



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

**Busan, Republic of Korea  
8-16 August 2018**

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**REPORT OF THE JAPAN TRUST FUND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
12 August 2018**

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**WCPFC-SC14-2018/ RP-JTF-02**

**SECRETARIAT**

## **Introduction**

The Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018, in the margins of the Fourteenth Scientific Committee (SC14). The meeting was chaired and convened by the WCPFC Executive Director, Feleti Teo, with support from JTF Coordinator, Wataru Tanoue, JTF Administrator Tony Beeching and the project selection committee was represented by Pamela Maru of the Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA).

The 5 years of the second phase of the JTF ended in 2016. However, Japan extended the second phase project annually for 2017 and 2018, with a greater emphasis on monitoring and compliance than the first phase. Total funding available for 2018 projects amounted to USD128,849.73, which was all allocated and disbursed in support of five projects.

The Steering Committee's role is to review the performance of projects and discuss with the view to resolve any project implementation issues and to share experiences in the implementation of projects and learn from those experiences.

## **Review of project performance**

The Steering Committee received progress reports on all current JTF projects.

### **2018 Projects**

#### **Tonga**

Tonga has JTF support for 3 projects in 2018:

1. Port sampling and data collection.
2. PIFRO observer training
3. Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section

All three Tongan JTF projects are performing well and on course for completion by the end of the year, with no significant challenges reported. It is anticipated that Project 3 will be completed during TCC in September/October this year.

#### **Tuvalu**

4. Capacity Building training for Tuvalu Fisheries and Maritime Police officers to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI).

Tuvalu has completed its project, but due to support from external funding there is an underspend of AUSS\$16,668.61. The Steering Committee with advice from the JTF Coordinator accepted the Tuvalu proposal to utilize remaining funds by extending the project into 2019 and conducting a second workshop with the same objectives to the first.

## **WPEA Vietnam**

5. Review of Vietnamese National Legislation in relation to WCPFC Regulations with a view to alignment.

Three workshops have been conducted:

1. A Review of Vietnamese Legislation
2. A Review of WCPFC Regulations with a view to identifying data gaps
3. An alignment of Vietnamese Legislation and WCPFC Regulations

A final report will be provided by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

## **2017 Projects**

**Cook Islands:** Development of a national MCS strategy for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries

The project is on course, with its many elements, including a risk-based assessment, documentation of gaps and needs and alignment of current legislation, to culminate in a desk top analysis and a final report by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

## **2016 Projects**

**Fiji:** The Fiji Port Monitoring Exercise

This project has had some setbacks – an initial challenge was a destructive cyclone where funds were redirected in the short term for humanitarian reasons; in 2017 the Fijian government operated an ‘Open Merit Recruitment System’ process which reshuffled staff positions. The staffing situation is now stable however the funds have not yet been utilized.

Fiji has requested a change in the details of how the JTF funds will be utilized with an associated extension into 2018 and 2019.

## **2015 Projects**

**Nauru:** Capacity building and transfer of technology on at sea boarding and inspection procedures for Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority [NFMRA] vessel operators in Nauru’s Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ].

The project was delayed whilst awaiting delivery in April 2017 of appropriate trailers for the 2 big multi-purpose boats; the boats have now undergone major repairs, and there being no technical impediments the project is ready for implementation. However, Nauru has many organizational commitments this year and requested an extension of the project into 2019.

The JTF-Coordinator Tanoue visited Nauru recently and fully appreciated the organizational pressures in Nauru in the latter half of 2018.

The JTF Steering Committee asked Fiji and Nauru to formally submit their requested project changes in revised proposals to the JTF administrator for due consideration.

The Grant recipients, the Steering Committee and the WCPFC Secretariat expressed appreciation to Japan and the Japan Trust Fund for their generous support and assistance in strengthening the capacity of developing CCM states of the WCPFC. The Committee was informed of outstanding funds from the JTF first phase of funding and the need to utilize them. The Steering Committee Chair stressed the importance of fully utilizing all JTF project funding and the need to document the benefits accrued from the projects to support justification for continuation of the JTF.

## **2) Other Issues**

The JTF Coordinator indicated that there would likely be a further extension of the JTF into 2019, which would be formally announced later this year.

## **Close of Meeting**

There being no other matters, the Chair closed the meeting.

## Participants

Feleti Teo (Chair)	WCPFC ED	
Wataru Tanoue	JTF Coordinator	
Tony Beeching	JTF Administrator	WCPFC Secretariat
Dr Sungkwon Soh	Science Manager	WCPFC Secretariat
Aaron Nighswander	Finance Manager	WCPFC Secretariat
Lara Manarangi-Trott	Compliance Manager	WCPFC Secretariat
Pamela Maru	FFA	Selection Committee
Peter Williams	SPC	
Marino Wichman	Cook Islands	
Leba Dranivesi	Fiji	
Aisake Batibasaga	Fiji	
Karlick Agir	Nauru	
Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi	Tonga	
Lavinia Vaipuna	Tonga	
Siolaa Malimali	Tonga	
Siouala Malua	Tuvalu	
Tony Taleo	Vanuatu	