

Customised leadership and management training for Pacific fisheries

Over the next five years, 125 current and emerging leaders in the Pacific Island fisheries sector will be able to apply for and complete a uniquely tailored three-stage modular programme in leadership and management. Participants can expect this learning journey to take up to 18 months through face-to-face workshops, learning experiences, coaching and resources relevant and applicable to their daily work. Integral to the success of the Pacific Fisheries Leadership Project (PFLP) are the coaching sessions that link the modules on Leadership for Effectiveness; Leadership Experience; and Leadership for Change.



Image: Colette Wabnitz, SPC

Funded by the New Zealand Government and contributing to the goals of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries, PFLP is being implemented by a consortium led by the Pacific Community (SPC) along with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), University of Queensland (UQ), People Focus (NZ leadership development specialists), and the Centre for Adaptive Leadership (CLA).

Calls for applications for Cohort 1 have now closed and the selection panel is assessing the applicants based on a set of criteria that was circulated to members in June 2018. Successful candidates who have been supported by their national senior leadership team (e.g. fisheries director, permanent secretary, minister or senior foreign affairs official) will soon be notified of logistics to commence their first coaching session and online learning. The inaugural face-to-face workshop will be conducted in January 2019 in Nadi, Fiji.

‘It is deeply inspiring to be part of such a terrific consortium delivering PFLP,’ said Cameron Bowles, Team Leader for PFLP. Bowles said ‘as well as SPC and FFA, the consortium brings different perspectives, skills and experience from the University of Queensland, People Focus (NZ) and CLA (Centre for Leadership and Adaptation)’.

Cameron further added that PFLP is committed to applying to itself the same principles it is advocating in exercising leadership – reflecting on practice, engaging others, adapting and taking calculated risks in order to continually improve its response and relevance to the contexts and needs of fisheries participants from across the Pacific.

PFLP aims to improve quality and diversity of leadership and management in priority sectorial areas with an increased cooperation between relevant participants and their institutions for the fisheries sector. As such, PFLP wants to attract not only the most relevant, but the most committed and interested participants possible, including those that directly impact national fisheries succession planning.

A key outcome of these annual cohorts is the ability to successfully gain credits in the award courses ‘Inclusive Strategic Leadership’ and ‘People and Teams’ through UQ’s graduate certificate in Leadership. This programme is based on real world issues and experiences, and is adapted to the context and needs of participants. Students can then complete the other two courses for the UQ graduate certificate on their own or with an employer or other sponsorship. UQ is willing to deliver these two courses nationally or subregionally if teams of 10 or more learners are enrolled.

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