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**Report from the Chair of the
Special Requirements Fund Intersessional Working Group (SRF IWG)**
to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) of WCPFC

**WCPFC15-2018-FAC_SRF IWG
9 November 2018
(~~secure version~~)¹**

Paper by the Chair of the SRF IWG

¹ On 11 December 2018 following the adoption by WCPFC15 of the Final Compliance Monitoring Report, the full version of this paper was reclassified as public domain information (this version now replaces the “public version” of this paper that was also distributed on 9 November 2018).

**Report from the Chair of the
Special Requirements Fund Intersessional Working Group (SRF IWG)
to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) of WCPFC**

CONTEXT

WCPFC14 adopted the recommendations of FAC11 that:

- a) The SRF IWG of the FAC will continue in 2018 to develop a Strategic Investment Plan for approval by WCPFC15. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support the:
 - effective input and participation of member developing states/territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
 - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states/territories to enable them to implement Commission Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs)
- b) Funding proposals, including possible amendments to the Financial Regulations, to fill gaps identified through the Strategic Investment Plan will be presented to FAC12 for consideration and to the Commission for approval.
- c) ...
- d) The SRF IWG will advise the Executive Director on the merits (against the principles and objectives of the SRF) of project proposals over \$10,000, noting the final decision remains the authority of the Executive Director.

PROCESS

2. The Chair of the SRF IWG engaged a research assistant (kindly funded by New Zealand) to prepare material that fed into deliberations by the SRF IWG. The research identified:

- already recorded capacity needs of developing states/territories through the WCPFC processes; and
- the range of funding options currently available to fill these capacity needs, within the provisions of the WCPFC and externally.

3. The analysis demonstrated that most capacity development needs had a support mechanism associated with it.

4. Members were asked to rank the capacity development needs according to the priority they afforded the need from their national perspective, which were then aggregated. Some members felt that, despite access to the Special Requirements Fund, effective participation remains inadequately supported by the Commission.¹

¹ Effective participation is expressed here as the need for the Commission to create opportunities for developing States to enhance their capability and capacity, to fully engage and be represented across all areas of the Commissions work.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

Capacity needs were identified in the FY2017 provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (pCMR) and the analysis undertaken through the SRF IWG process. These are identified in the attached Strategic Investment Plan for FAC consideration.²

The Secretariat is proposed to have a role in ensuring these capacity needs are supported through the respective funding mechanisms available through the WCPFC processes and from the list provided at Attachment B of the Strategic Investment Plan. Where there are gaps, it will be the responsibility of the Secretariat to raise this with members and/or call for voluntary contributions to the Special Requirements Fund to fill those gaps.

It is proposed that the priority list (prioritised by members) provided at Attachment A of the Strategic Investment Plan (to be updated every three years) be used by the Secretariat to guide allocation of funds from the Special Requirements Fund, noting that this is not an exhaustive list and the benefit of the Special Requirements Fund is its flexibility to respond to the needs of developing states/territories.

The Secretariat will have a role in reporting back to FAC/Commission on implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan and advising on new capacity needs that arise through the WCPFC processes in the year preceding.

INSIGHTS

This process has highlighted some issues FAC may wish to consider in streamlining processes to support implementation of the Commission's obligations under Article 30. For instance, some members raised the need for a consolidated page on the WCPFC website to record:

- capacity needs (current Strategic Investment Plan);
- funding options, eligibility and application processes (including reference to external funding mechanisms as raised through Part 2 reports and work of the SRF IWG);
- SRF funding proposals and SRF project completion reports for projects >USD10,000 (enhanced transparency);
- 2013-06 templates and assessments; and
- reports by CCMs on implementation of 2013-07.

It is proposed that FAC consider budget allocation to assist the Secretariat develop this page.

² Note that until the pCMR has been approved by the Commission, the information on capacity needs is for member-information only, therefore some placeholders have been put in place until this has been approved by the Commission.

FUNDING PROPOSALS

The following funding proposals to support implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan have been developed by the Chair in consultation with CCMs for FAC consideration:

1. Continue voluntary contributions through the Special Requirements Fund, the Japanese Trust Fund, the Chinese Taipei Trust Fund and external funding, with existing processes for Secretariat to seek additional funds when SRF runs low or SIP priorities are unlikely to be funded from existing allocations.
2. Based on the IATTC funding mechanism: additional 2% [4%]³ to operating budget obtained from all members allocated to the Special Requirements Fund, plus voluntary contributions as usual, to implement Strategic Investment Plan commitments and other needs as they arise.
3. New proposal: additional 4% [8%]⁴ to operating budget from developed countries only allocated to the Special Requirements Fund, plus voluntary contributions as usual, to implement Strategic Investment Plan commitments and other needs as they arise.
4. Reprioritise the WCPFC budget to accommodate an additional participant to the main three meetings of the Commission (~USD 250,000-350,000) in the WCPFC budget.
5. Increase all WCPFC membership contributions (~4%) to accommodate an additional participant to the main three meetings of the Commission in the WCPFC budget.
6. Allocate observer fees (anticipated ~USD10,000-15,000), surplus Cooperating Non Member fees (~USD50,000) and reprioritise WCPFC budget to accommodate an additional participant to the main three meetings of the Commission in the WCPFC budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that FAC:

- a) **consider and agree** to present the Strategic Investment Plan to the Commission for approval; **(Attachment 1)**
- b) **agree** to allocate budget for the development of a webpage on the WCPFC website dedicated to implementation of Article 30 obligations; and
- c) **consider and agree** a funding mechanism to support implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan for the Commission's consideration.

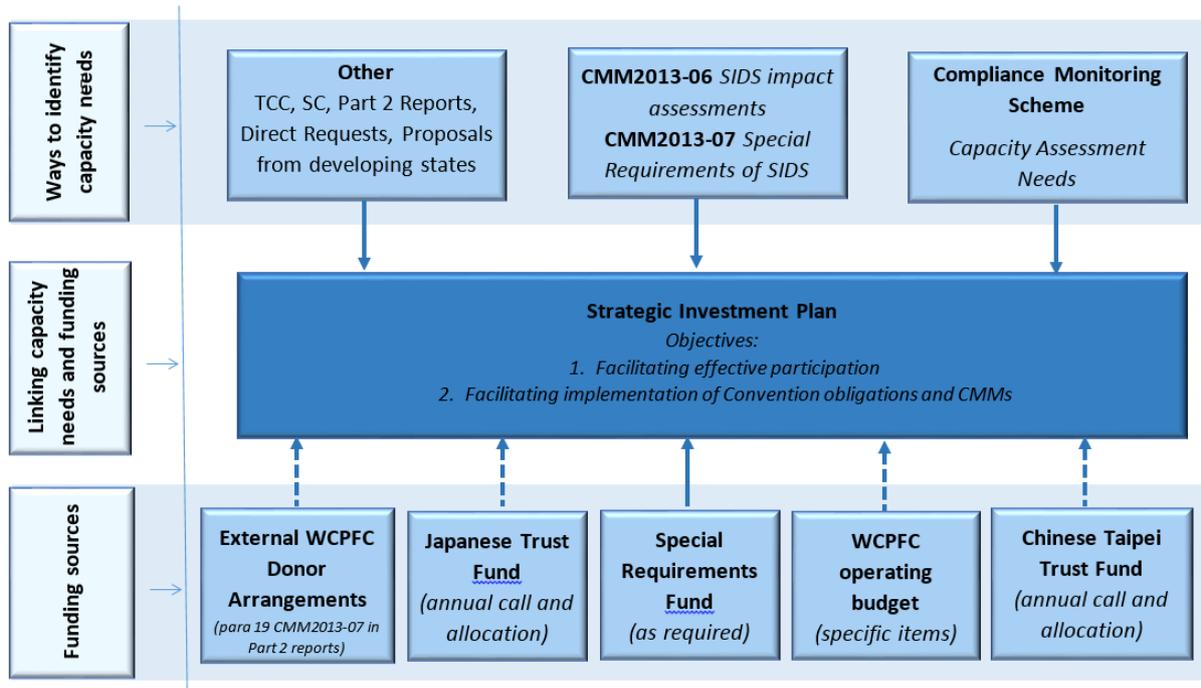
³ 2% would equate to approximately USD150,000 and 4% would equate to approximately USD300,000

⁴ 4% would equate to approximately USD150,000 and 8% would equate to approximately USD300,000

2018 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
 - effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
 - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention¹.

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC14 in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

Kiribati for 5% ROP observer Coverage	Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC14	Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC
New Caledonia for VMS assistance	CDP submitted to TCC14	WCPFC technical assistance in country will be provided to New Caledonia in first quarter of 2019. New Caledonia has requested to attend a FFA VMS training, this has not been arranged as of yet.
Indonesia for Scientific data provision	CDP submitted to TCC13	Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2017 as identified in paragraph 28 of the Compliance Monitoring Report:

CMM	Notes about types of assistance requested	CCM
CMM 2006-08 - High Seas Boarding and Inspection CMM 2017-02 - Port Inspections	Some assistance has been received in work attachments, and supply of boarding gear. Additional assistance is needed in 1) information system (licensing and permitting database); 2) boarding and inspection database; 3) centralized database; 4) more staff for monitoring and data collection.	Fiji
CMM 2013-07 04-05 - Capacity development for personnel	Some assistance has been received in investigation training. Additional training is needed, including in work attachments, for database and data analysis. Assistance is needed in understanding CMMs. Need additional observer training and coordination Funding for international meetings	Fiji Solomon Islands Vanuatu
CMM 2013-07 10-11 - Capacity development for MCS activities	Some assistance has been received in investigation training and attachments. Additional resources needed for purchase of additional patrol assets (helicopters/aircraft and vessels). Assistance is needed to conduct international compliance inspections Assistance and support is needed to recognize the efforts that small islands with limited capacity make to comply with all CMMs and to investigate any alleged infringements by their vessels or occurring in their waters.	Fiji Kiribati
CMM 2017-06 - Seabird mitigation	Assistance in developing of seabird mitigation plan	Vanuatu

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment A**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
<p>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget
Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

ATTACHMENT A

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment B for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

ATTACHMENT B

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members