

**FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)
FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands
14 October 2005**

SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION¹

1. The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management project was held at the FFA Conference Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands on 14 October 2005. Representatives from the following country Governments and organisations were present: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A list of participants is appended at **Attachment A**.

Opening of Meeting

2. The Secretariat briefly welcomed the delegates and acknowledged the presence of UNDP and other organisations at the meeting. Mr. Theo Isamu of Palau was then invited to open the meeting with a prayer.

Introductory Remarks

3. Mr Ismael Toorawa, Programme/Operations Manager, UNDP Honiara, made introductory remarks that explained the background and process taken in the preparation for the meeting, as well as the importance of the project. A copy of his introductory remarks is appended at **Attachment B**.

Opening Remarks

4. The Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary for Fisheries, Mr Tione Bugotu, made an opening address. He apologised for the unavailability of the Solomon Islands Minister for Fisheries to open the meeting. A copy of his opening remark is appended at **Attachment C**.

Procedural Issues

6. The FFA Secretariat explained procedural issues, including the agreed requirement for the appointment of co-chairs, that being UNDP and a national representative on a rotational basis. Mr. Tione Bugotu for the Solomon Islands and Mr. Randall Purcell, Regional Technical Advisor for UNDP/GEF agreed to co-chair the meeting on this occasion.

Apologies

7. The Chair conveyed the apologies of Fiji and SPREP.

Adoption of Agenda

8. A copy of the adopted agenda is appended at **Attachment D**.

Agenda Item 1: Overview of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project

9. Mr. Randall Purcell made a presentation on the background and purpose of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by highlighting its current engagement in similar projects globally. It is an independent financial facility funded from grants by donor countries. Since its establishment in 1991, US\$5 billion worth of about 1,300 projects has been expended in its identified focal areas in various countries and implemented by different agencies. The GEF's priority covers a range of areas, including

¹ Endorsed 31 October 2006

overfishing, pollution and biodiversity, among others. It focuses on incremental costs which involve the establishment of institutional arrangements for countries to collaborate and cooperate in efforts to address improved management and sustainability of resources, as well as in facilitating learning and information sharing among its stakeholders.

10. Mr. Les Clark introduced working paper RSC1/WP.1 which provided an overview of the OFM project. His presentation highlighted the project's goal of 'integrated sustainable development and management of internal waters' that focused on 'unsustainable use of resources' resulting from unsustainable exploitation of resources due to a lack of understanding of resource management issues. The project was initially funded as a 3 year, US\$3.5 million pilot programme, involving fisheries management activities implemented by FFA and scientific assessment and monitoring activities implemented by SPC. The project was approved by the GEF Governing Council in May 2005, with a GEF grant of US\$10,946,220 over five years. It will be implemented by UNDP and executed by FFA in collaboration with SPC and IUCN.

11. The meeting discussed funding aspects of the project and raised questions about activities the project's would not fund which the SIDS might find useful, such as maritime delimitation, office hardware equipments and need for participation of SIDS at major fisheries meetings. It was pointed out that an existing Maritime Boundary's programme to assist SIDS is delivery by SOPAC and that GEF funding focussed on assisting countries to meet their global responsibility under the WCPF Convention. Therefore, SIDS were expected to meet the costs of activities that were of direct benefit to them nationally from their own resources, or other donors. It was suggested that some funding of equipment could be designed as part of other activities where the focus is not on hardware but on the collection and storage of data which the Convention requires and for which SIDS, particularly smaller countries, do not have such hardware.

12. The meeting noted the paper.

Agenda Item 2: Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

13. The Interim Secretariat for the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) presented a set of draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC1/WP.2), noting that it is a requirement under the GEF project that the RSC endorses its own terms of reference. These TOR have been drafted using TOR from the Strategic Action Program (SAP) as a guide. Upon endorsement, these TOR will serve for the entire duration of the project (i.e. 5 years).

14. The meeting raised issues regarding the chairing arrangement, length of review period for the TOR and clarification of the purpose of the PCU.

15. It was recommended that a new chair be appointed annually, through negotiations with the PCU, on an ad-hoc basis.

16. A 10-day period was recommended for the review of the draft TOR.

17. The meeting agreed to endorse the draft TOR, subject to further comments from the participants to be made within 10 days following the end of the meeting. If participants do not make further comments at the close of the 10 day period, the TOR are to be considered adopted, noting that Tokelau, Nauru and Samoa have endorsed the draft TOR.

Agenda Item 3: Inception Report

18. The Interim Secretariat presented working paper RSC1/WP.3 on the Inception Report. It was noted that the Report was prepared in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation work plan of the project document and served as a guiding document for the early phases of project implementation. It was also noted that the report provides an overview of the project, setting out its objectives, resources available, the expected outcomes, identified risks and indicators, and status of project implementation by FFA and SPC.

19. As part of the presentation on the Inception Report, representatives from FFA, SPC and IUCN made brief presentations on the information provided in the report concerning projected project activities for 2005.

20. As part of his presentation Mr. David Hinchley of IUCN provided information concerning IUCN's functions and purpose – both for the project and for the new IUCN Oceania programme being establishing in the region. The presentation focussed on areas in which IUCN can assist SIDS meet established duties and obligations under agreed regional and international instruments. The IUCN project activities focus on ecosystem analysis and policy reforms relating to research on seamounts and also include funding for SIDS participation on planned research voyages. IUCN advised that they are to establish an initial coordination office in Fiji. The Committee noted that Palau has proposed a moratorium of fishing on seamounts in region and this is to be considered by the Forum in the next few weeks.

21. In relation to project activities, FFA and SPC highlighted issues relating to stock status and allocation work to be undertaken over the course of the project life and the need prioritise a programme of activities at two levels, national and regional. Project implementation of regional activities to date include the recent Technical and Compliance Committee Workshop and Management Options Workshop to assist SIDS prepare for the implementation of WCPFC. SPC pointed out that funding was available for national activities such as support for the appointment of data coordinators in some countries but that funds would not support a coordinator in every country.

22. The Interim Secretariat requested that the Committee consider if further information should be included in the Inception Report or whether any changes were required.

23. The Chair recommended that the review period for the Inception Report (along with the draft TOR for the Regional Steering Committee) be extended from 10-days to the 31 October, 2005 to coincide with the date for nominations of National Focal Points.

Agenda Item 4: Budget and Annual Work Plans

24. The Interim Secretariat presented a proposed detailed budget and annual work plans for 2005 and 2006 (RSC1/WP.4) for approval by RSC, noting that the core responsibility of RSC is to oversee the budget and work plans.

25. A revised detailed budget (which allocates the total project budget of US\$10,946,220) has been prepared to take into account changes made since the endorsement of the project document. These changes include a change in project time frame (now six calendar years to take into account spending in the fourth quarter of 2005) and corrections of allocations of items to UNDP cost categories. In addition, the Committee was advised that it was proposed to amend the budget figures set out in draft Inception report for two reasons:

1. to take into account audit requirements for IUCN and SPC not previously included; and
2. to bring forward the budget for tagging activities under sub-Component 1.3 by 6 months, so that the tagging activities would now be budgeted for fully in years 2006 and 2007, rather than being spread over 3 years, 2006-2008.

26. The Annual Work Plans, derived from the budget for 2005 and 2006 were reviewed.

27. The meeting agreed to endorse the proposed Budget and Annual Work Plans including revisions for SPC and IUCN costs and bringing forward the SPC tagging activities and subject to further comments from the participants to be received by 31 October, 2005. If participants do not make further comments by this date, Budget and Annual Work Plans are to be considered adopted.

Agenda Item 5: National Level Project Management and Coordination

28. The Interim Secretariat presented working paper RSC1/WP.5 on national level project management and coordination. It was pointed out that the formation of National Consultative Committees (NCC) needed to be established in countries and where there is already an appropriate national body that functions at the intersectoral level, this could be mandated to take on the role of the NCC (in order to avoid creating unnecessary bureaucracy). Broad stakeholder participation at the NCC, including the country GEF Focal Points, non-governmental organisations and industry is encouraged.

29. National Consultative Committees are represented at the regional level on the RSC by a nominated National Focal Point. The Committee was asked to appoint National Focal Points no later than 31 October 2005. It was suggested that consideration be given to continuity of representation.

30. The meeting agreed to nominate their National Focal Points to the Secretariat not later than 31 October 2005.

Agenda Item 6: Other Matters

31. The Chair summarised the issues and the outcomes of the Committee's discussions. He noted that there are a number of matters that require further comments from the Committee and that members had until the 31 October to respond. He also conveyed his appreciation and thanks to the FFA and others who were involved in the preparation for the meeting.

Next Meeting

32. The meeting agreed to have its next meeting held in the margins of the next FFA Management Options Workshop in 2006, for which date will be advised in due course.

Adoption of the Summary Record of Discussion

33. The meeting agreed to adopt the record after comments from the participants have been received.

Close of the Meeting

34. The Chair declared the meeting after thanking the delegates for their time.

ATTACHMENT A

First Meeting of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Project Regional Steering Committee

14 October 2005

**FFA Headquarters,
Honiara, Solomon Islands**

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International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

David Hinchley

ATTACHMENT B

Opening Address at the First Meeting of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Regional Steering Committee by Mr. Ismael Toorawa, Programme/Operations Manager, UNDP Honiara

14 October 2005

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Ladies & Gentlemen. Good Morning

It is both a pleasure & privilege to welcome you to this inaugural Regional Steering Committee meeting on behalf of the Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Richard Dictus.

As Head of UNDP Honiara Sub-Office, I am delighted to have the opportunity to give these brief remarks at the opening

As you would know, UNDP has had a long involvement with International Waters projects in the Pacific Region, having worked with SPREP to implement both the coastal waters and SAP 1 oceanic fisheries components of the first international waters project.

The long-term sustainability of regional fish stock is a major priority of UNDP's poverty reduction mandate for the Pacific as well as a key part of MDG number 7 – reversing the decline in biological resources.

The immense success of the first phase is what has brought you all here this week, and what has enabled us to embark upon this new project that will help with the roll-out of the new commission and convention obligations in each participating state.

UNDP is also the implementing agency for this new oceanic fisheries project, but this time the Fiji-Multi Country Office – and in particular the Honiara sub-office- is taking the lead from Samoa.

With FFA as the executing agency here in Honiara, it made sense to base UNDP's support services close by.

The project is without a doubt the largest one – environment or otherwise – ever undertaken by the Honiara sub-office. And with support of key technical specialists from UNDP/GEF regional centre in Bangkok and UNDP/GEF Head Office in New York, we are strongly committed to making it a success.

We are lucky to have CROP agency project partners like FFA and SPC – with their high level expertise and experience in earlier projects, as well as new partners in the Pacific like I U C N , with their international track record in conservation science.

Above all, what will determine the success of this project is the continued commitment and coordination from all of you – the participating countries.

There is no doubt that the progress and achievements of SAP 1 could not have been made possible without that coordination and shared vision.

Today's inaugural Regional Steering Committee meeting is the start of that critical process for the next SAP 2 phase.

So, on behalf of the Resident Representative of UNDP, I wish you all a good meeting and the start of a great project.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT C

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR TIONE BUGOTU, PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS FISHERIES ON BEHALF OF THE SOLOMON
ISLANDS MINISTER FOR FISHERIES, HON MATHIAS TARO ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS OCEANIC FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Feleti Teo, Director General of Forum Fisheries Agency,

Representatives from participating Pacific Islands countries,

FFA members and experts from regional and international organisations involved in today's Committee meeting and the implementation of Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project.

May I welcome all of you participants who have traveled to the Solomon Islands for this meeting and other important fisheries meetings that have preceded this one, I would like to take this opportunity to bid you a warm welcome to Honiara.

I would like to make my brief opening address this morning on behalf of the Solomon Islands Minister for Fisheries who has only recently been appointed to office and therefore is not able to be with us this morning.

It is only appropriate that I begin this address by reaffirming the gratitude of the Pacific region and more specifically that of the small island developing States, for the commitment shown by the Global Environment Facility, GEF, under their International Waters Programme in endorsing and approving funds for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project. The Project, as you are aware, provides close to USD11 million to the Pacific States over a period of 5 years in support of the efforts to fulfill their obligations to the new and binding fisheries management Commission, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, commonly referred to as WCPFC. This project is a continuum of an initial phase of the successful oceanic fisheries management work completed under the Pacific International Waters Strategic Action Programme which was instrumental in providing assistance to Pacific SIDS during the negotiations of the Convention that establishes the WCPFC. The support given by GEF continued with bridging funds in a PDF B phase to develop the full Oceanic Fisheries Management Project, the reason for which we are all present here today. Again, let me once again acknowledge the immeasurable contribution of GEF to efforts by Pacific islanders to be responsible fisheries custodians.

I acknowledge with thanks the role and contribution of the United Nations Development Programme in both the development of this Project and their commitment to ensuring that this project will achieve its outcomes and objectives. The (Forum Fisheries Agency), as the project's Executing Agency and host to the Project Coordinating Unit will work closely with UNDP and UNDP-GEF and its co-executing agencies, the Pacific Community, SPC and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural

Resources, IUCN, to ensure that the work under this significant project will result in the realignment and improvement of national fisheries laws, policies, institution and programmes to implement the WCPF Convention. In other words, the development of the capacity of Pacific SIDS to participate effectively in the work of the WCPFC along side other larger powerful countries that also have an economic interest at stake in the outcomes of the Commission and its operations.

At this point, I would like to warmly welcome you all to this the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee. This body will have responsibility for providing strategic and policy oversight for the Oceanic Fisheries Management project and the jobs of monitoring and coordinating progress of all the project activities. I would like to encourage your full and committed participation in this Committee and its ongoing work, and this commitment with the assistance of the Project Coordinating Unit, will undoubtedly ensure that all the objectives of the project are achieved. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms build into this project will enable us to make judgments about the success or failure of this project. I am without doubt that with the commitment shown towards the development of this project to date by participating countries and regional organisations, failure is not a consideration and any outcomes will clearly be examples that we as a region will display proudly in the international arena and to the global fisheries management community.

Let me not delay further the commencement of the work in front of this Committee which needs to be covered over the course of today. Let me simply wish you well in your deliberations, and say that it gives me great pleasure to declare this inaugural meeting of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project, Regional Steering Committee open.

END



First Meeting of the

REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (RSC)

for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (UNDP/GEF PIMS No. 2992)

*FFA Conference Centre
FFA Headquarters, Honiara*

14 October 2005

ADOPTED AGENDA

- a. Opening of Meeting
- b. Introductory Remarks
- c. Opening Remarks
- d. Procedural Issues
- e. Apologies
- f. Adoption of Agenda
 - 1. Overview of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project
 - 2. Draft Terms of Reference for the Regional Steering Committee
 - 3. Inception Report
 - 4. Budget and Annual Work Plans
 - 5. National Level Project Management and Coordination
 - 6. Other Matters
- d. Next Meeting
- e. Adoption of the Summary Records of Discussions
- f. Close of the Meeting



IUCN
The World Conservation Union