



25 June 2015

**Australia's Response to WCPFC Annual Report Part 2, questions 119 and 120-126.**

The Annual Report Part 2 questions 119-126, relating to requirements to assist SIDS and Territories (CMM 2013-6 and CMM 2013-07), are covered by this response from Australia:

In 2014-15, Australia, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, provided over AU\$15 million for fisheries and oceans assistance in the Pacific. This support was delivered principally through long standing regional partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME), Australian government partnerships, and bilateral assistance for a number of national fisheries institutions. Broader development assistance for fisheries and oceans priorities was provided through ACIAR, the Coral Triangle Initiative, international and regional environmental partnerships (including the Global Environment Fund).

In 2014 Australia continued to provide institutional strengthening and fisheries training, principally through core funding support to FFA and SPC FAME, support to the regional training providers and the Australia Awards, international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian Government offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development.

In 2014-15 Australia funded an update of a consultant's study on the importance of fisheries to the economies of Pacific Island countries and territories (AU\$300,000).

Activities under a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-funded Government Partnerships for Development project to increase capacity to address illegal fishing in the Pacific by assisting FFA members implement MCS arrangements, including the NTSA, progress traceability and catch documentation schemes, and support training and cooperative enforcement. This project commenced in late 2014. Activities under this project are being delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and Attorney-General's Department in collaboration with the Forum Fisheries Agency (AU\$2.4 million over 3 years, ending June 2017). In addition, the project funds the FFA to run workshops relating to implementing the NTSA and its information system in each of the three financial years of the project and, in financial year 2015-16, to engage a consultant to work on CDS/traceability aspects of the project.

The Australian Government Department of the Environment is leading a Government Partnerships for Development Pacific Oceanscape project (AU\$ 5.2 million over 3 years (2014-2016), supporting the delimitation of maritime boundaries, marine spatial planning and funding an Oceans Analyst in the new PIFS Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to support to the Oceans Commissioner and the implementation of the Oceans Alliance (launched at the SIDS Conference in Samoa in 2014).

In June 2014, the Australian Government announced its intention to undertake the replacement of the Pacific Patrol Boat (PPBs) under the follow-on Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP). The PMSP reflects Australia's enduring commitment to strengthen regional security and to enhance security cooperation on maritime surveillance, including in respect of fisheries and transnational crime. The replacement project is estimated to cost approximately AU\$2 billion over 30 years, with

T +61 2 6272 3933

F +61 2 6272 5161

18 Marcus Clarke Street

Canberra City ACT 2601

GPO Box 858

Canberra ACT 2601

[agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)

ABN 24 113 085 695

replacement vessels expected to be delivered successively from 2018. The gifted patrol boats will be complemented by an increase in the level of aerial surveillance and regional support provided by Australia, with options to deliver these additional PMSP components under development by Defence.

AFMA has run effective programs aimed at building capacity in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) with Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Vanuatu. The Papua New Guinea and Kiribati programs have been funded under DFAT Public Sector Linkages Program funds whilst the Vanuatu program was funded through the Department of Defence's International Policy Division.

AFMA has run capacity building programs with Papua New Guinea since 2009 and continued to do so in 2014. These involve training exchanges, where Papua New Guinea fisheries officers undertake MCS training in Australia. It also includes in-country training programs for MCS development. AFMA has run similar capacity building programs with Kiribati since 2011, including in 2014, which involve exchanges of Kiribati fisheries and maritime police officers undertaking 'train the trainer' MCS training in Australia and in country capacity development support programs. AFMA has run a training program in Vanuatu in October 2014 where Vanuatu fisheries and maritime police officers received theoretical training in MCS activities followed by practical activities during a sea patrol.