

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 2008 to 31 December 2008

6. Summary of Overall Project Progress:

31 December 2008 (fourth quarter 2008) represents three years and three months of project operation. The fourth meeting of the steering committee for the OFMP met at Apia, Samoa in October. The meeting fulfils GEF requirements of tripartite consultation and of importance in this session was the presentation of the findings from the independent Mid Term Review. Presented by the lead consultant and the implementing agency, UNDP, the review concluded that the project was effective in its goals and administrative sound. The steering committee also dealt with routine matters placed before them annually, signing off on audit reports and endorsing budgets and work plans for 2009. The Committee were also presented with annual reports on activities, outputs, outcomes and progress towards the overall project objectives (See Record of Proceedings RSC4 www.ffa.int/gef).

In terms of specific work progress in the fourth quarter details are contained in section seven but of note is the ongoing progress made with the roll out of the TUFMAN database programme and the support provided by SPC to countries in fishery monitoring, a number of science orientated attachments at SPC and the ongoing analysis of stomach and tissue samples from commercial tuna catches. IUCN contributes to the project with the commencement of activities that includes the collection of information from longline fishers in regards to pelagic fisheries on seamounts.

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 spreadsheet.

Component One

| Sub-component 1.1: Fishery Monitoring | |
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| 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 | |
| Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop database and associated software | <p>TUFMAN development had advanced the version to 4.45 by the end of this reporting period. Numerous enhancements were made to the licensing and logsheet data entry modules in response to requests from member countries.</p> <p>Review of the TUFMAN data entry forms was completed during the 4th quarter and the work in updating the TUFMAN data entry forms begun. The review of the TUFMAN reporting system was completed and a document containing the work schedule for 2009 was produced as a report from the internal TUFMAN review workshops.</p> <p>Development of the new TUFMAN Observer data module is expected to be completed in early January 2009.</p> |
| Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop reporting module for Commission data | The new structure for the WCPFC Reporting module was discussed and agreed in the review of the TUFMAN Reporting System (late Sept./early October 2008) and work required will be a part of the 2009 work plan. |
| Output 1.1.2: National monitoring systems based on the regional template for integrated monitoring, customised to meet national needs | |
| Activity 1.1.2.1: Support establishment and enhancement of national databases and software | <p>Version 4.43 of TUFMAN was installed in most countries with the expectation of updating most countries to the latest version (v4.45) in the first quarter 2009.</p> <p>The Observer Trip Viewer System, with the most up-to-date observer data, was provided to PNG, Marshall Islands and French Polynesia in November/December 2008</p> |
| Activity 1.1.2.2: Support establishment and enhancement of national port sampling and observer programmes | Much of the time and energy devoted to observer programmes during this quarter was spent in either preparing for or running the two basic observer training courses. Other important tasks included preparing a funding proposal to gain extra support for national observer programmes in 2009. |
| Activity 1.1.2.3: Support the coordination of national monitoring programmes | <p>A duty travel was undertaken in early November to review the Palauan tuna data system. As an outcome of the visit the national tuna data procedures (NTDP) document was updated. Technical support expanded access to their national TUFMAN database from one PC to a number of workstations. On-site TUFMAN training was given to both the National Tuna Data Coordinator (NTDC) and the data entry technicians, in data entry and reporting.</p> <p>With regular transshipments recently scheduled for the Vanuatu EEZ, help was requested to setting up a tuna data system, which is compatible with the regional standard. A draft NTDP document was prepared and an invitation for their NTDC to come to SPC in early 2009 organised.</p> <p>MOUs for position support in both RMI and Vanuatu were created and signed and the monies transferred during this quarter.</p> |
| 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 | |
| Activity 1.1.3.1: Develop and make available common data formats | French and Spanish versions of the logsheets were made available on the OFP website. Printed debriefing and evaluation forms were received from the printery and shipped to a number of national observer programmes. |
| Activity 1.1.3.2: Hold Regional Workshops on regional and national | No activity this quarter. |

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| fishery monitoring | |
| Activity 1.1.3.3: Distribute newsletters, webpage and other forms of information exchange | <p>The Statistics and Monitoring section's website was reviewed and a new format proposed. Work on the proposed enhancements is now underway.</p> <p>The eighth monitoring newsletter – "ForkLength" was sent to the SPC editor.</p> <p>The 2007 version of the Longline Observer Guide was updated. It will be edited in-house and printed copies sent to all active observers. The French version of the 2004 LL Guide is under revision by SPC Publication. It is now hoped to update this to the 2007 version before publication.</p> |
| Output 1.1.4: Training of national monitoring staff, particularly monitoring coordinators, observers and port samplers | |
| Activity 1.1.4.1: Organise and hold in-country observer & port sampling courses and other training activities | Two basic observer training courses were held during this period. One was held in early October in Vanuatu and was a sub-regional training course catering for students from Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga. The second was a national course held in PNG in late November. |
| 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 | 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 MS EXCEL, (iii) training in Observer Trip View System, and (iv) training in MapInfo. |
| Sub-component 1.2: Stock Assessment | |
| Output 1.2.1: National oceanic fisheries status reports prepared collaboratively with national scientific staff | |
| Activity 1.2.1.1: Prepare 6 National Oceanic Fisheries Status Reports (NTFSRs) annually | FSM NTFSR drafted and awaiting review feedback by FSM. Nauru NTFSR near completion. An NTFSR for Samoa is in progress. Drafting of the Kiribati NTFSR continues with a draft for review expected in the 1st quarter. |
| Activity 1.2.1.2: Hold In-country Stakeholder Workshops for delivery of National Status Reports | None in this quarter |
| Output 1.2.2: Advice to Pacific SIDS on scientific issues in the work of the Commission | |
| Activity 1.2.2.1: Provide contributions to briefs on scientific issues for Pacific SIDS for meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and Science Working Groups | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific advice was provided at the FFA Management Options Consultation and FFC68 in Samoa (October 2008). 2. Scientific advice was provided at the Sub-Committee on South Pacific Tuna and Billfish in Samoa (October 2008). <p>Scientific advice and support was provided to FFA delegations attending the 5th Annual Session of the WCPFC (WCPFC-5), held in Busan, Korea, in December 2008.</p> |
| Activity 1.2.2.2: Present scientific briefs to preparatory meetings of Pacific SIDS for the Commission | OFP staff provided support to the FFA Secretariat in the preparation and presentation of a brief for WCPFC-5. |
| 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 | |

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| Activity 1.2.3.1: Hold Regional Workshops on stock assessment methods and analysis of oceanographic impacts on fisheries | No activity this quarter. |
| 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 | An attachment from Samoa was hosted by OFP-SPC in November 2008 for a period of 2 weeks to work on the draft National Tuna Fishery Status Report |
| Activity 1.2.3.3: Train scientific counterparts in-country | No activities this quarter. |
| Sub-component 1.3: Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis | |
| Output 1.3.1: Observer sampling and analysis of commercial fishery catches to determine trophic relationships of pelagic species in the WTP LME | |
| Activity 1.3.1.1: Collect observer-based sampling data, especially – stomach contents, tissue samples | Biological sampling of stomach contents and tissue samples is undertaken in several countries. During the last quarter, samples were collected in PNG (64), Palau (8). Issue #8 of the SPC Biological Sampling Newsletter was distributed in mid-October. |
| Activity 1.3.1.2: Lab-based analysis of samples | Lab-based analysis of samples is continuing. During the quarter, 232 stomach samples were examined and the resulting data/information entered into the database. The total number of stomachs examined and with data entered is now 4,196 samples from 71 different species. |
| Output 1.3.2: Collection and analysis of information on seamounts in the WTP LME | |
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| 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 around seamounts | The work on evaluation and quantifying the importance of seamounts for tuna fisheries in the region was started in October 2008. Both the catch-and-effort and observer databases are being analyzed and analytical methods developed. The hypothesis that seamounts may show higher tuna CPUE values was tested for about 4,000 seamounts in the region. Preliminary analyses show that very few seamounts yielded significantly increased CPUE of bigeye and yellowfin. |
| Activity 1.3.2.3: Collect data at sea at selected seamounts, including tagging, trophic sampling and analysis | The first cruise of the Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme Phase 2 ended on 22 November 2008 after a 5 month tagging campaign that visited successively FSM, Palau, Philippines, Indonesia and PNG waters. A total of 56,680 tuna were tagged with conventional tags and 49 archival tag deployments made. The grand total tag releases for the PTTP is now 161,695. |
| Activity 1.3.2.4: Support national scientist participation in benthic biodiversity survey | No activity this quarter. |
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| <p>Activity 1.3.2.2: Describe Seamounts and analyse historical fishing patterns around seamounts</p> | <p>Identified Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands and Fiji as target countries for longline fisher interviews.</p> <p>Completed interviews in Samoa, Cook Islands, and Initiated interviews in Fiji. Supplied some preliminary results on seamount locations to SPC.</p> <p>Continued literature review related to pelagic fisheries on seamounts. Anticipate completion by March 09.</p> |
| <p>Output 1.3.3: Model-based analysis of ecosystem-based management options</p> | |
| <p>Activity 1.3.3.1: Incorporate ecosystem data and information into existing ecosystem models and refinement of those models as necessary</p> | <p>The spatial ecosystem and population dynamics model SEAPODYM was used to simulate the distribution of bigeye and skipjack tuna in the WCPO. The outputs from these simulations have been average between 1980 and 2004. This averaged data is currently being used to estimate TAC for each EEZ as part of the National Tuna Fishery Status Reporting.</p> <p>A mixed resolution model of SEAPODYM is being prepared for the New Caledonia EEZ. This version is using the high resolution PISCES-ROMS bio-geochemical model to develop the environmental forcing grid for SEAPODYM. Fisheries data for south pacific albacore is being prepared concurrently for simulation in this mixed resolution version. Preliminary optimisation of this dataset was completed.</p> <p>Planning workshop for activities in 2009 was conducted in November 2008 to specify the model refinement activities for 2009. The key development will be improvement in mixed resolution modelling for EEZ scale analysis.</p> |
| <p>Activity 1.3.3.2: Use enhanced models and data to assess ecosystem-based management options</p> | <p>Planning workshop for activities in 2009 was conducted in November 2008 to specify the ecosystem-based management options to be assessed with the SEAPODYM model. Key analysis will include the benefits of MPA's and the impact of climate change.</p> |
| <p>Activity 1.3.3.3: Use enhanced models and data to assess management options targeted specifically at seamounts</p> | <p>No activity this quarter.</p> |
| <p>Output 1.3.4: Estimates of levels of by-catch in WCPO oceanic fisheries</p> | |
| <p>Activity 1.3.4.1: Review historical observer data and methodological development</p> | <p>Data preparation for the analysis of by-catch species associations with seamounts in WCPO commenced.</p> |
| <p>1.3.4.2: Estimate levels of by-catch</p> | <p>Estimates of purse seine by-catch for the PNG EEZ were made for incorporation into a national report.</p> |
| <p>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</p> | |
| <p>Activity 1.3.5.1: Present results of ecosystem analysis to the Commission through the Ecosystem & Bycatch Working Group</p> | <p>No activity this quarter.</p> |
| <p>Activity 1.3.5.2: Present info on national & regional implications of results of ecosystem analysis to</p> | <p>Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) was completed for Papua New Guinea Purse Seine fisheries.</p> |

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| Activity 1.3.5.3: Attach national technical staff to SPC/OFP and other institutions to participate in ecosystem analysis | No activity this quarter. |

Component Two

| Sub-component 2.1: Legal Reform | |
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| Output 2.1.1: A strategy and workplan for activities on regional and national legal issues | |
| Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out legal and technical reviews of legal issues and national legal structures | See 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.3.2 |
| Activity 2.1.1.2: Hold a Regional Legal Consultation on Legal Issues, National Legal Structures and the Project strategy for legal work. | Preparations underway for the subregional PNA Legal workshop to be held 19-21 January 2009. |
| Output 2.1.2 New draft laws, regulations, agreements and license conditions in line with WCPF Convention prepared and shared with Pacific SIDS. | |
| Activity 2.1.2.1. Prepare templates of legal provisions to implement the Convention. | Consultant continues work on WCPFC template regulations to be delivered at the FFA Legislative workshop for first half of 2009. |
| Activity 2.1.2.2. Undertake national legal reviews. | Samoa Project – awaiting outcome of coastal fisheries consultations to in order to consolidate into one Act with the oceanic fisheries component. Fiji Project conducted further consultations in November 2008. Report to be provided to Fiji with policy options to decide on, before further work can be undertaken. |
| Activity 2.1.2.3. Provide draft Bills, regulations, license conditions and access agreements to Pacific SIDS. | See 2.1.2.1 and 2.1.2.2 |
| Output 2.1.3. Proposals for the Commission from Pacific SIDS for legal arrangements to implement the Convention. | |
| Activity 2.1.3.1. Undertake legal studies on Commission and Convention issues including non-Contracting Parties and new members. | See 2.1.3.1 |
| Activity 2.1.3.2. Prepare legal briefs for Pacific SIDS for Commission and subsidiary body meetings. | Legal contributions provided in FFA Brief for Special FFC and WCPFC5 1-12 December 2008 |
| Activity 2.1.3.3. Hold Regional Legal Consultations. | See 2.1.1.2. |
| Output 2.1.4. Training of policy makers and legal personnel in oceanic fisheries management legal issues. | |
| Activity 2.1.4.1. Hold Regional Legal Workshops. | See 2.1.1.2. |
| Activity 2.1.4.2. Hold National Legal Workshops. | In-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding workshop in Tonga 3-11 November 2008. |

Sub-component 2.2: Policy Reform

| Output 2.2.1. National oceanic fisheries management Plans, policies and strategies. | |
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| Activity 2.2.1.1. Prepare Plans, policy and strategy documents. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAFM Scoping completed for Samoa, • In-country assistance to Tuvalu fisheries in preparations for the WCPFC5 meeting. A 2 day workshop for senior fisheries officials was conducted to discuss key WCPFC5 issues and develop strategies in preparation for the meeting, resulting in a WCPFC negotiation brief developed for Tuvalu. • A 2 day workshop for senior Fiji fisheries officials was conducted to discuss key WCPFC5 issues and develop strategies in preparation for the meeting, • In-country assistance to Kiribati to assist in the Fisheries officials with their WCPFC5 meeting preparations, focusing on VDS issues |
| Activity 2.2.1.2. Support the implementation of Plans, policies and strategies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Vanuatu TMP based on EAFM concepts launched in December 18, 2008 • In-country visit to Cook Islands focused on national arrangements and areas of interest, particularly national priorities. • in-country assistance to Tuvalu on VDS issues, |
| Activity 2.2.1.3. Undertake Plan, policy and strategy reviews. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete TMP lessons learned studies for Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon and PNG; • TMPs reviews for FSM and Tonga commenced based on their EAFM reports |
| 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. | |
| Activity 2.2.2.1. Undertake studies on Commission and Convention conservation and management issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the high seas pocket compliance study, which provided critical analysis for high seas pocket closures • Compiled the FFA – Japan Consultation FFA Brief and participated in the consultation in Tokyo, Japan 12 November • Drafting and compiling of the FFA WCPFC5 Brief building on information shared and positions developed at the sub-regional workshops held in prior quarters, the Annual Management Options Consultations (MOW) held in October; • Presentation of policy advice to the VDS steering committee in FSM at the margins of the TCC4 |
| 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. | Development of the FFA TCC4 briefs to assist the FFA TCC Working Group meeting held prior to TCC4 and FFA members in the discussion of issues of pertinence to PICs at the TCC4 plenary and working group meetings. |
| Activity 2.2.2.3. Hold Regional Fisheries Management Workshops and Consultations. | FFA Management Options Consultation held in Apia, Samoa to finalise members positions on CMMs prior to the WCPFC5 meeting in Busan, Korea in December 2008. |

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Output 2.2.3. Identification of possible management options for seamounts, including compliance options. (IUCN)

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| <p>Activity 2.2.3.1. Undertake technical studies on management of oceanic fisheries around seamounts.</p> | <p>Completed acquisition of information on Australia pelagic longline swordfish seamount fishery.</p> <p>Obtained information from the five tuna-RFMOs related to conservation and management measures addressing pelagic longlining or other pelagic fishing methods on seamounts.</p> <p>Continued literature review. Anticipate completion by March 09.</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.3.2. Hold Workshops on seamount-related management options.</p> | <p>Prepared a draft flyer for the technical workshop, tentatively scheduled for October 2009 in Noumea.</p> <p>Secured funding for an in kind project involving analyses of observer data from the Hawaii pelagic longline tuna fishery.</p> <p>Initiated internal discussions on whether this research area would be advanced from convening a technical workshop, and if not, whether to cancel or propose replacement with an alternative, more constructive, relevant activity.</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.3.3. Prepare proposals on seamount-related conservation and management measures.</p> | <p>Not yet initiated. This will be our final activity and output.</p> |

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| <p>Output 2.2.4. Training of policy makers, technical personnel and other Pacific SIDS stakeholders to increase understanding of sustainable and responsible fisheries.</p> | |
| <p>Activity 2.2.4.1. Hold Regional Policy Consultations / Workshops.</p> | <p>Refer to Activity 2.2.1.1</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.4.2. Offer a TSC/USP Policy Training Course.</p> | <p>No activity this quarter</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.4.3. Present National Fisheries Management Seminars and Workshops.</p> | <p>Refer to Activities 2.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.2</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.4.4. Attach Fisheries Management personnel to FFA and arrange study tours for Pacific SIDS personnel to other Fisheries Commissions.</p> | <p>No Activity in Q4</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.2.4.5. Support relevant Ministerial meetings.</p> | <p>No Activity in Q4</p> |

Sub-component 2.3: Institutional Reform

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| <p>Output 2.3.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for the reform, realignment and strengthening of national oceanic fisheries management administrations.</p> | |
| <p>Activity 2.3.1.1. Prepare a review of experience and best practices in institutional reform.</p> | <p>Institutional strengthening scoping for Tuvalu and Fiji fisheries institutions.</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.3.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of national oceanic fisheries management institutions.</p> | <p>Refer to Activity 2,3.1.1</p> |
| <p>Activity 2.3.1.3. Present National Institutional Reform Workshops.</p> | <p>Refer to Activity 2.3.1.1</p> |

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| Output 2.3.2. Processes for national consultation between stakeholders in oceanic fisheries management. | |
| Activity 2.3.2.1. Advise on and support national consultative processes. | Refer to Activity 2.2.1.1 and Activity 2.2.1.2 |
| 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 in Q4 |
| Activity 2.3.2.3. Support national workshops for non-state stakeholders. | No activity in Q4 |
| Activity 2.3.2.4. Arrange attachments and study tours for non-state stakeholders to learn from experience elsewhere. | No activity in Q4 |

Sub-component 2.4: Compliance Strengthening

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| Output 2.4.1. Strategies, plans and proposals for realigning and strengthening national oceanic fisheries compliance programs. | |
| Activity 2.4.1.1. Prepare a review of Convention implications for national compliance. | |
| Activity 2.4.1.2. Undertake and support implementation of reviews of needs to strengthen and realign national compliance programs. | |
| Output 2.4.2. Arrangements for regional coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities. | |
| Activity 2.4.2.1. Support regional consultations on coordination of air and sea patrols. | |
| Activity 2.4.2.2. Provide advice on MCS coordination between Pacific SIDS and other states involved. | |
| Activity 2.4.2.3. Prepare Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements. | |
| Output 2.4.3. Strategies and proposals for regional compliance measures and programs. | |
| Activity 2.4.3.1. Undertake technical studies on compliance issues under the Convention. | |
| Activity 2.4.3.2. Hold meetings of a Working Group of Pacific SIDS on MCS issues related to oceanic fisheries. | |
| Activity 2.4.3.3. Prepare and present reports on regional | |

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| compliance issues to Pacific SIDS, including analysis of proposals for the Commission and its Technical and Compliance Committee. | |
| Output 2.4.4. Training of national compliance staff, especially in inspection and VMS. | |
| Activity 2.4.4.1. Present courses on National Inspection, VMS and other national MCS training programs. | |
| Activity 2.4.4.2. Attach national compliance staff to FFA and other Pacific SIDS. | |

Component Three

| Sub-component 3.1: Information Strategy | |
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| 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. | |
| Activity 3.1.1.1. Design logos and other Project identifiers, Project Website/page and Project Document Cataloguing System. | Short consultancy to upgrade the website and fix features of the website caused by the upgrading of the linked FFA domain to Drupal 6 completed. |
| Activity 3.1.1.2. Operate the Website/page. | Ongoing |
| Activity 3.1.1.3. Project information materials including CDs, papers, videos, pamphlets, newsletters, interviews, press releases etc. | Discussion, creation and editing of WCPFC fact sheets continues. The 10 simple language information sheets will highlight issues and successes in the conservation and management of fish stocks in the western and central Pacific. Some delays have occurred. |
| 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. | |
| Activity 3.1.2.1. Prepare Knowledge Management Strategy. | Completed |
| Activity 3.1.2.2. Generate Knowledge Management Components for Website/page, newsletters, and progress reports. | See Activity 3.1.1.2 |
| Sub-component 3.2: Monitoring and Evaluation | |
| Output 3.2.1. Measures of, and reports on, overall project performance and delivery, including independent evaluations of the Project. | |
| Activity 3.2.1.1. Mid-term evaluation. | <p>The final report of the MTR was completed by June 2008. The Review was presented to the 4th meeting of the project steering Committee which convened at Apia, Samoa in October 2008. The Committee discussed and endorsed the outcomes of the review and the UNDP management responses to the Reviews recommendations. The review was presented to the Committee by the Lead Consultant and the UNDP technical advisor to the project. Overall the review considered the project was well designed, implemented and administered with a significant impact on the regional objectives. The Consultant also considered that the capacities of most Pac SIDS involved in the project to meet their WCPFC obligations had been significantly enhanced as a result of the project but that any future intervention would need to focus on long term capacity building.</p> <p>The financial management by the EA (FFA) was ranked highly and as effective. The project is also considered an appropriate model for other regional or multi-stakeholder and inter-governmental projects.</p> |
| Activity 3.2.1.2. Terminal evaluation. | To be performed in 2010 & 2012 |
| Activity 3.2.1.3. Post evaluation (Year 8). | |
| Activity 3.2.1.4. Annual reviews. | Discussions and the development of TORs for a further consultancy to undertake the 2 nd annual review of the project commenced in this quarter. The review is expected to take place in early 2009. |

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| Activity 3.2.1.5. Annual audit. | Consideration is being given to using alternate audit arrangements for the 2008 Audit. The Audit Report for 2007 was presented to the 4 th meeting of the Project steering Committee at its Apia meeting. The Committee noted and endorsed the 2007 Audit which formed part of the financial presentations made to the Committee for their endorsement. |
| Output 3.2.2. Analysis of process, stress-reduction and environmental status indicators as per the GEF International Waters Operational Strategy. | |
| Activity 3.2.2.1. Carry out baseline studies to measure IW indicators. | A final report for the Project's Baseline Study was completed on 21 November 2008 and circulated to stakeholders for comment. To date there have been no comments. The study makes a number of recommendations concerning indicators and suggests amendments where appropriate. The report also details the conditions of the fisheries and its management as at 2005. The recommended changes to indicators are such that measures and reviews of the progress made to objectives as a result of the project's intervention will be transparent and meaningful. |
| Activity 3.2.2.2. Include indicator measures in progress reports. | Recommended changes to indicators and the project's log frame from the Baseline Study will be implemented in the 2009 reporting period. |
| Sub-component 3.3: Stakeholder Participation and Awareness Raising | |
| Output 3.3.1. ENGO participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes. | |
| Activity 3.3.1.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with a Pacific ENGO. | Completed |
| Activity 3.3.1.2. Support Pacific ENGO participation in the Commission. | Financial support for the attendance of NGO representation at the meetings of the WCPFC Commission are provided as per the LOA and financial acquittal annually. Funds were utilised for attendance at the Commission meeting in Busan Korea in December and prior meetings. |
| Activity 3.3.1.3. Provide information on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific ENGOs. | Facilitated the collaboration between FFA on the production of the WCPFC Fact Sheets and the involvement of FFA staff in the planning of further WCPFC NGO awareness workshops. |
| Activity 3.3.1.4. Hold national and regional Workshops for ENGOs. | Plans for convening two NGO WCPFC workshops in Honiara and PNG in early 2009 are being discussed. |
| Activity 3.3.1.5. Produce information materials to raise public awareness on oceanic fisheries management issues. | See Activity 3.1.1.3 |
| Activity 3.3.1.6. Organise regional and national fora on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues for civil society participation. | See Activity 3.3.1.4 |
| Output 3.3.2. Support industry participation and awareness raising in Convention-related processes. | |
| Activity 3.3.2.1. Conclude co-financing arrangement with Pacific INGO. | Completed |
| Activity 3.3.2.2. Support Pacific INGO participation in the Commission. | Terms of the LOA between the FFA-OFMP and PITIA provide for financial assistance for the attendance of PITIA representatives at the Commission meeting in Busan in December. Support for additional representation from industry at the FFA Apia meetings, including the |

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| | RSC4 |
| Activity 3.3.2.3. Provide information flow on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues to Pacific INGOs and businesses. | No activity |
| Activity 3.3.2.4. Support Pacific INGO consultations on the Convention and oceanic fisheries management issues. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. December, 2008 – 2 or 3 PITIA reps to Bussan WCPFC Plenary 2. 1st Quarter 2009 – PITIA AGM to review WCPFC and other regional fisheries management arrangements, to be held in Honiara preferably in conjunction with any other relevant regional meeting 3. Retain services of a management adviser to assist industry stakeholders to better understand scientific reports and appropriate management options (short term contract or a retainer agreement) 4. Attendance of 1 or 2 reps at WCPFC TCC 5. Attendance of 1 or 2 reps at WCPFC SC 6. Attendance of 1 or 2 reps at 2009 Plenary |
| Sub-component 3.4: Project Management and Coordination | |
| Output 3.4.1. Project Coordination Unit staffing and office. | |
| 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 |
| Output 3.4.2. Arrangements for coordination between Implementing and Executing Agencies. | |
| 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. | RSC4 |
| Output 3.4.3. Regional Steering Committee meetings and reports. | |
| Activity 3.4.3.1. Hold Inception Workshop. | Completed |
| Activity 3.4.3.2. Hold Regional Steering Committee meetings. | The 4 th meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the OFMP was held at Apia, Samoa on 17 – 18 October 2008. The steering Committee typically convenes for a day in conjunction with an other regional fisheries meeting (MOW) |
| Output 3.4.4. National Consultative Committee meetings and reports. | |
| Activity 3.4.4.1. Secure National Focal Point nominations. | Completed and updates monitored |
| Activity 3.4.4.2. Support National Consultative Committee meetings. | No activity |
| Output 3.4.5. Reports on Project implementation, workplan and finances. | |

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| <p>Activity 3.4.5.1. Prepare periodic financial and narrative reports.</p> | <p>Preparation and completion of papers for RSC4, including financial reports to the Committee. See www.ffa.int/gef</p> |
| <p>Activity 3.4.5.2. Prepare Annual Work plans</p> | <p>Annual work plans and budgets prepared for endorsement by RSC4 at Apia. These were approved at the Oct meeting, including the amended work programme for IUCN led activities. See www.ffa.int/gef</p> |
| <p>Activity 3.4.5.3: Prepare Annual Project Reports</p> | <p>PIR & the GEF PPR (July 2007 – July 2008) reports submitted to UNDP and also presented to RSC4 in October.</p> |

8. Challenges/Issues Encountered

Exchange loss impacts continue to be monitored and these are most keenly felt for Component one administered by SPC.

9. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

Budget adjustments for 2009 have been made and endorsed by the steering committee to minimize the impacts of exchange rate losses where possible.

10. Report Prepared By:

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