

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT (Consolidated)

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 No. 2992
3. **Project Title:** Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project
4. **Executing Agency:** Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
5. **Period Covered:** 1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006
6. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**

This project report covers the last quarter of 2007, the end of which represents 15 months of project operations. Project implementation continues to maintain a level of uniformity and the roll-out of activities is consistent with the approved annual work plan and budget. The exception to this remains the activities relating to benthic biodiversity survey, the analysis of data on seamounts collected through tagging and trophic sampling and the policy work that would involve from the science. The delay in this area of the project was considered by the second regional Steering Committee meeting which met at Nadi, Fiji in October. The Committee agreed to allow IUCN to determine which of the options presented the best way forward for this work was. IUCN expects to make a decision by 28 February 2007.

In terms of co-financing, the exchange of correspondence with the Japanese Government and the WCPF Commission Secretariat concerning the application of USD2m of trust fund to assist developing members of the WCPF Commission in the areas of data collection and regulation and enforcement continued.

The WCPFC meeting agenda in the later part of 2006 remains burdensome for small Pacific Island fisheries administrations. Cumulating in the third session of the WCPFC Commission in December 2006, the preceding WCPFC meetings included a second session of the Commission Science Committee in August, and a second session of the Technical and Compliance Committee at Brisbane in October. All Commission meeting outcomes are available at the Commission website <http://www.wcpfc.org/>

Project coordination and management continues to operate with both achievements and challenges. The successful conclusion of the second Regional Steering Committee despite the need to change venues last minute due to political unrest in Honiara can be counted positively. The meeting did highlight however the need to promote project activities at national level and the weakness in communication between the Implementing Agency and the PCU, particularly concerning financial matters. The presence of an IUCN representative at RSC2 would have been beneficial and with the establishment of an office in Suva, Fiji is anticipated that IUCN will have a physical presence at future Committee meetings.

Professionals at SPC-OFP charged with implementation of component one comment that *"The administration demands of this project, in particular the need for monthly financial reporting, on SPC-OFP resources continue to be high and insufficiently resourced by the project."* This is a view that is shared by the PCU. The suggestions to provide monthly financial reports are inefficient and impact on the delivery of other project activities.

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

Specific outputs and results achieved under the project against quarterly work plans are reported in the following spreadsheets.

## Component One

<b>Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring</b>	
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software	<p>Several changes were made to the TUFMAN and CES systems. The main addition to TUFMAN database this quarter was the inclusion of a new mapping module. Used in conjunction with MAPINFO software, TUFMAN now has the ability to display entered positions on small or large scale maps.</p> <p>A review of work to be undertaken on TUFMAN during 2007 was undertaken in November 2006, after consulting with NTDCs during the October Workshop. A schedule for future development work was put in place by the three main developers documenting the work they hope to achieve with TUFMAN during the earlier part of 2007.</p>
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data	The design of the WCPFC reporting module was progressed during this quarter and a dedicated form developed in the TUFMAN system. The design of the proposed form for the inclusion of the WCPFC Vessel Record data into the TUFMAN system was also completed. The main development work on this module is expected to be undertaken in the first half of 2007.
<b>Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs</b>	
Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software	<p>The TUFMAN databases for Palau and Tuvalu were updated to version 2.5 during this period.</p> <p>In-country training was given in PNG for personnel using the observer viewer package.</p>
Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes	This quarter was essentially a period of consolidation with further testing and fine-tuning of debriefing tools (forms and systems of observer evaluation) and provision of detailed feedback to trainee debriefers. In particular, debriefing work was carried out by SPC staff in Fiji and Tonga with the primary aim of fast-tracking experienced observers to become in-country observer debriefers. Both countries have made significant progress with their observer programmes with the aid of OFP support during the past year.
Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes	Dedicated travel to Niue and Tuvalu concentrated on reviewing both countries national monitoring capacity and establishing their funding requirements under GEF. Both during and following these trips considerable time was put into editing the 'National Tuna Data Procedures Documents' (NTDPD) for both countries. An additional in-country visit was made to PNG with emphasis on the transfer of collected data to SPC and a review of the completeness of the data collection system. The NTDPD was also progressed during this time.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats	<p>The trial of the Longline Logbook continued with logbooks sent to the National Tuna Data Coordinators in Fiji and PNG to help with the distribution and supervision of the trial on vessels in these countries.</p> <p>190 observer workbook and waterproof sampling pads, 60 debriefing forms, 20 waterproof port sampling pads and 10 pads of industry forms were distributed to monitoring programmes around the region.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national	The first 'Tuna Data Workshop' took place at the end of October. A lot of the planning and preparation for this workshop took precedent over other work during the month of October. The workshop concentrated on the collection and

fishery monitoring	<p>management of data and covered areas such as the types of data to be collected and common problems encountered with data collection. It is hoped that further workshops will concentrate on the dissemination of data. As mentioned under activity 1.1.3.3 the report of the workshop has already been distributed to participants.</p> <p>There were 26 participants to this one week workshop and 17 of these were directly funded by the GEF project, the others were funded by other co-funding projects or self-funded.</p>
Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange	<p>Information distribution concentrated on compiling and circulating the information gathered before and during the TDW-1. A CD containing the presentations made at the workshop was handed to all participants. The results of the group question and answer sessions which contain valuable reference material for dealing with in-country problems are also available on the CD.</p> <p>The report of the workshop was completed and the final draft copy circulated to all participants for comments. It will be made available on the project web site once those comments have been received.</p> <p>Work continued on the purse-seine observer guide. It is now ready for peer review.</p>
<b>Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers</b>	
Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities	There was no observer training during this quarter and training efforts were confined to direct debriefing of observers by OFP staff and to training of potential in-country debriefers, mainly in Fiji and Tonga.
Activity 1.1.4.2: Regional training courses in integrated fishery monitoring	See activity 1.1.3.2.
Activity 1.1.4.3: Attach national monitoring personnel to SPC/OFP	<p>There was one attachment from PNG to the statistics and monitoring section of the OFP during this reporting period. Attachment training included (i) General overview of regional data collection, (ii) Advanced training using the MS EXCEL, (iii) Training in Observer Trip View System, and (iv) Training in MapInfo</p> <p>There were also two attachments to the stock assessment section from Vanuatu and FSM which were funded by GEF. Time, when available, was spent with these attachments discussing the present state of their national fishery monitoring systems and suggesting improvement and future work schedules.</p>
<b>Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment</b>	
<b>Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff</b>	
Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports annually	This is an activity that benefits from significant co-funding. During the quarter, National Tuna Fishery Status Reports for Cook Islands and New Caledonia (OFP-funded activity) were finalised. Work on NTFSRs for FSM, Vanuatu and Palau were progressed.
Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports	Outputs from the Palau NTFSR were presented at an in-country stakeholder workshop, while OFP scientists met with New Caledonian fisheries officers to go over the draft NTFSR for New Caledonia prior to finalisation (a co-funded activity).
<b>Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission</b>	
Activity 1.2.2.1: Provide contributions to briefs on	Scientific presentations and advice were provided to the Management Options

scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups	Workshop (October 2006) along with contributions to the associated brief. Scientific presentations and advice were provided to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (December, 2006) along with significant contributions to the associated brief from the Scientific Committee
Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission	Scientific presentations and advice provision to the Management Options Workshop (October 2006) and contributions to the associated brief.
<b>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</b>	
Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries	A 2-day planning meeting was held (December 2006) to determine the timing, structure and content of stock assessment associated capacity building exercises (e.g. Stock Assessment Workshops) in 2007. The meeting concluded that additional components to stock assessment capacity building would be added to strengthen the understanding and use of stock assessments by SIDS in 2007.
Activity 1.2.3.2: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in Commission stock assessment work and preparation of national status reports	Attachments of technical fisheries officers from both Vanuatu (November 2006) and Federated States of Micronesia (December 2006) were hosted by the OFP, to assist in the preparation of NTFSRs for both countries. Both attachments resulted in the fisheries officers producing drafts of chapters to be included in the final report, as well as allowing for some training in data manipulation, review and analyses (e.g. using GIS).
Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country	Planning for training of the scientific counterpart in FSM was undertaken, to coincide with NTFSR consultation visit by OFP scientist in February 2007
<b>Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis</b>	
<b>Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME</b>	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples	Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples started in several countries and samples have been received from FSM (11) and Cook Islands (34) (the latter collected in Samoa). Observers from FSM and Marshall Islands have also recently started to collect samples (December 2006). Organisation of sampling is under discussion with Solomon Islands and Fiji. An overview of the sampling completed in 2006 is in preparation and will be sent to countries in January 2007.
Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples	Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 234 stomach contents samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 2,999 samples from 68 different species. In addition, 354 tissue samples have been sent to the University of Hawaii for isotope analysis.
<b>Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME</b>	
<b>SPC</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	This activity was completed during Q1-2006 and Q3-2006.
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns	Two reports have been completed during this quarter by contracted consultants: The first report relates to the validation of the seamount dataset in the western and central Pacific region and concerns mainly seamounts shallower than 600

around seamounts	<p>m depth. The final dataset provides a list of 975 seamounts for which presence, position and sometimes depth and other characteristics have been validated by several sources of information. Screening of deeper seamounts and a proper classification of shallow underwater features such as reefs and banks is still required.</p> <p>The second report relates to the examination of satellite oceanographic data (sea surface temperature, chlorophyll and sea surface height) in relation to seamounts using correlations and GIS methods. This work will continue in Q1 2007.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	<p>The first tagging campaign of the co-funded PNG tagging project was completed on 12 November 2006. A total of 22,314 fish have been tagged included 13,935 skipjack, 7,804 yellowfin and 562 bigeye tuna. From these fish 73 have also been tagged with an archival tag and 46 with a sonic tag. 1,679 tagged fish have been released around seamounts. To date, about 9.5 % of the tagged fish have been recaptured including 11 archival tags. Trophic sampling during the cruise resulted in the collection of 860 stomach samples (475 skipjack, 319 yellowfin and 28 bigeye tuna) and included 93 fish sampled around seamounts. A debriefing meeting was held at SPC at the end of November, producing a cruise 1 summary report and a cruise 2 plan (<a href="http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/html/tag/RTTP2/pdf/Cruise1_summary_report.pdf">http://www.spc.int/oceanfish/html/tag/RTTP2/pdf/Cruise1_summary_report.pdf</a>). Cruise 2 is planned to start on 19 February 2007.</p>
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	<p>No work was conducted under this activity this quarter. However as a follow-up of Activity 1.3.2.1. a project proposal has been prepared in collaboration with IRD (French Institute for the Research and Development) to conduct a co-funded scientific cruise in 2008 in the Bismarck Sea (PNG) to study the influence of seamounts on benthic and pelagic ecosystems; if accepted it will allow the completion of this activity.</p>
<b>IUCN</b>	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Hold seamount activity planning and review workshops	
Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts	
Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis	
Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey	
<b>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</b>	
Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary	<p>Contacts have been established with 5 specialists who have agreed to participate to an ecosystem modelling workshop in March 2007 to balance Ecopath models of the western and central Pacific and to compare it to other existing models.</p>
Activity 1.3.3.2: Use enhanced models and	<p>The Ecological Risk Assessment presented to SC 2 proposed several indicators of species susceptibility and productivity that may be used to evaluate</p>

data to assess ecosystem-based management options	ecosystem-based management options (see Activity 1.3.5.1).
Activity 1.3.3.3: Use enhanced models and data to assess management options targeted specifically at seamounts	No work was conducted on this activity this quarter.
<b>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</b>	
Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development	No further work was conducted in Q4. SC 2 working papers were prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP3.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_WP1.pdf</a>
1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch	No further work was conducted in Q4. SC 2 working paper was prepared and presented: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_ST_IP1.pdf</a>
<b>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 &amp; Bycatch Working Group, and by Pacific SIDS</b>	
Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group	A preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment was carried out and presented to SC2: <a href="http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf">http://www.wcpfc.org/sc2/pdf/SC2_EB_WP1.pdf</a> . A proposal to further develop the approach was presented to the WCPFC Annual Session in December 2006 and funding was allocated to this work for 2007.
Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to Pacific SIDS	No presentation or training was provided during this quarter.
Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis	There were no attachments at SPC-OFP during this quarter.

## Component Two

<b>Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues</b>	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures	See Activity 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.2.2.
Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work.	As a Project Strategy for Legal work, a legal consultant was engaged to draft guidelines for fisheries legislation, which are to be used for any legislative review. This consultant's draft report has been received, and will be sent to member countries for comment by a particular date. Thereafter, legislative reviews will re-commence; priority work for Samoa, Fiji and Vanuatu
<b>Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS.</b>	
Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention.	One of the outputs of the WCPF Convention workshops, if the country requires, is to draft legislation to address any gaps in the current laws. To date, no such requests have been made. However, it is expected that as we undertake more of these workshops that we will start getting such requests.
Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews.	See Activity 2.1.1.2. All legislative reviews are on hold until the finalisation of the consultant's report so that such guidelines are incorporate into any legislative review.
Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS.	See Activity 2.1.2.2.
<b>Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention.</b>	
Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members.	See 2.1.1.2. A small working group met in July to discuss the draft guidelines for fisheries legislation. The discussions of this small working group have been fed into the guidelines by the consultant.
Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings.	Contributions were made to the brief for the WCPFC3. Other contributions have been made to the brief for the meeting of the joint tuna RFMOs in Kobe in January 2007.
Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations.	Legal advice and contributions to the sub-regional consultations with tuna industries have been made.
<b>Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues.</b>	
Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops.	FFA and FAO co-sponsored a regional workshop in Fiji on Port States Enforcement in August.
Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops.	Three workshops relating to the obligations under the WCPF Convention and the Commission's decisions were held in August and September. Such workshops were in the Cook Islands, PNG and Vanuatu. The Cook Is. and PNG workshops were co-financed respectively with Cook Islands Ministry of Marine resources, and to a large extent, by PNG National Fisheries Authority.

<b>Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies.</b>	
Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents.	Second stage consultation to progress Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management on the Tuna Fisheries of Palau was undertaken in Palau in October. (Note – this activity was not OFM Project funded but was fully funded by NZAid.)
Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews.	See Activity 2.2.1.1
<b>Output 2.2.2. Strategies and specific proposals for the overall development of the Commission, including its Secretariat and technical programs, and for Commission conservation and management measures.</b>	
Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues.	<p>Consultancy studies on by-catch mitigation options for seabirds and issues associated with shark finning and harvest have been completed and distributed to interested parties. A consultancy study on by-catch mitigation options for turtles are nearing completion.</p> <p>Studies were also undertaken on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) charter vessel control and purse seine closures</li> <li>b) management options for albacore tuna and swordfish and</li> <li>c) implementation of a catch documentation scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Information from each consultancy study was incorporated into FFC policy and strategies which were utilised by FFA members at the annual WCPFC meeting.</p>
Activity 2.2.2.2. Prepare and present reports on regional oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific SIDS, including analysis of proposals for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.	An extensive brief incorporating analyses on all matters and proposals to be considered by the annual WCPFC Meeting in Samoa in December was prepared, distributed and presented to Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) via the FFC.
Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations.	<p>A Management Options Workshop was held to develop positions for the WCPFC meeting on a full range of issues relating to target species, bycatch and monitoring, enforcement and surveillance for that meeting based on the studies reported under Activity 2.2.2.1 above. The Workshop resulted in a set of draft measures that became the basis for the decisions of the WCPFC when it met. FFA members presented 7 of the 10 draft measures that were put before the Commission in 2006. MOW was rescheduled from Honiara because of possible security concerns in Honiara. The MOW is fully funded by NZAid under a co-financing agreement in GEF OFP project.</p> <p>A pre-WCPFC meeting of FFA Members was held at which FFA positions were agreed for the WCPFC meeting, and training was provided to Pacific SIDS on the key issues and on presenting them in the WCPFC meeting.</p> <p>Papers on longline management, purse seine fishery closures and overcapacity were prepared and presented to a meeting of the Parties to the Nauru agreement.</p>
<b>Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)</b>	

Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.	Work has not begun on these activities.
Activity 2.2.3.2. Hold Workshops on seamount-related management options.	
Activity 2.2.3.3. Prepare proposals on seamount-related conservation and management measures.	
<b>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</b>	
Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.	See 2.2.2.3 Rescheduled Management Options Workshop (MOW) and pre-WCPFC meeting.
Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.	A consultancy to enhance the understanding of Tuvalu Government Officials of the obligations and responsibilities under the WCPFC regime and assist Tuvalu's participation at the work of the WCPFC was undertaken in November and December 2006. The work included a seminar on the WCPFC Regime including regional fisheries management arrangements, and its implications on Tuvalu. As a result of this consultancy, the performance of Tuvalu, in representing its interests and working towards the delivery of an ecological approach to fisheries management, in the deliberations of the WCPFC, was enhanced.
Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.	See 2.2.2.2 Pre-Commission FFC held in Samoa in December.
<b>Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform</b>	
<b>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</b>	
Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.	An Institutional Strengthening Review Scoping team undertook a two week exercise to Nauru in November conducting a scoping review of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resource Authority (NFMRA). Extensive consultation was undertaken throughout the NFMRA and meetings were also undertaken with several other Government Departments and NGOs. An exit report was presented to the NFMRA on completion of in-country work. A preliminary draft report incorporating an activity feasibility study and design document to progress recommended institutional reform has been completed. It will be assessed before distribution to, and on-ground follow-up with the NFMRA.  Also see related 2.2.4.3 which provided Institutional Strengthening and

	human capacity building in Tuvalu.
Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.	See 2.3.1.2 Intensive workshops on frameworks and Institutional Reform models options and the existing situation at the NFMRA were undertaken during the in-country visit to Nauru.
<b>Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management.</b>	
Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes.	See 2.3.1.2 Some discussion during Nauru Institutional Scoping Work.
Activity 2.3.2.2. Support strengthening of national environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) and industry non-governmental organisations (INGOs) to empower them to participate in oceanic fisheries management.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders.	No activity this quarter
Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere.	No activity this quarter
<b>Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening</b>	
<b>Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance.	MCS Country workshops (Vanuatu) include a module by the Legal officer on WCPFC implications on national compliance (no cost to project)
Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs.	MCS Managers participated in Pre-TCC Workshop to review the status of existing laws governing compliance (no cost to project) Consultancy completed by local consultant for the Cook Islands to develop an International Plan of Action for IUU
<b>Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.</b>	
Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols.	MCS staff participated in regional operations, undertaking planning and coordination of investigations of FSM Safety at Sea (non project funds used).
Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved.	Ongoing support in terms of Niue treaty implementation and development, active advise on boarding and Inspections during multi-national and national operations (no project funds)
Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements.	Development of Niue treaty subsidiary agreements after receiving inputs from the MCS working group meeting, 06, Brisbane.
<b>Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs.</b>	
Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention.	No activity this quarter.
Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a	Dock side boarding and inspection workshop and IUU Prosecutions

Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries.	Workshop December 06, Vanuatu. Reviewing cases, legislation and experience in prosecuting IUU cases.
Activity 2.4.3.3. Prepare and present reports on regional compliance issues to Pacific SIDS, including analysis of proposals for the Commission and its Technical and Compliance Committee.	Due to number of crosscutting issues, the 9 <sup>th</sup> MCS working group , Brisbane '06, 22- 27 October develop position papers for TCC for Pacific SIDS
<b>Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS.</b>	
Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs.	Training Workshops in PNG and Vanuatu were conducted, including legal aspects, dockside monitoring, boarding and inspection.
Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS.	No activity this quarter.

### Component Three

<b>Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy</b>	
<b>Output 3.1.1. Project Information System for capture, storage and dissemination of project data, lessons and best practices and provision of information products using experience and guidelines from IW:LEARN.</b>	
Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System.	Progress with website/page development and maintenance has progressed at a slower pace than anticipated and will become a focussed priority in the first quarter of 2007.
Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page.	See above
Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc.	A second publication of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean booklets has been ordered. The demand for the booklets has been high and extremely useful.
<b>Output 3.1.2. Knowledge management process identifying innovative, best practice and replicable ideas within the Project and relevant to the Project and active involvement with IW:LEARN.</b>	
Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy.	No activity this quarter. To be progressed in the first quarter of 2007.
Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports.	No activity this quarter. To be progressed in the first quarter of 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	
<b>Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project.</b>	
Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation.	No activity this quarter
Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation.	
Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8).	
Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews.	The preparation of the first annual report of the project was undertaken using the required GEF/UNDP formats for project implementation review and an annual performance review. The report has been largely prepared by the PC, although sections that require access to the UNDP ATLAS database are to be completed by the Implementing Agency. The report only covers a 9 month period from 1 October 2005 to 30 June 2006 and was placed before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Steering Committee on 10 October.
Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit.	Communication with FFA auditors has commenced to contract services for the 2006 Audit. SPC are also required to audit project funds expended in 2006 and have made arrangements for this to be done in the first quarter of 2007.
<b>Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy.</b>	
Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators.	Priority first quarter 2007,

Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports.	As above
<b>Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising</b>	
<b>Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO.	A RSC2 approved co-financing agreement was concluded with WWF Pacific in this quarter.
Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission.	See above
Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs.	Two Regional ENGOs (WWF and Greenpeace Pacific) participated at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> session of the WCPFC.
Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs.	The workshops will be progressed by WWF SPO. Due to the delay in concluding the co-financing agreement and in the absence of a formal agreement workshops are expected to be conducted in 2007.
Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues.	See above. To be co-ordinated by WWF SPO.
Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation.	See above. To be co-ordinated by WWF SPO.
<b>Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes.</b>	
Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO.	The Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association has yet to hold a first annual meeting to elect office bearers. It is expected that PITIA inaugural meeting will take place in Nadi in February 2007.
Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission.	Support will be provided for attendance at the Management Options Workshop and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission to be held at Apia, Samoa in December 2006.
Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses.	PITIA has observer status at Commission meetings. Communication links with the interim executive for the PITIA is established and maintained on matters relating to the Commission.
Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues.	Support will be provided for PITIA consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues in February 2007.
<b>Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination</b>	
<b>Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office.</b>	
Activity 3.4.1.1. Appoint the Project Coordinator.	Completed
Activity 3.4.1.2. Appoint other PCU staff.	Completed

Activity 3.4.1.3. Procure equipment and other requirements to establish the PCU.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies.</b>	
Activity 3.4.2.1. Preliminary UNDP/FFA/SPC/IUCN Consultations.	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.2. Conclude FFA/SPC and FFA/IUCN Letters of Agreement (LOAs).	Completed
Activity 3.4.2.3. UNDP/FFA Consultations.	Completed
<b>Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop.	Completed
Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings.	The second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee was held at Nadi, Fiji on Saturday 21 October.
<b>Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports.</b>	
Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations.	Completed.
Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings.	National Project reports were received from FSM, the Cook Islands Tonga, Solomon Islands and RMI.
<b>Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances.</b>	
Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.	The 2006 Financial Report was considered by the second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in October 2006. It contains the 2005 Financial Report (Acquittal), an interim 2006 financial report, a revised 2006 financial report and a draft AWP and Budget for 2007. The draft 2007 AWP & budget was not approved by RSC2. The Committee instructed that the PCU was to work with UNDP Suva to make adjustments to the 2007 AWP & Budget to take into account delays in the IUCN project activities. A revised draft 2007 AWP & Budget was circulated and approved by the RSC.
Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans	See above.
Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports	The PIR/APR was completed in consultation with UNDP Suva. A GEF IW Results Framework document was completed and submitted to UNDP GEF (Bangkok)

## 8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

General comment – Targets for research work of benthic communities on seamounts in the Pacific are not being met due to reasons beyond the control of IUCN. SPC provides comment and suggestion below on a further option for the application of unspent research allocations. This problem is also applicable to the related policy work that IUCN expected to complete under component two in conjunction with the FFA. IUCN are expected to advise the status of the work on 28 February 2007.

SPC - One issue encountered concerns *Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts*. This work, particularly the description of seamounts, has proved more technically challenging than had been envisaged during the project planning. While much progress has been made, it is clear that additional resources could usefully be reallocated to this activity to allow a full analysis of fishing patterns in relation to identified seamounts, and to analyse the impact of seamounts on various oceanographic and biological productivity parameters.

FFA – Collaboration on policy advice for management options on high seas areas and seamounts at national and regional levels and the establishment of MPAs is being explored to address IUCN work programme difficulties.

## 9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

SPC - A suggested solution to the above problem is the application of unused funds initially allocated to IUCN to support various activities associated with the oceanographic cruise, which now looks likely to be cancelled.

FFA – Commenced discussions with IUCN on policy work.

## 10. Recommendations for Future Action

Consideration be given to reallocation of IUCN research related funds and possibly those in Component Two.

## 11. Report Prepared By:

PCU – Barbara Hanchard with assistance from Darren Cameron, Manu Tupou Roosen, Jean Gordon and Marcel Kroese.

SPC - John Hampton, with assistance from Valerie Allain, Don Bromhead, Deirdre Brogan and Bruno Leroy.