



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEF PROJECT ID¹: PROJECT DURATION: **60 months**

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

PROJECT TITLE: Implementation of Regional and Global Oceanic Fisheries Convention in the Pacific Islands.

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): FFA, SPC, WWF, IUCN

GEF FOCAL AREA (S)²: International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): IW-SP1

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable):

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*	
Milestones	Expected Dates mm/dd/yyyy
Work Program (for FSP)	
CEO Endorsement/Approval	
Agency Approval Date	
Implementation Start	
Mid-term Evaluation (if planned)	
Project Closing Date	

* See guidelines for definition of milestones.

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: to achieve global environmental benefits by enhanced conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources in the Pacific Islands region and the protection of the biodiversity of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WTPWPLME) through the implementation of global and regional fishery conservation and management instruments, particularly the implementation of conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries (WCPF) Convention.								
Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA ^b	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing ^a		Indicative Co-Financing ^a		Total (\$) c = a + b
				(\$m) a	%	(\$)	%	
1. Reforming laws and policies for the implementation of conservation and management measures		A comprehensive set of CMMs reflecting and contributing to global best practice in tuna RFMOs adopted by the WCPF Commission for management of target stocks, protection of non-target stocks and mitigation of impacts on the marine environment of the WTPWPLME, with substantial involvement by Pacific Island nations; these CMMs and other applicable global and regional instruments being effectively implemented by Pacific SIDS	1. Proposals from Pacific SIDS for Commission CMMs and supporting legal arrangements and mechanisms, including provisions relating to non-Parties, monitoring of implementation and sanctions for non-compliance 2. Amendments to SIDS laws, regulations & license conditions and associated policy reforms and institutional strengthening to implement WCPFC CMMs and other relevant international legal instruments; 3. Training of 100-150 Pacific SIDS legal, policy and fisheries management personnel in the implementation of WCPFC CMMs and other relevant international legal instruments	\$3.3m	24.6%			
2. Providing info for formulation and implementation of fisheries and ecosystem conservation and management measures		Improved info available on the levels, patterns and impacts of fishing and status of target and non-target stocks; improved processes for formulating CMMs & application of innovative & best-practice approaches to conservation and management of oceanic species. These enhancements reducing uncertainty and improving the quality and credibility of advice and decision-making both nationally and at the Commission, and for monitoring compliance with	1. Effective data management systems based on regional templates installed in 15 SIDS for collecting & reporting observer, logsheet, port sampling, unloading & landing data, as required 2. Observers, port samplers, statisticians and monitoring coordinators trained (estimated 300 personnel over 5 years) 3. Regional coordination of national monitoring operations through consultations, newsletters, website 4. Regional databases and processes for access to this information for economic, scientific and compliance	\$4.0m	29.8%			

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

		national laws and WCPFC CMMs	<p>purposes</p> <p>5. Tools for management strategy evaluation at the regional and national levels</p> <p>6. Special projects to address critical uncertainties in target species assessment</p> <p>7. Review & implementation of innovative & best practice approaches for management of target stocks at regional & national levels</p>				
3. Improving understanding of the impact of climate change		Improving understanding of the impact of climate change on the conservation and management of oceanic fisheries and the Warm Pool LME	Estimates of climate change impacts on oceanic fisheries and the associated uncertainties through the 21st century	\$0.7m	4.9%		
4. Determining IUU fishing		Effectiveness of WCPFC CMMs is not undermined by IUU fishing in the Pacific Islands region.	<p>1. Enhanced coordination of SIDS contribution to formulation, compliance & enforcement of WCPFC CMMs</p> <p>2. 75-100 SIDS compliance & enforcement personnel trained in the implementation of WCPFC CMMs</p>	\$0.6m	4.1%		
5. knowledge management & civil society partnerships		<p>Enhanced oceanic fisheries management through the long term building of capacity in Pacific SIDS</p> <p>Increased awareness of and participation in: oceanic fisheries resource and ecosystems management, the project and the work of the WCPFC</p>	<p>1. A mentoring programme for Pacific SIDS fisheries managers</p> <p>2. Strengthening of institutional capacity for Pacific training in oceanic fisheries management</p> <p>3. Knowledge management and information systems including websites, publications, promotional material, media relations and participation in GEF events and information exchanges (IWLEARN etc),</p> <p>4. Broader stakeholder (ENGO, INGO, civil society) awareness through workshops and strengthened stakeholder participation in oceanic fisheries management, including the WCPFC</p>	\$1.0m	7.8%		
6. Project management				\$3.8m	28.8%		
Total project costs				\$13.4m		B	

^a List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

^b TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and by NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project
Project Government Contribution	(select)	
GEF Agency(ies)	(select)	
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	(select)	
Multilateral Agency(ies)	(select)	
Private Sector	(select)	
NGO	(select)	
Others	(select)	
Total Co-financing		B

C. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a) ³	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing		A		
Co-financing		B		
Total				

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)¹

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
			Project (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)				
Total GEF Resources					

¹ No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

² Relates to the project and any previous project preparation funding that have been provided and for which no Agency fee has been requested from Trustee.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED: The objective of the proposed OFMPIO Project is to achieve global environmental benefits and contribute to the sustainable development of fifteen Pacific SIDS by enhanced conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fishery resources in the Pacific Islands region and the protection of the biodiversity of the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WTPWPLME) through **the implementation of global and regional fishery conservation and management instruments**, particularly the implementation of conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries (WCPF) Commission.

The waters of the Pacific Islands region cover an area of around 40 million square kilometres, or over 10 per cent of the Earth’s surface and equivalent to about one third of the area of the Earth’s land surfaces, with most of this area falling within the national jurisdiction of 15 Pacific SIDS. These international waters hold the world’s largest stocks of tuna and related pelagic species, and also contain globally important stocks of sharks, billfish and other large pelagic species, whales and other marine mammals and turtles.

The defining physical feature of the body of international water shared by Pacific Island communities is the Western Tropical Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem. The Warm Pool comprises a huge body of water, lying to the west of the strong divergent equatorial upwelling in the central equatorial Pacific known as the "cold tongue" and between the sub-tropical gyres in the North and South Pacific. It provides approximately 90% of the catch of tunas and other pelagic species in the WCPF Convention Area.

The health of the International Waters of the Warm Pool LME is critical to the communities and economies of the Pacific Islands. Almost all of the land area of the Pacific SIDS is coastal in character and almost all of the people of the region live and work in ways that are dependent on healthy International Waters.

³ Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

The 1997 SAP identified the ultimate root cause underlying the concerns about, and threats to, International Waters in the region as **deficiencies in management** and grouped the deficiencies into two linked subsets – (i) governance; and (ii) lack of understanding.

The weaknesses in governance of oceanic fisheries management occur at two levels – regional and national. At the regional level, the critical weakness was identified as the lack of a legally binding institutional arrangement governing cooperation in the management of the region's commercial oceanic fisheries. At the national level, critical weaknesses were identified as the lack of compatible management arrangements between zones, a lack of political commitment to taking the necessary decisions to limit fishing and catches in both Pacific SIDS and fishing states, and the lack of national capacity. The lack of understanding was as recognised as having two dimensions. Firstly, there are information gaps, especially at the ecosystem level. Secondly, while there has long been a high level of basic awareness of issues related to oceanic fisheries in the region, there has not been an adequate understanding of the kinds of measures that need to be taken and the legal, policy and institutional reforms that were necessary to ensure sustainability.

Against this background, and consistent with the GEF policy framework and operational strategy, GEF financing for the International Waters (IW) South Pacific Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Project from 2000 included a pilot phase of support for the successful efforts to conclude and bring into force the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries (WCPF) Convention, establishing a Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Then, the GEF agreed to support Pacific SIDS efforts through the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP) as they participated in the setting up and initial period of operation of the new Commission, and as they reformed, realigned, restructured and strengthened their national fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programmes to take up the new opportunities which the WCPF Convention created and discharge the new responsibilities which the Convention bestowed.

Now, the proposed OFMPIO Project seeks to provide support to Pacific SIDS as they undertake the transition from institutional development and reform to implementing practical stress reduction conservation and management measures to reduce fishing mortality on key target and non-target oceanic species, including sharks, seabirds and sea turtles and protect the marine environment, and to improve understanding and take account of broader ecosystem issues and impacts, including effects on seamounts and the effects of climate change.

There is a sound institutional basis for the transition to implementation. After four years, exactly as anticipated in the alternative scenario for the first phase there is a working Commission with most of the administrative, personnel, financial, scientific and technical institutional elements in place. The Commission staff is larger and the Commission budget for 2009 is more than double the levels projected in the 2004 OFMP Project Document, indicating broad support for the progress in establishing the Commission from all major participants in the Commission. The Commission now finances core scientific work undertaken by SPC, including most target species stock assessments previously funded by GEF and other donors – with a formula for contributions that transfers most of the burden to those who fish. Progress on conservation and management measures exceeds the targets set in the Project document for the first phase. Preliminary CMMs have been adopted to limit fishing mortality for most target species that are under fishing pressure and for the mitigation of impacts on key non-target species, including sharks, seabirds, and sea turtles, often with staged implementation. These CMMs are in general at least as rigorous as those in other places in other oceanic fisheries RFMOs, but are seen by FFA Members as broadbrush, partial, ad hoc initial steps falling short of meeting the scientific advice in many respects and requiring refining and tightening.

Consistent also with the alternative scenario for the first phase, most key elements of the Commission's compliance framework, including high seas boarding and inspection, a regional observer programme and a Commission satellite-based high seas remote tracking Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) have been agreed upon, but have yet to be implemented. Other elements remain to be agreed including the application of sanctions for non-compliance, and from its next session in December 2009, the focus of the Commission will shift from institutional development and the adoption of a framework of stock management and bycatch mitigation CMMs to refining and tightening the current measures and implementation, monitoring and compliance.

Pacific SIDS have contributed fully to these outcomes. Most of the Commission's CMMs are either based on proposals from FFA Members or have been prepared. Some of the Commission's key programmes are built on FFA programmes

focused in the Pacific Islands region – the Commission’s VMS is operated through the same facility as the FFA VMS and based largely on FFA standards, and the start-up the Commission’s observer programme is based largely on Pacific SIDS existing national programmes.

It has taken a massive effort by Pacific SIDS to participate effectively in these early stages of the Commission’s work. In the period 2005-8, there have been 15 separate sessions of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and another 26 legal, scientific and technical consultations related to the WCPFC (many of them GEF-supported), as well as a large number of sub-regional, multilateral and bilateral consultations in which there has been a high level of participation by Pacific SIDS. At the national level, most Pacific SIDS have reformed laws and regulations, undertaken risk-assessment based analyses of the application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, reviewed management plans and strengthened institutions and programmes, especially monitoring programmes, in some cases through systematic donor-supported long-term Institutional Strengthening Projects.

Throughout this work, Pacific SIDS have had to collaborate and negotiate at the Commission with some of the largest and most powerful nations in a situation where even the most well-intentioned developed flag states have found it difficult to agree to measures that would adversely affect their vessels or set precedents that might be applied in other Commissions.

The strategy of FFA Members in addressing these responses of these fishing states have been to push through strategies that have allowed staged implementation over time, and flexibility in application of CCMs to areas north of 20 North where the domestic fleets of China, Japan, Taiwan and the US operate, while still insisting on the application of the principles of the Convention through the Convention Area. For the key tropical fisheries, after the Commission had failed for two years to adopt adequate measures, a group of Pacific SIDS adopted a package of measures for their EEZs; then used the provisions of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the leverage of access to their waters to have the Commission adopt a compatible package of measures for the high seas, including a closure of two heavily fished high seas pockets to purse seine fishing. James Joseph, Chairman of the Science Committee of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has described these measures as the “the most effective measures” in any ocean where tuna is fished. Effective implementation of the Commission’s conservation and management measures in the high seas and national waters over the next 5-7 years to secure the potential national, regional and global economic and environmental benefits will require the commitment of the same scale of effort from Pacific SIDS as the establishment and institutional development phase. The OFMPII Project will play a catalytic role in mobilising a partnership of Pacific SIDS and other FFA Members, other donor agencies and NGOs for the implementation phase. The global importance of these efforts in the implementation phase will be greater than previously anticipated because of the importance of the precedents and best practice standards for tropical oceanic fisheries conservation and management being established in the world’s largest tropical oceanic fisheries.

The key outcomes of the implementation phase are planned to be:

- Implementation of measures to reduce fishing effort and mortality of target species in accordance with the WCPFC Convention, the UN Fish stocks Agreement and the WSSD targets. The SIDS-driven measures on the major target species adopted by the WCPFC are already better than those adopted by other oceanic fisheries RFMOs, but they are still only partial responses that fall short of the scientific advice on what is needed to meet the standards of the Convention and the WSSD, and are in the earliest stages of implementation. A key element to improving effectiveness is refining the measures to adapt and apply them to the wide range of different conditions and fisheries that are found throughout the range of the stocks, particularly in the waters of Pacific SIDS and other developing states and improving capacities for implementing measures in the Pacific SIDS
- Formulation and effective implementation of a comprehensive set of measures for mitigation of impacts of fishing on non-target species, particularly endangered and threatened species including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks both in the high seas and in the waters of Pacific SIDS through the development and application of national plans of action and other appropriate instruments to reduce the threat from bycatches of non-target species. The current measures are as good as those of other oceanic fisheries RFMOs, but are broadbrush, not species-specific and not founded on a strong scientific base. The project will support the development of science-based, species-specific measures and support their application at national level;

- Implementation of ecosystem-wide considerations, including bringing to bear the understanding of the biological and economic aspects of the multi-species, multi-gear fisheries across the region that has emerged from the analytical work undertaken with GEF support in the first phase
- Strengthening of efforts to deter IUU fishing through implementation of the Commission's compliance programmes in the high seas, especially the IUU List, boarding and inspection, VMS and observer programmes in the high seas and the implementation of the FFA Regional MCS Strategy in the national waters of Pacific SIDS. The measures being taken to limit fishing are making licensed access to resources more difficult, more controlled and valuable, increasing incentives for IUU fishing, and surveillance and enforcement programmes need to be ramped up to address this increased threat,
- Participation in the first Performance Review of the WCPFC, expected to spotlight both the good start of the Commission's work, but also the shortfalls in performance in relation to the responsibilities in its Convention

The Project will be implemented by UNDP and executed by a partnership of regional organisations and non-governmental organisations. FFA will be the lead executing agency and will host the Project coordination Unit. FFA will execute the national and regional policy and legal reform component and the IUU deterrence components. SPC will execute the fisheries and ecosystem management monitoring and Warm Pool LME components. FFA and SPC will jointly execute the target stock conservation and biodiversity protection components with support from IUCN, and work with training institutions on long term capacity building and NGOs and industry stakeholders on building awareness, knowledge management and experience sharing to replicate best practices.

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL/REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS: In adopting the Pacific Plan in 2006, Pacific Leaders reaffirmed the importance of fisheries to the economies of all Pacific Forum countries; and identified as a key priority for the region –

Maximise sustainable returns from fisheries by development of an ecosystem-based fishery management planning framework; encouragement of effective fisheries development, including value-adding activities; and collaboration to ensure legislation and access frameworks are harmonised.

The importance of regional fisheries was confirmed by the Leaders in their adoption of the 2007 Vava'u Declaration on Pacific Fisheries Resources in which they committed to “strengthen their engagement in sustainable fisheries and to maximise the flow on benefits from both domestic fisheries and foreign fishing operations in the region” and also to “fully implementing without delay the conservation and management measures developed and endorsed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission”.

At the national level, plans for responsible and sustainable development of oceanic fisheries are a key element in the planning for sustainable development of all Pacific SIDS. Across the region, fish and fishing are, as a recent Asian Development Bank report said “tremendously important to the people of the Pacific Islands. Much of the nutrition, culture and welfare, recreation, government revenue and employment in the region are based on its living marine resources”; and over 90 per cent of the fish taken is from oceanic fisheries, most of that being tuna. Looking ahead the same report projected that “tuna will inevitably assume a much larger profile in the Pacific Islands in the medium and long term future. Tuna is likely to increase in a number of sectors, two of which are especially critical: (1) as a foundation for future economic growth; and (2) for food security.”

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS: The proposed OFMPIO project is consistent with both the GEF IV long term objectives for International Waters which are:

1. To foster international multi-state cooperation on priority water concerns
2. To catalyze transboundary action addressing water concerns

It fits the IW Strategic Program 1 for GEF-4 which is:

1. Restoring and sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks and associated biological diversity

It is a clear demonstration of the IW approach of building commitment to collective action on transboundary concerns around a SAP, building a sustainable regional institution for collective action (the WCPFC) implementing global

environmental conventions (in this case the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the Convention on Biodiversity) and undertaking associated national legal, policy and institutional reforms; then moving on as now proposed through the OFMPIO Project to practical stress reduction measures.

And it contributes to the GEF commitment to supporting SIDS through funding regionally focused programmatic approaches aimed at specific regional groups of SIDS to achieve global environment benefits, particularly through supporting SIDS located in LMEs with continental states, as part of the GEF LME interventions as well as in possible interventions in areas of high seas.

The project will enhance the GEF contribution to the achievement of a range of MDG targets through direct contributions to MDG 1 (Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger) and MDG7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability).

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH THE GEF RESOURCES: GEF resources will be used to provide grant financing consistent with the status of Pacific SIDS and with financial commitments being made by Pacific SIDS, other Commission Members and other donors.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES: The project will be coordinated with relevant regional activities in other sectors through the Pacific Plan Action Committee,, including the environment and regional trade programmes of other regional agencies, particularly the Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and projects they execute including the GEF Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) and Implementing Sustainable Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in the Pacific Island Countries (IWRM) projects. In addition, SPREP will be a member of the OFMPIO Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

Regional fisheries activities are coordinated through the Ministerial and Officials sessions of the Forum Fisheries Committee in which the other regional organisations and NGOs participate as observers, and the annual FFA-SPC Colloquium. Execution of the project through FFA and SPC ensures the closest possible coordination of project and co-financed activities with other FFA and SPC fisheries work programmes, including the national EAFM and Management Plan initiatives. Project activities are included in the FFA and SPC work programmes and scrutinised by the FFA and SPC members including all Pacific SIDS to avoid duplication, overlaps and underlaps.

The scientific aspects of the project will be coordinated and peer reviewed through the processes of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, particularly through its Ecosystem & Bycatch, Methods, Statistics, and Stock Assessment Specialist Working Groups

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :

In the baseline scenario set out for the first phase, Pacific SIDS would have continued to manage the transboundary oceanic fish stocks in their waters, essentially independently, although within a framework of cooperation between themselves at the regional level, executed through FFA for economic, legal and compliance aspects and through SPC for fisheries data collection and management, biological and ecosystem research and stock assessment. There would have been relatively little cooperation, particularly in non-scientific areas, between Pacific SIDS and other states in the region Pacific SIDS would have maintained capable national licensing authorities to address their national economic needs and continued to strengthen their compliance functions through stronger sea and air patrols and the use of VMS, but national oceanic fisheries management functions would have continued to remain relatively poorly resourced. Some Pacific SIDS would have begun to apply limits to fishing within their waters but the effectiveness of these efforts would have been undermined by the lack of any coherent regional framework for those limits and by the knowledge that vessels limited from fishing in national waters could operate freely in the high seas without limits or other controls. Pacific SIDS would have encouraged large fishing states to cooperate on a voluntary basis in providing information and controlling vessels operating on the high seas, but response to this approach would have been mixed – with some states responding well, others declining to cooperate with voluntary measures including data provision on the high seas. High seas fishing would have remained unregulated and largely unreported. Vessels operating from the high seas would have continued to make illegal incursions into national waters, undermining national efforts at conservation and management. Lacking detailed comprehensive data especially on catches and effort from the high seas and Indonesia and Philippines, substantial uncertainty in stock assessment results and about the levels of bycatches and incidental mortalities would have weakened

the basis for management action as key stocks are threatened by over-exploitation and harmful impacts on sharks, billfish, turtles, marine mammals and other associated species increased. Lack of a legally-binding mechanism applying to all participants in the fisheries would also have substantially weakened the scope for effective conservation and management measures. Essential regional science and monitoring programmes would have remained funded on an ad hoc basis by donors instead of being funded by those benefiting from fishing on the stocks. There would have been no systematic progress in ecosystem analysis.

The alternative scenario is based on the implementation of the SAP and the WCPF Convention with GEF support. The institution-building phase of the alternative scenario has been largely accomplished, with Pacific SIDS joined by all key fishing states as Parties to the Convention; the Commission beginning to operate, and financial sustainability of the Secretariat apparently ensured based on the principle that those who benefit from fishing should pay the costs of management ; key Commission technical programmes are established in science and compliance; advice on the status of key stocks is being provided to the Commission; national laws and programs have been reformed and strengthened in association with ratification of the Convention; and preliminary conservation and management measures have been adopted for most of the key target stocks; but these have yet to be broadly implemented, and there has been no real changes yet in fishing patterns and behavior on the water.

In the implementation phase of the alternative scenario, Pacific SIDS and other Commission Members apply a comprehensive, ecosystem-based set of measures in the high seas and in national waters that conserve the globally important oceanic fisheries resources and mitigate the impacts of fishing on non-target species (particularly seabirds, sharks and marine turtles) and the environment of the Warm Pool LME more generally; setting global standards for application of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and contributing to the global discourse on how to improve the conservation and management of oceanic fisheries, especially in the high seas.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:

This project will be geographically, politically, technically and economically complex, with features that have led to mixed results in other regional environmental projects in the Pacific Islands. A key to managing and mitigating the overall risks associated with this complexity is to use the existing politically and technically strong institutional capacities of FFA and SPC, adding value to the broader programmes of these organizations through infusing them with GEF values and strategies including knowledge management and adoption of best practices, and teaming them with NGOs to broaden and sharpen their intergovernmental roles. Some of the specific key risks in the project are identified in the table below.

Risk	Rating	Response
SIDS capacity limits	Medium	This is the key factor that will set the limit of what can be achieved within the 5 year timeframe of the project. Project design will emphasise capacity building, especially for the smaller Pacific SIDS, but will also have to recognise the limits to the absorptive capacity of the smaller Pacific SIDS, and the importance of a longer time horizon to fully achieve objectives.
Gridlock in the Commission	Low - Medium	In the face of the systematic shortfalls in performance of other oceanic fisheries RFMOs, there is a risk that the objectives will be less than fully achieved. A key element of this risk is the conflict between developed fishing states with large existing fleets and the developing countries in whose waters the stocks largely occur. The project will seek innovative responses to overcome this conflict, and support Pacific SIDS in their efforts to leverage the Commission into adopting effective measures through the adoption of high management standards in their own EEZs. The project will also support participation by Pacific SIDS in international processes to review and strengthen the effectiveness of RFMOs.
Financial Sustainability of the Commission	Low	The project aims to increase the value of the resources to Commission Members and heighten appreciation of the value of the Commission’s work to its Members, especially Pacific SIDS
Climate Change affects the fisheries and the effectiveness of measures	Low	Climate change could substantially affect the Warm Pool LME and its vulnerability, requiring a major restructuring of the Commission’s approach to conservation and management and maintaining ecosystem health, and affecting

		some Pacific SIDS climate change adaptation. The project will undertake the first analysis of the effects of climate change on the Warm Pool and the oceanic fisheries of the region
IUU fishing underlines the effectiveness of Commission measures	Low	The project aims to strengthen Commission high seas monitoring and compliance programmes and the capacities of Pacific SIDS to deter IUU fishing in their EEZs

H. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT: in essence, the Project seeks to achieve a wide range of sustained changes in fishing levels, patterns and techniques for global environmental purposes focused on fishing operations spread over 21 million square kilometres in the Pacific Islands region, with a catch value from that area of over \$2 billion at first landing and double that when processed, but also affecting fishing more across the broader WCPO Convention Area of (over 50?) million sq kilometres; working through 15 Pacific SIDS and the 27 WCPFC Members more generally; and with a project budget of \$6 million of GEF resources annually for 5 years, or \$20 million annually including co-financing. The cost-effectiveness of this relatively slim input depends on two main factors:

- a) It will bring to bear a well-developed framework of global and regional instruments for responsible and sustainable fisheries in which the global and regional community, including GEF have made large investments in the past; and
- b) It will deliver innovative, best-practice-based ideas, improved knowledge and understanding, and enhanced capacities through an existing successful framework of regional intergovernmental institutions, enhanced by NGO support; and through the WCPFC Commission, newly created with GEF support.

I. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY: The project will be implemented by UNDP. UNDP has three major comparative advantages which will benefit the project objectives:

- a) UNDP has a strong country and regional presence and linkages between the project activities and the UNDP country assistance strategies including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2008-2012). This is critically important to the effective delivery to the 15 widely dispersed, mostly small and in some ways, very different Pacific SIDS. The Project will be administered by the UNDP Fiji Office, which has a regional focus and capability with a cadre of national Project managers with professional experience in the region, who are characterised by the OFMP Mid-Term Evaluation as having “*displayed a high degree of personal interest and commitment to the (OFM) Project*”;
- b) there is a good fit without overlap or duplication between the project design, implementation and monitoring capabilities of UNDP and the technical capacities of FFA and SPC; and
- c) UNDP has a good record of effective delivery of regional environmental projects, including GEF-financed projects, working with regional agencies including SPREP and SOPAC, as well as SPC and FFA.