

Mainstreaming gender, social inclusion and human rights-based approaches – A key to integrated programming

Natalie Makhoul¹ and Jeff Kinch²

Background

The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme, which was launched in August 2018, has a strong mandate of mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion, and human rights-based approaches into its programme design, implementation and outcomes. The mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues stretches across six key result areas (KRAs), involving coastal and oceanic fisheries, and the conservation of marine biodiversity, and requires a holistic approach in order to ensure that the social, economic and environmental aspects of the fisheries sector are translated into PEUMP activities. -

The main overarching PEUMP objective is to assist Pacific Island countries (PICs) with better managing their oceanic and coastal fisheries for food security and economic growth while also addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity. Oceanic fisheries are vital to the Pacific Islands region, contributing to government revenues, while providing employment and spin-off business opportunities. Coastal fisheries are vitally important to supporting community livelihoods, food security and income.

Regional multi-agency approach

The six KRAs are implemented by multiple regional partners including the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Community, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the University of the South Pacific, other non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, and the private sector. Multi-agency, cross-collaboration provides an opportunity to enhance a regionally united response to address issues affecting coastal and oceanic fisheries in PICs. The mainstreaming process will be guided by the PEUMP Project Management Unit and supported by SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team and its Social Development Program.

Gender and fisheries assessments under PEUMP

To ensure effective and meaningful mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion, and human rights-based approaches principals in all PEUMP project activities, gender baseline studies in the form of assessments, stocktakes and gender-integrated research will be undertaken. Currently, a systemised data collection of gender roles in the fisheries sector in PICs does not exist. Existing literature appears as ad hoc work that uses different methodologies. The information that is currently available, while informative at varying levels, does not allow comparison between PICs, and much of it is outdated.

PEUMP will soon undertake an assessment on the status of gender and fisheries through a desk-top review of existing gender and fisheries literature to identify specific gaps and needs in gender and fisheries within PICs. The desk-top review will also provide PEUMP with recommendations on where further gender and fisheries assessments are required, including the extent of such studies and highlighting any priorities for greater investigation. The results of this assessment will help to guide and inform future PEUMP activities as well as assist in ameliorating possible duplication of work

Fisheries staff conducting fish biosampling at Tarawa market - ©Pauline Bossarelle (SPC)



between implementing partners. From an efficiency point of view, PEUMP will be better positioned to allocate much-needed resources for future fisheries and gender assessments in a more strategic way.

As part of the assessment process, an evaluation of existing research across the Pacific Islands region and PIC-specific information will also be undertaken with the categorisation of available information aligned to the six KRAs. For example, the assessment will provide information on the:

- institutional capacity within PICs to mainstream gender across policy, fisheries management and development plans;
- processes of involving communities in co-management arrangements;
- role that both women and men have in the PIC fisheries sectors;
- cultural barriers and constraints that women and men

face with regards to participation in fisheries management and development activities;

- areas where market and value chains can be improved to support greater participation of women and men;
- place of women and men involved in the formal and commercial oceanic fisheries sector, particularly in the post-harvesting area; and
- level of women's participation in fisheries science and management across PICs.

The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme was launched in August 2018. PEUMP has a total budget of EUR 45 million. Of this amount, EUR 35 million is provided by the European Union, and the remaining EUR 10 million comes from the Government of Sweden. PEUMP is expected to be implemented over a 57-month period and will provide for activities to be conducted in the 15 Asia, Caribbean and Pacific countries of the Pacific, including Timor-Leste.

PEUMP's six key result areas (KRAs)

KRA 1: High quality of scientific management advice for oceanic fisheries provided and utilised

KRA 2: Inclusive economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing increased

KRA 3: Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems improved

KRA 4: Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing reduced

KRA 5: Sustainable utilisation of the coastal and marine biodiversity promoted

KRA 6: Capacity built through education, training and research

Cleaning oyster spat collectors - ©Jeff Kinch (SPC)

