

**Paper Number** RSC4/WP 5  
**Title** NATIONAL ANNUAL PROJECT REPORTS AND  
COORDINATION

### **Summary**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a platform for the presentation of national project reports from countries participating in the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFM Project) to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and promote discussion of any project related issues that are of concern to the countries for which they may wish to raise. The paper also takes the opportunity to address the issue of national level project coordination efforts specifically the status of National Consultative Committee (NCC) processes and ways in which improvements can be made to national coordination of the project.

### **Recommendation**

The Regional Steering Committee is invited to:

- i) raise for discussion matters relating to any national concerns regarding the project activities and their delivery; and
- ii) advise if any developments have occurred in the establishment or operations of national consultative committee mechanisms in-country and suggest ways in which to improve national project coordination.



FFA



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## NATIONAL ANNUAL PROJECT REPORTS AND COORDINATION

### Introduction

1. Beneficiary countries of the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFM Project) designated from the commencement of the project, a focal point to be responsible for a number of things in relation to the project, including the preparation of a national report to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC). With the departure of staff from fisheries ministries over time some of the focal points have been re-designated. A list of the current nominations to the position is appended at **Attachment A**.

2. The purpose of this paper is to provide a platform for the presentation of national project reports from countries to the RSC and promote discussion of any project related issues that are of concern to the countries for which they may wish to raise. The paper also takes the opportunity to address the issue of national level project coordination efforts and the status of National Consultative Committee (NCC) processes.

### National Reports

3. Written summary national reports to the RSC were provided by five countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga) in 2006 and 10 countries (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) in 2007.

4. National reports serve as a record of project assistance to countries from the project both at a regional and national level. They are intended as a mechanism to record the outcome of any NCC discussions as they relate to project issues and should highlight specific issues that need to be brought to the attention of the RSC. They also provided important reference material during the annual review of the project which took place in 2007.

5. A summary of the overall project activities is provided to Project Focal Points each year to assist them compile their own reports. The summary provided this year covered the reporting period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. At the time of writing this paper no written national reports have been received from countries for early distribution.

### National Level Project Management and Coordination and National Consultative Committees

6. The oversight of the project and its progress at the national level is described in the Project Document as:

*The Project National Focal Point will effect the establishment of a National Consultative Committee (NCC). 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). The function of this Committee will be to capture the Project concepts and objectives at the national level, to expedite national activities related to the Project components and outputs and to ensure*

*complementary activities between national strategies and policies and project objectives. The National Focal Point will sit on this NCC and, where appropriate (at the discretion of each country), should act as the country's representative to the overall regional Project Steering Committee.*

The Project Document further provides details of the composition and operations of National Consultative Committees.

7. Project Coordination Unit (PCU) observations and discussions with the parallel project, the European Union funded DEVFish project coordinated from the FFA, concludes that the many of the countries formal Tuna fisheries consultative processes are not functional, or are in the process of being resurrected through the introduction of the 'Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management'. The implications of this means, that there is little or no opportunity to mandate intersectoral bodies to take on the role of the NCC, as suggested in the Project Document, and that no alternative solutions are sought in many cases.

8. The Annual Report of the Project (see *RSC4/WP 4 Annual Reports - Attachment B*) reviewed a number of risks at the input/implementation level of the project, including the lack of commitment to NCCs. It concluded the following:

- iii) ***Lack of commitment to National Coordinating Committees (NCCs):*** *the interviews and the RSC3 annual reports indicate a range of experience and performance with respect to the establishment and operation of NCCs. The NCCs were an important feature of the OFMP design as a response to the need for coordination of OFMP activities and improved inter-agency coordination in oceanic fisheries management. The mixed performance of the Project in this respect requires both some consideration in greater depth than is possible in this Review, and a response, particularly in Pacific SIDS where poor national coordination is identified as a risk to successful implementation of OFMP activities and enhanced oceanic fisheries management.*

9. Comments on NCCs from country representatives during the annual review included, "National coordination is limited because it's not worth it" and saying that "a NCC was only set up after a visit by the Coordinator". Suggestions to form a small group of persons within fisheries administrations led by the Project Focal Point to oversight the project, particularly national activities, in the absence of Tuna Management Committees or other board or State-based government processes has for the most part not been acted on. In some instances, Project Focal Points have changed over the life of the project and attempts to provide newly appointed focal points with an update is made. A very limited amount of project funding is available to support the convening of NCCs and to date only one country has made use of these with unknown results

10. The 2007 Annual Review also noted that there still remains some confusion over the distinction between the focal point for the OFM Project (an individual in fisheries administrations) and the recognised national GEF Focal Point (typically Environment Services).

11. While the Annual Review concludes that the lack of commitment to NCCs is a small risk to the input/implementation of the project, they are an important design feature for the GEF. The apparent rationale is to secure broader stakeholder participation in project activities and the need to ensure the appropriateness and

effectiveness of development activities<sup>1</sup>. The mixed performance of the establishment and operation of NCCs in some ways is a reflection of the wide variation of participating countries and their capacity, causing in some cases difficulties in establishing NCCs. As mentioned previously, limited project funds are set aside to assist countries with NCCs and this is underutilised, whether this is because countries are not aware of it or coordination effort and other resources are not available is unknown. NCCs are still considered useful and ways in which to improve national coordination are still required for the duration of the current project and for any future initiatives that will source funds from GEF.

### **Recommendation**

12. The Regional Steering Committee is invited to:

- i) matters relating to any national concerns regarding the project activities and their delivery; and
- ii) advise if any developments have occurred in the establishment or operations of national consultative committee mechanisms in-country and suggest ways in which to improve national project coordination.

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Review 2007* p.13.....“For projects where there is a large in-country programme or activity, nationally executed, with substantial involvement of the national stakeholders in shaping the activities, national consultative structures are essential and welcome. But the OFMP is regionally executed; much of its in-country activity is provided in terms of standardised training and advisory modules that have been designed and are reviewed at regional level, especially in the monitoring and science component; the level of funding of individual in-country activities is relatively small and there may not be separate in-country activities in every participating country every year; and establishing a separate OFMP national coordination mechanism, as one senior interviewee from a smaller country noted, is simply “not worth it”. “

**ATTACHMENT B**

**Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project  
NATIONAL (OFM PROJECT) FOCAL POINT  
[UPDATED 19 FEBRUARY 2008]**

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**ATTACHMENT B**

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**ATTACHMENT B**

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