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UPDATE ON WPEA PROJECT

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Prepared by Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam and the Secretariat

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the West Pacific East Asia project for the information and noting of the Commission.

I. BACKGROUND

Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP)

2. In early 2000, while annual catches of key tuna species in the Philippines and the Pacific Ocean waters of Indonesia were estimated in a range of 20-30% of the total catch of WCPO, little or no information was available for WCPO tuna stock assessment. The lack of accurate catch statistics, effort data, and species composition and size composition data for the Philippines and Indonesia has been highlighted at meetings of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish for many years and was responsible for much of the uncertainty in the MULTIFAN-CL stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

3. After years of effort, strong support has also been expressed by agencies of Indonesia and Philippines. Since then, the data collection project started to take a concrete form through several meetings, working with IOTC, CSIRO, ACIAR, and Japan-OFCF. Throughout the Preparatory Conference period, the discussion evolved and fund raising was based on voluntary contributions from the Preparatory Conference participating countries. The activities of the proposed project include, for each country,

- a) a review of the tuna fisheries and the current monitoring systems;
- b) the compilation of historical catch and effort data;
- c) a workshop to formulate recommendations for the improvement of the monitoring system and to plan the sampling programmes;
- d) the establishment of a port sampling programme;
- e) the establishment of an observer programme;
- f) the analysis of data collected and compiled during the project; and

g) a workshop to review the achievements of the project and to plan for future monitoring.

4. The budget for the activities at that time was about USD 184,000 for the Philippines and USD 229,000 for Indonesia, for a total cost of USD 413,000. This project was called IPDCP.

West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (WPEA-OFM)

5. Funding support was the greatest issue for the continuity of the IPDCP project. The Secretariat advised the third IPDCP Steering Committee that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had expressed interest in funding a project in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. The objectives of the project were (i) to establish or improve the collection of tuna fishery data, and (ii) to promote good governance with regard to the management of tuna fisheries. The Steering Committee recommended that the WCPFC Executive Director continue to liaise with GEF, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam to develop a data collection and governance project for those countries. The Steering Committee recommended that, noting that GEF funding would not be available for another 18–24 months, CCMs continue to be invited to contribute to implement port sampling in Indonesia and Philippines, and that the Commission consider funding data collection in this area through its core budget.

6. Project Implementation Form, National Project Preparation Reports and Project Document were coordinated and prepared by the Secretariat, working with each country's focal point. The Secretariat was advised that its medium size project was accepted by the GEF in May 2009.

Improvements

7. Since the commencement of the IPDCP data collection project, starting in Philippines in 2005 and in Indonesia in 2007, there have been improvements in 2011 assessments of the WCPO tuna stocks by reducing uncertainty of input data and information. Especially, the WPEA-OFM project has greatly enhanced the quality of Indonesian and Philippine fishery data that are applied to regional tuna stock assessments conducted for the WCPFC. During the project period, the following improvements have been noted:

- More accurate estimates of total annual tuna catch by species
- More accurate estimates of species-specific catches by major fishing gear types
- The first size composition data from Indonesian tuna fisheries in more than two decades
- The establishment of operational-level data collection programmes (logsheets) for the industrial tuna fisheries
- The initiation of an observer programme in Philippines

These enhanced data were used for the first time in the skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye stock assessments conducted in 2011 by SPC.

8. Throughout the WPEA-OFM project period, similar progress in data collection occurred in Viet Nam, and their data were incorporated into regional stock assessments. Tuna catch data were originally collected in three provinces in Viet Nam, which was expanded to additional six provinces in 2013.

9. The WPEA-OFM was successfully completed in March 2013 and an independent evaluation report is available at:

<http://www.wcpfc.int/system/files/SC9-GN-IP-03-%5BWPEA-OFM-Independent-Evaluation-Report%5D.pdf>

Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas (WPEA-SM)

10. UNDP and WCPFC Secretariat prepared a new full size project along with the following process:

Project Framework Document (PFD)

- 1) Project title: Reducing Pollution and Rebuilding Degraded Marine Resources in the East Asian Seas through Implementation of Intergovernmental Agreements and Catalyzed Investments
- 2) The UNDP started preparing a parent program PFD from mid-2011, which was submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on 29 March 2012, and a revision submitted on 12 April 2012. The PFD was endorsed by the GEF Secretariat in June 2012.
- 3) The list of projects under the PFD include:
 - a) YS LME Project: Implementation of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Program for Adaptive Management (USD 7,562,430)
 - b) WPEA: Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas (USD 2,293,578)
 - c) PEMSEA¹: Scaling up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (USD 10,143,992)
- 4) Participating countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam

Project Identification Form (PIF) for the WPEA Project

- 1) Project title: Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas (WPEA-SM)
- 2) UNDP and WCPFC started developing a new WPEA project PIF since from 2012 and the final PIF was submitted to GEF on 5 April 2013. The PIF was approved by the GEF Council on 1 May 2013.
- 3) Total project cost is USD 2,233,578, a 3-year full size project, with the three participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam).
- 4) PIF includes i) Indicative Project Framework, ii) Indicative co-financing, iii) Project Preparation Grant, iv) Project Justification, and v) Approval/Endorsement by GEF Focal Points of each country.

WPEA-SM Project Document

- 1) Drs Tony Lewis and Anna Tengberg developed the Project Document in consultation with UNDP, WCPFC Secretariat and the three participating countries from mid-2013.
- 2) After several reviews and revisions, the Project Document was endorsed by the GEF Secretariat on 12 May 2014, the final version was submitted to the GEF Council on 17 September 2014, and received their approval on 30 September 2014.

Commencement of WPEA-SM Project

- 1) Project Appraisal Committee Meeting
 - The *Project Appraisal Committee*, met in Manila on 28 May 2014, agreed that all three project partner countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam) accepted WCPFC as the Project Implementing Partner. They also agreed that the Science Manager of the Commission should continue managing the WPEA-SM Project.
- 2) A Project Cooperation Agreement between UNDP and WCPFC was made on 14 October 2014, and the WPEA-SM officially commenced on 28 October 2014.
- 3) The Project Inception Workshop was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, 4-5 November 2014, and the Inception Workshop Report was adopted and submitted to the UNDP.

¹ PEMSEA: Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, Manila, Philippines (<http://www.pemsea.org>),

Extension of WPEA-SM Project

- 1) Background – Based on the findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the project conducted in March 2017, it is unlikely that several of the envisaged results will be achieved by the planned closure date of 28 October 2017. Given this recommendation, it was decided during the 4th Project Board Meeting, and approved by the Project Board that an extension of the project period be requested to the GEF-UNDP.
- 2) Reasons for the extension – Progress towards results has been affected by the delayed start of project activities in Indonesia and Vietnam. The project was endorsed by the GEF CEO on 12 May 2014 and national governments approved the project document on 28 October, the official start date of the project, but it took nearly another year for registration of the project and domestic processes in Indonesia and Vietnam, including opening of a new WPEA bank account.
As a follow-up project, the allocated 3-year implementation timeframe was seen at first as a reasonable amount of time considering implementation arrangements were in place from the first phase 3-year WPEA Oceanic Fisheries Management Project and a certain degree of momentum had been achieved. The second phase, however, contains aspects that were not part of the first phase, including climate change analysis and planning, pilot implementation of ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), facilitation of market-based approaches to sustainable fisheries, and development of harvest strategy elements. This unanticipated risk, and the level of preparedness for absorption of these risks was generally low, rendering achievement of project outcomes over the 3-year timeframe a great challenge.
- 3) Given the current circumstances, the extension was made until 27 April 2019.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY WPEA-SM ACTIVITIES IN 2017

11. The WPEA-SM Project has three components and several expected outcomes under each component are shown below.

Component 1	Regional governance for building regional and national adaptive capacity of IDN, PHL and VNM in the management of HMFS
Expected Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved regional mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of HMFS 2. Enhanced capacity of technical staff, policy and decision makers to integrate climate change impacts on HMS into management regimes
Component 2	Implementation of policy, institutional and fishery management reform
Expected Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced compliance of existing legal instruments at national, regional and international levels 2. Adoption of market-based approaches to sustainable harvest of tunas 3. Reduced uncertainty in stock assessment and improved understanding of associated ecosystems and their biodiversity 4. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) guiding sustainable harvest of the oceanic tuna stock and reduced by-catch
Component 3	Knowledge sharing on highly migratory fish stocks
Expected Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional knowledge platform established on Pacific Ocean Warm Pool LME and EAS LME's shared tuna stocks and associated ecosystems

12. The project specified targets to be achieved during the project period which are listed in the *Project Results Framework* in the Project Document. To reach the targets under each component, key activities identified are as follows:

Component 1

- a) Capacity building of the participating countries in science
- b) Sub-regional collaboration and governance in tuna fisheries, including establishment of MCS

- programmes
- c) Estimation of annual tuna catches by species and by gear
- d) Development of general guidelines on adaptive management and monitoring of highly migratory stocks to address the impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries
- e) Reflection of climate change guidelines into national tuna management plan

Component 2

- a) Review of national fisheries legislation in line with WCPFC requirements
- b) Development of reference points and harvest control rules at national level
- c) Tuna supply chain analysis
- d) Establishment of an appropriate certification system
- e) Tuna catch data collection at landing sites and data review
- f) Training of observers and implementation of observer programme to selected fisheries
- g) Trial application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management to tuna fisheries

Component 3

- a) Knowledge sharing by participating in the biennial GEF-IW Learn Conference and PEMSEA East Asian Seas Congress
- b) Construction of a WPEA project portal
- c) Establishment of a WPEA monitoring and evaluation reporting system

13. Along with the 2017 annual work plans developed with the three countries, several activities have been implemented in the three countries. Because of similarities in project activities, activity outputs from one country were shared by the other two. Most of the activities are composed of research consultancies and subsequent workshops to review the consultancy outputs. A three-country sub-regional workshop is also convened once a year to promote face-to-face information sharing and cost-effective input of international expertise on specific topics through the invited international experts. During the last three years, the workshop covered issues related to tuna stock assessments at national, sub-regional and regional level with Dr John Hampton (SPC); introduction to harvest strategy framework with Dr Osamu Sakai (Japan), the impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries with Dr Sylvie Giraud (France); and application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management to tuna fisheries with Dr Rick Fletcher (Australia).

14. During 2017, several WPEA activities have been implemented by the Secretariat in collaboration with the designated national project coordinators of the participating countries. All activities in the annual work plan are processed by submitting an individual proposal. The process of project implementation is:

- a) Consultation meetings to review the status of project progress in the country, develop annual work plan and budget for next year, and review the process of the planned activities;
- b) Submission of an individual activity proposal by the national project coordinators; review and endorsement of the detailed activities in the proposal and wire-transfer of the budget to each country's official WPEA bank account by the Secretariat;
- c) Local consultancies are monitored and workshops arrangements are prepared by the national project coordinators;
- d) WCPFC Secretariat leads workshops to review the consultancy outputs and to produce workshop reports;
- e) Secretariat prepares Project Board meetings; and
- f) Secretariat reports the progress, monitoring and evaluation of the WPEA-SM project including all financial requirements to UNDP.

15. Several consultancies on various topics have been contracted and subsequent review workshops have been convened in 2017 on issues related to impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries, tuna supply

chain analysis, eco-labelling and certification scheme, reference points and harvest control rules, application of EAFM to tuna fisheries, review of fisheries legislation in line with WCPFC requirements, national tuna fishery profile, review and amendment of national tuna management plan, etc. Some of the key workshops held in the three countries in 2017 are listed below.

Dates	Country	Title
January 16-20	Vietnam	Review of consultancy reports on 1) adaptive management against climate changes, 2) tuna supply chain analysis and 3) certification scheme
March 6-10	Indonesia	Harvest Strategy Workshop (technical and stakeholders workshop)
March 21-24	Indonesia	Indonesian tuna catch data review workshop
March 29-4.3	Vietnam	Capacity building in, and application of, an EAFM
May 4-8	Indonesia	WPEA Three-Country Sub-regional Workshop and the 4 th WPEA Project Board Meeting
May 25-30	Philippines	Philippines tuna catch data review and total catch estimation workshop
June 5-9	Vietnam	Review workshop on tuna fishery profile, climate change, legal framework, harvest strategy, EAFM, market-based sustainability, etc.
June 12-16	Philippines	Consultation and review workshop on climate change, harvest strategy, review of MCS activities, market-based sustainability, EAFM, etc.
June 12-16	Indonesia	Indonesian tuna total catch estimation workshop
June 19-24	Vietnam	Vietnam's total tuna catch estimates workshop
September 11-15	Indonesia	Review workshop on national fisheries legislation, sustainable fishing practices, EAFM application, and EAFM policy to be incorporated into the revised national tuna management plan
October 23-26	Vietnam	Review workshop on reference points and harvest control rules, Vietnam's fisheries laws and regulations in line with WCPFC requirements, Vietnam's tuna fishery profile, EAFM principles and application, climate change, sustainable fishing practices, and vessel monitoring system.
October 30 – d November 2	Indonesia	Technical and stakeholders workshop to develop a harvest strategy framework for the archipelagic tuna fisheries in Indonesia

16. Other key activities include:

- a) An independent consultant conducted *Mid-term Review* of the WPEA-SM project through an interview process with the Secretariat and the three participating countries in March 2017. The report is at <https://www.wcpfc.int/node/29627>
- b) UNDP project quality assurance workshop in April 2017
- c) The Fourth Project Board Meeting in early May 2017 to review the Mid-term Review report and to extend the project to one more year
- d) Consultation meetings with PEMSEA as a project partner, including development of a WPEA website portal under the PEMSEA Resource Facility (the website will be populated in the near future), and establishment of a monitoring and evaluation reporting system
- e) Supporting representatives from the three participating countries to attend the SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in April, SC meeting in August, and TCC meeting in September

- f) Conducting tuna catch data collection from port sampling in the three countries throughout 2017. WPEA project supported 65 enumerators to collect data from port sampling, and over 20 support staff to encode data into database, analyze data for total catch estimation by species and by gear. Port sampling sites are:
- Indonesia: Bitung, Kendari, Sodohoa, Sorong, Majene, Gorontalo
 - Philippines: all landing sites in the Philippines (government supports all port enumerators; WPEA supports data management and analysis)
 - Vietnam: Binh Dinh, Khanh Hoa, Phu Yen (temporarily stopped data collection due to internal issues of the province), Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, and Bario-Vung Tau
- g) Continuation of observer data collection, observer debriefing workshop, and VMS workshop in the Philippines, observer programme audit in Indonesia and limited implementation of observer programme in Vietnam in collaboration with WWF-Vietnam

17. The Fifth WPEA-SM Project Board meeting is scheduled to be held in Manila, 8 – 9 December 2017, to review the progress of the project and to endorse 2018 annual work plan and budget.

18. Some of the current WPEA Project activities will be continued after the WPEA-SM project is terminated. The government of New Zealand has provided funding support to fishery monitoring component through the *Western Pacific East Asia Improved Tuna Monitoring Activity* (WPEA-ITM). The component includes port catch sampling, expanded observer programme, establishment of national databases, and National policy and legal reviews to improve tuna fisheries catch monitoring and governance. Mr Dale Withington (USA) has been hired since July 2017 to manage this project which will last for 5 years.