

NATIONAL REPORT

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

Reporting Period, 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

1. **Country:** Nauru

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

3. **Period Covered:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress**

Nauru continues to receive benefits from the Oceanic Fisheries Management projects through both initiatives on the regional and national level. The level of assistance rendered through this project has relatively improved the capacity of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority to address the issues raised by the WCPFC Convention and to an extent discharge with some of the new responsibilities as required under the Convention. The following is a list of the specific output/results achieved for the current reporting period:

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

National level activities

- Establishment of the GEF OFM National Consultative Committee (NCC) – NFMRA received funding support from the Program to help establish a NCC to oversee and coordinate the implementation of national projects under the program. The Nauru NCC has been established and has had two meetings since its establishment in November last year. The reports for those two meetings are being prepared for the Project coordinator.
- National Tuna Fisheries Status Reports – the SPC OFP and NFMRA project collaboration is ongoing and is in its final stages before completion
- In-country consultations – for 2007 and 2008 several workshops for stakeholder consultations under the national EAFM process were held with the assistance from FFA and SPC staff. Consequently the EAFM report will be ready for completion by end of this year.
- Training attachments – opportunities for attachments to train in operating the TUFMAN system was made available to the Nauruan participant at the SPC Tuna Data Workshop in Noumea during 2007.
- Ecological Risk Assessments (ERA) – the ERA report was completed for Nauru in 2008 in conjunction with the work being progressed with the EAFM.

Regional level activities

- Training Workshops – Nauru received several training opportunities under during the reporting period and these included the a) Tuna Data Workshop - SPC Noumea 2007, b) Stock Assessment Workshop -SPC Noumea 2008, c) Regional Evidence Training Workshop- Kavieng PNG 2007
- Legislative review – reviews on national fisheries legislative gaps in relation to the WCPFC Convention were provided as part of a regional initiative to assess existing fisheries legislations amongst member countries.

6. Challenges/Issues Encountered

Increasing level of obligations by the WCPFC Convention has strained the capacity of small island states such as Nauru and the level of support needed from the regional agencies such as FFA and SPC has often been stretched due to the fact that there are many members of the FFA who rightfully rely on the limited resources of these agencies and hence not all needs can be catered for.

Some examples include the review and amendments of national fisheries legislations to meet obligations under the WCPFC Convention where there is only a limited level of personnel at the FFA to cater for such services. Nauru is also in need to establish a National Observer program and training opportunities have been very hard to come by as they are focused on states that already have National programs in place. The 3rd Implementing Agreement recently adopted by the PNA as a proposed Conservation and Management Measure for WCPFC generally requires 100% observer coverage.

7. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

An Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) with Ausaid Donor support is being implemented to strengthen the governing process within the Authority and to specifically address some of the shortcomings being faced in relation to WCPFC Obligations. The ISP includes support for training and short term consultancies that can be utilized to meet those needs that cannot be sufficiently addressed by the SPC and FFA.

9. Recommendations for Future Action

The GEF OFM should take a more proactive approach and look at the outsourcing of essential services to member countries where support from traditional service providers is in high demand and therefore strained e.g. legal and scientific fields, so that members can strive to meet the growing demands and obligations being imposed by the WCPFC Convention. Nauru is confident that the upcoming ISP project will achieve a greater part of this objective and encourage the GEF OFM to continue looking at ways or means of supporting members that would relieve some of the burden from the traditional service providers which in turn may provide more efficient services to the members.

10. Report Prepared By: Peta Gadabu- Chairperson Nauru National Consultative Committee and Terry Amram (OFM Project) Focal Point.