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**TO WCPFC ISSUES**  
**IN 2008**



**SPECIAL NEEDS OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are coastal countries that share development challenges such as remoteness, small but growing populations, dependence on imported goods and local natural resources. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs classifies all FFA member countries (apart from Australia and New Zealand) as small island developing states.

Fisheries are vital for local jobs and food security in small island developing states. At the same time, increased costs of communication, energy and transportation (and often a lack of education and human resources for public administration) mean higher costs of government and implementation of rules regarding fishing. These needs of small island developing states are generally recognised by international organisations and in the case of the WCPFC, recognition is in the Convention (Part 8). The WCPFC also has two funds to address these needs: the Special Requirements Fund, administered by the WCPFC Secretariat, and the Japanese Trust Fund, administered by the WCPFC Secretariat with advice from the Japanese Trust Fund Committee.

**WHY IT HAS COME UP NOW?**

The needs of Developing States are a permanent item on the WCPFC agenda (as stipulated in WCPFC Rules of Procedure: Rule 2).

**HOW DOES IT AFFECT PACIFIC ISLANDS?**

The Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund have tended to be used to finance or co-finance workshops to build capacity and skills in developing States and territories relevant to the objectives of the WCPF Convention. Examples of this include training on fisheries data, stock assessment, ecological risk assessment and recently high seas boarding and inspection procedures.

However, most FFA member countries acknowledge the challenges of small island developing states to participate in and implement WCPFC decisions remain. While Pacific island countries have expressed appreciation Japan for its assistance and to all those countries submitting contributions, they have also highlighted the need for more voluntary contributions to the Special Requirements Fund.

**WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THIS YEAR'S WCPFC?**

Discussions at the December WCPFC 5 meeting in Busan, Korea, are likely to include a call from FFA members for voluntary contributions to the Special Requirements Fund, and appreciation to those countries (Federated States of Micronesia, United States) that have contributed to the fund.

When: Agenda Item No 12, *Special Requirements of Small Island Developing States*, is scheduled to be discussed in the morning of Thursday 11 December.

**WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?**

**FFA**

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) website has a range of briefs and media releases available on [www.ffa.int/wcpfc](http://www.ffa.int/wcpfc) Members of the can access their internal meeting briefs here.

**WCPFC**

The WCPFC posts all relevant documents in the 'Meetings' & 'Conservation and Management Measures & Resolutions' sections of its site <http://www.wcpfc.int/>