

WWF eNGO Workshop on Regional Oceanic Fisheries Management

Suva, Fiji

24 – 25 April 2007



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A workshop on regional oceanic fisheries management in the western and central Pacific is to be held at the Tanoa Plaza, Suva, Fiji on 24 – 25 April. The workshop has been organised by WWF South Pacific Office and is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project executed by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The workshop will contribute to the effort to raise stakeholder participation and awareness, specifically environmental non-governmental organisations and civil society, in national and regional oceanic fisheries management processes namely the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC). The workshop will be facilitated by Mr. Ian Cartwright and seeks to develop an:

- understanding of the current status of oceanic fisheries, with an emphasis on the four key tuna species and associated by-product and by-catch;
- appreciation of fisheries management issues, and the importance of maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, with an emphasis on fish stocks and habitats;
- awareness of the network of fisheries management arrangements in the Pacific, including national, sub-regional (Parties to the Nauru Agreement), regional (FFA) and multilateral (WCPFC) levels; and
- understanding of the intended work of the Commission, emphasising the requirement for transparency, and engagement by Pacific Island nationals including NGOs;

WWF have a well coordinated, strategic initiative as part of their work programme that seeks to improve tuna fisheries management in the Western and Central Pacific and are recognized observers at the WCPFC Commission meetings. They have sought to involve expert advice from regional resources to compliment their personnel for this workshop, and in this regard Mr Cartwright who has an established career in Australia in fisheries management and a former Deputy Director of FFA, is supported by presenters from the Pacific Community Oceanic Fisheries Programme and the FFA.

Representatives from a number of regional environmental non governmental organisations have been invited to participate at the Suva workshop, including Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, IUCN Suva, Greenpeace Pacific, Birdlife and others.