

NATIONAL REPORT-VANUATU

**Report submitted to during the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Apia, Samoa,
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Background:

This report summarizes the involvement of Vanuatu in the various activities funded under the GEF project through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). Major achievement through the project was review and completion of the national tuna management plan incorporated through the ecosystem approach, review of the memorandum of agreement for financing the national data coordinator for Vanuatu, training of the national observer coordinator and the national legislative framework review.

The national tuna management plan (TMP) after going through a wide range of consultation with the private sector, the provincial government authorities and various government authorities concerned has finally been completed. Based on this, a number of minor legislative reviews has also been undertaken to enable full implementation of the TMP by 2009, however, financial assistance will be sought for a comprehensive legislative review has to be undertaken to facilitate new measures by the WCPFC.

This has been timely in view of two domestic fish processing plants which will come into effect between January and April of 2009 to accommodate fishing vessels that are licensed by Vanuatu. The TMP has also been instrumental in the approval of the New Fisheries Departmental structure by the Public Service Commission that should be budgeted for and in effect by January 2008.

Funding assistance granted towards financing the national data coordinator is assisting Vanuatu immensely in providing up to date reporting of tuna fishery in Vanuatu as well as ensuring Vanuatu's compliance to the WCPFC. In this regard, arrangements are now underway to have the TUFMAN installed in Vanuatu by November 2008. However, assistance will be sought from the SPC for an attachment of two Vanuatu Fisheries Officers hopefully in November prior to the TUFMAN being installed in the country. Other benefits through financing the national data coordinator has been the involvement of the Coordinator in a recent SPC/FFA Sub-regional observer training course in Santo, Vanuatu between mid October-November 2008 where the Coordinator had been able to contribute towards assisting local participants identified for Observer training course

which is currently underway in Vanuatu. Due to funding constraints, there may be a need to request funding assistance from the project to finance a data entry clerk for 2009 until budget is sought from the national government for 2010.

As a result of the observer coordinators training which Vanuatu participated, the participant which undertook this training is currently coordinating the national participants attending the current west sub-regional observer course in Vanuatu of which Vanuatu has entered 7 participant with the view to establish a national observer program by the end of the year prior to the operation of the above mentioned fish processing facilities.

As project focal point, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu to express Vanuatu's sincere appreciation to GEF for providing funding assistance through the SPC and the FFA to meeting the national development aspirations of Vanuatu. Due acknowledgement to the UNDP for funding this programme, the FFA Director General and the dedicated staff of FFA, the GEF Project Coordinator and to the Director General of SPC and the SPC-OFP Team for the assistance granted to Vanuatu through the GEF Project.

VANUATU COUNTRY REPORT	
National outcomes	Key Outputs
1.1 Fishery Monitoring, Coordination and Enhancement	Data coordinator MOU revised for Vanuatu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Review of contract for national data coordinator, Mr Tony Taleo.</i>
1.2 stock assessment	Observer debriefing and debriefer training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr John Mahit participated in the observer coordinator participation in Palau workshop.</i>
	In country EAFM consultation with stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>in Port Vila to review the Tuna Management Plan using Vanuatu as a case study</i>
1.3 Ecosystem Analysis	EAFM workshop in Port Vila, Vanuatu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>First consultation with government officials for the draft review of the National TMP. The plan is now completed and finalized and ready to be implemented in 2009.</i> Development of national plan of action for sharks.

2.1 Legal reform	Legislative review for Vanuatu - <i>ongoing process to review fisheries regulations</i>
2.2 Policy reform	EAFM stakeholders consultation Vanuatu - <i>Second consultation of the draft TMP with the Vanuatu Fisheries Department Officers(including Provincial Officers)</i>
2.3 Institutional reform	Provincial Stakeholders consultation - <i>for TAFEA/SHEFA in Vila and PENAMA/SANMA/TORBA in Santo for the third and final consultation of the TMP.</i>
2.4 Compliance strengthening	Vanuatu has participated in most of the regional meetings and workshops funded by GEF and have been fortunate to also send a participant to the Evidence and Prosecution course held in Keviang , PNG in August 2007.

Challenges

Vanuatu Archipelago is made up of many islands where fishing is a part of life and will be directly affected by new measures to be introduced by the TMP. One of our main challenges is to do a nation-wide awareness of the TMP prior to its implementation. It will be a costly exercise and Vanuatu would seek assistance in co-funding the exercise.