

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

**6<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting**  
(9–13 February 2009, Noumea, New Caledonia)

**Information Paper 8**

Original: English

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)  
SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (SAP)**



6TH SPC HEADS OF FISHERIES MEETING, 9–13 FEBRUARY 2009, NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA  
6<sup>e</sup> CONFÉRENCE DES DIRECTEURS DES PÊCHES DE LA CPS, 9–13 FÉVRIER 2009, NOUMÉA, NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)  
SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (SAP)**

**FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE PROGRAMME**

1. The FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Apia was established in 1996, known by its acronym SAP, and has since expanded its activities in the area of natural resource management in the Pacific. SAP was added to the existing FAO Representative Office that had been in Apia for many years. The establishment of SAP is a tangible reflection of FAO's desire to decentralize and to bring its operations closer to its member countries of the Pacific. SAP's mandate is to galvanize regional efforts towards food security.
2. SAP consists of 19 staff; including 4 Technical Officers (**fisheries**, plant protection, forestry resource management and food & nutrition), Policy Officer, National Professional Officer and Programme Assistant under overall managerial and administrative leadership of the Sub-Regional Representative.
3. FAO member countries (14) in the region are Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
  - Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue and Palau joined in November 1999.
  - Nauru joined in November 2001.
  - Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu joined in November 2003.
4. FAO provides technical assistance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific. The overall objectives of the technical assistance programme in fisheries and aquaculture are to enable the Pacific Island countries (PICs) to adopt and implement policies and measures to ensure that;
  - the capacity of national fisheries administrations in the PICs is strengthened,
  - fisheries and aquaculture resources are conserved, managed, developed and utilized in a rational manner,
  - national food security is enhanced, and
  - the utilization of fisheries and aquaculture resources continues to contribute to national economic and social development on a sustainable basis.

The programme is focused on six areas.

- Institutional strengthening and national capacity building.
- Enhanced conservation and management of EEZ fisheries.
- Improved post-harvest fish management and marketing.
- Safety-at-sea.
- Strengthening the economic role of national fisheries industries and the privatization of fisheries investments.
- Aquaculture and inland fisheries conservation, management and development.

The programme will be used as a vehicle to assist the PICs under the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which comprehensively covers the conservation, management and development of all fisheries and aquaculture, laying out principles and standards for establishing responsible fisheries sectors.

FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture Meeting (bi-ennial)

The 7th Meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture was held in Majuro, Marshall Islands, 29-31 May 2007. Ministers expressed the need to strengthen individual countries capacities for more sustainable fisheries management for improved food security. The meeting requested FAO;

- To further support countries to improve national fisheries legislation and regulations in order to meet standards set by international fisheries agreements and instruments as well as to support coastal fisheries and aquaculture development,
- To support national fisheries information systems as a firm basis for effective policy-making and sound management of fisheries and aquaculture resources,
- To continue to support sustainable aquaculture development in cooperation with other regional organizations, and
- To continue to provide technical assistance to the countries to meet the challenges faced with policy, legislation, putting in place management structures, fisheries information, aquaculture and small-scale fisheries.

The 8th Meeting of FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture will be hosted by the Government of Niue in May 2009 (dates/venue to be confirmed).

National Medium Term Priority Framework 2009-2012 (NMTPF)

FAO-NMTPF provides a strategic framework to focus FAO technical assistance to countries in the region in line with the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) and the MDGs (poverty reduction and environmental sustainability).

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood Programme (FSSLP)

FSSLP known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the FAO Regional Programme for Food Security (trust-funded project: 2004-2009) will form a major part of FAO's upcoming NMTPF with an indicative budget of USD 72 million.

5. To strengthen sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region, FAO is fully committed to assisting the PICs in the effective implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. With the framework of the Code of Conduct, four International Plans of Action (IPOA) have been adopted at FAO's Committee on Fisheries.

- IPOA for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Long-line Fisheries
- IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks
- IPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity
- IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing\*

*\* FAO (2005). Model Plan for a Pacific Island Country – National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Rome, 43 pp.*

**6. Meeting/Workshop Schedule:**

- FAO 28th Session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome, Italy, 2-6 March 2009
- FAO Regional NMTPF Workshop in Nadi, Fiji in March 2009 (dates to be confirmed)
- FAO/SPC Sub-Regional Workshop on Ecosystem Approaches to Management of Coastal Fisheries in Micronesia, Guam, 30 March – 3 April 2009
- 8th Meeting FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture in May 2009 (dates/venue to be confirmed)
- 12th FAO Roundtable Meeting for Pacific Island countries on WTO and Regional Trade Agreements and Provisions in Wellington, New Zealand, in September 2009 (dates/venue to be confirmed)

**7. FAO Technical Assistance:**

Technical assistance to the members is provided through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), TeleFood Special Fund (TSF), Partnership Programme, Regular Programme etc. Past and current projects are listed below (as of February 2009).

	Country	Project title (FAO contributions: US\$)
TCP	Cook Islands	- (2005-2007) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician) - (2008-2009) Aquaculture development (\$72,973)
	Fiji	- (1996) Strengthening management capability in the Fisheries Division (Phase II) (US\$50,000) - (2001-2002) Enhancement of customary marine fishery tenure (\$60,000) - (2003-2004) Emergency assistance following cyclone Ami (\$398,000) - (2005-2007) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician)
	Kiribati	- (2005-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician) - (2008) Assistance in formulating a draft National Plan of Action for IUU fishing in Kiribati (\$30,539)
	Marshall Islands	- (2002) Seaweed cultivation (\$156,000) - (2006-2007) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician) - (2008) Risk assessment in aquaculture development (\$97,216)
	Nauru	- (2005-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician) - (2008-2009) Assistance in formulating a draft National Plan of Action for IUU fishing in Nauru (\$18,807)
	Niue	- (2004-2005) Emergency assistance following tropical cyclone Heta (\$298,000)
	Palau	- (2005-2007) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician)
	PNG	- (1996-1997) Strengthening national capacity for fisheries conservation and management (\$94,000) - (1997) Sustainable development of national fisheries and support of food security (\$283,000) - (2005-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician)
	Samoa	- (2004) Emergency assistance following cyclone Heta (\$284,000) - (2004-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technicians)
	Solomon Islands	- (1995-1996) Strengthening national fisheries capacity (\$81,000) - (2004-2008) Strengthening national capabilities in seafood trade policy, including risk assessment and traceability (implemented by INFOFISH) (\$376,000) - (2005-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician)
	Tonga	- (1997-1998) Fisheries sector study (\$248,000) - (1999-2001) Assistance in fisheries legislation (\$135,000) - (2002-2004) Development of seaweed ( <i>Cladosiphon</i> sp.) farming (\$143,000)
	Vanuatu	- (1996-1997) Strengthening of national fishery policy (\$145,000) - (2006-2007) Agriculture census (\$263,000) - (2004-2006) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technician)
	Region	- (1997) Assistance to South Pacific to meet new fish regulations (\$165,000) - (2001) Uruguay Round Agreement on agriculture: present and future implications for agriculture and fisheries in the region

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2002-2005) National HACCP-based fish inspection systems in the South Pacific (\$323,000)</li> <li>- (2003-2007) Strengthening coastal fisheries legislation in the Pacific Island States of Micronesia (\$341,000)</li> <li>- (2004-2005) Elaboration of a national plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (\$90,000)</li> <li>- (2006-2007) Sustainable aquaculture development in Pacific Micronesia (\$323,000)</li> <li>- (2005-2007) South-South Cooperation (dispatchment of SSC fisheries/aquaculture technicians)</li> </ul>
<b>TSF</b>	Cook Islands	- (1999) Fish Aggregate Device assistance (\$1,666)
	Niue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2001) Icing of Fish Products (\$9,750)</li> <li>- (2002) Re-establishment of Hakupu Marine Conservation Area (\$6,965)</li> </ul>
	Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1998) Lagoon giant clam nursery development in Fusi Safata Village on Upolu Island (\$9,105)</li> <li>- (1998) Lagoon giant clam nursery development in Satoalepai Village on Savaii Island (\$5,925)</li> </ul>
	Solomon Islands	- (1998) Kia Village Fishing Project, Santa Isabel (\$5,300)
	Tonga	- (1998) Improved drying of fish facility (\$7,500)
<b>Others</b>	Cook Islands	- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)
	FSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2005) Study on improving data collections / fishery statistics in FSM</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$4,700)</li> </ul>
	Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1999) Collection of aquaculture and fisheries technical information material (\$440)</li> <li>- (2003) Study on fish trade and food security in Fiji</li> <li>- (2005-2006) Tilapia marketing study in Fiji</li> <li>- (2006) Study on improvement of information on status and trends of fisheries in Fiji</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating a draft National Plan of Action for IUU Fishing in Fiji</li> </ul>
	Kiribati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2002) Feasibility study on the development of shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus stylirostris</i>) farming</li> <li>- (2002) Study on ecological and socio-economic factors in seaweed farming (\$2,000)</li> <li>- (2005) Study on corporate and business plan for Central Pacific Producers Limited in Kiribati</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> </ul>
	Marshall Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2001) Study on formulation of national fisheries management plan for sharks and seabirds</li> <li>- (2003) Follow-up study on formulation of national plan of action for the conservation and management of sharks</li> <li>- (2004) Fishery policy study</li> </ul>
	Nauru	- (2007) Follow-up activity of the Regional Workshop on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Fisheries held in Samoa, May 2006
	Niue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2003) Fisheries policy study</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating draft National Plan of Action for IUU Fishing in Niue</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating draft National Plan of Action for Sharks in Niue</li> </ul>
Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2001) Feasibility study on milkfish farming</li> <li>- (2004) Study on national fisheries management programme for sharks</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating draft National Plan of Action for IUU Fishing in Palau</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating a draft National Plan of Action for IUU fishing in Palau</li> </ul>
PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1996-1998) Special Programme on food production in support of Food Security in PNG (including inland aquaculture development) (\$744,730)</li> <li>- (2002) Study on formulation of national fisheries management plan for sharks</li> <li>- (2002) Study on possible elements for a future project to assess the impact of the FISHAID Project in the Sepik and Ramu catchments, PNG</li> <li>- (2006) Case study on ecosystem approach to fisheries (between fisheries and marine mammals) in PNG</li> </ul>
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2003) Study on fish trade and food security in Samoa</li> <li>- (2005) Assistance in giant clam broodstock</li> <li>- (2007) Assistance in formulating draft National Plan of Action for IUU Fishing in Samoa</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> </ul>
Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2006) Study on improvement of information on status and trends of fisheries in Solomon Islands</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> </ul>
Tonga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1998) Second In-Country HACCP Training Workshop in Va'vau</li> <li>- (2000) Assistance in producing an educational video tape on natural resources management and conservation (\$1,000)</li> <li>- (2002) Study on tuna and bottom fishery license management</li> <li>- (2006) Study on improvement of information on status and trends of fisheries in Tonga</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> </ul>
Tuvalu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (2003) Study on institutional review of NAFICOT and Fisheries Department</li> </ul>
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1999) Seaweed site survey</li> <li>- (2003) Study on potential of farming tilapia and freshwater prawn in Vanuatu</li> <li>- (2006) Study on improvement of information on status and trends of fisheries in Vanuatu</li> <li>- (2007) Case study on socio-economic and demographic information of coastal fisheries and fisheries management (\$1,700)</li> <li>- (2007-2008) Follow-up activity of the Regional Workshop on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Fisheries held in Samoa, May 2006</li> </ul>

Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (1985-1991) South Pacific Aquaculture Development Project (Phase I)</li> <li>- (1994-1999) South Pacific Aquaculture Development Project (Phase II) (\$4,170,000)</li> <li>- (1998) Regional Workshop on Economic Strengthening of Fisheries Industries in Small Island Developing States in the South Pacific in Apia, 14-18 September 1998</li> <li>- (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) Roundtable Meeting for Pacific Island Countries on WTO Agreements and Provisions</li> <li>- (2001) Sub-Regional Workshop on Uruguay Round and Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations</li> <li>- (2001) Project formulation study on fisheries legislation in Micronesia</li> <li>- (2001) Project formulation study on seaweed farming in the region</li> <li>- (2001-2006) Support for improvement of statistics on coastal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture (\$250,000)</li> <li>- (2001-2002) Aquaculture country profiles for the Pacific Island countries</li> <li>- (2001-2002, 2008-2009) Updating fishery country profiles and atlas for 14 Pacific Island countries</li> <li>- (2003) Study on safety-at-sea of small fishing vessels</li> <li>- (2003) Regional assessment on capture fisheries</li> <li>- (2003) Study on creating legal space for community-based fisheries and customary marine tenure in the Pacific: issues and opportunities</li> <li>- (2003) ACP Fish II Consultation Workshop, Noumea, New Caledonia, 25-26 August 2003</li> <li>- (2003) Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Pacific Islands - a Call to Action, Nadi, Fiji, 27-31 October 2003</li> <li>- (2003-2004) National Aquaculture Sector Overview for the Pacific Island countries</li> <li>- (2004-2007) Support to the Regional Programme for Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries (\$4,500,000)</li> <li>- (2005) Regional Workshop on the Elaboration of National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – Pacific Islands Subregion, Nadi, Fiji, 29 August – 2 September 2005</li> <li>- (2005) Regional study on spear fishing</li> <li>- (2006) FAO/FFA Regional Workshop to Promote the Full and Effective Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing, Nadi, Fiji, 28 August – 1 September 2006</li> <li>- (2008) FAO/SPC Regional Workshop on Ecosystem Approaches to Management of Coastal Fisheries in the Pacific Island Countries, Nadi, Fiji, 17-21 November 2008</li> </ul>
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## **8. FAO Technical Assistance Programmes:**

### Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) – Development Support:

- FAO's regular & comprehensive project at national and regional level.
- Under a TCP project, expert (consultant & FAO technical officer)'s technical services, training activities (workshop), equipment provision, study tour etc. can be arranged according to the planned project activities.
- Maximum budget for a project is US\$500,000 for 2 years (average: US\$250,000 for one year).
- Guidelines for TCP project proposal are available on request.
- Project request has to be submitted to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa through the government official channels (Ministry concerned ⇒ Foreign Affairs ⇒ FAO).

### Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) – Emergency Assistance and Support to Rehabilitation:

- TCP emergency assistance is for the sustainable rehabilitation of productive activities and of technical cooperation to support effective government responses including the identification of necessary inputs.
- Maximum budget for an emergency assistance project is US\$500,000.
- Guidelines for TCP project proposal are available on request.
- Project request (with damage assessment) has to be submitted to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa through the government official channels (Ministry concerned ⇒ Foreign Affairs ⇒ FAO).

### Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Facility:

- TCP Facility was newly established to respond to government requests for urgent local programme support activities at national and regional level.
- Under a TCP Facility project, expert (consultant & FAO technical officer)'s technical services can be arranged according to the planned project activities.
- US\$200,000 per country and per biennium.
- Guidelines for TCP Facility project proposal are available on request.
- Project request has to be submitted to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa through the government official channels (Ministry concerned ⇒ Foreign Affairs ⇒ FAO).

### TeleFood Special Funds (TSF):

- TeleFood project is for community-based (community, group, association or NGO) activities.
- Through a TeleFood project, necessary equipment are provided to further support community activities.
- Maximum project budget is US\$10,000. Maximum annual budget per country is US\$30,000.
- Guidelines for TeleFood project proposal are available on request.
- Project request has to come from a community (or group, association, NGO) and be submitted to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa through the government official channels (community ⇒ Ministry concerned ⇒ Foreign Affairs ⇒ FAO).

### Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS):

- SPFS is a comprehensive project among agriculture, fisheries and forestry at national and regional level.
- Project budget can be larger than a TCP project, and project duration can be for a few years.
- Project request has to be submitted to the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa through the government official channels (Ministry concerned ⇒ Foreign Affairs ⇒ Ministry concerned).

Trust Fund:

- Trust-funded project is an extra budgetary programme at regional level supported by donor government(s).
- Project can be formulated for multi-years.
- Project proposal is arranged by FAO for its submission to donor government(s).

Regular Programme:

- Regular programme activities are implemented by a technical officer of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands under the regular programme budget allocated bi-ennially.

*For further information on FAO fisheries & aquaculture programme, please contact:*

*Masanami Izumi  
Fishery Officer  
E-mail: [masanami.izumi@fao.org](mailto:masanami.izumi@fao.org)*

*FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands, Private Mail Bag, Apia, Samoa  
Phone: (+685) 22127 or 20710 Fax: (+685) 22126  
Website: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) [www.faopacific.ws](http://www.faopacific.ws)*