



Australia's Response to WCPFC Annual Report Part II, Questions 083-090

The Annual Report Part II questions 083-090, relating to requirements to assist SIDS and Territories (CMM 2013-6 and CMM 2013-07), are covered by this response.

Australia's support to the region (encompassing assistance and capacity development to SIDS and Territories)

Australia's aid program, administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), continues to support the development aspirations of Pacific Island countries and the importance of fisheries to economic growth and food security in the region. This includes core funding for the FFA of approximately AUD\$5 million per annum and approximately AUD\$4.3 million per annum towards the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is now in its second year of implementing a DFAT-funded AUD\$6 million, four year, Community Based Fisheries Management and Aquaculture initiative to promote the sustainable use of coastal resources.

Australia has continued to provide assistance to the fisheries sector through two DFAT-funded Government Partnerships for Development projects, one led by the Department of the Environment supporting ocean governance, maritime boundary delimitation and marine spatial planning in the Pacific (AUD\$3.6million over 3 years, ending 2016); the other led by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources supporting the FFA with elements including preparation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) instructional material, support for ratification of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement, progressing regional and national approaches to traceability and catch documentation schemes, and MCS training and cooperative enforcement (AUD\$2.4 million over 3 years, ending June 2017). Australia is pleased with the progress being made in both projects.

There have been recent developments with Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP). The replacement of the current Pacific Patrol Boat fleet is the foundation element of the PMSP. In April 2016, the Australian Government announced Austal Ships Pty. Ltd. as the successful tenderer for the replacement vessels. Australia will spend around AUD\$2 billion for acquisition and sustainment of the replacement vessels over 30 years. The PMSP also includes new aerial surveillance for FFA Members which will increase the detection of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the region.

Implementation of the CMM on special requirements of SIDS and Territories

Australia supports the issue of disproportionate burden on SIDS and Territories becoming a standard part of all Commission discussions and is encouraged by the fact that many of the proposals considered at WCPFC12 included an assessment of the proposal under CMM2013-06. Australia notes that these assessments indicated that issues of disproportionate burden were limited, and that early identification of issues through the assessment process enabled mitigation. Australia encourages all CCMs to continue to rigorously apply the checklist to proposals, and further encourages CCMs to engage with FFA on these issues.

Australia was pleased to support the revisions to the Compliance Monitoring Scheme CMM adopted in 2015 to identify areas in which technical assistance and capacity building is necessary to assist CCMs, particularly SIDS and Territories, to attain compliance; Australia will continue to work with SIDS and Territories through the above-listed programs, and through other fora such as the FFA MCS Working Group, to assist SIDS and Territories with capacity development.