



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

7-15 August 2012  
Busan, Republic of Korea

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**REPORT OF JAPAN TRUST FUND  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
9 August 2012**

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**WCPFC-SC8-2012/ RP-JTF-02**

**SECRETARIAT**

## **Introduction**

The Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) was held on 9 August 2012, during the meeting of the Eight Scientific Committee (SC8). Most of the beneficiaries of the JTF attend SC8; hence it was possible to hold the SC meeting in its margins. The SC had an opportunity to review project performance, identify issues, and provide feedback on how the current tranche of funds would be applied.

The SC was chaired and convened by Glenn Hurry, and supported by the JTF Coordinator Shuya Nakatsuka, the Secretariat JTF Administrator Tony Beeching, Country Representative Pamela Maru and Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA) Wez Norris.

All JTF funding for 2012 has been allocated in support of fifteen projects. The funds have been disbursed except for two projects that need to finalise accounting arrangements before transfer is made.

This is the first SC meeting in support of the second phase of JTF funding, and the JTF Coordinator explained that it is similar to the first phase, but with greater emphasis on monitoring and compliance. Funding is approved for the 5 years of the project, but there is competition for each annual budget. Given the current economic climate, the amount of funding available for 2013 could not be guaranteed at this time.

### **1) Review of the project performance**

There followed a series of brief verbal reports from; Cook Islands (4 projects), Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, Samoa, SPC (2 projects), Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam (2) and PNG. Beneficiaries expressed appreciation of the support provided by the JTF. One member has not received the project funds, though the secretariat administrator was able to confirm that the funds had been transferred in May 2012. A second member has completed most elements of the project with a very small underspend. These issues will be resolved intersessionally.

The chair emphasised that the provision of reports was requirement of the JTF but the submission of the beneficiary's report has been low. The JTF Coordinator urged the beneficiaries to follow timely provision of their reports.

### **2) Review of the SC membership**

The JTF Chair reviewed the composition of the current SC membership; WCPFC Executive Director, SPC-OFP representative, JTF Administrator, FFA representative, beneficiary representative, and the donor (Japan Fisheries Agency). Noting that Dr Lara-Manarangi-Trott is no longer eligible, Wez Norris acted as the interim FFA representative.

The FFA representative indicated that the FFA was in the process of recruiting new members and would propose a replacement for Dr Lara-Manarangi-Trott in due course. In the meantime they would provide interim representation as required.

### **3) Other Issues**

The JTF call for 2013 project proposals will be made at the WCPFC TCC meeting in September, with a probable deadline for submission on or before 31 December 2012.