

# **Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States**

**(also referred to as PIOFMP II)**

**Project Inception Meeting and First Steering Committee**

**Nadi, Fiji, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

**Meeting Summary Record**

## **Introduction – welcome and explanation of meeting purpose**

The meeting was opened with an address by the James Movick (FFA DG) who noted that the project negotiation had been ongoing for the past four years. He recalled the initial OFMP project and its strategic role in facilitating the inception of WCPFC and members' participation in the early stages. He further acknowledged the collaboration with GEF, UNDP and FAO to design this project and noted the other collaborating agencies including SPC, PITIA, PNAO, WWF.

The Secretariat called for nominations of a Chair from members, but also noted that in the past where there has been no nomination, the Secretariat has chaired similar meetings. There were no nominations and with permission of the meeting Wez Norris (FFA DDG) assumed the chair.

The Chair provided an opportunity for the Implementing Agencies to make introductory remarks.

Frank Chopin of FAO Rome (soon to be Samoa) congratulated all the project partners and thanked Les Clark, Barbara Hanchard and Colin Brown for their role in project development. He introduced Barbara Cooney and Blaise Kuemlangan from FAO HQ and Chongguang Liao from the FAO Bangkok office. FAO noted that project design has taken some time but were excited about the opportunity to contribute to the work of the region, and noted that one part of FAO's contribution to the project is already nearing completion.

Dr Jose Padilla of UNDP who then introduced Dr Winifereti Nainoca from the UNDP Suva delegation. He went on to note the importance of the project and noted the history of project development and the development of the WCPFC. He advised that the terminal evaluation of the initial OFMP project had been very positive in regard to the results achieved under the project. It was noted that there was still a need to address institutional capacity building at the national level and this would be addressed in the context of the new project.

The Chair reiterated thanks to Les Clark for all his work and noted that a project coordinator had been appointed and the implementing agreement with FAO was in the final stages of completion. He noted that there are two final stages of endorsement required before FFA can execute the formal agreements with FAO and UNDP. These comprise "GCP" letters that had been distributed by FAO and which most members had already returned, and signing the project Document for UNDP, which would be completed in the next few days.

The Chair introduced Blaise Kuemlangan from FAO who provided a brief summary of the FAO work to date on Maritime Boundaries in the FFA region in the context of the security of jurisdictional areas in the face of changing baselines as a result of sea level rise. This project is part of FAO's contribution to OFMP II and has been rolled out in collaboration with FFA and SPC Geoscience. The final report has been submitted to FFA.

### **Adoption of Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee**

The Chair advised that the first order of business for the inception workshop was to adopt terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee, which will be the main oversight body for the Project. The Chair presented draft TOR noting that they are based heavily on the TOR from OFMP I. The Chair highlighted the composition of the Steering Committee, which is not only the beneficiary countries, but also the Implementing and Executing Agencies and Partners. The Chair also highlighted the importance of including other FFA members as observers to the RSC, particularly:

- Tokelau; who is not a beneficiary of the Project but who will be participating in all project activities using other FFA funding; and
- Australia and New Zealand who are members and also very significant donors, meaning that their participation in the RSC would assist overall funding coordination.

The RSC TOR were adopted by the meeting (see Attachment 1).
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### **Background and description of the project**

The Chair introduced Les Clark to present the project background and description. Les started with an outline of the Global Environment Facility and the associated funding mechanisms as well as the role of project monitoring and evaluation. He thanked UNDP for the summary of the history of the project to date reiterating the phased project approach – a pilot phase followed by OFMP1 (2005 -2011) and then OFMP2.

He then provided an outline of the project objective and how the new project was developed including the development of other projects including the FAO ABNJ project and the World Bank PROP. The project has been developed through a series of consultative members meetings leading to the project document and its subsequent endorsement.

OFMP 2 is a four year \$10 million dollar project implemented by UNDP and FAO and executed by FFA and six project partners, with the major one being SPC.

Les reviewed the project budget components and advised of the national level focus and the high levels of co-funding provided by FFA, SPC, PNAO and members.

The project institutional arrangements were outlined as well as the project management and coordination arrangements.

The lengthy delay in development of this project was noted and the Secretariat recommended that consideration of the nature of the next phase should commence shortly. Noting that GEF does not fund “more of the same”, Les suggested that the potential future project might focus on bycatch, shark management and enforcement.

Australia enquired as to how the national activity program would work. The Chair responded that OFMP II has been integrated into the wider Annual Work Plan and Budget of FFA and the activities that would be funded aligned well with some of the priorities taken from the member Service Level Agreements.

### **Outline of the roles and responsibilities of each project partner including reporting procedures and obligations and annual audit**

The Chair introduced Barbara Cooney from FAO who described the GEF results based management framework noting concept and design and RBM instruments for project implementation. The RBM requirements were outlined followed by the outputs based annual work plan and budget as well as reporting frequency and information sources. The GEF focal area tracking tools and the relationship between GEF and executing partners was also outlined.

Jose Padilla discussed the UNDP requirements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting outlining the project M&E indicators. The project will produce an annual project implementation review with the terminal PIR being the project final report.

The PIR will measure progress and risk assessment as well as M& E, lessons learned and gender related issues. The project mid term review will focus on what is needed to complete the project and will be conducted by independent reviewers. The terminal evaluation will follow FAO requirements.

The project will utilise adaptive management to allow for changes in project context but modifications proposed require different levels of approval and project extensions are on a no cost basis.

### **Year 1 project work plan and budget**

The Chair outlined the process for developing and reviewing the project work plan and budget. The session commenced with Les Clark presenting a summary of budget responsibilities divided between FAO and UNDP. He then explained the budget division between the main executing agencies.

Dr Tim Adams addressed the meeting in regard to the detailed FFA work program for project year 1. He noted that there are four major operational components being regional, sub regional, national and other project partners.

He advised the project role in relation to providing support to members in the drafting of CMMs and the associated consultative processes.

In regard to sub regional actions the component was largely focused on PNA support, with a smaller contribution to TVM as well as potential support for other sub regional arrangements such as the Tokelau Arrangement.

At the national level there will be a focus on assisting members with WCPFC compliance and reporting as well as revised national laws and integrating bycatch management into national plans.

In regard to stakeholder participation the project would support PITIA and WWF as well as support attendance at meetings and workshops.

For monitoring and evaluation the first year M&E process is about the baseline study.

In regard to project awareness the project coordinator will liaise with parties in the production of resource and promotional resources.

The Chair noted the importance of the sub regional component noting that PNAO had already developed a work plan against the allocated budget. In regard to TVM, he noted that FFA now managed TVM funds and their budget allocation would be channeled through FFA, but in accordance with the direction of TVM Participants. This component was also originally intended to support MSG but this has not come to fruition despite several efforts to communicate with the MSG Secretariat.

Dr John Hampton discussed the SPC work plan in regard to their work in the project. He gave an initial outline of the work of the OFP within SPC. He advised that SPC would implement component 1.2.1 in regard to climate change advice including modeling work and bycatch evaluation. He noted the project would work to finalise a yellowfin model and look at target species diets.

Under the national component SPC will implement activity area 3.2.1 and the meeting was advised an initial focus on the further development of TUFMAN, the development of unloading and transshipment data collection and data sharing.

Under output 3.2.2 SPC would focus on national science support and capacity building particularly in stock assessments. For year one the project would undertake a series of longline fisheries analyses. This component will also support a stock assessment and ecosystem monitoring workshop and the enhancements of national fisheries websites.

FSM expressed thanks for the project and its importance to national development noting the delays in implementation now made project commencement a matter of urgency. FSM queried whether the SPC component would also include aspects of food security and bycatch management and was advised that SPC would endeavor to do so. The Chair also noted that there are other funding sources that also contribute to this. FSM further noted the high levels of co-finance provided by members, and that changes since those commitments were made mean that even more co-finance is actually being invested into fisheries management now.

Cook Islands noted that several members had discussed the project activities and expressed their respective comfort with the project as per previous discussion in FFC. Cook Islands noted support from the membership for the broad project activities.

RMI also expressed their thanks to the agencies for getting the work plan developed and supported its rapid implementation.

Australia noted the importance of coordination between donors and recipients to ensure efficiency in the provision and use of funding assistance. Kiribati supported this comment and expressed satisfaction with the planned activities. The Chair reiterated the integration between funding sources via the FFA annual budget process and annual report.

In regards to integration with other specific projects:

- FAO noted that the current project was one of many GEF projects including the FAO ABNJ project and this presented opportunities for synergies.
- UNDP noted that there was a similar UNDP GEF project in place for the Asian members of WCPFC, although this is more focused on basic data collection.
- FFA noted that the World Bank PROP project was also partly funded under GEF.

The meeting noted and endorsed the high level work plans presented by FFA and SPC for project year 1. However, the meeting also noted that in order to meet Implementing Agency requirements, a finer level of detail needed to be considered. The Secretariat undertook to release the fine scale budget and work plan to members for endorsement out of session.

The Chair extended his thanks to the attendees and there being no further business, the meeting closed at 1645.

## **Appendix 1. Meeting Agenda**

### **“Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States”**

**GEF Project ID: 4746**

**FAO Trust Fund ID: GCP/RAS/267/GFF**

A Global Environment Facility Project implemented by FAO and UNDP, with FFA as Executing Partner for the benefit of the Governments of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

#### **Project Inception Workshop and First Regional Steering Committee**

**5<sup>th</sup> May, Nadi, Fiji**

Draft Agenda

- a. Welcome to participants and explanation of the purposes of the meeting;**  
The OFMP2 project progresses the work of the OFMP1 project that finished in 2011. Phase 1 assisted Pacific Island countries to participate fully in the development of agreed regional fisheries measures, particularly WCPFC. Phase 2 is to assist Pacific Island countries to nationally implement the regional and international measures that they have agreed.
- b. Adoption of Terms of Reference for the RSC;**  
There were draft TOR in the project document. These have been updated for adoption.
- c. Background and description of the Project;**  
The formal objective of the project is “To support Pacific SIDS in meeting their obligations to implement and effectively enforce global, regional and sub-regional arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fisheries thereby increasing sustainable benefits derived from these fisheries”
- d. Brief outline of the roles and responsibilities of each project partner, including reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit;**  
UNDP and FAO are the Implementing Agencies for the project, FFA is the Executing Partner for the project, SPC and other service providers are Contracting Partners, and FFA Pacific Island member countries are Participating Countries.
- e. Year 1 Project Workplan and Budget;**  
Information Paper 1 provides the draft workplan and budget for year 1
- f. Close of meeting**  
A Project Inception Report will be prepared immediately after the meeting

## Appendix 2. List of Participants

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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