

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

Reporting Period – July 2007 – June 2008

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:** 1 JULY 2007 – 30 JUNE 2008
4. **Summary of Overall Project Progress:**
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:

- TUFMAN – Tonga participated and takes advantage of workshops and CES enhancement during the reporting period.
- Observer Program - National observer program, for Tonga, is running well thanks to workshops that Tonga participated in and also the assistance from SPC. Tonga is currently selecting new applicants for an in-country training in the coming month
- Tonga also shared and participated in sub-regional workshops related to regional and national legal issues.

6. Regional Level:

- MCS – Tonga MCS staff participated in regional meetings and workshops on MCS related issues.
- Stock Assessment – Tonga with other pacific countries shared the NTFS Reports, Scientific presentations and in-country EAFM consultations during the reporting period. Tonga also participated in Stock Assessment workshop

7. Challenges/Issues Encountered:

Challenges and issues encountered with the project activities within this reporting period (July 2007 – June 2008) included the following:

- The main issue encountered by Tonga is that the National Focal Point finds it is unable to follow projects assisted by GEF. All invitations for meetings and workshops assisted by GEF are mostly directed to other departments in the Ministry and can be unknown to the NFP. However, all reports from the Coordinator are of great assistance. A country visit by the Project Coordinator will be much appreciated.

8. Solutions Applied (to address issues and challenges)

- National Focal Point to follow through quarterly reports and in good communication with coordinator in activities related to GEF contributions. This can be done if invitations to member countries can also be copied to NFPs. communications with coordinator.

9. Recommendation

Keeping good communications between focal points and coordinator.

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