



# 5<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

11–14 October 2022



Original: English

## Outcomes and Actions Report from the 5<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

FAME

## Outcomes and Actions Report from the 5<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

### *Background*

1. The **5<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5)**, including the **2<sup>nd</sup> Community Based-Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2)**, was held on the **11 to 14 October 2022** at the SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.
2. The RTMCFA5 (the ‘meeting’) was hosted using a hybrid format where members and partners attended the meeting either in-person by traveling to SPC Headquarters or virtually using the online meeting platform, Zoom.
3. The meeting brought together coastal fisheries and aquaculture scientists, fisheries officers and technical experts in the Pacific to discuss important technical and scientific gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities.
4. The overarching theme of RTMCFA5 focused on the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, equitable access to resources and enhanced sustainable development of aquaculture and coastal fisheries.
5. The hybrid format of the meeting required a more focused discussion on a limited number of high priority technical issues with in-depth discussions in breakout group sessions.
6. This is the second RTMCFA meeting to host the CBFD, where representatives from the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other Non-State Actors (NSAs) provided input and shared their experiences on key issues and challenges, offering solutions from community-based initiatives relating to the health and well-being of their fisheries resources.
7. Members from Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Nouvelle-Calédonie, Palau, Polynésie française, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States attended the meeting in-person, with Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Wallis-et-Futuna participating remotely. Over 130 (47 in-person and 76 online) participants attended the meeting in representation of SPC member countries and territories, observers, CSOs, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other NSAs.
8. RTMCFA5 was Chaired by Nauru, under the stewardship of Mr. Monte Depaune, Coastal Fisheries Manager for the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority.
9. The meeting was opened by Mr. Neville Smith, Director for SPC Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME).
10. This report outlines the outcomes and action points of consensus among delegates, that the meeting felt necessary to document in order to highlight priority issues and needs to be actioned by SPC members. It also provides guidance to SPC’s Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP) and identifies key recommendations to be taken to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries (HoF) Meeting in late March 2023.

### *Introduction to the coastal fisheries technical sessions*

11. Prior to this hybrid meeting, participants from the Pacific Islands countries and territories (PICTs) were sent a brief questionnaire on their national coastal fisheries and aquaculture priorities, issues, challenges and actions implemented since RTMCFA4, which was held in October 2021. This information was collated in Information Paper 2, and the common priority coastal fisheries needs and technical issues or challenges were summarised in Information Paper 10. The meeting participants were requested to review these papers as background for RTMCFA5 discussions.

### *Coastal fisheries: “Changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture through MCS”*

12. SPC presented on ‘Changing behaviour in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture through Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement’ (Working Paper 1) highlighting the importance of changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture by developing a culture of compliance within communities and the general public.
13. The meeting *agreed on* the following actions to develop a culture of compliance within communities and the general public:
  - a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide support for further developing the Incident Book approach and to develop alternatives to prosecutions in court such as spot fines, demerit points system and infringement notices for smaller offences through adequate legislation, where needed.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to continue developing and delivering MCS&E training and the use of incident books and electronic devices in the field.
  - c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to assist in the training-of-trainers to assist communities in introducing their own place-based and contextualized MCS&E approaches.
  - d. The meeting *acknowledges* that the USAID funded OurFish OurFuture activity aims to address the social and ecological drivers of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing that are harming coastal fisheries and biodiversity, as well as negatively impacting local livelihoods, food stability, and maritime security in the 12 Pacific Island countries with specific focus on: Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
  - e. The meeting *encourages* members to focus their MCS&E activities where they provide the greatest deterrent impact, for example by targeting commercial markets, seafood sellers and exporters as a matter of priority.
  - f. The meeting *encourages* members to continue to strengthen co-management approaches in communities – including approaches based on existing traditional and customary arrangements – with awareness raising and information tools to enhance voluntary compliance.

14. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the development and promotion of a culture of compliance using tools adapted to the local context and consider the adoption of an administrative penalty system of infringement notices, demerit points or spot fines (or other alternatives such as community services or in-kind payments) that are specific to members' needs.
- b. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to encourage the introduction of the Incident Book (in hardcopy or electronic form) as a tool to assist members' authorised officers in delivering enforcement activities in the field.

*Coastal Fisheries: "What science is needed for trade in CITES listed sea cucumber species"*

15. SPC presented on 'What science is needed for trade in CITES-listed sea cucumber species' (Working Paper 2), which sought to build an understanding of the current capacity of scientific authorities across PICTs to deal with trade regulations and obligations for exporting sea cucumber species listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).
16. To increase the capacity of members to meet the requirements of CITES provisions for Appendix II-listed Sea cucumber species, such as Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) and Legal Acquisition Findings (LAF), the meeting *agreed on* the following actions:
  - a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to support the establishment by PICTs of long-term stock assessment programmes sufficient for NDF purposes, for example by developing appropriate assessment protocols to meet minimum data requirements.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to assist in the development of better assessment tools using new technologies, such as electronic monitoring and reporting.
  - c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to assist members to increase their understanding of the basic biology of sea cucumbers, which is needed for stock assessment and for NDF purposes (e.g. life history and estimates of size and age at maturity).
  - d. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide more information on the CITES processes and requirements for making a NDF and a LAF.
  - e. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to produce identification guides for both wet and processed sea cucumbers for use by relevant PICT agencies.
  - f. The meeting *encourages* members to provide further support to communities to enhance capacity in post-harvest processing to increase the value of sea cucumber products, within effective management systems.

17. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the establishment by PICTs of long-term stock assessment programmes sufficient for NDF purposes, for example developing appropriate assessment protocols to meet minimum data requirements.
- b. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to encourage PICTs to: (i) focus compliance efforts and enforcement of management measures on buyers and exporters, (ii) improve collaborative arrangements between scientific and management authorities (e.g., via a memorandum of understanding), and (iii) regulate the number of buyers and exporters.
- c. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support SPC FAME with assisting members to develop management measures and regulations that are aligned with CITES requirements.

### *Introduction to the aquaculture technical sessions*

18. Prior to this hybrid meeting, participants from the PICTs were sent a brief questionnaire on their national coastal fisheries and aquaculture priorities, issues, challenges and actions implemented since RTMCF4, which was held in October 2021. This information was collated in Information Paper 2, and the common priority aquaculture needs and technical issues or challenges were summarised in Information Paper 11. The meeting participants were requested to review these papers as background for RTMCF5 discussions.

### *Aquaculture: “Developing the Regional Aquaculture Strategy – from Assessment to Strategy”*

19. Working Paper 2, ‘From assessment to strategy – Pacific aquaculture innovation for a Blue Transformation’ was presented by SPC to provide an update on the ongoing formulation of the Regional Aquaculture Strategy. PICTs were invited to share their views on regional aquaculture innovations that can contribute towards a “Blue Transformation” and the PICT National Pathways of Actions.
20. The meeting *noted* the Regional Aquaculture Assessment Report (IP12, tabled at HOF 14) is a guide on members’ priority issues and needs in aquaculture to help inform the development of a Regional Aquaculture Strategy for the Pacific.
21. The meeting *identified* the following aquaculture innovations for inclusion in a Regional Aquaculture Strategy:
  - Aquaculture opportunities which provide environmental and socio-economic benefits that ideally utilise simple and nature-based technologies, low inputs and locally available species.
  - Conduct feasibility assessments of new or under-utilised species and/or environments, such as finfish in offshore environments.
  - Investigate suitable aquaculture feeds, feeding strategies and feed ingredients, with emphasis on local production and use of alternative ingredients, such as fish waste, algae production, or culture of insects, to improve nutrition, and reduce feed costs.
  - Investigate the potential for digitisation and intelligent systems for farm management and for aquaculture data collection.

22. The meeting *agreed on* the following actions:

- a. The meeting *encourages* members to develop channels for exchanges of low-technology and low-impact aquaculture solutions, nationally and regionally, including research and development hubs across the public and private sectors.
- b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide advice on integrated multi-trophic aquaculture development.
- c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide support and training for cost-effective feed production and quality assurance of feed.
- d. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide support and training in aquaculture related economic viability assessments and environmental impact assessments.
- e. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide support and training for enhancing efficient operations of aquaculture facilities across both public and private sectors.

*Aquaculture: “Implementation of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity and National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans”*

23. Effective biosecurity assists in safeguarding local food production and access to markets, both of which are needed to increase economic resilience and decrease dependence on food imports within the Pacific islands region. This was also reiterated at the recent Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting held in August 2022.
24. SPC presented on the ‘Implementation of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity and National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans’ (Working Paper 4) discussing SPC’s role in facilitating the development of aquatic biosecurity capacity through the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework. This framework provides guidance on development and implementation of aquatic biosecurity policies at a regional level.
25. The meeting *noted* the progress made on regional aquatic biosecurity to-date, including that safeguarding local food production through increased biosecurity is recognised as a priority by Fisheries Ministers.
26. The meeting *agreed on* the following actions:
  - a. The meeting *encourages* members to review their national aquatic biosecurity plans to determine if they remain relevant, or require updating, to contribute to the review of the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to assist members with establishing MOUs between competent authorities as a priority for future national aquatic biosecurity plans or the revision of existing plans, to enhance inter-agency cooperation relating to aquatic biosecurity.
  - c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to include a broader scope than just aquatic animals and translocation in the revised Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework. Members generally

agreed that plant diseases, pest species, and genetic pollution, should be included in the Framework.

- d. The meeting *supports* SPC FAME's current review of aquatic biosecurity legislation and requested the results of this review be included in the mid-term review of the Framework. Members agreed that there was a general deficiency in the legislation addressing aquatic biosecurity concerns.
- e. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to facilitate the development of a laboratory network for veterinary diagnosis and to support diagnostic capacity building among PICTs. In particular, the meeting *requests* SPC FAME to review the availability of diagnostic laboratories within the Pacific islands region and to consider including regional laboratories and specialist laboratories available outside the Pacific, where appropriate.

27. Recommendations to Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the mid-term review of the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework in order to broaden its scope beyond just aquatic animals and to include the findings of the SPC aquatic biosecurity legislation review.
- b. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to encourage members to review their own aquatic biosecurity plans, in line with the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework review process, with an emphasis on developing interagency collaboration and response agreements, where appropriate.
- c. The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the investigation of the availability of diagnostic laboratories and the determination of requirements for developing a network that can service the Pacific islands region.

*Cross-cutting: "Coastal fisheries & aquaculture: What tools? When to use them? How to get training & support?"*

28. SPC presented on the 'Suite of tools for coastal fisheries and aquaculture: access, usage and support' (Working Paper 5) and on 'Building legal capacity for sustainable and equitable coastal fisheries and aquaculture management' (Information Paper 8).
29. Members *commended* SPC for the development of a wealth of data and information tools and apps for coastal fisheries and aquaculture, such as TAILS, Ikasavea and others. Very positive feedback was offered by those members already using these tools. Strong interest was expressed by other members in training and adoption of these various tools.
30. Members *requested* SPC to further develop and expand these tools, to include:
  - a. a dashboard that simplifies online access to, and streamline usage of the various tools now available;
  - b. a simplified version of Ikasavea appropriate for use by communities to monitor their own local resources, utilising a few key indicator species, to support the monitoring of local-area fisheries management plans;

- c. participation of community members in training for MCS&E certification in order to increase the skills and competencies needed at the community level for local area management of coastal fisheries; and
- d. development or modification of tools suitable for aquaculture data collection and analysis, and for sea cucumber re-stocking and sea ranching.

### *Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue*

31. The second meeting of the Cbfd (CBFD2) was convened by, and focused on, CSO and other NSA participation, as a 'meeting-within-a-meeting' agenda item of RTMCFA5. Mr Afelee Falema Pita from Tuvalu served as Convenor.
32. The purpose of the Cbfd is to give the CSO and other NSA community an opportunity to provide information and advice on key needs, through the RTMCFA, to the Heads of Fisheries to assist with informing Pacific Islands Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources. The Cbfd also provides an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities.
33. The Cbfd2 *noted* the establishment and the work of the interim Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) and focused on engaging and hearing the voices of NSAs through identification of important community-based fisheries issues that are common across the region or sub-regions and discussed ways to address or enhance them.
34. The Convenor presented the Cbfd Outcomes Report (Annex 1) to the RTMCFA5, and the meeting *agreed* on the following actions:
  - a. SPC FAME, as secretariat, should initiate Cbfd3 planning with the Convenor and the Cbfd-AG as soon as possible after Cbfd2 to enable enough time for inclusive and effective participant engagement at the national/sub-national levels.
  - b. Cbfd2 participants will provide their written feedback and suggestions on the four<sup>1</sup> Cbfd ToR to SPC FAME, as the secretariat, by the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 (in 1 month).
  - c. Cbfd2 participants, with the support of regional and national partners, will engage with national/sub-national authorities to improve the recognition of coastal fisheries offences as a priority.
35. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:

---

<sup>1</sup> SPC FAME RTMCFA5 & Cbfd2 website <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261>:

- Cbfd.BP1 Outcomes Report from the 1<sup>st</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue. Refer to Appendix 1: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR )
- Cbfd.BP3: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Convenor Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Cbfd.BP4: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Vice-Convenor Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Cbfd.BP5: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue - Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)



- a. The CBF2 *requests* HoF15 to encourage SPC members to initiate national community-based fisheries dialogues to improve communication with CSOs/NSAs and better address their needs and concerns related to coastal fisheries management.
- b. The CBF2 *requests* HoF15 to recognise the emerging issue of deep seabed mining and its potential consequences for coastal fisheries, and requests members to facilitate more independent research on deep sea ecosystems before consideration is given to commercial deep seabed mining.
- c. The CBF2 *requests* HoF15 to encourage SPC members to increase operational budgets for CBFM within national and sub-national government agencies, and to develop appropriate financial mechanisms to directly support communities to more effectively manage their coastal resources.

### *Summary of the key recommendations for the 15<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting*

36. The meeting provided an opportunity for SPC to update member on a range of activities carried out in support of sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture in PICTs. The members were invited to discuss how to improve SPC's assistance in the broad areas outlined below and agreed to make the following recommendations to the 15<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries for both members and SPC to act on:

*Coastal fisheries: "Changing behaviour in coastal fisheries and aquaculture through MCS"*

**Recommendation 14 (a).** The meeting requests HoF15 to support the development and promotion of a culture of compliance using tools adapted to the local context, and consider the adoption of an administrative penalty system of infringement notices, demerit points or spot fines (or other alternatives such as community services or in-kind payments) that are specific to members' needs.

**Recommendation 14 (b).** The meeting requests HoF15 to encourage the introduction of the Incident Book (in hardcopy or electronic form) as a tool to assist members' authorised officers in delivering enforcement activities in the field.

*Coastal Fisheries: "What science is needed for trade in CITES listed sea cucumber species"*

**Recommendation 17 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the establishment by PICTs of long-term stock assessment programmes sufficient for NDF purposes, for example developing appropriate assessment protocols to meet minimum data requirements.

**Recommendation 17 (b).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to encourage PICTs to: (i) focus compliance efforts and enforcement of management measures on buyers and exporters, (ii) improve collaborative arrangements between scientific and management authorities (e.g., via a memorandum of understanding), and (iii) regulate the number of buyers and exporters.

**Recommendation 17 (c).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support SPC FAME with assisting members to develop management measures and regulations that are aligned with CITES requirements.

*Aquaculture: “Implementation of the Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity and National Aquatic Biosecurity Plans”*

**Recommendation 27 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the mid-term review of the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework in order to broaden its scope beyond just aquatic animals and to include the findings of the SPC aquatic biosecurity legislation review.

**Recommendation 27 (b).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to encourage members to review their own aquatic biosecurity plans, in line with the Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework review process, with an emphasis on developing interagency collaboration and response agreements, where appropriate.

**Recommendation 27 (c).** The meeting *requests* HoF15 to support the investigation of the availability of diagnostic laboratories and the determination of requirements for developing a network that can service the Pacific islands region

*Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue*

**Recommendation 35 (a).** The Cbfd2 *requests* HoF15 to encourage SPC members to initiate national community-based fisheries dialogues to improve communication with CSOs/NSAs and better address their needs and concerns related to coastal fisheries management.

**Recommendation 35 (b).** The Cbfd2 *requests* HoF15 to recognise the emerging issue of deep seabed mining and its potential consequences for coastal fisheries, and requests members to facilitate more independent research on deep sea ecosystems before consideration is given to commercial deep seabed mining.

**Recommendation 35 (c).** The Cbfd2 *requests* HoF15 to encourage SPC members to increase operational budgets for CBFM within national and sub-national government agencies, and to develop appropriate financial mechanisms to directly support communities to more effectively manage their coastal resources.

*Closing*

37. The RTMCF5 adopted the Fifth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Outcomes and Actions Report.
38. The closing remarks were made by Dr Paula Vivili, Deputy Director General (Science and Capability), SPC.
39. The Chair, Mr Monte Depaune, warmly thanked the Cbfd2 Convenor, Mr Afelee Pita, all the participants, and SPC FAME for a successful RTMCF5, and closed the meeting.



## Annex 1: Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Outcomes Report



# Second Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

13 October 2022

Original: English

## Outcomes and Actions Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

Hybrid Meeting – 13 October 2022



## Outcomes and Actions Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

### *Background*

1. The First Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM1) in August 2020 endorsed a mechanism for increasing the engagement of civil society organisations<sup>1</sup> (CSOs) and other non-state actors<sup>2</sup> (NSAs) to give effect to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders decision in September 2016 in relation to coastal fisheries (paragraph 10, 47<sup>th</sup> Leaders Communiqué)<sup>3</sup>.
2. The new mechanism involves convening a two-day<sup>4</sup> dialogue dedicated to community-based fisheries (CBF) within the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA) and is called the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD).
3. The Dialogue provides CSOs and other NSAs the opportunity to share experiences and lessons-learned on community-based fisheries initiatives to strengthen efforts in maintaining a productive and healthy ecosystem, and their associated fisheries resources, which are critical to the well-being of coastal communities. It is also an opportunity for CSOs and other NSAs to provide advice on key needs and issues associated with the sustainable access and use of coastal fisheries resources across the Pacific islands' region.
4. The first CBFD in 2021 (CBFD1) focussed on establishing an appropriate administrative foundation for future dialogues through the consideration of the provisional CBFD Terms of Reference (ToR). The Pacific Community (SPC) 14<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF 14) considered and endorsed<sup>5</sup> the agreed ToR, which include the appointment of a Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Convenor and Vice-Convenor to work with the Pacific Community's (SPC) Division of Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) and the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) in organising logistics for future CBFDs and the facilitation of CBFDs.
5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2) was held on 13 October 2022 at the SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, with the dialogue being held in association with the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5).
6. The meeting was hosted using a hybrid format where CSOs and other NSAs who are actively involved in community-based fisheries in the Pacific, participated in the meeting either in-person or virtually via the online Zoom platform. The dialogue also included representatives of government agencies and other observers.

---

<sup>1</sup> "A civil society organisation (CSO) is a group of people that operates in the community in a way that is distinct from both government and business." Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil\\_society\\_organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_society_organization))

<sup>2</sup> "A Non-State Actor (NSA) is a legal entity that represents the interests of civil society including the private sector, academia and the media. NSAs are not established of, nor do they belong to, a structure or institution of the state." Pacific Islands Forum (<https://www.forumsec.org/civil-society-4/>)

<sup>3</sup> [Forum Communiqué, 47th Pacific Islands Forum, Pohnpei, FSM: 8-10-Sept, 2016](#)

<sup>4</sup> The 2-day CBFD duration is based on a full in-person 5-day RTMCFA at SPC. The CBFD2 were reduced to 1-day due to the hybrid meeting format of the RTMCFA5 which requires much shorter and more focused sessions over a maximum duration of 4 days.

<sup>5</sup> [Outcomes of the Fourteenth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting](#)



7. The dialogue was chaired by an independent Convenor, Mr Afelee Pita from Tuvalu, with at least 24 (11 in-person and 13 online) representatives of CSO and other NSA groups actively engaged in plenary and breakout group discussions.
8. The Cbfd2 focused on engaging and hearing the voices of NSAs through identification of important community-based fisheries issues that are common across the region or sub-regions and discussed ways to address or enhance them.
9. This report outlines the outcomes and action points of consensus among Cbfd2 participants, highlighting priority issues and needs to be actioned by CSOs and other NSAs, SPC members, provide guidance to SPC's Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP), and identify key recommendations to be taken to the 15<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting in late March 2023.

### *Session 1: Community-Based Fisheries: Engaging the Voices of Non-State Actors*

10. The Cbfd Convenor opened the Dialogue, welcomed participants, and requested SPC FAME to present the purpose of the Cbfd and provide an overview of the focus of the Cbfd2.
11. The Cbfd noted the establishment of the interim Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (Cbfd-AG) and acknowledged the work carried-out by the advisory group in directing SPC, as the secretariat, on:
  - a. The identification and selection of the Cbfd2 participants;
  - b. The development of the Cbfd2 agenda; and
  - c. The development of the Convenor and Vice-Convenor ToR and the appointment of the Cbfd2 Convenor.
12. The CSO/NSA participants proposed CBF issues of importance or interest that are common across the region or sub-regions, and worked to identify the top three priority issues to discuss later in Breakout Groups. In brief, that main issues proposed were:
  - a. Lack of engagement of the private sector;
  - b. Lack of Cbfd national selection processes;
  - c. Need of funding for National level selection processes;
  - d. The rapid expansion of Special Management Areas/CBFM efforts throughout the region, but no equivalent expansion of financial and technical resources (funding and capacity) to support CBFM actions at the community level, which would enable communities to adapt;
  - e. Need for better co-management, e.g. around coastal fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) incorporating traditional management systems;
  - f. How Cbfd can enhance our systems to help raise awareness of coastal fisheries management;
  - g. Small communities struggle to adopt and/or adapt to government led CBF initiatives;



- h. Communities need to be better informed on potential impacts of deep-sea mining on coastal fisheries;
  - i. Incorporating traditional/local knowledge into coastal fisheries management;
  - j. More behavioural change campaigns supporting CBFM;
  - k. Recognising local leadership in CBFM;
  - l. Document existing examples of effective CBFM;
  - m. Better management of bêche-de-mer and maximisation of benefits to communities;
  - n. Lack of recognition and action on fisheries offences by the judicial system.
13. From the listed issues of importance, the Cbfd participants identified three common CBF issues across the region for further discussion:
- a. The need for CSO/NSA representation through transparent national processes led by CSO and NSA for selecting participants for the Cbfd and other national level dialogues on coastal fisheries;
  - b. The need to accurately inform and build capacity of CSOs and NSAs on CBFM; and
  - c. Better integration of traditional/local knowledge with modern/conventional science for effective coastal fisheries management.
14. The participants of Cbfd2 expressed their hopes and expectations for the Cbfd process, which included:
- a. Increased collaboration and support between communities and government agencies, both regionally and nationally, involved with CBFM;
  - b. Effective integration of youth and technology into CBFM activities;
  - c. Inclusion of small-scale fishers from the private sector along with other CSO/NSAs in the Dialogue;
  - d. Cbfd recommendations will genuinely reflect the voices, opinions and perspectives of CSOs and other NSAs and will be considered for adoption by higher-level decision-makers both nationally and regionally;
  - e. Genuine and representative 2-way communication process that includes:
    - a process to be led by civil society with real financial support;
    - community feedback and issues must not be censored or modified;
    - report should reach Ministers and Leaders;



- resources and design should be focused on meaningfully engaging the grassroots communities in countries through national processes that respects the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent and other key social safeguards

15. The CBFD noted the CBFD-related provisional ToR agreed to by CBFD1 and recommended that:

- a. The CBFD Advisory Group ToR provide for the CBFD-AG Chair to be rotated around the different PICTs and CBF sectors, and for SPC to be the permanent Secretariat for the Advisory Group.
- b. The ToR for both the Convenor/Vice-Convenor required the roles to also be rotated.
- c. Improved guidelines and criteria be developed for CBFD participant selection.

16. The Convenor requested that CBFD2 participants provide their written feedback and suggestions on the various CBFD Terms of Reference to SPC FAME, as the secretariat, by the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 (in one month).

### *Session 2: Hearing the Voices: Community-Based Fisheries Priorities*

17. CBFD participants considered the following three common CBF issues identified earlier for discussion in breakout groups. The main points from those breakout groups were:

- a. *What are the needs of CSO/NSA representation for transparent national processes for selecting participants for CBFD and other national level dialogues on coastal fisheries?*
  - Need to select several focal points responsible for facilitating the selection process, noting there are some large PICTs.
  - Prior to meetings, need to provide support on speaking, making interventions, which will require funding support for such in-country meetings, and to provide capacity-building for participants to engage in high-level dialogues.
  - Need to involve communities in defining who are “suitable participants” and what are the principles for diversity and good representation; consider whether a sub-committee of CSOs/NSAs should be set up in each PICT to identify “suitable participants”.
  - Need to enable communities to define the issues that science needs to address.
- b. *What are the needs to accurately inform and build capacity of CSO/NSA on CBFM?*
  - Need to learn from great successes in CBFM in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa.
  - Need for access to better means of communication and support, and sustainable finance mechanisms for CBFM activities.
  - Alternative livelihoods are needed to compensate for time spent on CBFM activities.





- Need an appropriate and useable framework for CBFM monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) at the community level.
- c. *How can traditional/local knowledge be better integrated with modern/conventional science for effective CBFM?*
- Incorporate traditional/local knowledge and practices into CBFM, including by documenting them in plans, so knowledge is not eroded or lost.
  - Fisheries agencies need to build trust with traditional/local knowledge bearers and community leaders, but it takes time to obtain their trust to elicit knowledge and their input.
  - Involving fisher's traditional/local knowledge in evidence-based management is key.
  - Fish may be totems for particular cultural practices and may be fished, despite fisheries regulations, so an exemption for cultural practices should be considered.

18. The CBFD proposed the following actions:

- a. SPC FAME, as secretariat, should initiate CBFD3 planning with the Convenor and the CBFD-AG as soon as possible after CBFD2 to enable enough time for inclusive and effective participant engagement at the national/sub-national levels.
- b. CBFD2 participants provide their written feedback and suggestions on the four<sup>6</sup> CBFD ToR to SPC FAME, as the secretariat, by the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 (in 1 month).
- c. CBFD2 participants, with the support of regional and national partners, engage with national/sub-national authorities to improve the recognition of coastal fisheries offences as a priority.

### *The 15<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting*

19. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The CBFD2 requests HoF15 to encourage SPC member governments to initiate national community-based fisheries dialogues to improve communication with CSOs/NSAs and better address their needs and concerns related to coastal fisheries management.
- b. The CBFD2 requests HoF15 to recognise the emerging issue of deep seabed mining and its potential consequences for coastal fisheries, and requests governments to facilitate more

---

<sup>6</sup> SPC FAME RTMCFA5 & CBFD2 website <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/261>:

- CBFD.BP1 Outcomes Report from the 1<sup>st</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue. Refer to Appendix 1: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR )
- CBFD.BP3: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Convenor Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)
- CBFD.BP4: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Vice-Convenor Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)
- CBFD.BP5: Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue - Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) Provisional Terms of Reference (ToR)



independent research on deep sea ecosystems before consideration is given to commercial deep seabed mining.

- c. The CBFD2 requests HoF15 to encourage SPC members to increase operational budgets for CBFM within national and sub-national government agencies, and to develop appropriate financial mechanisms to directly support communities to more effectively manage their coastal resources.