

Annual Report for the Japan Trust Fund 3rd Phase 2020

(Including details of ongoing projects from previous years)

Report as of 20th March 2020

Notation

- “The Project”: WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States
- “Five-year Program”: Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 Program as of today
- “projects”: Member’s research activities funded by the Project as annually selected under the Five-Year Program

I. Background

In December 2005, the Government of Japan informed the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of its intention to provide an extra-budgetary contribution to WCPFC for the purpose of assisting developing state Members build capacity on fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement. This resulted in a 5-year project entitled “WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States (the Project)” to be funded by the Government of Japan. The target recipient States of the Project are mainly SIDS members of the WCPFC. The first 5-year Phase 1 Program was completed in 2011. Given the success of, and support for, the Project; the Fisheries Agency of Japan sought and successfully secured a budget for the second Phase 2 Program for the next five (5) years, commencing 2012. The objectives and terms of reference for the Phase 2 Program were similar to, but build on the previous Program, with an emphasis on enforcement and compliance. The second phase Program was extended on an annual basis to include 2017 and 2018.

In 2018, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, in recognition of the usefulness of the JTF for capacity building in fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement for SIDS and the SIDS desire to continue this cooperation scheme, successfully secured further funding for the Phase 3 Program. The Phase 3 Program is the same as the previous two programs in principle, but with an emphasis on new fisheries management procedures, including harvest strategy and new monitoring technology related projects with the belief that the projects supported by the Phase 3 Program should be more advanced than those of the previous programs.

This report includes details of the projects delivered over the previous years; and presents the selected proposals for implementation in 2020 and the ongoing projects from previous years with their associated administrative issues.

II. Administration

The 2019 JTF project was coordinated and administered by the WCPFC Secretariat in cooperation with Japan (Mr. Wataru Tanoue, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan and Mr. Takahiro Fujiwara, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan). While the current 2020 JTF Project has the

same arrangement with the previous year but the Japan personnel involve in this Project are currently Mr. Hirohide Matsushima, Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan and Mr. Akira Bamba, Section Chief, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan.

The selection of the 2020 projects was directed by the JTF Steering Committee, currently comprising the WCPFC Executive Director (Mr. Feleti Teo, OBE); Japan (Mr. Hirohide Matsushima and Mr. Akira Bamba); Head of the Pacific Community - Oceanic Fisheries Program (Dr. Graham Pilling); Forum Fisheries Agency representative (Dr. Wetjens Dimmlich) and the representative of the SIDS (Mr. Samuel K. Lanwi Jr.,RMI).

The total JTF in 2020 is USD 232,821.00. After deduction of the 7.5% administrative fee of USD 17,461.58, the balance available for 2020 projects amounts to USD 215,359.42. The same total amount was allocated in 2019.

The *Call for Proposals of the Japan Trust Fund for 2020* was sent out on 18 October 2019 (WCPFC Circular 2019-61) and the Extension of Deadline on Call for Proposals was sent out on 16 December 2019 (WCPFC Circular 2019-80). Seven (7) proposals were received by the end of January 2020, requesting close to USD 284,436. Since there was a shortfall from the available funds, the selection of proposals was limited to main target recipients only. A Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2020 is in **Attachment 1**.

All JTF projects conducted are found on the WCPFC website at <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/japan-trust-fund-summary-projects-2012-date>. A brief report of the completed projects for JTF 2019 is in **Attachment 2**.

III. On-going projects from previous years

This section summarizes the status of ongoing projects that are not completed yet from previous years and their associated administrative issues.

1) (2019, Phase 3 Program) Project #1: Development of National Competent Authority [HACCP strategy] for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries

This project seeks to support a comprehensive review of Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Competent Authority programs to ensure that current systems respond to the needs of MMR's fisheries management. Cook Islands noted that the MMR Bill is currently undergoing stakeholder consultations which has delayed the development of the HACCP regulations. During the last JTF Steering Committee meeting in August 2019, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for extension. The work of this project is currently ongoing.

2) (2019, Phase 3 Program) Project #2: Improving the participation and engagement in international fisheries forums (Cook Islands)

This project seeks to implement a series of training sessions to engage and prepare staff to participate in regional fisheries meetings. This work supports professional development, including working with other Ministries training programs such as

diplomatic protocols and negotiations, to ensure staff are adequately trained before they venture into international meetings to represent the Cook Islands. A tender process of exemption from the Government's Tender Committee was requested to facilitate the use of funds for consultancy (above HoM discretionary level). With the assistance from FFA, a consultant from International Environmental Law Project was identified to deliver courses. The planning process on materials and course content is on progress. During the last JTF Steering Committee meeting in August 2019, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for extension. The work of this project is currently ongoing.

3) (2018, Phase 2 Program) Project #4: Capacity Building training for Tuvalu Fisheries and Maritime Police officers to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI)

The project objectives are i) to enhance the capacity of fisheries and Police Maritime personnel to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections in the High Seas in accordance with WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures (CMM 2006-08); and ii) to prepare officers to fully understand the HSBI procedures and the application of the CMM 2006-08 in the WCPF Convention area.

Tuvalu has completed its project, but due to the support from other external funding there was a balance of AUS\$16,668.61. Tuvalu proposed to run similar training/workshop to make use of this funding, and to extend the capacity building activity within the Tuvalu Fisheries Department, Maritime Police officers and other relevant stakeholders on HSBI. The Steering Committee with advice from the JTF Coordinator accepted the Tuvalu's proposal to utilize the remaining funds and Japan also approved the request for extension by conducting a second workshop with the same objectives to the first.

4) (2016, Phase 2 Program) Project #1: Fiji Port Monitoring Exercise

This project has the following objectives: i) to monitor the onshore landing and in port transshipment process in accordance to issued landing and/or transshipment permits; ii) to collect the port monitored vessel's landing summaries from the processing facility and/or the cold storage facility; and iii) to cross validate the onshore landing and/or in port transshipment process against the logsheet submitted by the monitored vessels and the standardized landing summaries submitted by the processing companies and/or cold storage facilities.

Since Fiji Government recently operated an 'Open Merit Recruitment System' process which reshuffled staff positions, including those who were initially identified in the JTF project proposal, this resulted in an extended delay in the implementation of the project and Fiji requested permission to change the details of how the funds would be utilized in relation to an extension through 2018 into 2019. The JTF has accepted several extensions of this project, including the latest project revisions and an extension into 2019.

In the JTF Steering Committee meeting in August 2019, Fiji informed the Committee that there have been delays in receiving the funding from their Ministry of Economy [MoE] after request for roll over from 2018 - 2019 financial year. In addition, Fiji could not recruit ROP Observers and the use of boarding and enforcement officers to carry out port monitoring. Fiji requested approval to carry over the funds for an additional year to utilize the remaining funds to continue the port monitoring exercise for 2019 - 2020 and Japan agreed to the extension request.

5) (2015, Phase 2 Program) Project #2: 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 Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) is keen to build the capacity of NFMRA officers in-country to improve its ability in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection within its area of jurisdiction to contribute to the conservation and management measures of fisheries resources of the region. This project has the following objectives: i) to conduct training for NFMRA officers on best practice of at-sea boarding and inspection procedures; ii) to develop Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for NFMRA on at-sea boarding and inspection; and iii) to advise NFMRA on gears and equipment necessary for NFMRA officers in conducting at-sea boarding and inspection.

This Nauru project under the JTF experienced extended delays due to numerous logistical challenges and obstacles since it was first proposed. The first request for extension was granted in 2016. In 2017, Japan agreed for another extension. Noting that in April 2017, Nauru expected arrival of trailers for their multi-purpose boats, and thereafter they would be able to launch/retrieve the boats to and from the sea safely, after these the projects' at-sea boarding and inspection training would proceed. The former JTF Coordinator, Mr. Wataru Tanoue visited Nauru in 2018 and fully understand the difficulties Nauru faced. After Nauru has taken delivery of the trailers, there has been another setback that is due to the unseaworthiness of their boats. JTF recognising the importance of safety at sea has granted another extension into 2018 to allow the boats to be overhauled and the project activities be conducted. The project funds have not been utilized and the project activities has yet to be implemented. In August 2019 JTF Steering Committee, Nauru confirmed that a boat necessary for the project implementation were already secured. Nauru requested for approval to carry over the funds for an additional year (2020) and Japan agreed to the request for extension.

Attachment 1. Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2020 (Year 2, Phase 3 Program)

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Project Title	Purpose/Summary	Budget (USD)
1	Kiribati	<p>Aketa Taanga Director of Licensing Compliance Division MFMRD Email: aketat@mfmrd.gov.ki</p>	Kiribati Capacity Building for Harvest Strategy for 2020	This proposal seeks to build capacity of Kiribati fisheries officers on harvest strategy (HS) work to enable them to fully participate in decision making process for HS as a member of the WCPFC.	54,010.00
2	Palau	<p>Kathleen Sisor Fisheries Licensing/Revenue Officer II Ministry of Natural Resources Environment and Tourism P.O.BOX 117, Malakal Street Koror, Republic of Palau 96940 Email: utau.sisor@gmail.com</p> <p>Persis Omelau Fisheries Specialist Division of Oceanic Fisheries Management Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism Palau Government P.O. Box 117 Koror, PW 96940 Email: omelaupersis@gmail.com</p>	Domestic Tuna Market Development Project	This proposal seeks to strengthen and improve data collection system in Palau in order to understand the catch landings by vessel and the market structure in order to inform and advise future management decisions.	70,011.35

3	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi CEO for Fisheries Email: supi64t@gmail.com; thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to, ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Dr. Siola'a Malimali Head of Fisheries Science Division Email: s.malimali@tongafish.gov.to; siolaamalimali@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Martin Finau Head of Offshore Section Email: finau.martin@gmail.com, martinf@tongafish.gov.to</p>	Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing awareness on conservation of tuna species (Port Sampling)	This activity would like to continue funding tuna data collection through its port sampling activities for 2020 including training of all new vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers on e-reporting. It is also expected that data collection will be expanded to outer islands of Tonga.	50,776.22
4	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafi CEO for Fisheries Email: ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Mr Poasi Ngaluafe Deputy CEO, Compliance Division Email: poasi66@hotmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Kalolaine Manuopangi Observer Coordinator Email: kmanuopangi@gmail.com</p>	Tonga Observer Programme	This proposal aims to support training of Observers for both longline and purse seine including a refresher course for Tonga Observers on how to use the new shark ID keys, 2018 Observer forms, and LL PS Debriefing Guides. The funding support is also expected to train atleast one person to be a certified PIRFO Trainer	32,550.00
5	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi CEO for Fisheries Email: supi64t@gmail.com; thalafihi@tongafish.gov.to, ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Salote Koloamatangi</p>	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section	The objective of the project is for capacity building and strengthening Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section by the recruitment of a paralegal officer to assist in research and administrative matters to help progress the	8,011.85

		Legal Officer Ministry of Fisheries Email: skoloamatangi2016@gmail.com		ongoing legislative review that includes inclusion of WCPFC CMMs in the legislative framework.	
	Sub-total			Sum of project budget requested	\$215,359.42
	WCPFC	Aaron Nighswander aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int	7.5% admin fee	Overhead	\$232,821.00 x 0.075 = \$17,461.58
	Grand Total			Total JTF for 2020	\$232,821.00

Attachment 2. Brief Report of the Completed JTF Projects in 2019

Project #3: PIRFO Basic Observer Longline Training and MSC Observer Training for Tonga National Observer Programme, 2019

Objective

This report provides a brief summary on PIRFO Basic Observer Longline Training and MSC Observer Training for Senior Observers, for Tonga National Observer Programme funded by the JTF for 2019.

Background

Two observer trainings for Tonga National Observer Programme were approved and funded by the JTF. The project enables Tonga to train seven new PIRFO Longline Observers, and seven senior observers were trained and certified as MSC Observers. Through this project, Tonga received in April 2019 the sum of \$51,910.75 Tongan *pa'anga* (equivalent of USD23,500.00) from the JTF to implement the work identified under the project proposal.

Work undertaken

A. PIRFO BASIC OBSERVER LONGLINE TRAINING

The training was held at the Tungi Colonnade from 13 - 30 May 2019 and it was aimed at the tuna longline fisheries and how data is to be collected under Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) framework and training standards. The training covered areas such as observer basic navigation, FFA/SPC data collection forms, pelagic fish identifications, fisheries conservation management measures, report writing, observer journal writing and tuna fishing gear and operations.



Tonga Observer trainees onboard a Longline Fishing vessel observing and recording the fishing gear and electronics onboard.



Tonga Observer debriefer, Taani 'Ulupano explains and demonstrates the usage of fishing gear and observer forms trainees.

At the end of the training, seven (7) Tongan observers were certified under PIRFO to start collecting tuna data from domestic and foreign longliners that fish in Tonga's waters. There is plan that these observers (following future sea days), be upgraded and trained on more advanced observer courses, including learning data collection on other fishing gears such as in purse seine fisheries.

The training was conducted by Siosifa Fukofuka, SPC Observer Programme Training Coordinator and funded by the Tonga Ministry of Fisheries, Pacific Community (SPC) and the Government of Japan.

PIRFO certificates were awarded to the seven (7) observers at the end of the training function by the Minster for Fisheries, Hon. Semisi Taelangi Fakahau. The CEO, Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi, senior staff, other staff of the Ministry, parents and students attended this last function.



B. MSC Observer Training

A three days training was held at the House of Tonga commenced on the 8th of October – 10th of October 2019 conducted by Mr. Glen English PIRFO Trainer & Assessor from PNG National Fisheries Authority Observer Programme. The objective of this training are:

- 1) To train Tonga Observers on PNA MSC CoC standards & principles so they can be able to embark on US Treaty vessels targeting MSC Eligible SKJ/YFT in PNA member country EEZ's;
- 2) To explain the MSC CoC standard and principles;
- 3) To explain the definition of the overlapping step or point;
- 4) To explain the difference between MSC Eligible and Certified Skipjack and Yellowfin;
- 5) To train observers involved in the PNA MSC CoC fishery management;
- 6) To evaluate/assess the competency of all Observers that attended the training.

At the end of the training, seven (7) senior observers were trained and certified as MSC observers.



In conclusion, the expected outcomes of these two trainings were achieved, where seven (7) observer trainees were trained and certified as PIRFO Observers and seven (7) Senior Observers were trained and certified as MSC Observers, Tonga Observer Programme would like to thank the Government of Japan for all the financial support rendered through WCPFC.

Project #4: Tonga Port Sampling and Data Collection, 2019

Tonga is one of the WCPFC CCMs that benefit from the Commission's project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement originated from a Japanese funding proposal to the WCPFC in December, 2005, the *Japan Trust Fund* (JTF). It has been ten (10) years of Tonga's continue to receive this financial support in order to strengthening capacity on implementing of conservation and management measures and other obligation to the Commissions. There are several projects funded by JTF for Tonga, including Port Sampling and Data collection project which basically focus on tuna longline fisheries as our lone commercial tuna fisheries together with a developing data collection program on artisanal tuna fisheries. The project aimed to support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing awareness on conservation of tuna species in Tonga, and was ongoing since 2010.

Port Sampling and Data collection

In 2019, the JTF was supported this project with a total budget allocation of USD 48,776.22. The budget was financially supported various component of the project such as port sampling fees, recruitment of daily paid officers for data entry and artisanal tuna data collection and also assist in port sampling duties, training on E-reporting and participating on stock assessment workshop.

Port sampling and data collection is currently implemented with 100% coverage collecting port sampling data, logsheets and unloading data from tuna vessels. The two-daily paid labour for i) artisanal tuna data collection; and ii) port sampler and data entry was recruited in September follows the approval of contract by the Minister for Fisheries. One of the problems faced by data collection was shortage of staff to cover port sampling when more vessels discharge at the same time and also help with data entry. Fortunately, JTF support helps with the recruitment of two new staff and they entirely assisted in data collection and data entry.

E-Reporting training

The e-Reporting training was completely implemented in November with the assistance from SPC by Dr. Bruno Deprez and Ms Lavinia Vaipuna. This training covers refresher training for using of Onboard system for skippers to report their logsheets electronically. This work has been trialed on two of our domestic vessels and it was work very well.



The launch of the new ONSHORE application using tablets was also conducted during this training. This is a new SPC port sampling data collection application which helps port samplers to collect port sampling data electronically then uploaded into Tufman2 without doing manual data entry. This is a new initiative the Tonga experience in our data collection program. The two new port samplers were also having their introductory training during this ER training. TAILS application is also implemented, and the new artisanal tuna data officer will also be trained on using this application.



The number of vessels was increased in 2019 after a huge decline in 2018 due to low catch rates and we expect more work to be done by the port sampler in order to collect reliable data from all vessels.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Government of Tonga and its Ministry of Fisheries, we hereby extend our great appreciation with thanks to the Government of Japan in granting us with these financial support through Japan Trust Fund. We witness the benefit of these project on our current port sampling and

observer program by providing employment to Tonga people and also to complete our obligation to WCPFC and other regional organization. Not only that but the capacity building and strengthening of Fisheries Legal section to enable the implementation of WCPFC CMMs and FFA initiatives. Malo 'aupito!!!!

Project #5: Capacity Building and Strengthening of Tonga Fisheries Legal Section, 2019

Introduction

This report provides a brief summary on implementation of the above-named project funded by the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) as disbursed to Tonga, in April 2019. The total fund for this project was USD5,697. A summary of the projects, funds allocation and its current status is described below.

Objective

The objective of the project is for capacity building and strengthening Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section by the recruitment of a paralegal officer to assist in research and administrative matters to help progress the ongoing legislative review that includes inclusion of WCPFC CMMs in the legislative framework.

Progress to Date and Current Status

A daily paid laborer employed under the title Administrative Assistant commenced working in June 2019 performing tasks proposed in the application. The budget approved for the Administrative Assistant's wages and other related costs is set to finish by the 12th month of her employment which would be around June 2020.

The Administrative Assistant have been providing great assistance to the progressing of the work in the Legal Section both in the main island in the outer islands. This assistance has greatly contributed in progressing of various tasks relating to ongoing review of the laws, terms and conditions of fishing vessels to ensure that they are in line with WCPFC CMMs.

It is therefore proposed that 2020 funding will be available to ensure continuation of the employment of the Administrative Assistant plus other costs proposed to ensure the continuation of effective performance of her duties.

Conclusion

The Legal section continues to function well with the great assistance provided by the Administrative Assistant through research and performance of administrative arrangements

for the Legal section. Continuation of the employment of the Administrative Assistant is sought for with anticipation that it would be approved.

Tonga Fisheries would like to acknowledge with appreciation the financial assistance from the Japanese Government through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) towards Tonga fisheries legal section. I also acknowledge with appreciation the administration assistance rendered by WCPFC Secretariat. Finally, I wish to continue collaborating with the JTF project in funding of our proposed projects for the year 2020.