

# PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have special conditions and needs that were identified for international attention in the **Barbados 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 and the coastal and marine environment to sustainable development of SIDS is emphasised, with the Plan of Implementation specifically calling for support for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (the WCPF Convention).

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) identifies sustainable management of regional fish stocks as one of the major environmental issues SIDS have in common, and as a target for activities under the SIDS component of OP 9, the Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area Operational Program. In addition, the GEF promotes the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to addressing environmental problems in Large Marine Ecosystems 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 International Waters SAP Project from 2000 to support the implementation of an International Waters Pacific Islands Strategic Action Programme (IW Pacific Islands SAP) included a pilot phase of support for the Oceanic Fisheries Management Component, which underpinned successful efforts to conclude and bring into force the WCPF Convention.

GEF assistance was sought for a new Pacific Islands OFM Project to support Pacific SIDS efforts as they participate in the setting up and initial period of operation of the new Commission that is at the centre of the WCPF Convention, and further 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.

The goals of the Project combine the interests of the global community in the conservation of a marine ecosystem covering a huge area of the surface of the globe, with the interests of some of the world's smallest nations in the responsible and sustainable management of resources that 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 region as **deficiencies in management**, and grouped the deficiencies into two linked subsets – **lack of understanding, and weaknesses in governance**.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The immediate objectives of the Project address the two root causes of the threats to the sustainability of use of the region's oceanic fish resources identified in the SAP:

### The 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*

### The Governance Objective

*to create new regional institutional arrangements, and reform, realign and strengthen national arrangements for conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources*

The structure of the Project is designed to address these two objectives through two major technical components. A third component will provide services necessary for effective implementation as follows.

**Component 1, the Scientific Assessment and Monitoring Enhancement Component**, is aimed at providing improved scientific information and knowledge on the oceanic transboundary fish stocks and related ecosystem aspects of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool 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 & 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 their national laws, policies, institutions and programmes relating to management of transboundary oceanic fisheries and protection of marine biodiversity.

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

The design of the Project has involved a substantial consultative process, which has been warmly supported throughout the region. Reflecting 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 all 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 UNDP, regional organisations and Pacific SIDS in past activities in oceanic environmental management and conservation, strengthened by planned new partnerships with IUCN, a regional environmental NGO and a regional industry NGO. =

## PROJECT COMPONENT OUTCOMES

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

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 Pacific SIDS to adopt and apply 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 Pacific SIDS meeting their national and Commission-related responsibilities in these areas.

### Sub-Component 1.1 Outcome: Fishery Monitoring, Coordination & 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.

The intended outputs of the Fishery Monitoring, Coordination And Enhancement Sub-Component are:

Output 1.1.1: A template for national integrated monitoring programmes including logsheet, observer, port sampling and landing data collection and management; and provision of national data to the Commission

Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs

Output 1.1.3: A regional monitoring coordination capacity, to develop regional standards such as data formats, and to provide a clearing house for information on fishery monitoring

Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers

### Sub-Component 1.2 Outcome: 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.

The intended outputs of the Stock Assessment Sub-Component are:

Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff

Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission

Output 1.2.3: Training of national technical and scientific staff to understand regional stock assessment methods, and interpret and apply the results; and to use oceanographic data

### Sub-Component 1.3 Outcome: Ecosystem Analysis

Enhanced understanding of the dynamics of the western Pacific warm pool pelagic ecosystem, with particular focus on trophic relationships; enhanced understanding of the ecology of seamounts, in particular their impacts on aggregation and movement of pelagic species, and the fisheries impacts thereon; provision of ecosystem-based scientific advice to the Commission and to Pacific SIDS; enhanced information on the magnitude of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries.

The intended outputs of the Ecosystem Analysis Sub-Component are:

Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME

Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP warm pool

Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options

Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries

Output 1.3.5: 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.

## Component 2 Outcome: Law, Policy And Institutional Reform, Realignment & Strengthening

The WCPF Commission established and beginning to function effectively. Pacific Island nations taking a lead 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.

### Sub-Component 2.1 Outcome: 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:

The intended outputs of the Legal Reform Sub-Component are:

Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues

Output 2.1.2: New draft laws, regulations, agreements & licence conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS

Output 2.1.3: Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention

Output 2.1.4: Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues

### Sub-Component 2.2 Outcome: Policy Reform

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

## PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT



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Commission and national policy issues, especially private sector. The intended outputs of the Policy Reform Sub-Component are:

- Output 2.2.1: National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies
- Output 2.2.2: Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programmes, and for Commission conservation and management measures
- Output 2.2.3: Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options
- Output 2.2.4: Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries

#### Sub-Component 2.3 Outcome: Institutional Reform

Public sector fisheries administrations reformed, realigned & strengthened; capacities of national non-governmental organizations 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.

The intended outputs of the Institutional Reform Sub-Component are:

- Output 2.3.1: Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations
- Output 2.3.2: Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management

#### Sub-Component 2.4 Outcome: Compliance Strengthening

Realigned and strengthened national compliance programmes; improved regional MCS coordination; strategies for Commission compliance programmes; enhanced national compliance capacities (inspection, observation, patrol, VMS, investigation).

The intended outputs of the Compliance Strengthening Sub-Component are:

- Output 2.4.1: Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programmes
- Output 2.4.2: Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance activities
- Output 2.4.3: Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programmes
- Output 2.4.4: Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS

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

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.

#### Sub-Component Outcome 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.

The intended outputs of the Information Strategy Sub-Component are:

- Output 3.1.1: Project Information System for capture, storage and dissemination of project data, lessons and best practices, and provision of information products
- Output 3.1.2: Knowledge management process identifying innovative, best practice and replicable

#### Sub-Component 3.2 Outcome: Monitoring & 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 measures.

The intended outputs of the Monitoring & Evaluation Sub-Component are:

- Output 3.2.1: Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project
- Output 3.2.2: Analysis of process, stress-reduction, and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy

#### Sub-Component 3.3 Outcome: 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.

The intended outputs of the Stakeholder Participation And Awareness Raising Sub-Component are:

- Output 3.3.1: ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes
- Output 3.3.2: Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes

#### Sub-Component 3.4 Outcome: Project Management & 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.

The intended outputs of the Project Management and Coordination Sub-Component are:

- Output 3.4.1: Project Coordination Unit staffing and office
- Output 3.4.2: Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies
- Output 3.4.3: Regional Steering Committee Meetings and Reports
- Output 3.4.4: National Consultative Committee Meetings and Reports
- Output 3.4.5: Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances

*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 LME*



Global Environment Facility



United Nations Development Programme



Global Environment Facility