

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

6th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting
(9–13 February 2009, Noumea, New Caledonia)

Background Paper 1

Original: English

SCICOFish

Marine Resources Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Noumea, New Caledonia

www.spc.int/mrd



Name of applicant:	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	
Title of the project:	Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (SCICOFish)	
Location(s) of the project:	Pacific ACPs, with complementary activities in OCTs (overseas countries and territories), given OCT funding support	
Focal Sector	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	
Total duration of the project:	48 months	
Total eligible cost of the project (A): Refer budget summary page	Amount of grant requested (B)	% of total eligible cost (B/Ax100)
EUR 9,981,400	EUR 9,981,400	100%

Contact details for the purpose of this project:

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Application Number	
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(for use of the Pacific RAO only)

1. Summary of the project

Fisheries, ranging from industrial-scale tuna fisheries to small-scale coastal and lagoon subsistence fisheries, are the lifeblood of Pacific Island countries, providing an important source of foreign exchange revenue, employment opportunities for both men and women, small business opportunities and nutrition. Tuna fisheries provide economic benefits through foreign access agreements, and increasingly through direct involvement in the catching and onshore processing sectors. Coastal fisheries are vitally important at the community level, providing a source of protein and income for small-scale fishers. Pacific tuna fisheries are still generally regarded as healthy by global standards. However, they are coming under pressure with fishing effort increasing as stocks in other oceans become overfished. Overfishing is now thought to be occurring for two species, yellowfin and bigeye tuna. Many coastal resources, especially commercial invertebrate species, are overexploited. Science-based management that includes all stakeholders is essential to ensure the sustainability of these resources for future generations.

This project will build on the results of a number of previous EC-funded projects (in particular, SCIFISH, PROCFish and CoFish), to assist Pacific ACPs (and OCTs, with anticipated support from the OCT component of EDF 10) develop the scientific information and monitoring infrastructure required to manage their coastal and oceanic fisheries. The **objective** of the project is the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic fisheries resources in the Pacific Islands region. The project **purpose** is improved management of coastal and oceanic fisheries by Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments and by relevant regional fisheries management authorities, through the provision of a reliable scientific basis for decision-making. The expected results of the project are that (1) Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are provided with scientific data, modelling, and advice on oceanic fisheries to underpin their management decision-making and strategic positioning; and (2) Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, the private sector and communities are equipped to monitor coastal fisheries to provide scientific advice in support of sustainable management of these resources. These results will be achieved by developing and implementing in-country monitoring programmes, developing or enhancing national fisheries databases and data management infrastructure, conducting research on the biological and ecological characteristics of tuna stocks, and conducting population and bioeconomic modelling to directly inform fisheries management decision-making and strategic positioning, including adaptation to climate change.

2. Relevance of the project

2.1 *Analysis of the problems*

Oceanic fisheries are dominated by large-scale industrial tuna fishing. Regionally, fisheries management is coordinated by WCPFC. All Pacific ACPs and OCTs (with the exception of Timor Leste and Pitcairn Islands), and fishing nations/entities including the European Community, are members of WCPFC. As Commission members, Pacific ACPs and OCTs have obligations to WCPFC for data provision and management implementation in respect of their EEZs. They also have the responsibility of implementing their own National Tuna Fisheries Management Plans, with FFA acting in a coordinating role for ACPs. Because of the wide distribution and migratory nature of tuna stocks, fishery monitoring, scientific research, stock assessment and supporting data management are most effectively coordinated at the regional level. However, there is also a critical need for the bioeconomic effects of management measures, as well as external drivers such as environmental variability including climate change, to be assessed at the national level. This project will provide Pacific ACPs (and OCTs) with scientific and bioeconomic advice on the impacts of environmental variability and management measures on tuna fisheries. It will conduct fishery monitoring and data management capacity building and biological research on stocks to underpin this advice. The RIP intervention areas addressed in respect of oceanic fisheries include Result 2.1 (the region is better prepared to face the consequences of climate change), parts of Result 2.2, in particular 2.2.3 (promote ecosystem-based management emphasising ecological, social and economic linkages), and Result 2.3, in particular 2.3.2 (improve the collection and quality of data on fishing stocks).

Traditionally, **coastal resources** have been harvested for subsistence purposes. However, more recently, there has been an increasing focus on harvesting them for livelihood purposes, adding more fishing pressure to these stocks. Predicted population growth (+50% by 2030) will also exacerbate the problem and in many cases lead to overfishing. The results of the PROCFish/C project clearly indicate that overfishing is occurring in some locations and on some species, especially commercial invertebrates. Achieving sustainable management of coastal resources requires a basic understanding of resource dynamics and productivity, and the effects of human activities and environmental factors. This can be gained through a range of standardised monitoring activities including in-water assessments, socioeconomic surveys, creel or market surveys and landing or export data. The RIP intervention areas addressed by the project in respect of coastal fisheries include several areas of Result 2.2 (marine resources supporting food security and small-scale livelihoods in a sustainable manner); Result 2.3 (the region is more capable of assessing fishing stocks); parts of Result 2.5 (the ecosystem and terrestrial and marine biodiversity are preserved); and parts of Result 2.7 (the region is able to measure environmental baselines, monitor changes and design appropriate measures).

2.2 Target groups and final beneficiaries

The final beneficiaries of the project will be Pacific Island people in general, as the improved livelihoods, food security and government revenue resulting from good fisheries management will help sustain viable economies and communities and alleviate poverty. Target groups will include fisheries departments, other government departments (environment, planning, finance, foreign affairs) with an interest in coastal and oceanic fisheries, coastal communities, fishing industries and NSAs. In the case of oceanic fisheries, WCPFC, its subsidiary bodies (particularly the Scientific Committee) and members (including the European Community) will be an additional target group.

2.3 Relevance of the project to target countries, and to the target groups/final beneficiary groups

The relevance of the project is demonstrable at a number of levels. The project will address key priorities in the Pacific Plan's Sustainable Development Pillar, particularly improved natural resource and environmental management. More specifically, the 2007 Vava'u Declaration by Forum Leaders committed Pacific ACPs to, *inter alia*, (1) 'the development and management of coastal/inshore fisheries and aquaculture to support food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth for current and future generations of Pacific people' and (2) 'strengthening our support for the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and other regional fisheries bodies as they intensify their efforts in applying a long-term strategic approach to Pacific fisheries, and to tuna species in particular, to ensure that these resources are effectively managed so as to provide enduring economic, social and cultural benefits'. This project will provide the necessary scientific support for Pacific ACPs, in particular to target groups, to fulfil these commitments. At the national level, SPC and its members are developing joint country strategies to address national needs in different sectors, including fisheries. These jointly developed strategies will provide important input to the detailed project design at the national level.

2.4 Relevance of the project to the priorities and requirements presented in these Guidelines

Both the EC's Regional Strategy and the EDF 10 Pacific Regional Indicative Programme highlight the importance of fisheries in the region and the need to sustainably manage these resources. The objective of **Focal Area 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment** is to *ensure that economic growth, food security and small-scale livelihoods are sustainable and will not deplete natural resources and the environment, and that thus both are preserved for future generations of Pacific Islanders*. This objective will be directly addressed by the project by providing scientific support for the development of cost-effective solutions for the sustainable management of marine resources (Result 1 of Focal Area 2). The project will also address vulnerability issues in the Pacific (Result 2 of Focal Area 2), with respect to ecosystem-based management of heavily exploited coastal fishery resources, and will help identify the risks posed to both coastal and oceanic fisheries by climate change. The RIP intervention areas targeted by the project include:

- Improving the sustainable use of resources, planning and management systems/frameworks and production practices at all levels;
- Promoting ecosystem-based management, emphasising ecological, social and economic linkages;
- Promoting and supporting initiatives to ensure food security and small-scale livelihoods for Pacific people;
- Strengthening the region's capabilities to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through stock assessment, a more comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance strategy, and certification procedures aimed at verifying the legality of catches harvested and processed in the region; and
- Improving collection and quality of data of fishing stocks.

3. Project description and effectiveness

3.1 Overall objective of the project, purpose, and expected key results

The overall objective of this project is the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic fisheries resources in the Pacific Islands region. The project purpose is improved management of coastal and oceanic fisheries by Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments and by relevant regional fisheries management authorities, through the provision of a reliable scientific basis for decision-making. Results of the project link directly to the sustainable management result sought in Focal Area 2 of the RIP. Performance indicators for the project objective and purpose would include: fisheries continue to produce catches consistent with sustainable exploitation; stocks are exploited only within sustainable limits; and the best scientific evidence is considered in management decision-making. Results will be in the following areas:

Result 1: Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, FFA and WCPFC are provided with scientific data, modelling, and advice on oceanic fisheries to underpin their management decision-making and strategic positioning.

Result 2: Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, the private sector and communities are equipped to monitor coastal fisheries to provide scientific advice in support of sustainable management of these resources.

3.2 Proposed activities, and key performance/success indicators

Activities to achieve Result 1 include:

- Develop national tuna fisheries databases in Pacific ACPs (and OCTs) tailored to their WCPFC reporting obligations, conduct data audits at regular intervals and undertake associated capacity building;
- Conduct national, subregional and regional-level observer/port sampling training, observer debriefing and debriefing training, and develop competency-based training standards and documentation for these activities;
- Develop the large-scale Spatial Ecosystem and Population Dynamics Model (SEAPODYM) to estimate the response of Pacific tuna stocks, at regional and national levels, to exploitation, management interventions and environmental variability, including climate change;
- Develop and use a regional bioeconomic model of Pacific tuna fisheries to guide regional tuna development and management strategies, to estimate the economic impacts on Pacific ACPs of potential tuna fisheries management measures and to evaluate and predict the economic impacts of environmental variation including climate change at both regional and national levels;
- Conduct biological research on regional tuna stocks to underpin stock assessment, ecosystem and bioeconomic modelling.

Activities to achieve Result 2 include:

- Prioritise individual country needs on coastal fisheries science and monitoring through in-country stakeholder consultations;
- Develop and implement standardised monitoring protocols through capacity building at the community, private sector and fisheries department level in selected countries;
- Develop appropriate modules (monitoring data, creel and market survey data, landing and export data, etc.) with standardised monitoring protocols, national databases, a regional database repository and in-country capacity building in data entry, database management and data analysis.

Performance indicators for the results include collection and analysis of national fisheries data, increases in observer coverage rates, production of regional stock assessments and national reports, and contribution of national data to regional data repositories.

3.3 *Involvement of implementing partners*

The project will be implemented by SPC in close collaboration with the Fisheries Departments in Pacific ACPs (and OCTs). SPC will also work with other NGO partners in-country and in local communities as appropriate, to maximise implementation at the grassroots level. FFA will be a formal partner (under an institutional letter of agreement) in the bioeconomic modelling activity.

3.4 *Other possible stakeholders*

The Fisheries Departments of the 14 Pacific ACPs will be major stakeholders. In the case of the coastal fisheries component, local communities and community groups, fishing associations, small-scale fishers and others with an interest or involvement in coastal fisheries will be stakeholders in the project. Other government departments, such as conservation, environment, planning, finance and foreign affairs, will also be included as stakeholders where appropriate, as well as interested NSAs. In the case of the oceanic component, WCPFC will be an additional stakeholder. At the start of the project, Timor Leste will be visited to assess any areas where assistance could be provided, especially in relation to training activities they could benefit from. Pacific OCTs are expected to be stakeholders under a parallel project funded from the OCT EDF 10 envelope.

3.5 *A description of monitoring and evaluation procedures*

There will be a range of monitoring and evaluation procedures associated with this project. The project manager and project administrator will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project. An Advisory Committee, made up of the Heads of Fisheries for Pacific ACPs (and OCTs), the RAO and EC, will give annual guidance and input to the project. Mid-year and end-of-year reports will be provided with audited accounts to the RAO and EC. There will be an annual monitoring mission, a mid-term review and a final evaluation of the project, all coordinated by the RAO.

4. Sustainability of the project

4.1 *Initial risk analysis and contingency plans*

Risks applicable to both results: National fishery departments must be receptive to the project's capacity-building activities and able to commit staff to them. This risk will be minimised by obtaining buy-in on project activities through SPC consultative processes, including SPC-coordinated Heads of Fisheries meetings and joint country strategies, and the Project Steering Committee. An additional strategy will be to fund new staff in-country to undertake national counterpart activities and receive training, on the understanding that such positions will be absorbed into the fisheries establishment post-project. An additional human resource risk relates to SPC's ability to recruit suitably qualified and experienced scientific staff to undertake the project. This risk is mitigated by internationally competitive CROP employment conditions. As an additional contingency measure, we will maintain the flexibility to replace long-term technical assistance with consultancy contracts if necessary.

Risks to achieving Result 1: Regional oceanic fishery research activities are subject to variables such as weather, availability of fish for tagging and the cooperation of the fishing industry and regional

observer programmes. SPC has good contacts in industry and observer programmes to promote cooperation and has extensive experience in conducting field-based research of this nature. Publicity and incentives such as tag rewards will also be used to encourage the cooperation of industry and others in these aspects of the project.

Risks to achieving Result 2: Current staff in Fisheries Departments may not have the skills or equipment necessary to undertake their chosen priority coastal fisheries monitoring activities, manage the resulting data, or analyse, interpret and document the results. This risk will be addressed through capacity building in the identified priority areas to ensure maximum uptake of in-country activities. Appropriate equipment, including computer equipment and maintenance support, will be provided to countries as required to implement project activities. SPC will provide a backup facility for all national data in a centralised database at SPC to mitigate the risk of data loss through computer failure.

4.2 *Preconditions and assumptions*

The main assumption is that Pacific ACP governments have the political will to take management decisions based on the best scientific information, even where such decisions might have short-term negative economic or social consequences. The commitment shown by Forum Leaders, through instruments such as the Pacific Plan and Vava'u Declaration, to sustainable management of Pacific fisheries suggests that this assumption will hold during and after the project.

4.3 *Sustainability after completion of the project*

The project activities will be well integrated into and supported by the overall work programmes of SPC's Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries Programmes. Commitments of longer-term funding through SPC's core and programme funding budgets will ensure that project outcomes are sustainable.

5. Operational capacity and expertise

5.1 *Applicant's experience in project management of similar projects*

SPC has managed a wide range of fisheries projects for many donors over the last 20 years and has an outstanding track record in project management. SPC fisheries programmes have successfully implemented projects funded under EDF 6, 7, 8 and 9, with all projects meeting objectives and audited according to EC requirements. The most recent of these projects were PROCFish (EDF 8 – €10.5 million), CoFish (EDF 9 – €2 million) and SCIFISH (EDF 9 – €6.7 million). SPC also administers the funding for the SPC component of the DEVFISH project under EDF 9 funding, with FFA being the lead organisation. SPC has recently undergone a successful institutional audit by the EC.

5.2 *Applicant's technical expertise*

SPC's fisheries programmes have the regional mandate to provide scientific support for fisheries management to the 22 Pacific Island country and territory members of SPC. This support covers all aspects of coastal and oceanic fisheries science. The Coastal Fisheries Programme has developed in-house expertise in coastal fisheries science that is currently being strengthened. The Oceanic Fisheries Programme is an internationally recognised pelagic fisheries research programme. Both programmes have an excellent working relationship with FFA, providing scientific support for tuna fisheries management and development (through an inter-agency MOU, including partnerships in the current DEVFISH and SCIFISH projects). Additionally, the Oceanic Fisheries Programme provides scientific services to WCPFC which will ensure that management decisions are informed by scientific information resulting from this project.

SUMMARY LOGFRAME

<i>Narrative Summary</i>	<i>Performance/Success Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>																												
Project Objective																															
Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic fisheries resources in the Pacific Islands region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional tuna fishery produces catches at appropriate levels All tuna stocks exploited within sustainable limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPC catch statistics Stock status reports to WCPFC 																													
Project Purpose																															
To provide a scientific basis for the management of coastal and oceanic fisheries by Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments and by relevant regional fisheries management authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best scientific evidence used to manage fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery management plans WCPFC conservation and management measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments have the political will to take conservation and management decisions based on the best scientific information 																												
Project Results																															
<p><i>Result 1:</i> Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, FFA and WCPFC are provided with scientific data, modelling, and advice to underpin their management decision making and strategic positioning.</p> <p><i>Result 2:</i> Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments, private sector and communities are equipped to monitor coastal fisheries to provide scientific advice in support of sustainable management of these resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National tuna fisheries databases operational in 10 P-ACPs (and OCTs) Tuna data audits conducted for 10 P-ACPs (and OCTs) Number of observers trained, number of observer trainers and debriefers operational P-ACPs (and OCTs) report data to WCPFC as per their obligations Observer coverage rates reach regionally-agreed levels by 2012 10 stock assessments for key tuna species, incorporating new data collected, are provided to WCPFC during 2010-2013 1 regional and 10 national reports providing bioeconomic modelling advice 1 regional and 10 national reports providing advice on tuna resource vulnerability to environmental variability including climate change Country specific needs prioritised for all P-ACPs (OCTs) Standard monitoring protocols implemented in at least 5 P-ACPs National database modules operational with trained national personnel doing data entry, database management and data analysis in at least 5 P-ACPs Regional data repository maintained and national data provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPC/WCPFC databases Data audit reports WCPFC SC and TCC reports Regional/national bioeconomic reports Regional/national tuna resource profiles Project reports National databases SPC repository database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments and industry will cooperate with capacity building and tuna fisheries research Pacific ACP (and OCT) governments will commit human resources for capacity building in fishery monitoring 																												
Project Activities																															
1.1 National tuna fisheries databases and data auditing 1.2 Observer/port sampling capacity building 1.3 Model tuna stocks at national and regional levels 1.4 Estimate bioeconomic impacts of management and environment 1.5 Biological research on regional tuna stocks 2.1 Coastal fisheries needs assessment 2.2 Coastal fisheries monitoring 2.3 National coastal fisheries databases	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget Item</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total staff costs</td> <td>4,565,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel and subsistence costs</td> <td>1,080,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training costs</td> <td>740,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment and services</td> <td>305,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumables and other supplies</td> <td>160,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subcontracts/consultancies</td> <td>730,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fieldwork costs</td> <td>1,030,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dissemination of results</td> <td>360,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monitoring and evaluation</td> <td>104,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total direct costs</td> <td>9,074,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eligible indirect costs</td> <td>635,180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingency reserve</td> <td>272,220</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>9,981,400</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget Item	Total	Total staff costs	4,565,000	Travel and subsistence costs	1,080,000	Training costs	740,000	Equipment and services	305,000	Consumables and other supplies	160,000	Subcontracts/consultancies	730,000	Fieldwork costs	1,030,000	Dissemination of results	360,000	Monitoring and evaluation	104,000	Total direct costs	9,074,000	Eligible indirect costs	635,180	Contingency reserve	272,220	TOTAL	9,981,400		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing industries cooperate in biological and bioeconomic research Tuna stocks remain sufficiently abundant to facilitate biological research, e.g. tagging P-ACP (and OCT) governments can commit human resources for training activities
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SUMMARY BUDGET (in Euros)

Budget Lines of Direct Eligible Costs	Project Total	Total EDF Grant Requested	Co-financing
• Staff costs (long-term TA) ¹	4,565,000	4,565,000	0
• Travel and subsistence costs Project staff travel	1,080,000	1,080,000	0
• Training costs Regional, sub-regional workshops, attachments, in-country training	740,000	740,000	0
• Equipment and services IT equipment and support, office	305,000	305,000	0
• Consumables and other supplies Office supplies, materials	160,000	160,000	0
• Subcontracts/consultancies Training delivery, fieldwork, database development, modelling	730,000	730,000	0
• Fieldwork costs ²	1,030,000	1,030,000	0
• Dissemination of project results Reports/CDs, translation, website, media, advisory committee, EC visibility ³	360,000	360,000	0
• Monitoring and evaluation Audit, mid-term review, final evaluation	104,000	104,000	0
Total direct costs	9,074,000	9,074,000	0
Eligible indirect costs (overheads) ⁴	635,180	635,180	0
Contingency reserve	272,220	272,220	0
TOTAL	9,981,400	9,981,400	0

Contributions in kind

The current work programme of the Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries Programmes will directly complement the activities described in the project. In 2007 and 2008, the budgets for the Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries Programmes were each around €3-4 million (excluding EDF funding) and at least this level of funding is expected to continue in 2009 and 2010. The majority of this funding is from the governments of Australia, France, New Zealand, WCPFC and member contributions, with smaller amounts coming from the Commonwealth Secretariat, ACIAR, Taiwan/ROC, MacArthur Foundation and others.

Explanatory footnotes

1. Staff will be made up of an observer/port sampling coordinator, observer/port sampling trainer, database audit officer, bioeconomic modeller, fishery economist (FFA-based), fishery scientist, ecosystem modeller, tuna biologist, tag recovery officer, senior coastal fisheries scientist, senior social scientist, information manager and project administrator.
2. Fieldwork costs include the costs of coastal fishery resource surveys, tuna tagging, tuna biological sample collection, etc.
3. At least 1% of the budget will be allocated to EC visibility.
4. Indirect costs cover administrative, finance and staff support costs, estimated at 7% of direct costs.

DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT FOR CONCEPT NOTE

The Applicant, represented by the undersigned, being the authorised signatory of the Applicant, including every partner (if any), hereby declares that:

- The Applicant has the sources of financing and professional competence and qualifications specified in the Concept Note.
- The Applicant is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the Project with its partners and is not acting as an intermediary.
- The Applicant and its partners are not in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in the Section in these Guidelines on the Non Participation of Eligible Applicants.
- The Applicant and each partner are eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in the Guidelines for Applications.

Signed on behalf of the Applicant:

Name	Dr. Jimmie Rodgers
Signature	
Position	Director-General
Date	27 November 2008