

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2005

1. **Country:** Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

2. **Project Number/Code:** PIMS 2992

3. **Project Title:** Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

4. **Executing Agency:** South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) with the Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and natural Resources.

5. **Period Covered:** October – December 2005 (4th Quarter 2005)

6. Summary of Overall Project Progress:

Project activities for the UNDP/GEF Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Management Project have commenced in earnest in the second month of the QTR. An Inception workshop held in August 2005 in Suva allowed the individuals and organizations that will be responsible for implementing the project to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities. Funds for the project start were received by FFA in the 2nd month of this quarter and onward transfers were made to SPC & IUCN immediately. All three organizations have commenced planned project activities but overall there appears to be under spending in the 2005 budget (1 QTR) as a result of the late start. Communication between project stakeholders is remains sound.

7. Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (As per quarter work-plan):

Activity 1

SPC

Project Administration

Recruitment of 4 positions was completed, as follows:

Fishery Monitoring Supervisor:	Ms Deirdre Brogan (from 1 Nov 05)
Fishery Scientist (Ecosystem Monitoring):	Mr Bruno Leroy (from 1 Nov 05)
Fishery Scientist (Ecosystem Analysis):	Dr Valerie Allain (from 1 Jan 06)
Fishery Scientist (Stock Assessment):	Dr Don Bromhead (from 11 Feb 06)

Efforts continued to secure co-funding for a number of project activities, including tagging and trophic structure investigations.

Fishery Monitoring

The FMS began planning project activities relating to development of a regional fishery monitoring template, and associated national level support. A working plan for allocation of project resources to national activities in 2006 has been developed and will be further refined during Q1 2006. The FMS and another OFP representative attended the

PIMS 2992 IW: FSP Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

<p>Regional Steering Committee meeting in Honiara in October.</p> <p><u>Stock Assessment</u></p> <p>No activities this quarter. FS (Stock Assessment) in post in February 2006.</p> <p><u>Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</u></p> <p>A review of lab work requirements for processing stomach contents samples was undertaken. Planning for tagging operations in 2006 began.</p>
<p><i>IUCN</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in Inception Workshop.• Development of draft cruise plans.• Travel to region (Fiji) to meet with stakeholders <p>Project implementation is on target. IUCN participated in the Inception Workshop held in Honiara, Solomon Islands. IUCN has prepared a draft scientific research proposal and cruise plan for its seamount work, and has distributed this draft plan throughout the region for comments. IUCN has met with its partner, DeepOcean Quest, in an effort to advance research cruise planning and start developing a communications strategy for the cruises. IUCN has met with stakeholders in the region (Fiji) to discuss the seamount work and gather information that will assist in refining the cruise plan and ensure the results of the cruise will be relevant to local and regional stakeholders.</p>
<p>Activity 2</p>
<p><i>FFA</i></p> <p><u>Legal Reform</u></p> <p>A legal planning workshop for Pacific SIDS took place in Vanuatu in November 2005. Mr. Les Clark provided professional services for the workshop. The workshop outcome determined priorities for national legal work under the UNDP GEF project for National Consultative and the Regional Steering Committees consideration.</p> <p><u>Policy Reform</u></p> <p>The 2nd Management Options Workshop funded by New Zealand was held in Oct 2005. Consultancy services were provided by Mr. Les Clark and Mr. Ian Cartwright as facilitator for the workshop which assisted Pacific SIDS to consider fisheries management work anticipated to be considered by the 2nd meeting of the WCPF Commission in December.</p> <p>Support was also provided for Pacific Islander representation at the 2nd meeting of the WCPF Commission held at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia in early December 2005.</p> <p><u>Institutional Reform</u></p> <p>No Activity</p> <p><u>Compliance Strengthening</u></p> <p>Pacific SIDS convened at a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance workshop in Honiara in October 2005 to consider preparations for the first meeting of the WCPF Commission Technical and Compliance Committee held in December 2005.</p>
<p><i>IUCN</i></p> <p>See activity one.</p>
<p>Activity 3</p>
<p><i>PCU</i></p> <p>The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee took place in Oct 2005. The Committee approved their terms of reference, a revised budget and the annual work plan and budgets for 2005 and 2006. The Committee also considered and accepted the Project Inception Report.</p> <p>Recruitment procedures for the two posts in the PCU and the technical position of Fisheries Management Advisor were completed in this quarter. The post of the Project is</p>

PIMS 2992 IW: FSP Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

now filled as at 29 Dec, Barbara Hanchard has been appointed. The Project Finance and Administration post is expected to be filled in the first two weeks of 2006, as is the Fisheries Management Advisor.

8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

Activity 1
<i>SPC</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
Activity 2
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
Activity 3
<i>PCU</i> Recruitment of the posts that make up the PCU have occurred after the convening of the Regional Steering Committee. Funds for the project were released in October 2005 although some project activities had commenced soon after project approval in May 2005.

9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

Activity 1
<i>SPC</i> N/A
<i>IUCN</i> N/A
Activity 2
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> N/A
Activity 3
<i>PCU</i> FFA committed to act as interim PCU to maintain the project momentum until the PCU could be established. FFA & SPC used alternative funds until the release of the 2005 budget occurred on the understanding that they would be reimbursed.

10. Recommendations for Future Action

Activity 1
<i>SPC</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None

PIMS 2992 IW: FSP Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

Activity 2
<i>FFA</i> None
<i>IUCN</i> None
Activity 3
<i>PCU</i> None

11. Report Prepared By:

Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator

Contributions by Dr John Hampton (SPC) and Andrew Hurd (IUCN)