordinator (local) was recruited in November 2006 through the SPC-OFP with funding arrangements of up 2-4 years. Funding for this position has continued to date.
- A computer set and xerox/fax was purchased and installed to assist the Assistant National Tuna Data Coordinator and is currently being utilized resulting in improvement of data collection and submittal to the SPC.

- An 2<sup>nd</sup> EAFM Stakeholders Consultation was held in Palau (May 2008) to further review the existing Palau National Tuna Management Plan. Finalization of this report is currently being undertaken with the assistance of SPC-OFP and the FFA.

### **Regional level activities**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuna Data Monitoring Workshop held in Noumea, April 2008.
- 11<sup>th</sup> MCS WG Workshop held in Honiara, April 2008;
- Workshop on the Implementation of International Fisheries Instruments in the Western and Central Pacific Region held in Nadi, April 2008;
- North Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on WCPFC issues held in Tarawa, Kiribati in June 2008;
- Several other workshops and/or meetings were held during this period, but Palau was not able to send a participant.

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

- Ms. Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator, was able to do a national visit to Palau in early 2008 where she met with the National Focal Point and the Operational Focal Points for the Palau-GEF. This meeting was successful and relevant information was obtained from Ms. Hanchard as well as exchanges of views and information. Relevant contacts were established which now enables direct and indirect correspondences.

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

- The GEF National Focal Point for Palau is currently tasked with other duties which may seem to be a burden at times, but attempts to monitor projects has been established on line through the FFA/GEF website and newsletters, by Ms. Hanchard and her team, which now makes it easier to be kept updated.

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

- I also believe that national focal points should to meet at least once a year (exclusive of the RSC) prior to the RSC to effectively develop and plan the needs and priorities of each country.

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

**NANNETTE D. MALSOL, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.**

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**Reporting Period, July 2007 – June 2008**

1. **Country:** Papua New Guinea

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

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

**4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

In the period covered by this report, Papua New Guinea benefited through funding mainly to participate in regional workshops and meeting. PNG however didn't have any in country projects during this period.

As for workshops, GEF funded PNG's participation at the various regional meeting and workshops covering areas in science (stock assessment), fishery monitoring (tuna Data workshops) legal and compliance (see table below).

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

National Level Activities

No national level activities at the moment, however national programs such as the Observer program has had support during this period in activities such as training etc.

Regional Level Activities

Below are activities that PNG participated in at the regional level.



Activity	Comment
Activity 1.1.2.2 Support establishment and enhancement of National Port sampling and Observer programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff of FFA and SPC traveled to PNG and did a review of the PNG National Observer Program</li> <li>• Support provided to PNG Observer Coordinator to attend 7<sup>th</sup> Data Collection Committee meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November</li> <li>• Two Basic Observer training this year.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.1.41 Organise and hold in-country Observer and other training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Observer training carried out.</li> <li>• Debriefing and data quality workshops were carried out in three (3) ports in PNG with all their senior observers</li> </ul>
Activity 1.1.3.2 Hold Regional Workshops on Regional and National Fishery monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNG had a participant to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop held in Noumea 7-11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.2.3.1 Hold Regional workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNG participated in both the introductory and the part two of the stock assessment workshop.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.3.5.3 Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in Ecosystem analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in the Ecological Risk assessment (ERA) workshop</li> </ul>
Activity 2.3.2.4 Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stake –holders to learn from experience else-where.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noan Pakop as vice chair of TCC went to observe the annual meeting of the IOTC</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.1.1 Prepare review of convention implications for national compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in the MCS WG held in Honiara</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.2.1 Support Regional Consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in operation bigeye in 2007 to which Gef provided funding</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.4.1 Present courses on national inspection, VMS and other MCs training programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in a pilot Regional Evidence training and Investigation course held in PNG</li> </ul>
Activity 2.4.1.2 Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNG participated in the MCS strategy meeting in Brisbane.</li> </ul>

**6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Papua New Guinea has no specific in country project at the moment after the lapse of the tuna tagging project. However National programs such as the Observer programs are continuously being support by FFA/SPC with support from GEF.

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

None at this time

**9. Recommendations for Future Action**

PNG will very much appreciate a visit by GEF personnel.

**10. Report Prepared By: Ludwig Kumoru, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.**

# NATIONAL REPORT

## NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT TO THE OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)

**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

1. **Country:** Solomon Islands
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

#### 4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Like other countries in the region, Solomon Islands also involve and benefited from number of projects/activities funded by GEF in both national and regional level. Solomon Islands pleased to acknowledge the level of assistance provided under the GEF project to facilitate capacity building at the national level, enable the country to participate well in the commission meetings and meet its obligation as required under the commission and other regional organization. The following the known list of activities provided with the support of the GEF for this reporting period.

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

##### **National level activities**

- Development of TUFMAN SYSTEM: With the assistance of OFP/SPC staff, the Tufman System was installed in August, 2007. The system has enhanced the data manager and data entry officers to effectively manage the Solomon Islands Tuna data as compared to other system previously use. Under this particular activity, training was provided to our National Tuna Data Coordinator (NTDC) of how to manage and use this system. The NTDC and OFP/SPC staff provides in-house training for other staffs using the Tufman System.
- Observer Coordinator's Attachment (December 2007.Noumea).
- Observer Training (April 2008. Honiara).
- Data Officers Salary: The Salary of our NTDC and two Temporary officers was funded under GEF for the past 18 month. The initial agreement will laps by the end of this year but the SI Government is not in a position to absolve the NTDC and data entry staff into its system as agreed in the initial MOU. It is of national and regional interest if the contract of these officers can renewed at least for another year in order to bridge and minimize the that data gaps experience at both national and regional level.

- Follow up visit: In the past project period OFC Staff (statistic had made two follow up visit especially to help train staffs who involve in using Tufman system.
- Development of National Tuna Data Procedures: OFP staffs also assist us with developing of our National Tuna Data Procedure which now about 90% complete. The works involved include and one week visit by OFP staff to Solomon Islands Fisheries and a week visit by NTDC to SPC, Noumea.
- Computer support: Solomon Islands request procurement of 1 set of computers to support and maintain TUFMAN in the offshore Division. This request has accepted and the computer is already with the NTDC.

### **Regional level activities**

- Observer Coordinator to Observer Coordinators' workshop – Palau, July 2008
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuna Data Workshop: Solomon Islands participated in the workshop hosted by OFP/SPC in Noumea in April, 2008. The workshop delivered technical skills and knowledge required to produce estimates for national fleets, another national obligation under the commission.
- Stock Assessment & ERA Workshop: Participant from Solomon Islands attended the workshop organized by OFP/SPC. The workshop facilitates scientific knowledge essential for participation in scientific committee as well as required in sustainable management of tuna resources.
- High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedure Workshop: Enable the country to meet obligation to the commission and upgrade skills for boarding and inspection of FFVs.
- Observer Coordinator to Observer Coordinators' workshop – Palau, July 2008

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

At this stage it is quite difficult to capture full report of activities supported by the project due to lack of readily available information. Solomon Islands still lack the understanding of some projects supported under GEF.

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

- Increase the level of awareness on all activities implemented under the project.
- Country visits by relevant staff of the Project.
- Built national data base to record and to keep track of Project activities that are funded under the GEF project for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

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

To better fully understand the project and to enable Solomon Islands to participate effectively in the project, a follow up on all activities implemented under the project

to ensure maximum benefits is derived and full understanding of the Project realized at national level.

**10. Report Prepared By: Hudson Wakio (NTDC).**

***NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)***

**Reporting Period – July 2007 – June 2008**

1. **Country :** TONGA
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 JULY 2007 – 30 JUNE 2008
4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**  
Tonga, like all FFA member countries participated in all regional workshops and meetings where GEF OFM Project had made contributions.
5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved**

**National Level Activities:**

- TUFMAN – Tonga participated and takes advantage of workshops and CES enhancement during the reporting period.
- Observer Program - National observer program, for Tonga, is running well thanks to workshops that Tonga participated in and also the assistance from SPC. Tonga is currently selecting new applicants for an in-country training in the coming month
- Tonga also shared and participated in sub-regional workshops related to regional and national legal issues.

**6. Regional Level:**

- MCS – Tonga MCS staff participated in regional meetings and workshops on MCS related issues.
- Stock Assessment – Tonga with other pacific countries shared the NTFS Reports, Scientific presentations and in-country EAFM consultations during the reporting period. Tonga also participated in Stock Assessment workshop

**7. Challenges/Issues Encountered:**

Challenges and issues encountered with the project activities within this reporting period (July 2007 – June 2008) included the following:

- The main issue encountered by Tonga is that the National Focal Point finds is unable to follow projects assisted by GEF. All invitations for meetings and workshops assisted by GEF are mostly directed to other departments in the Ministry and can be unknown to the NFP. However, all reports from the Coordinator are of great assistance. A country visit by the Project Coordinator will be much appreciated.
8. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)
- National Focal Point to follow through quarterly reports and in good communication with coordinator in activities related to GEF contributions. This can be done if invitations to member countries can also be copied to NFPs. communications with coordinator.
9. Recommendation
- Keeping good communications between focal points and coordinator.

Prepared by: *Siliveinusi M. Ha'unga*

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

# NATIONAL REPORT

*NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)*

**Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008**

**1. Country: Tuvalu**

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

**3. Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

**4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The reporting period witness concerted efforts by the project in terms of fulfilling the requirements of member countries by providing financial and technical support to some new and ongoing programmes.

Tuvalu commends the financial assistance provided by the project that enables its participation on some of the FFA important meetings and training workshops.

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

**National level activities;**

- National Tuna Data Procedures reviewed and updated.

**Regional level activities;**

- Fellowship training of local staff on Tuna Data, Stock assessment, compliance, especially inspection and VMS.

**6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Currently, Tuvalu encounters a problem of staff shortage. This put us in a very difficult position in trying to meet some of our regional and international obligations particularly on reporting.

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



A new institutional structure for the Department was recently formulated with assistance from FFA and SPC. The structure was submitted for approval. Hopefully, the new positions in the structure will be approved by our Government soon.

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

Tuvalu with limited resources, would sincerely like to request OFM for its continued assistance in other development projects for Tuvalu. This would allow Tuvalu make sound and informed decisions in managing and conserving the only marine resource Tuvalu has and meeting our regional and international obligations, thus assisting us with our preparation to future WCPFC Annual Sessions and its related meetings.

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

**NATIONAL REPORT-VANUATU**  
**Report submitted to during the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Apia,**  
**Samoa, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October 2008.**  
**Robert Jimmy.**

**Background:**

This report summarizes the involvement of Vanuatu in the various activities funded under the GEF project through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Major achievement through the project was review and completion of the national tuna management plan incorporated through the ecosystem approach, review of the memorandum of agreement for financing the national data coordinator for Vanuatu, training of the national observer coordinator and the national legislative framework review.

The national tuna management plan (TMP) after going through a wide range of consultation with the private sector, the provincial government authorities and various government authorities concerned has finally been completed. Based on this, a number of minor legislative reviews has also been undertaken to enable full implementation of the TMP by 2009, however, financial assistance will be sought for a comprehensive legislative review has to be undertaken to facilitate new measures by the WCPFC.

This has been timely in view of two domestic fish processing plants which will come into effect between January and April of 2009 to accommodate fishing vessels that are licensed by Vanuatu. The TMP has also been instrumental in the approval of the New Fisheries Departmental structure by the Public Service Commission that should be budgeted for and in effect by January 2008.

Funding assistance granted towards financing the national data coordinator is assisting Vanuatu immensely in providing up to date reporting of tuna fishery in Vanuatu as well as ensuring Vanuatu's compliance to the WCPFC. In this regard, arrangements are now underway to have the TUFMAN installed in Vanuatu by November 2008. However, assistance will be sought from the SPC for an attachment of two Vanuatu Fisheries Officers hopefully in November prior to the TUFMAN being installed in the country. Other benefits through financing the national data coordinator has been the involvement of the Coordinator in a recent SPC/FFA Sub-regional observer training course in Santo, Vanuatu between mid October-November 2008 where the Coordinator had been able to contribute towards assisting local participants identified for Observer training course which is currently underway in Vanuatu. Due to funding constraints, there may be a need to request funding assistance from the project to finance a data entry clerk for 2009 until budget is sought from the national government for 2010.

As a result of the observer coordinators training which Vanuatu participated, the participant which undertook this training is currently coordinating the national participants attending the current west sub-regional observer course in Vanuatu of which Vanuatu has entered 7 participant with the view to establish a national observer program by the end of the year prior to the operation of the above mentioned fish processing facilities.

As project focal point, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu to express Vanuatu's sincere appreciation to GEF for providing funding assistance through the SPC and the FFA to meeting the national development aspirations of Vanuatu. Due acknowledgement to the UNDP for funding this programme, the FFA Director General and the dedicated staff of FFA, the GEF Project Coordinator and to

the Director General of SPC and the SPC-OFP Team for the assistance granted to Vanuatu through the GEF Project.

<b>VANUATU COUNTRY REPORT</b>	
<b>National outcomes</b>	<b>Key Outputs</b>
1.1 Fishery Monitoring, Coordination and Enhancement	Data coordinator MOU revised for Vanuatu - <i>Review of contract for national data coordinator, Mr Tony Taleo.</i>
1.2 stock assessment	Observer debriefing and debriefer training - <i>Mr John Mahit participated in the observer coordinator participation in Palau workshop.</i>
	In country EAFM consultation with stakeholders - <i>in Port Vila to review the Tuna Management Plan using Vanuatu as a case study</i>
1.3 Ecosystem Analysis	EAFM workshop in Port Vila, Vanuatu - <i>First consultation with government officials for the draft review of the National TMP. The plan is now completed and finalized and ready to be implemented in 2009.</i> Development of national plan of action for sharks.
2.1 Legal reform	Legislative review for Vanuatu - <i>ongoing process to review fisheries regulations</i>
2.2 Policy reform	EAFM stakeholders consultation Vanuatu - <i>Second consultation of the draft TMP with the Vanuatu Fisheries Department Officers(including Provincial Officers)</i>
2.3 Institutional reform	Provincial Stakeholders consultation - <i>for TAFEA/SHEFA in Vila and PENAMA/SANMA/TORBA in Santo for the third and final consultation of the TMP.</i>
2.4 Compliance strengthening	Vanuatu has participated in most of the regional meetings and workshops funded by GEF and have been fortunate to also send a participant to the Evidence and Prosecution course held in Keviang , PNG in August 2007.

Challenges

Vanuatu Archipelago is made up of many islands where fishing is a part of life and will be directly affected by new measures to be introduced by the TMP. One of our main challenges is to do a nation-wide awareness of the TMP prior to its implementation. It will be a costly exercise and Vanuatu would seek assistance in co-funding the exercise.