

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

Tokatoka Resort, Nadi, Fiji  
21 October 2006

### SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION<sup>1</sup>

1. The second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFM Project) was held at the Tokatoka Resort, Nadi, Fiji on 21 October 2006. Representatives from the following participating country Governments and organizations were present: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), World Wildlife Fund for Nature, and the United Nations Development Programme UNDP/GEF and UNDP (Suva country office). A list of participants is appended at **Attachment A**.

#### *Opening of Meeting*

2. The Project Coordinator briefly welcomed the delegates and acknowledged the presence of UNDP and other organizations at the meeting. Mr. Silivenusi Ha'unga was invited to open the meeting with a prayer.

#### *Introductory Remarks*

3. Mr. Hans de Graaf, Deputy Regional Representative, UNDP Suva, made introductory remarks that explained the importance of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP) and objective of the meeting. A copy of his introductory remarks is appended at **Attachment B**.

#### *Opening Remarks*

4. Mr Feleti Teo, Director-General of the Pacific Islands Forum fisheries Agency made an opening address. A copy of his opening address is appended at **Attachment C**.

#### *Procedural Issues*

5. Mr Randall Purcell, UNDP/GEF, noted the significance of the OFMP as the largest GEF regional fisheries project and that the project was unique in its connection to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPF Commission) *i.e.* support for capacity-building and implementation of obligations under the Commission, as well as its stress reduction indicators/ecosystem indicators.
6. The procedural requirement to appoint a co-Chair was raised. Mr Bernard Thoulag of the Federated States of Micronesia agreed to co-chair the meeting with Mr Hans de Graaf (UNDP) on this occasion.

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<sup>1</sup> Endorsed on .... 2006

### *Apologies*

7. The Chair conveyed apologies of Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tokelau, SPREP and IUCN.

### *Adoption of Agenda*

8. UNDP Suva requested that the agenda item pertaining to the financial report be moved forward and considered following the Annual Report to allow for their attendance. The Committee agreed and a copy of the adopted agenda is appended at **Attachment D**.

### *Regional Steering Committee Representation*

9. The Project Coordinator provided a presentation on Regional Steering Committee representation. The importance of stakeholder participation and awareness raising, and the progress of representation, to date was stressed. The presentation noted that as a result of a consultancy to determine environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) involvement on the Project, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature South Pacific Programme (WWF SPP) was identified as the logical choice for regional ENGO engagement in project implementation. It was noted that investigation continues for similar arrangements with industry non-governmental participation in the project and that the newly formed Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) was the only defined regional association representing industry in the region.
10. In addition, it was noted that in relation to donor observers at the RSC, Australia and New Zealand, as significant contributions to fisheries management in the region, and FFA and SPC should be formally recognized as continued participants at RSCs. Fiji expressed their appreciation to the GEF and the Project and acknowledged the contributions of Australia and New Zealand.
11. The Committee agreed that:
  - i) the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) formalize the link with the WWF SPPO through a co-financing agreement;
  - ii) the PCU progress discussions with PITIA with the view of concluding a similar co-financing agreement; and
  - iii) the WWF SPPO, PITIA, Australia and New Zealand as nominated NGOs, and project co-financiers participate in all meetings of the RSC.

### **Agenda Item 1: Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Annual Report (UNDP/GEF Annual Project Report/Project Implementation Report)**

12. The Chair asked the Committee to take note of the Annual Report provided and invited the FFA and SPC to make presentations in support of the Annual Report.
13. SPC made a presentation of science related work contained in Component One of the OFM Project which they have the responsibility for implementing. They noted that with the development of the regional observer programme under the Commission, there would be a greater need for training of observers which is currently partially supported by the Project.
14. Members commended current work particularly those that are relevant to addressing local capacity issues in the areas of stock assessment, tagging, data analyses and reporting. In addition, the Cook Islands sought funding for a small chest freezer for

their in-country work species sample collection. SPC agreed that they would make enquiries on this.

15. In response to a query relating to environmental standards certification, it was noted that FFA is currently looking at the Marine Stewardship Council certification and its application to the Western and Central Pacific region's tuna fishery.
16. Fiji pointed out the lack of information on social and economic benefits or returns from tuna fisheries, and requested that this information be provided as a matter of priority. The Chair responded that the OFM Project does not address these important issues, rather it seeks to assist Pacific Island countries to gain a better scientific understanding to manage the tuna resources and that the Fiji's concerns were being addressed by major parallel project funded by the European Union in the region (DEVFISH).
17. Questions were raised on the number of people that participated in the regional observer and other training and the impact in countries of staff being absent from their duties for extended periods of time. The SPC responded saying that this was a well recognized issue and they were actively seek ways in which to make the delivery of training initiatives more efficient and effective.
18. The FFA Secretariat made several presentations relating the progress of project work undertaken, to date, within Components Two and Three respectively (legal, policy and institutional reform, compliance strengthening and project coordination and management) of the Project.
19. Members noted the importance of funds from the OFM Project that supported the attendance at meetings and helped them prepare for Commission meetings and expressed their gratitude for this assistance through the project. In relation to this the RSC also acknowledged with gratitude New Zealand's project co-financed contribution to the project for past and future convening of the Commission related management options workshops. It was also noted that the OFM Project funded consultancies that provided expert advice to the recently held 3<sup>rd</sup> Management Options Workshop.
20. The FFA Secretariat compliance presentation outlined the progress of work undertaken, to date, towards strengthening compliance in Pacific island country project beneficiaries.
21. PNG expressed their appreciation for the OFM Project supported in-country workshops that has assisted them greatly in building national compliance and enforcement knowledge and skills.
22. The Project Coordinator presented to the RSC a report on the coordination and management of the project covering the period from, October 2005 when the project commenced to June 2006.
23. Nauru asked if the OFMP was able to fund identified projects in a country where funds were no longer available under an existing project, such as work on the Fisheries internet website which has been under construction for some time. The Project Coordinator encouraged Nauru to raise all matters relating to revised national priorities in the course of completing their project national annual work plans and offered to discuss this on the up-coming country visit.
24. The RSC noted and discussed the IUCN Status Report. In the absence of representation from IUCN, the Project Coordinator outlined the key issues and a proposed way forward for the IUCN components of the OFM Project.

25. The Committee noted that IUCN was striving to secure an appropriate vessel to conduct the scientific research as planned, but that they would not know until February 2007 whether this would be possible.
26. The Committee noted the:
  - i) draft 2006 Annual Report of the OFM Project and endorsed the forwarding of the report to UNDP Suva once they had had the opportunity to comment on the final version which required the completion of a risk analysis by UNDP; and
  - ii) contents of the status report prepared by IUCN concerning project activities that they are responsible for implementing and agreed to wait until February 2007 to see if IUCN would be able to secure a research vessel before discussing alternative options.

## **Agenda Item 2: Financial Reports**

27. The PCU presented the 2006 Financial Report that tabled the 2005 Financial Report year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005; an interim 2006 Financial Report; the Revised 2006 Annual Work Plan and Budget; and 2007 Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget
28. The Committee asked for clarification as to why the project funds were under spent in 2005 and early 2006 and whether the substantial amount of money not spend in 2005 resulted in planned activities not being implemented. In response, the PCU explained that there was a great deal of uncertainty as to when exactly funds were to be disbursed and neither FFA nor SPC were able to offer contracts and confirm start dates for professional technical positions supported by the project until funds had been received. A large proportion of the under spent funds in 2005 (4<sup>th</sup> quarter only) related to staff costs including the Project Coordination Unit which was not established until 31 December 2005. It was also explained that there were unavoidable delays in the commencement of work to be undertaken by IUCN and marginally, the SPC planned tagging exercise which was to have started in the second quarter. The PCU confirmed that the latter had since commenced in the third quarter and as costs related to victualling a research vessel, expenditure rates were quite high.
29. The Deputy Resident Representative for UNDP Suva (UNDP Suva DRR) stated that they had great difficulty in accepting the work plan and budgets as presented and sought further explanation of the impact on the project outcomes of the under spending particularly in relation to the sub component on Ecosystems Analysis. UNDP considered that they thought it unrealistic to think that the allocations in the revised 2006 Work Plan and Budget would be spent considering the spending rate in 2005 and early 2006.
30. The UNDP Suva DRR stated that in the formulation of the draft budget for 2007, there should not be automatic carry forward and that it should be based on what can be delivered in a work plan of activities. He stated that UNDP Suva could not accept the draft 2007 Work Plan and Budget and suggested further consultation with the PCU before the Committee endorses the 2007 Annual Work Plan and Budget.
31. In response to questions from the UNDP Suva DRR, SPC stated that they worked collaboratively with IUCN and the PCU in both formulating the work plan and budget and in the implementation of activities. While the delays in the IUCN would not prevent their work in ecosystems analysis they remained confident that project outcomes could be achieved.

32. The Project Coordinator stated that the draft 2007 work plan and budget was not formulated in isolation and projections were obtained from those implementing activities at FFA, SPC and IUCN. Project spending rates had increased significantly across executing agencies due to the completion of staff recruitment, and as a flow on the capacity to undertake the activities aligned with positions funded by the project.
33. Fiji asked whether it was possible to possible to implement the extensive array of activities with the number of staff recruited to the project. The Project Coordinator explained that a large amount of the project activities were supported by the work programmes of both the FFA and SPC and it was unnecessary to recruit further project staff. It was explained that one of the attractive features of the project design was the low administrative overhead.
34. The UNDP Suva DRR again expressed his concerns as to whether 100 per cent of the 2006 budget could be expended by year end and would have great difficulty approving the 3.6 million draft budget for 2007. He explained that UNDP Suva was judged by its delivery of project outcomes and said that if large amounts were unspent they would be held accountable for funds received that could have usefully been applied elsewhere.
35. The Project Coordinator again stated that she was confident that the project would expend the revised UNDP Suva benchmark of 80%, a figure which differed from early advice from UNDP Suva, in 2007 and that spending rates for the second half of 2006 which are not covered on the reporting period currently under examination were on target. On advice from UNDP Suva the project retained some flexibility between line items and that if anyone had real concerns about that level of detail for planned expenditure for 2007, she would be only to happy to explain them.
36. SPC stated that they would be able to provide detailed, line by line information to support the draft 2007 work plan and budget and could provide adequate justification for how the would spend the funds, despite being in the position of having to play catch up.
37. The UNDP Suva DRR reiterated that it would be poor financial planning and management if what it approved could not be spend and again stated that UNDP could not approved the draft 2007 budget and that further adjustments would need to be made.
38. Vanuatu stated that were happy to endorse the draft 2007 budget but in the interest in moving matters forward they suggested that the Committee simply note the draft 2007 budget and the PCU and UNDP Suva discuss it further, the outcome of which could be endorsed by focal points inter-sessionally.
39. The Committee
  - i) approved the OFM Project 2005 Financial Report Year Ending 31 December 2005;
  - ii) considered and noted the OFM Project 2006 Interim Financial Report;
  - iii) considered and approved the Revised 2006 Annual Work Plan and Budget; and
  - iv) agreed that the PCU would further consult with UNDP Suva on the draft 2007 Annual Work Plan and Budget, the outcome of which would be returned to the Committee inter-sessionally for consideration.

### **Agenda Item 3: National Annual Project Reports**

40. The PCU presented information paper RSC2/INFO.5 National Annual Reports and reiterated the responsibilities of the National Project Focal Points and making the distinction between them and the established GEF recognised Political and Operational Focal Points. The presentation also highlighted the low level of operation of project National Consultative Committees noting that many countries are making good progress towards re-establishing national tuna fisheries management committees.
41. The Committee noted the written submission of annual national project reports by Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tonga. Those countries that had not submitted reports were invited to submit them to the PCU as soon as practically possible.
42. The Committee noted the attempt by the Project Coordinator to complete in-country consultations to further discuss national issues before the annual committee meeting and also noted the difficulty due to availability of key people in-country. The Committee encouraged to the Project Coordinator to complete the visits and the assistance with national level priorities and to assist focal points with coordination responsibilities and reporting difficulties.

### **Agenda Item 4: Other Matters**

43. The Committee agreed the next annual meeting of the Regional Steering Committee shall be held in conjunction with the 4th Management Options workshop in 2007.
44. The Committee agreed that the Summary Record will be made available for comment. The PCU will make available the final version for endorsement by the Committee inter-sessionally.
45. The Committee agreed that the national Co-Chair for the third Regional Steering Committee in 2007 would be Fiji.

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**UNDP OPENING REMARKS**

**Mr. Hans de Graaff, Deputy Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Pacific Island Oceanic Fisheries Management Project**

Tokatoka Resort Hotel,  
Nadi, Fiji Islands  
Saturday 21 October 2006

Good Morning to all of you

I am happy to be here at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the Oceanic Fisheries Management Programme. I bid a special welcome to the country delegates, officials from CROP organisations and the members of the regional steering committee.

The Pacific Island Oceanic Fisheries Management project has successfully progressed into almost 10 months of operation now. The project is driven by the concerns of Pacific SIDS on the unsustainable use of transboundary oceanic fish stocks of the Pacific Islands region and unsustainable levels and patterns of exploitation in the fisheries that target stocks. These are transboundary concerns that apply especially to the impacts of unregulated fishing in the areas of high seas in the region, but also apply more generally across all waters of the region.

The UNDP is strongly committed to the environmental concerns of the Pacific. Equally important is the link between environment to poverty alleviation as what we do with the environment impacts the daily sustenance of the disadvantaged in our rural areas the most. Fisheries resources provide critical 'ecosystem services' on which development depends. Loss of marine resources exacerbates poverty, and likewise, poverty is a major threat to fisheries resources for island environments. Fisheries resources are very important in the future economic development of Pacific SIDS.

The Regional Steering Committee meeting today will provide valuable input for the project. We hope that the discussions from the last few days will also add to the review of the project performance and provide strategic guidance for its future progress. It is indeed great to see such great stakeholder participation. Your continued commitment and coordination will determine the success of this project.

I would like to thank our partners, Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), for their efficient preparation and planning to make today's meeting possible. We are indeed laying foundations for achieving MDG goals by such partnerships that support environmental sustainability. The UNDP remains committed to such partnerships in the region so that jointly we can take the dialogue of sustainable development forward.

I am sure we all look forward to a rich and rewarding discussion today.  
Thank you

**Brief Opening Remarks by the FFA Director General, Mr. Feleti  
P.Teo to the Second Meeting of the Pacific Island Oceanic  
Fisheries Management Project**

**At Nadi, Fiji; 21 October 2006**

1. Good morning to you all and nisa bula to you all. Please allow me to make some very brief opening remarks as part of the opening formalities for this second meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project.
2. Many of you will have been here over the course of the last three days and have participated in the Management Options Workshop. The programme for that workshop was quite intensive and the special FFC meeting yesterday endorsed some very substantial and concrete outcomes of the workshop that will now be forwarded to WCPFC Commission as FFA propose measure and related proposals. I congratulate those of you who were involved in that workshop for the hard work and progress made on some of those substantive issues that will no doubt feature predominantly in the meeting of the WCPFC in December in Apia, Samoa.
3. For those of you, who have arrived specifically come for this meeting, let me welcome you to Nadi.
4. As you will all know this meeting was also scheduled to take place in Honiara on 10 October, last week, but for reasons of safety concerns in Honiara at that particular time, we had to re-schedule the meeting for today. We apologise if this has caused any of you any inconvenience but it was a clear case of being 'better safe than sorry'.
5. Please let me acknowledge the presence of UNDP/GEF and UNDP representatives who are central in the coordination and implementation of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project; National Focal Representatives to the project who is also regular attendants at FFC meetings; and some invited Observers.
6. The Oceanic Fisheries Management Project has been operational for twelve months now and has made significant contributions towards helping Pacific Island countries participating in this project, to achieve some global environmental benefits through enhanced conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources in the Pacific Islands region. Recognizing the limitations in capacity of many of the participating countries and the growing complexity of oceans governance and resource management issues makes the assistance provided through this project funded by the Global Environment Facility very timely and significantly essential. The machinery of the WCPFC is gaining momentum and efforts to keep abreast of issues of conservation and management in that fora will continue to challenge Pacific island countries. This makes efforts such as the Management Options Workshop funded by New Zealand through NZAID as a co-financing activity to the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project and the work by SPC to help countries draft National Tuna Fisheries Status Reports and improve data collection to name but a few project related activities, very important.
7. While good progress is being made with the project, although a little slow at first in terms of implementation start up, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage and urge FFA member representatives with national level coordinating roles in this project to remain

vigilant in project matters in order to reap maximum benefits. Correspondingly, the FFA as executing agency for the project will continue to diligently ensure that the objectives are met in an accountable and transparent manner.

8. I am conscious of the fact that this is a Saturday and that you have a full agenda for today, so I don't want to take up much of your time. But I would like to wish the meeting of the OFM Project Regional Steering Committee well and productive meeting and I look forward to the outcomes of your deliberations.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT D

 <b>PACIFIC ISLANDS</b> OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	<b>REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE</b>
	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the RSC Honiara, Solomon Islands 10 October 2006</i>

<b>Paper Number</b>		<b>RSC2/WP.2</b>
<b>Title</b>		<b>ADOPTED AGENDA</b>

- a. Opening of Meeting
- b. Apologies
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Regional Steering Committee Representation
  - 1. Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Annual Report - (UNDP/GEF Annual Project Report /Project Implementation Report)
  - 2. Financial Reports
  - 3. National Annual Project Reports
  - 4. Other Matters
- e. Next Meeting
- f. Records of Proceeding
- g. Close of the Meeting

***NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)***

**Reporting Period – October 2005 – June 2006**

**1. Country: COOK ISLANDS**

**2. Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

**3. Period Covered:** 1 October 2005 – 30 June 2006

**4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Marine Resources participated in the FFA Meeting to develop a legal strategy of assistance for FFA Member countries in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 14th -16th October, 2005.

As the Marine Resources Act 2005 is now enforced, the Cook Islands priority had shifted from Legislation (the Act) to Regulations and Licensing Regime. In July 2005, FFA conducted a Port-side Inspection and Prosecutions Workshop, and as this such a success, and the fact the Cook Islands now has a new Marine Resources Act, another Prosecution Workshop has been requested be held in Rarotonga.

There had been plans to hold a Workshop for members of Cabinet on the obligations under the WCPFC Convention - an awareness-raising workshop is planned for 2009, taking into account that there was to be an election in 2008. A Snap Election has been called for September 2006, therefore it maybe timely to bring forward this awareness-raising workshop to early or mid-2007. Cook Islands proactively participated in regional Workshops and Meeting where GEF OFM Project had made contributions.

**5. Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**National level activities**

- An upgraded version of the ‘Catch and Effort Query System’ installed in May 2006 – Offshore Fisheries Division up-skilled in its use.
- Mr. Les Clark, OFM Project International Consultant, continued working on the Cook Islands Fisheries Management Plan.

**Regional level activities**

- Ms. Pamela Maru, National Observer Coordinator attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinator in Honiara.

- Mr. Ian Bertram, Secretary of Marine Resources participated at the Seamount Research Planning Workshop was organized at SPC Headquarters on the 20-21 March 2006.
- Secretary of Marine Resources attended the GEF Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Nadi – June 2006

## **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Challenges and issues encountered with project activities in this reporting period (October 2005 – June 2006) include:

- Les Clark had worked on a Fisheries (Tuna) Management Plan, however the Cook Islands has now decided to incorporate this work into an ‘Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management Plan’.
- Visit to Rarotonga by Ms Barbara Hanchard, Project Coordinator, was timely and allowed the opportunity to review the Cook Islands Work plan and also to discuss other areas where GEF may be able to support the Cook Islands Marine Sector Institutional Strengthening Project – currently in progress.
- An issue encountered when preparing this Annual Report, was that the National Focal Point was a little behind, in knowing what activities – Regionally, GEF had contributed to.

## **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

Solutions applied to address the issues and challenges included:

- EAFM – In line with regional approach as promoted by FFA.
- Project Coordinators - Roundtable, informal discussions.

## **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

As reported above, visits by the Project Coordinator are very useful, and we believe they should continue on a more regular basis. We also believe that the Work plan should be a living document and evolve with time, e.g. if activities planned for a particular year are not undertaken, then they should be able to be slotted into the following years activities.

**10. Report Prepared By:** Peter W Graham, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

***NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)***

**Reporting Period – October 2005 – September 2006**

**1. Country: Federated States of Micronesia**

**2. Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

**3. Period Covered:** 1 October 2005 – 30 September 2006

**4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The FSM has benefited from several projects during their reporting period. The FSM has participated in several regional workshops, attachments, training programmes, and beneficiary to some the activities aimed at increasing FFA members' understanding of issues and effective participation in the WCPF Commission and related meetings.

Due to our practical reasons given our political setup, the FSM has not been successful in fully engaging the private sector and NGOs in their consultative process.

**5. Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**National level activities**

An in-country prosecution and port-side workshop was held in Pohnpei, FSM in April 2006.

**Regional level activities**

On a regional level, FSM participated in various conferences, meetings, workshops, trainings, and attachments aimed at building up the capacity of the FFA members to meet their obligations and effectively participate in the work of the WCPF Commission. These sessions include:

- first Steering Committee held in Honiara in October 2005;
- second FFA Management Options Workshop held in Honiara in October 2005;
- the meeting to develop a strategy for legal assistance to FFA Member countries in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 14th -16th October, 2005;

- a sub-regional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) meeting held in Apia, Samoa in April 2006;
- an EAFM progress follow-up meeting held in Vanuatu, June 2006;
- a regional stock assessment workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia in July 2006;
- an observer training course that was held in the Majuro, Marshall Islands in August 2006;
- work progressing on National Fisheries Status Report; and
- the provision of technical advice and materials for data collection, observer and port sampling programmes.

## **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

- It has been difficult to set a consultative committee given our political set-up. Currently the NORMA board has been used for consultation purposes but the process had not allowed the participation of the private sector and the NGOs.
- I am not sure which projects we had participated in had been funded by the project.

## **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

Solutions applied to address the issues and challenges included:

- Other alternatives have been employed for consultations as the use of the NORMA Board.
- Further consultation with the project coordination unit will be required in the future.

## **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

Closer consultation with the Coordination unit in the future will be very helpful.

Any project future activities should be clearly shown that they are funded under the project.

**10. Report Prepared By:** Bernard Thoulag, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

***NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)***

**Reporting Period – 1 Oct 2005 – 30 June 2006**

1. **Country:** MARSHALL ISLANDS

2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)

3. **Period Covered:** 1 October 2005 – 30 June 2006

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:** The RMI benefited from various projects under the overall project progress. A few of these highlights include:

1. The Chief Fisheries Officer for the Oceanic & Industrial Affairs Division, MIMRA, completed an attachment to the SPC/OFP during the reporting period. Attachment training included (i) an overview of tuna fishery data collection, (ii) familiarisation with OFP-developed database query tools (e.g. CES) and TUFMAN, and (iii) having the trainees sufficiently advance their National Fisheries Report in preparation for the 2nd meeting of the WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting (August 2006), using the skills obtained during the training. As a result, the RMI was able to complete and submit its National Fishery Report in advance of the SC2.
2. The successful installation and periodical update of the TUFMAN also took place during this reporting period; in addition, the RMI also received an upgrade to its Catch and Effort Query System (CES).
3. The RMI National Observer Coordinator and key assistant attended the Observer Coordinators Meeting in Honiara in January 2006.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

National level activities:

A full observer training course was conducted in Majuro in early February 2006; in addition, a debriefing course took place in August 2006 with considerable assistance from the Project's Fishery Monitoring Supervisor alongside FFA and SPC counterparts.

Regional level activities:

- The RMI National Observer Coordinator and assistant coordinator (senior observer) attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinator meeting in Honiara – January 2006.
- Deputy Director attended pre-FFC project progress report briefing in Nadi – May 2006.
- Chief Fisheries Officer for the Oceanic & Industrial Affairs, MIMRA attend EAFM follow-up workshop in Port Vila in March 2006; also attended SPC stock assessment workshop in Noumea in July.

## **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Challenges and issues encountered with project activities in the first 16 months (Oct 2005 – June 2006) include:

- Lack of familiarity with the Project; specifically, which projects fall under or are entitled to GEF funding, etc.
- Inability to keep track or up to date on overall progress of Project.
- Lack of local/national coordination in formally establishing a national project coordinator at this juncture. In all likelihood, this is further complicated by the fact that another government agency is GEF focal point.

## **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

Solutions applied to address the issues and challenges included:

- Need for increased and effective coordination with relevant agencies at the national level.
- Increased awareness and up to date liaison with PCU.
- Possible in-country visit by PCU (subject to timing/schedule availability) to help assist in identifying projects.

## **9. Recommendations for Future Action**

As stated above, an in-country visit to hold local/national consultations and offer key assistance in priority areas for future projects would be more than timely especially now with proposed Work Plan envisaged taking into account the potential areas of assistance identified during project design phase. Future correspondence with PCU is essential.

**10. Report Prepared By:** Samuel K. Lanwi, Jr. [*for* RMI National (OFM Project) Focal Point]

***NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)***

**Reporting Period – 1 Oct 2005 – 30 June 2006**

1. **Country:** Solomon Islands
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 1 October 2005 – 30 June 2006

**4. Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Solomon Islands has benefited both from the national and regional programme activities of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFM Project) during the above reporting period. On the national level, the Project has (i) run an in-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding Workshop for our Licensing Officers and Observers from the 17 -21<sup>st</sup> October 2005, (ii) provided the Department with an upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES), (iii) Develop an MOU that has been signed for the recruitment of a National Tuna Data Coordinator for Solomon Islands, (iv) drafted a National Tuna Fisheries Status Report (NTFSR) for Solomon Islands by the OFP of SPC which is now finalised and (v) visits late last year and early 2006 to the Department by the Fisheries Monitoring Supervisor at SPC to liaise with our Observer Coordinator on observer issues. A visit was also made to the Department in late 2006 by the Project Coordinator, Ms Barbara Hanchard of FFA and will be the subject of the next annual country report. No National Consultative Committee has been established yet under the project.

The planned attachments at FFA for the new Chief Fisheries Officer (Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement) and the Director of Fisheries with the OFP at SPC to help with the writing of the NTFSR did not eventuate during the reporting period. The planned national workshop to look at the legal implications of decisions adopted by the WCPFC did not take place as anticipated and is due to official travel commitments by staff of the Department.

On the regional level, as part of our institutional strengthening programme, our staff have benefited from the knowledge and experiences acquired from their participation at the (i) 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinators' Workshop, (ii) the MCS Workshop in October 2005 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPFC in December 2005 and (iii) briefs provided has helped representatives from the FFA member countries participate effectively at the WCPFC related meetings and the FFC officials and the Ministerial meeting in May 2006. Our nominated participants were sick and could not attend the first regional stock assessment workshop at SPC and the Seamount Planning Workshop at SPC.

**5. Specific Outputs/Results Achieved (as per annual work-plan):**

**5.1 National level activities**

- (i) An in-country Prosecution and Dockside Boarding Workshop for our Licensing Officers and Observers was held in Noro, Western Province from the 17 -21<sup>st</sup> October 2005,
- (ii) An upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES) has been provided to the Department,
- (iii) An MOU between SPC and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the recruitment of a National Tuna Data Coordinator for Solomon Islands was developed and finally signed and

(iv) A National Tuna Fisheries Status Report (NTFSR) for Solomon Islands drafted by the OFP of SPC is now finalized.

## 5.2 Regional level activities

- (i) The late George Diau attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Observer Coordinators' Workshop which was held in early 2006 at the FFA conference centre in Honiara,
- (ii) The Principle Fisheries Officer (VMS/S&E), Mr. Charles Tobasala and the Under Secretary of Fisheries attended the MCS Workshop in October 2005
- (iii) The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the WCPFC in December 2005 was attended by the Director of Fisheries, Mr. Edwin Oreihaka and the under Secretary of Fisheries
- (iv) briefs were provided to representatives from FFA member countries to enable their effective participation at the WCPFC related meetings and the FFC officials and the Ministerial meeting in May 2006.

## 6. Challenges/Issues Encountered

Challenges encountered in the preparation of this national report are that activities carried out nationally and at the regional level are not quite clearly known to the national focal point, hence the unnecessary delays in the production of this report.

Challenges and issues encountered with project activities in the first 16 months (Oct 2005 – June 2006) include:

- . there has been a substantive delay in finalizing the MOU for the recruitment of National Tuna Data Coordinator.
- . there has been difficulties in making arrangements by the Department for the attachment of the Director of Fisheries with the OFP of SPC to help with the writing of the NTFSR and to learn the stock assessment methods used in the tuna fisheries status report.
- . staff allocated to learn from regionally arranged tuna stock assessment and Seamount planning workshops were not able to attend and sick was given as reasons for not attending.
- . the national and regional project activities are not all known to the national focal point until the quarterly reports and checks are made with appropriate staff of the Department.

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

Solutions applied to address the issues and challenges included:

- . monthly updated reports on both national and regional activities involving a country,
- . quarterly reports highlighting overall project activities for each member country,
- . or regular e-mails noting project activities which each country benefited from per month/quarter, and
- . regular visits by the Project Coordinator to discuss project activities with national focal points.

## 9. Recommendations for Future Action

Closer timely working relationship with national focal points which will include regular in-country visits by the Project Coordinator and other project staff to discuss the implementation of project activities and difficulties encountered should be encouraged in the future.

**10. Report Prepared By:** Mr. Sylvester Diake, National (OFM Project) Focal Point.

**NATIONAL LEVEL ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (OFM RSC)**

**Reporting Period – October 2005 – June 2006**

1. **Country :** TONGA
2. **Project Title:** Oceanic Fisheries Management: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Pacific SIDs (Pacific SAP II)
3. **Period Covered:** 01 OCTOBER 2005 – 30 JUNE 2006
4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

The Legal Adviser of Fisheries Department participated in the FFA Meeting to develop a legal strategy of assistance for FFA Member countries in October, 2005.

Tonga, like all FFA member countries participated in all regional workshops and meetings where GEF OFM Project had made contributions.

5. **Specific Outputs/Results Achieved**

**National Level Activities**

- A refresher longline training course for qualified regional observers was given in Tonga by Mr. Fukofuka from SPC during the first quarter of 2006.
- A legal fellowship for Tonga was undertaken by Fisheries Legal Officer, Viliami Mo'ale at the Centre for Maritime Policy at the University of Wollongong, Australia, during the first quarter of 2006.
- Tonga and some other member countries were given an upgraded version of the Catch and Effort Query System (CES) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006
- Preparations commenced during 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006 for Operations 'Kurukuru' and 'Islands Chief'. This was supported by Australian Defence with contributions from FFA MCS Division, to undertake coordinated surveillance operations between and across national jurisdictions. The Operations were expected to take place just after the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006.

**Regional Level**

Tonga's MCS officer participated in all the Regional Workshops and Meetings.

Secretary for Fisheries attended the GEF Regional Steering Committee just before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006

## **6. Challenges/Issues Encountered**

Challenges and issues encountered with the project activities within this reporting period (October 2005 – June 2006) included the following:

- One of the main issues encountered by Tonga is that the National Focal Point was rather a little late in knowing the actual activities that GEF contributed to. However, the quarterly reports are of great assistance.

## **7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)**

- National Focal Point to be informed of all activities related to GEF contributions. This can be done when coordinator is sending invitations to member countries.

## **8. Recommendation**

Established better communications from coordinator.

**Prepared by: Siliveinusi M. Ha'unga,**

**National ( OFM Project) Focal Point of Contact,TONGA**