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**REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON ARTICLE 30 OF THE CONVENTION AND  
RESOLUTION 2008-01 OF WCPFC**

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**European Union**

# **Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC**

November 2021

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The main European Union (EU) source of support to the Pacific region is the European Development Fund (EDF). The EU provides support to the Pacific Region in various sectors such as Oceans' Governance; Climate change and Disaster Risk; Trade; Energy; Gender; Public Finance Management (PFM) and Governance. **And overview of the European Union support to the Pacific Region is provided as an Annex 1.**

## 2. OCEANS' GOVERNANCE - THE PACIFIC-EUROPEAN UNION MARINE PARTNERSHIP (PEUMP) PROGRAMME

PEUMP is the flagship initiative under the EU cooperation and development regional programme to promote a healthy Pacific Ocean and a strong governance of marine and coastal resources which will improve Pacific Ocean's contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth within the region.

The Programme - jointly financed by the EU and Sweden for a total amount of EUR 45 M - is a clear sign of EU's and its Member States' commitment to promote sustainable, responsible and transparent management of the marine resources in the Pacific Ocean. The EU and its Member States consider oceans governance as a priority in the partnership with Pacific Countries.

The PEUMP Programme overall objective is to "improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 P-ACP<sup>1</sup> states arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment". The specific objective is to "support sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity".

The Programme adopts an integrated and multi-sectoral approach, with inter-related components implemented by several Agencies at the regional, national and local levels, revolving around six components and a Programme Management Unit. The six components are aligned with the two focal sectors of the regional roadmap – oceanic and coastal fisheries and are as follows:

### *Oceanic Fisheries*

- High quality scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries provided and utilised at regional and national levels.
- Inclusive economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing increased through supporting competent authorities and strengthening private sector capacities to create decent employment.

### *Coastal Fisheries*

- Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems improved through better quality scientific information, legal advice, support, mentoring and empowerment at community level.

### *Coastal and Oceanic fisheries*

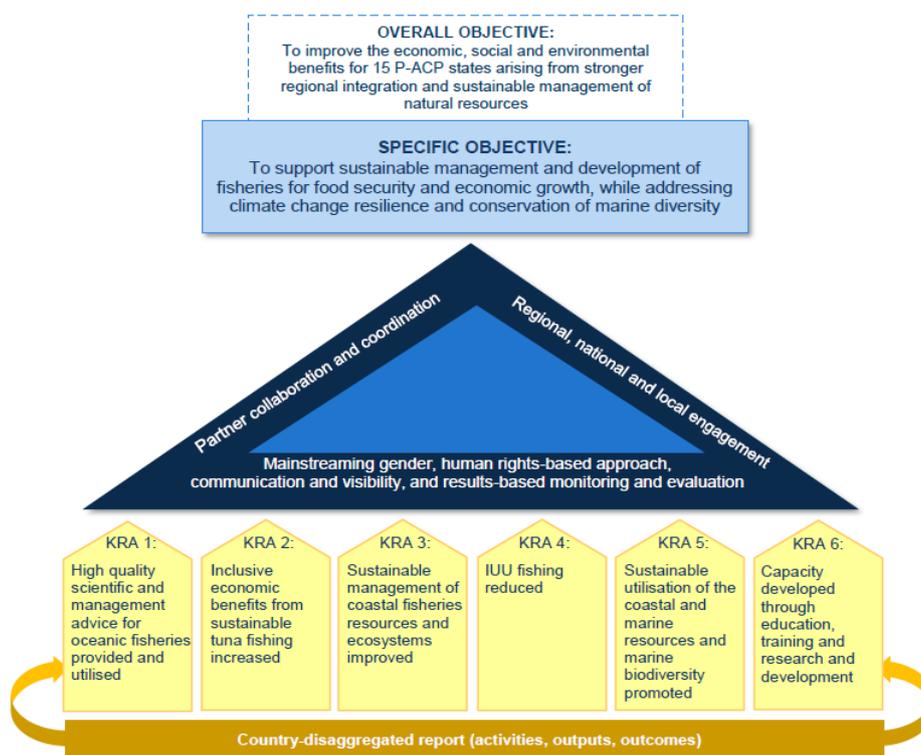
- IUU fishing reduced through enhanced monitoring control and surveillance of both oceanic and coastal fisheries, improved legislation, access to information, and effective marine area management.
- Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine biodiversity promoted through improving marine special planning, increasing climate change resilience, enhancing conservation, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

### *Capacity development*

- Capacity built through education, training and research and development for key stakeholder groups in fisheries and marine resources management.

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<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands; Fiji; Federated States of Micronesia; Kiribati; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Republic of the Marshall Islands; Samoa; Timor Leste; Tonga; Tuvalu; Solomon Islands; Vanuatu.



The first five components are implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The last one is implemented by the University of the South Pacific (USP).

Given the scope and breadth of the PEUMP Programme, agencies have been working with and through partners in some areas of implementation: The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network, the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are amongst other implementing partners of the PEUMP Programme.

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) was established within the leading agency (SPC) to ensure effective overall coordination and to foster coordination amongst the different implementing agencies.

### 3. PEUMP MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING 2020-2021

This chapter showcases the main accomplishments by each Key Results Area (KRA) during Year 3 of implementation (2020-2021). More detailed information can be found at PEUMP’s webpage (<https://www.peump.dev>), which was launched in September 2020. The website enables decision makers, research community and target groups in the region to have access to scientific research, PEUMP reports, documents, information videos and stories.

#### ***KRA 0: Maritime Boundary Delimitation***

The focus of this sub-component led by SPC-GEM under KRA 0 is to provide technical assistance with delimitation and negotiation of maritime boundaries of some Programme countries. The following were the highlights of activities in Year 3:

- The Fiji National Maritime Boundaries workshop from the 28th September to 2nd October 2020, with a main objective to enhance the capacity of the Marine Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC) and its stakeholders on the political, legal, scientific, and technical aspects of maritime boundaries and extended continental shelf work. In addition, the workshop aimed to review Fiji’s Marine Spaces Act (1977) and Continental Shelf Act (1970).
- Due to travel restrictions, there was no annual maritime boundary workshop held in December 2020. In previous years, these annual workshops brought together countries to discuss their maritime boundary work and access support required to progress this work. The maritime

boundary team have re-strategised and conducted virtual engagement sessions with countries to share the regional update, hear from countries what progress has been made, and identify what assistance and support is needed from the SPC maritime boundary team. Engagement sessions were conducted with seven countries: Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Kiribati, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and Niue. There were a combined total of 16 attendees (10 men; 6 women) from these country sessions.

- Technical advice on the Fiji-Solomon Islands boundary treaty agreement was provided to both countries. Both Governments have agreed to the signing of the treaty and are hoping to have a virtual signing session within the ambit of the planned Pacific Islands Forums leader meeting early next year 2022.
- The maritime boundary team conducted technical discussions with Samoa on the Samoa-American Samoa treaty boundary. The support included assisting Samoa in calculating the treaty boundary for negotiation with American Samoa using the maritime delimitation software called GEOCAP. The GEOCAP software was acquired by support of the PEUMP programme. Both countries are waiting on further maritime boundary negotiations.
- SPC and its consortium partners were able to draft Nauru's maritime legislation called the Nauru Sea Boundary Proclamation. The Maritime Boundary team assisted Nauru through the calculation of territorial seas, contiguous zone and high seas limits and schedule of coordinates for Nauru Sea Boundary Proclamation. The proclamation is with Nauru's Foreign Affairs Office for in-country legislative process and parliamentary approval.
- FSM requested a billboard in December 2020 and the Maritime Boundary team developed the information displayed on the billboard that shows the different maritime zones for FSM relative to positioning of islands and atolls locational information together with EEZ turning points. The billboard is located in the capital, Pohnpei and the purpose is to raise awareness for jurisdictions of the FSM so the public knows where their ocean boundaries are located. FSM is the first country to request a billboard displaying their maritime boundary information.
- The Maritime Boundaries team delivered the second phase of the dataset to the FFA. This is one of the main outputs of the programme's maritime boundary work, and in agreement under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FFA. The provision of the dataset includes the inner limits of a member states maritime boundaries establishes the rights and responsibilities and a key contribution to good ocean governance on member states territorial seas (12 nautical miles) and contiguous zone (24 nautical miles). It contributes to the Pacific regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities of Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

### ***KRA 1: Scientific and Management Advice for Oceanic Fisheries***

This component, led by SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme, focuses on providing high quality scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries that has utility at the regional and/or national level. All four tuna stocks (bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin and south Pacific albacore) are classed as not overfished and not subject to overfishing.

The following highlights were achieved in Year 3:

- Bycatch estimates for purse seine fisheries in the WCPO were developed. These results were provided to the virtual 17th WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC17) in August 2021 (project year 4). Analyses of the vulnerability of bycatch species reported to SC17 will focus future regional work in this area. In turn, a Palau-specific analysis of bycatch trends in their longline fisheries has been submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal for review.
- Analysis of available micronekton samples, a key part of the WCPO ecosystem important for tuna, has been expanded.
- Ecosystem indicators have been prepared for the virtual SC17 and will enable ongoing monitoring of WCPO ecosystem health.
- Work on the population structure of skipjack tuna, incorporating otolith shape and chemistry, genetics and muscle isotope analyses is underway in collaboration with industry and academic

partners, and aims to inform discussions around the scheduled 2022 WCPO skipjack stock assessment.

- The Central Pacific tuna tagging cruise, to which PEUMP contributed, was completed (2020), despite the travel restrictions arising from the COVID pandemic. A report on this cruise was presented to the Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) steering committee scheduled around SC17.
- Standardised indices for South Pacific albacore were a key input into the 2021 assessment of the stock. This was a collaborative effort by SPC and the IATTC to cover the whole of the South Pacific.
- Two Pacific Island Fishery Professionals from FSM and Cook Islands successfully completed their PEUMP-supported time at SPC this year, examining bycatch species and the purse seine fishery sustainability, respectively. Both led and contributed to papers submitted to SC17, supporting the 2021 SW Pacific swordfish assessment; the bycatch report; and a report on the purse seine industry survey.

Given the travel restrictions over the year, communication and visibility activities have focused on the scientific outputs of the KRA 1. A key approach to informing regional management is through the WCPFC's Scientific Committee, as well as through peer-reviewed publications that then influence regional approaches. During the year the following outputs have been presented/submitted to the 16th and 17th WCPFC Scientific Committee meeting:

- 1) Estimation of bycatch associated with the longline fisheries operating in the WCPFC: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11690>;
- 2) Development of abundance indices to inform the yellowfin stock assessment: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11704>;
- 3) Trends in skipjack tuna abundance from purse seine catch and effort data: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11705>;
- 4) Estimation of bycatch associated with the purse seine fisheries operating in the WCPFC: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12542>;
- 5) A revised approach to assessing the risk to bycatch species from fishing for WCPFC shark species: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12607>;
- 6) Analysis of the bias in shark catch reporting by observers on purse-seine: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105637>;
- 7) Analysis of recent trends in bycatch from tuna longline fisheries in Palau submitted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*;
- 8) Draft WCPO ecosystem indicators for the period 2000-2020: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12606>;
- 9) Contribution to an FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper: Electronic monitoring in tuna fisheries (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2862en>);
- 10) A genetics standard operating procedure for population genetic sampling, handling and assessments conducted for Pacific tuna fisheries: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12608>;
- 11) Evaluation of growth variability in WCPO bigeye: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12541>;
- 12) CPUE modelling of longline catch and effort inputs into the 2021 South Pacific-wide albacore tuna stock assessment: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12561>;
- 13) Background information to support the 2021 stock assessment for swordfish (<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12566>);
- 14) Evaluation of effort creep within the WCPO purse seine fishery: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11731>;
- 15) Purse seine effort creep research plan for: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/11732>;
- 16) Surveying the purse seine industry to incorporate their knowledge to understand purse seine effort creep and evolution of fishing strategies in the WCPO (<https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12592>).

## ***KRA 2: Economic Benefits from Sustainable Tuna Fishing***

Led by FFA, this component focuses on supporting national Sanitary and Phytosanitary Competent Authorities and strengthening private sector engagement relating to employment in the offshore fisheries sector, thereby increasing economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing. At the end of the second year of the programme, 4 countries (Fiji, PNG, Kiribati and Solomon Islands), still have access to the EU markets for fish and fisheries product exports.

The following highlights were achieved in Year 3:

- FFA continues to work remotely with FSM and the RMI Sanitary Competent Authorities (CAs), providing technical assistance and advice as needed to maintain their progress towards meeting sanitary market access requirements while international borders remain shut. In terms of support to the FSM CA, FFA continued to provide advice and guidance towards ensuring systems and required documentation are being put in place in preparation of that country's application to the EU for export of fish and fisheries products. Similarly, FFA liaised with the RMI CA to ascertain the level of assistance that it will be needed to begin the process of seeking certification to export to EU markets.
- A FAD Management Plan development workshop was held in the Solomon Islands from 2 to 4 December 2020. The workshop was the first in a series that will culminate in the development of a National FAD Management Plan that will provide the enabling framework for Solomon Islands to implement the PNA FAD management, monitoring and tracking programme.
- The development process for a National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Samoa saw two workshops held during the current reporting period. The 'Zero Draft Samoa National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy' was developed and is currently following internal consultations with the government ministries, the fishing industry and the communities.
- The Fiji Fisheries Industry Association (FFIA) bigeye tuna MSC scope extension assessment was completed in November 2020. The final report indicates that there had been no objections to the certification process.
- A PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) observers coordinators training for monitoring MSC certified tuna was held in Lae. The training was aimed at enabling NFA Observers and the Fisheries Industry Association (FIA) to develop and align their respective standard operating procedures regarding traceability requirements of the MSC standards, following the achievement of MSC certification of the PNG FIA purse seine skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery in May 2020.
- FFA PEUMP provided financial resources to facilitate enrolment and participation of PNG personnel in a SA8000 (Social Accountability Standards) course that was conducted via virtual means in March 2021.

### ***KRA 3: Sustainable Management of Coastal Fisheries***

The coastal fisheries component, led by the SPC Coastal Fisheries Programme and supported by the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network implementation partner, focuses on improving the sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems through better scientific information, the provision of technical support and the empowerment of communities. In Year 3, KRA 3 has focused on: adjusting the workplans to the significant impacts resulting from the ongoing coronavirus travel restrictions and lockdowns imposed across the PACP region; in particular, adapting to providing high quality scientific, data, technical, information and management related support and capacity building to the PACPs through innovative online portals, web-based materials and courses, applications, and virtual workshops and meetings; facilitating a highly consultative process to develop the Pacific Regional Framework for Action on Scaling-up Community-based Fisheries Management; progressing the CEAFM community engagement components through the LMMA Network and local partners in four Melanesian PACPs; and producing and disseminating a broad range of targeted information and awareness materials.

The following were the highlights achieved in Year 3:

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) listing of sea cucumbers – Technical advice, support and training on requirements of the Non-

Detriment Finding (NDF) process for Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG. With the 2019 listing on CITES of two sea cucumber species found in the Pacific, a number of PACP fisheries agencies have requested technical and scientific support in assessing these stocks and in preparing the required NDF reports to permit bêche-de-mer exports. This NDF-related science work is complex and will require ongoing support and training to ensure lasting capacity in the countries. In addition, method optimisation and field testing of a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) for surveys of CITES listed black and white teatfish in deep water refugia was undertaken. Linked to this is the ongoing development of automated identification of sea cucumbers from video recordings taken using the ROV.

- Sea cucumber surveys and management advice for Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. Sea cucumber fisheries are seen by many PACPs as a key means of income generation for community fishers and well as a source of foreign income.
- Other surveys, training and support regionally and to Vanuatu, Samoa, Fiji and Kiribati. In Year 3 there has been ongoing development of discrete online teaching and learning modules to introduce fishery-dependent creel survey techniques to PACP fisheries staff in response to feedback from member countries. Fishery-independent field surveys and fishery-dependent landing and market survey training was provided.
- Socioeconomic survey, support, training and tools development in Tonga, Kiribati, Cook Islands and regionally. The Tonga Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) requested a study to evaluate the impact of Special Management Areas (SMA - community-based managed areas) on coastal resources and community wellbeing, including communities with access to SMAs and landlocked communities, and also requested SPC to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on coastal fisheries. SPC continues working with the Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development on integrated monitoring protocols for Kiribati, with a list of possible socioeconomic monitoring objectives submitted to MFMRD for consideration. Assistance was provided to Cook Islands on developing socio-economic assessment tools to explore the feasibility of developing a recreational bonefish fishery in Penrhyn. SPC continues to work on an addendum to the Procfish C tool on socio-economic surveys in Pacific Islands.
- Coastal fisheries databases, information technology infrastructure and tools development for Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and regionally. A number of tools and applications are being developed for use across the region, including, automation of species recognition and fish length and weight readings from market and landing survey pictures using artificial intelligence; development of interface and photo analysis for fish and invertebrate pictures on measuring board or a calibrated mat; and development of automated sea cucumber detection from underwater imagery for the analysis of ROV videos.
- Development of the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up Community Based Fisheries Management. Designed and implemented four CBFM scaling-up consultative workshops (3 subregional and 1 regional workshop). Workshop participants included national and subnational fisheries agencies, local communities (traditional leaders, women, youth), local non-governmental organisation and civil society organisation, regional and international organisations and institutions. Prior to these workshops an information paper was developed to assist workshop participants understand the concept of scaling-up of CBFM. A total of 365 participants from 19 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) were involved in the workshop. Through these consultative workshops a draft Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up CBFM was developed. The draft Framework for Action was presented to and approved by the 13th Heads of Fisheries (June 2021 – Year 3), and endorsed by the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting (RFMM2) in July 2021 (Year 4). This was a significant achievement, as the Framework for Action is a regional commitment that supports, empowers and values our coastal communities in sustaining coastal fisheries in the Pacific.
- Support for CEAFFM/CBFM in Tonga, Niue, Nauru, Fiji and regionally. In collaboration with FAME Communications Officer a short video [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=EuAYpPVgwcg&feature=youtu.be>] showcasing the Tonga SMAs was produced. The video shows a hands-on training on fishing methods that targets pelagic species as an alternative livelihood initiative to support CBFM and during unexpected events such as natural disasters and pandemics. The Niue draft

community management plan template was reviewed. Assistance was provided to Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority in conducting virtual consultations with local community representatives on a communication strategy for fish aggregating devices. The wireframe (mock-up) of the regional CBFM web portal was developed. The next step in Year 4 is to develop the content of the web portal using the developed wireframe.

- CEAFM support in Melanesia (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG and Fiji). All four in-country partners are now implementing activities: Wildlife Conservation Society in PNG (targeting New Ireland Province); WorldFish Center in Solomon Islands (targeting Malaita Province); Conservation International in Fiji (targeting Lau, Ba, Lomaiviti, Cakaudrove, Kadavu, Macuata, and Nadroga-Navosa provinces); and Wan Smolbag in Vanuatu (targeting TAFEA province). CBFM situation analysis reports and CBFM scaling-up strategies (aligned with the regional Framework for Action noted above) were completed for each target area by the in-country lead partners and local partner organisations and communities, and a formal acknowledgement of indicators to be monitored throughout the project. Community networks are being developed, and series of community, district and provincial level meetings, trainings and workshops have been held.
- A series of awareness and educational videos for the region, “Fishers’ Tales” have been produced (see PEUMP website). These videos provide information on the habitat, nutrition, and behaviour of key marine species, as well as advice on how to use these resources in a sustainable way. The first season of this series was promoted during a tailored and online campaign. The five new episodes of the second season were produced in collaboration with the LMMA Network. The main messages of this season were focused on the roles and benefits of five fisheries management rules, with a “call to action”.
- “Fish smart. Set FADs”: This series of seven videos explains how to rig and deploy FADs. The videos have already been shared with partners of the region as well as with fisheries associations and fisheries officers from Cook Islands, FSM and Kiribati.

#### ***KRA 4: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing***

Led by FFA, this component focuses on enhancing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) efforts of both oceanic and coastal fisheries, improving legislation, access to information and effective marine management.

In Year 3, the main activities undertaken are summarised as follows:

- The regional NPOA-IUU template was updated. The resulting template is being used in the preparation of updated NPOA-IUU for Nauru and Tuvalu.
- A FFA Regional Fisheries Prosecutions training workshop was held in 2021.
- A consultancy contract for the provision of targeted high resolution radar-satellite imagery to support of FFA regional MCS surveillance exercises was signed.
- FFA PEUMP is supporting the work of a consultant who will be inserted on board a fish carrier vessel to deploy and oversee electronic equipment (electronic scales and electronic monitoring cameras) for monitoring of transshipment activities involving long-line vessels to fish carrier vessels at sea.
- The development (and delivery) of a Level 4 First Line Management (FLM) course adapted to a fisheries context is ongoing.
- Development of learning materials for a Diploma in Fisheries Investigation course.
- A total of 36 fisheries personnel from various FFA Member countries were enrolled in Cohort 8 of the USP Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance.

#### ***KRA 5: Sustainable Utilisation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity***

Led by SPREP, this component focuses on promoting sustainable utilisation of coastal and marine biodiversity through improving marine spatial planning, increasing climate change resilience, and enhancing conservation and management. During Year 3:

- Regional turtle extinction risk assessment work activities were progressed. The work has been phased to enable input from stakeholder group representatives on how the results of this assessment could be used to support turtle conservation work at community, national and regional level, including through a specially convened one-hour side event on the final day of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference – Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, which was held virtually from 24 to 27 November 2020.
- A comprehensive literature review on the status of sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean was prepared to inform the development of the extinction risk assessment model for sea turtle regional management units in the Pacific. The outputs of the model will be peer reviewed prior to publication in a scientific journal, with a view to submit the completed assessment in February 2022. To inform the extinction risk assessment, SPREP collaborated with WWF Australia and the WWF Coral Triangle Program to design surveys to collect data on the by-catch and use of turtles by coastal communities and to monitor key index nesting beaches to determine if climate change is likely to be having a significant impact on the sex of new hatchlings.
- Community engagement to inform regional and national turtle conservation was supported, by strengthening support amongst community-based turtle monitors, NGOs and Government officers to submit existing and new data about turtles into Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System (TREDS) to inform both national and regional conservation actions.
- A Partnership Agreement with WWF Pacific titled “Improving uptake of by-catch mitigation measures for Species of Special Interest in the Pacific longline fleet through a port-based extension programme” is focusing in Fiji and Vanuatu. In Fiji, 80+ turtle by-catch Mitigation Toolkits for dissemination to fishing vessels. The Toolkits were launched in conjunction with Fiji’s offshore industry ‘Bycatch Best Handling Practices: A Guideline for Skippers and Crew on Longline Fishing Vessels in Fiji’ and ‘Best Practice for Bycatch Mitigation in Fiji’s Tuna Longline Fishery: For Vessel Owners & Operators’ guidelines on 21st January 2021. The partnership includes formal training at the Fiji National University’s Maritime Academy on by-catch mitigation best practice on the deckhand and skipper fisher training course in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Fiji Fishing Industry Association (FFIA). WWF will investigate opportunities to make the course a core industry requirement, and to roll it out to Vanuatu and other countries via an online platform.
- To fulfil their international, regional and national species conservation commitments PNG, Solomon Island and Vanuatu identified the need to update, complete, or create of NPoAs to provide clear guidance and identify activities to promote the identification and implementation of by-catch mitigation and conservation activities for species of special interest. The PNG NPoA for Sharks and Rays was launched by the Honorable Mr. Wera Mori, MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change on June 2021 as part of the National Protected Area Forum in Port Moresby. The Solomon Islands NPoA for Turtles and an NPoA for Sharks will be completed in 2022. The Solomon Islands also requested PEUMP to support the development of a national saltwater crocodile management plan. Vanuatu will complete the update of their NPoAs for Turtles and Sharks and finalise the development of a new NPoA for Seabirds in 2022.
- A draft MSP map for the Solomon Islands was developed. Once approved, the final round of public consultations will commence in October 2021.
- Fiji Cabinet’s decision for the Ministry of Fisheries to designate 30% of the Exclusive Economic Zone as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to conduct two rounds of nation-wide consultation was supported. Work to secure endorsement of the proposed offshore no-take MPAs network for Fiji, known as the “draft map” has been undertaken. IUCN presented the draft map to the MPAs Technical Committee on July 2020 where it was endorsed prior to presenting it to the National Environment Council (NEC) in October 2020, along with a paper seeking approval to conduct a nationwide public consultation on the draft “Zero Plus” map of national candidate sites for no-take MPAs, and priority marine areas in inshore and archipelagic waters.

- SPREP initiated a regional approach to support countries respond to the Appendix II listing of two species of sea cucumber that was adopted by the CITES CoP in August 2019. The new listing required Non Detriment Findings (NDFs) and other legal documentation to be in place by August 2020 to enable international export of the whole or parts of listed sea cucumber species. In response to the listing, management authorities from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga requested support in Year 2 to inform their management and development of NDFs for listed sea cucumber species. Tailored virtual workshops for each country to support NDF development were provided to satisfy August 2020 deadline.

***KRA6: Capacity built through education, training and research and development***

USP is responsible for KRA 6. A summary of the main outcomes is provided hereunder:

- A series of TVET courses were delivered. A total of 63 professionals covering 7 countries (Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) were trained for the following TVET training programmes: (i) Certificate IV in Training & Assessment; (ii) Certificate IV in Resilience (Fisheries emphasis), (iii) Certificate IV Coastal Fisheries Compliance. In coordination with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC), a new Certificate IV in Pacific Ocean Finance is being taken through USP for formal accreditation and delivery in 2022.
- The first cohort of the micro-qualification, Maintaining Seafood Safety and Quality was delivered in Suva, Fiji. 16 participants went through a two-week vigorous hands on practical and theory assessment to equip them with necessary skills to improve seafood safety and quality from ‘hook to plate’. The main purpose of these micro-qualifications is to equip community practitioners with skills and knowledge for further economic empowerment especially in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic job losses and resulting heavier reliance on the ocean for livelihoods.
- The second cohort of the micro qualification Establishing and Operating a Small Seafood Business was delivered through USP-Pacific Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in Suva, Fiji. 26 scholarships were awarded.
- A total of 122 Fisheries professionals from across 7 countries were sponsored to undertake online professional development short courses. Participants were able to select from 30 short courses ranging between 8 – 24 hours.
- Pilot training on Traditional canoe-building & sailing. Through a partnership with the Uto Ni Yalo Trust (UNYT), 25 youths across 9 villages on Beqa Island, Fiji, were trained on traditional canoe building and sailing. The main objective of the training was to reintroduce traditional canoes (“drua”) into everyday village life, which has multiple economic and social benefits including food security, fisheries livelihood and marine resource protection.
- Diploma in Fisheries Investigation and Prosecution has been approved by the USP Board of Studies had approved the programme.
- In collaboration with the USP School of Social Studies, development of the Postgraduate course in Gender and Environment was further progressed. This course will be part of the Postgraduate diploma programme in Gender Studies that was approved for development and delivery in November 2020 at the sitting of the University’s highest governing body, the USP Council. This course will also serve as an elective for postgraduate Marine studies students at USP. Once developed, this postgraduate course will be modified to a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) targeting a wider audience as part of its outreach activities.
- 7 research scholarship students have commenced or were underway into their fieldwork and data collection phase. 2 PhD students have a manuscript each accepted for publication in “A” – classified academic journals. Additionally, KRA6 staff and students presented papers at the World Fisheries Congress in September 2021.
- Research collaboration is ongoing with Fiji Ministry of Fisheries and PEUMP partners to aid in data collection for informed management of national priority species: Baseline Coconut crab hunter’s surveys-Distribution and abundance; Octopus research-Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE); Size at maturity survey for 4 lobster species.

### ***Cross-cutting issues: Gender, Human Rights, and Poverty Reduction***

Year 3 focussed on the advancement of integrating gender, social inclusion, poverty reduction and human rights-based approaches across the programme. This was provided through technical advice and mainstreaming support at regional and national level while capacity building activities continued through refresher training and ongoing mentoring as well as accommodating the increased demand for training opportunities for national fisheries agencies. In addition, the Gender and Human Rights Specialist proceeded with the development of guiding tools for key audiences as well as research related activities. The following are the main accomplishments during Year 3:

- A regional workshop for selected participants from the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu was conducted jointly by the PMU, KRA3 and broader FAME coastal fisheries team, WCS and HRSD. Main purposes of the workshop were: (i) to present back recent key research findings of GSI and human rights issues in coastal fisheries and aquaculture; (ii) to verify key findings with country focal points and to ensure a strong contextualization, thus foster country ownership and buy-in; (iii) to identify follow-up steps and implementation support needs while countries were also asked to prioritize report recommendations. Key outcomes from the regional workshop were: (i) Enhanced understanding of human rights and gender equality principles in relation to the coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors; (ii) Increased familiarity with findings and recommendations of recent gender equality and human rights research; (iii) Improved national capacity of key people to mainstream gender equality and human rights research findings and recommendations at legal policy and operational level; (iv) Creating a consultative platform for countries to discuss and provide feedback on research findings and recommendations.
- Assistance provided in the finalization of the SPC study Gender and human rights in coastal fisheries and aquaculture: A comparative analysis of legislation in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and Policy Brief. The report and policy brief were successfully finalized and published early 2021 by FAME.
- Finalization and launch of the SPC Pacific Handbook on GSI in coastal fisheries and aquaculture - 2nd edition on March 2021. Three additional modules for the handbook were finalized and the whole handbook reviewed to adjust and align new concepts, ideas for a smooth integration of new modules that interact with and build on the old modules. The handbook has since been used to support training and other forms of capacity building on GSI.
- Support provided to the GSI training for small-medium sized aquaculture enterprises (SME) from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and PNG in November 2020. The training was tailored to the private sector – applying GSI lens from an entrepreneurial point of view, using case studies, to demonstrate the positive social, economic, and organisational benefits that resulted from GSI sensitive business models and why GSI makes good business sense while also discussing wider community impacts.
- Work with SPC’s Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) division, and multiple partner organizations such as UNWomen, UNDP, WorldFish, PIFON, WCS and women-led entrepreneurs to develop a proposal for a side event to the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women to draw attention on women’s economic empowerment at land and sea across value-chains. The proposal was selected, jointly planned with the above listed partner organizations, and conducted as a virtual side event in April. The participation in this regionally high-level conference allowed PEUMP messages and recommendations to be considered at regional policy level for increased attention on women fisheries and farmers, their obstacles and their needs to further develop formal business potentials through value-chains.

#### **4. FISH4ACP - UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – PURSE SEINE TUNA VALUE CHAIN IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

FISH4ACP is a five-year programme led by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) that aims to tackle some of the underlying challenges to sustainable fisheries and

aquaculture. These include low economic performance, limited market access and poor social and environmental sustainability.

The programme, implemented by FAO with funding from the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is focused on enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of fisheries and aquaculture value chains, while ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

FISH4ACP works with 12 value chains in 12 ACP countries to maximise economic returns and social benefits, while minimising detrimental effects on natural habitats and aquatic resources. It pays special attention to small and medium-sized businesses, because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly those for women and youth.

Tuna accounts for nearly all national fisheries production and exports from RMI, a “large ocean state” in the Central Pacific Ocean. The bulk of tuna caught in the waters surrounding this chain of coral islands and atolls derives from offshore industrial fishing with purse seining being the most dominant form.

Most catches are transhipped in the port of Majuro, the capital of RMI, to other regions for processing. Yet, increasing tuna catches have not led to domestic growth in the post-harvest and processing sector. Expanding onshore operations could generate a lot of jobs and income opportunities for the local population.

FISH4ACP aims to support the sustainable development of the purse seine tuna value chain in RMI by stimulating onshore post-harvest and value addition activities, as well as by facilitating access to export markets.

Working in close collaboration with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority and other stakeholders, the initiative aims to contribute to food security, economic growth, job creation and income opportunities for the Marshallese population, while safeguarding fish stocks and other natural resources and reducing the environmental footprint of the tuna purse seine industry.

## 5. OTHER INTERVENTIONS FUNDED BY THE EU RELATED TO CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Project Name	Description	Amount EU Contribution	Status
Biodiversity and Protected Area Management – BIOPAMA II	To overall objective is to contribute to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in ACP regions in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance.	EUR 1.3 M Pacific component	On-going though SPREP and IUCN
Support Programme for ACP SIDS and Coastal Countries	The overall objective is to contribute to the sustainable development of ACP SIDS and coastal countries while contributing to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.	EUR 12 M Pacific component	Contract under negotiation with SPREP
Projet Régional	The overall objective is to build	EUR 36 M for	On-going

Océanien des Territoires pour la Gestion durable des Ecosystèmes - PROTEGE	sustainable development and climate-resilient economies in the OCTs by emphasising biodiversity and renewable resources in the Pacific OCTs.	the OCTs	through SPC and SPREP
FISH4ACP: Sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in ACP countries	The overall objective is that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains contribute to economic growth, decent jobs creation, food and nutrition security in ACP countries.	EUR 3 M RMI value chain selected for support in the Pacific	Ongoing through FAO
“Kiwa initiative” Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience	The overall objective is to make pacific island ecosystems, economies and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	EUR 13.9 M (total of 41 M)	Ongoing through the AFD
Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) initiative for climate adaptation and resilience building in Samoa	The overall objective is to promote the sustainable use of Samoa's marine resources while increasing climate resilience of local communities through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and the development of a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)	EUR 1.144 M	On-going through IUCN
Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications	The overall goal of this Action is to support the climate information services value chain with technical and financial assistance, infrastructure and capacity building in ACP countries	EUR 9 M	Ongoing through SPREP
EU Contribution in the area of Ocean Governance (excluding PEUMP)		EUR 76.344 M	
<b>Total EU Contribution in the area of Ocean Governance</b>		<b>EUR 121.344 M</b>	



# EU - Pacific: Partnering on Climate Change, Oceans and Development



*An overview of EU support  
to the Pacific region*



# EU - PACIFIC REGIONAL COOPERATION 2014 - 2020

<p><b>PRIORITY AREA 1 :</b> Regional Economic Integration</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 37 million</p>	<p><b>PRIORITY AREA 2:</b> Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 52 million</p>	<p><b>PRIORITY AREA 3:</b> Inclusive and Accountable Governance</p> <p>Tentative Allocation: EUR 31 million</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> Strengthening the regional trade and business enabling environment</p> <p><b>Objective 1.2:</b> Private Sector involvement in economic integration strengthened</p> <p>  EUR 37 million  </p>	<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme</p> <p>  EUR 35 million  </p>	<p><b>Objective 3.1:</b> Strengthening Public Finance Management and Governance in the Pacific Project</p> <p>  EUR 11 million  </p>
	<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> Pacific – European Union Waste Management Programme (PacWaste Plus)</p> <p>  EUR 17 million  </p>	<p><b>Objective 3.2:</b> Tackling root causes of gender inequality and violence against women and girls in the Pacific</p> <p>  EUR 13 million  </p>
<p><b>Support for regional investment projects:</b>   EUR 77million   Investment Facility for the Pacific (IFP) Country Specific Investment Allocations: PNG - EUR 15M Solomon Island - EUR 18 M</p>	<p><b>TOTAL</b> (excluding Intra-ACP) <b>EUR 197 million</b></p>	

EU-OCT Regional Cooperation - EUR 36 million

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