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Title:	Strengthening civil society organisations' and other non-state actors' engagement in regional community-based fisheries dialogue: Next steps
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Summary/short description/key points:

The Regional Fisheries Ministers, at their Special Meeting¹ in 2019, recommended that the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) be disbanded and requested SPC to commission a review to assess the effectiveness of the CFWG and to provide options and recommendations for a new mechanism to replace the CFWG. The Review, which was commissioned in early 2020, was considered by HoF12 which subsequently recommended a new mechanism to the 1st Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM1; August 2020). The Ministers endorsed the proposed new mechanism for increasing the engagement of non-state actors to give effect to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' decision in relation to coastal fisheries (paragraph 10, 47th Leaders Communiqué, 2016²).

The new mechanism involves convening a 2-day session dedicated to Community-Based Fisheries (CBF) within the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA). Ministers agreed that chairing and meeting arrangements (such as finalisation of Terms of Reference and the process to select participants), be agreed by RTMCFA4 and confirmed by HoF.

Recommendations:

RTMCFA4, through its CBF Dialogue session agenda item to be led by civil society, is invited to advise and recommend to HoF14 future CBF Dialogue session arrangements relating to:

- a. Terms of Reference for the CBF Dialogue session within the RTMCFA agenda;
- b. Convening arrangements for future CBF Dialogue sessions; and
- c. The processes for the selection of participants in future CBF Dialogue sessions.

¹ Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting Outcomes: <https://www.ffa.int/node/2296>

² Forum Communiqué, 47th Pacific Islands Forum, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 8-10 September, 2016. http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2016-Forum-Communique_-Pohnpei_-FSM_-8-10-Sept.pdf

Strengthening civil society organisations' and other non-state actors' engagement in regional community-based fisheries dialogue: Next steps

Introduction

1. Regional Fisheries Ministers, at their Special Meeting³ in 2019, recommended that the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) be disbanded and requested the Pacific Community (SPC) to commission a review to assess the effectiveness of the CFWG and provide options and recommendations for a new mechanism to replace the CFWG. In the first quarter of 2020, SPC Member Heads of Fisheries, past participants of the CFWG, SPC staff, civil society representatives and other stakeholders were consulted during an independent review of the CFWG. Following consideration of the review's report, the 12th SPC Heads of Fisheries (HoF12; May 2020) meeting provided feedback, guidance and consent on the final proposed mechanism which was subsequently transmitted to the 1st Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM1; August 2020) for endorsement⁴.
2. The Ministers welcomed the completion of the review and endorsed the proposed new mechanism for increasing the engagement of non-state actors to give effect to the Pacific Island Forum Leaders' decision in relation to coastal fisheries (paragraph 10, 47th Leaders Communique, 2016⁵).
3. The new mechanism involves convening a 2-day session dedicated to a Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD) within the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA). Ministers agreed that the first CBFD session be convened within the Fourth Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4), as recommended by HoF12, with the final chairing and meeting arrangements (such as Terms of Reference and the process to select participants), be agreed by RTMCFA4 and confirmed by HoF.
4. In order to establish an appropriate administrative foundation for future RTMCFA that includes a standing item to discuss CBF matters, RTMCFA4, through its CBFD session agenda item to be led by civil society, is invited to advise and recommend future CBF Dialogue session arrangements relating to:

³ Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting Outcomes: <https://www.ffa.int/node/2296>

⁴ The Review Report, *MRAG Asia Pacific 2020 Review of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group and options and recommendations for increasing the engagement of non-state actors in Pacific Islands' regional coastal fisheries governance*, is available on the RTMCFA4 web site as CBFD-Information Paper CBFD.IP1 here: <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253> or directly from here: <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/angin>

⁵ Forum Communiqué, 47th Pacific Islands Forum, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 8-10 September, 2016. http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2016-Forum-Communique_-Pohnpei_-FSM_-8-10-Sept.pdf

- a. Terms of Reference for the CBF Dialogue session within the RTMCFA agenda;
- b. Convening arrangements for future CBF Dialogue sessions, and
- c. The processes for the selection of participants in future CBF Dialogue sessions.

Terms of reference

5. The establishment of a ***standing agenda session for CBFD within the RTMCFA agenda*** provides an opportunity to engage the non-state actor community in a dialogue with SPC Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT) members on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources on a regional scale. It is an opportunity to share experiences and lessons 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 the region's coastal communities.
6. Recognising SPC member government responsibility for coastal fisheries at the national level, the focus for discussion in the CBF Dialogue session of the RTMCFA will be on ***issues of common regional significance to community-driven coastal fisheries generally***.
7. The Dialogue will be led by experts representing regional and national non-state actors (NSAs⁶), including civil society organisations (CSOs⁷) and other community groups actively engaged in CBF. The dialogue will encourage the sharing of information and knowledge that contributes to strengthened community-based initiatives to promote sustainable coastal fisheries among the members of the Pacific Community. National fisheries administrations will be encouraged to fully engage in the dialogue. The dialogue will also be open to other stakeholders, such as representatives from the donor community, participating as observers in plenary but engaging actively in breakout groups.
8. The outcomes of the dialogue will contribute to advice, information and key needs, provided through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, for submission to Leaders on priority considerations for strengthening the sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries resources in the region.
9. Draft Terms of Reference for the 2-day CBF Dialogue session in future RTMCFAs is appended for discussion and refinement during RTMCFA4 (**Appendix A**).

Selecting convenors

10. Consistent with the endorsement of Ministers at RFMM1, it is proposed that responsibilities for the management of the CBFD session in the RTMCFA, including chairing, would rest with a convenor

⁶ "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/>)

⁷ "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)

selected from SPC PICT member's NSA/CSO constituency. The selection will be based on acknowledged experience and leadership in CBF initiatives.

11. As an exercise that needs to be regionally coordinated across all PICTS, FAME will be responsible for coordinating the convenor selection process.

Convenors

12. It is proposed that a convenor, with the support of FAME, lead the preparations and conduct of the CBF Dialogue. Further, it is proposed that a vice-convenor be selected to provide backstopping and support to the convenor.

13. The role of the convenor will include:

- liaise with the chair of the RTMCFA and FAME staff on the development of the provisional agenda and associated schedule for the CBF Dialogue session in the forthcoming RTMCFA;
- support responsible FAME staff and NSA/CSO representatives in a collaborative process to select participants;
- work with FAME staff to identify resource personnel/subject matter experts/presenters to support the CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA;
- monitor outcomes from the RTMCFA and HoF that directly relate to the mandate of the CBF Dialogue for possible future consideration and provision of advice;
- liaise with FAME staff on the preparation and timely circulation of CBF Dialogue resource materials (such as information papers);
- convene the CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA;
- present the report, advice and recommendations of the CBF Dialogue to the RTMCFA;
- liaise with the chair of the RTMCFA and FAME staff on the CBF Dialogue report by the RTMCFA to HoF;
- participate in the HoF in support of the chair of the RTMCFA to present the RTMCFA report and recommendations, and
- provide the vice-convenor with a summary of the outcomes of the HoF meeting following the presentation of the RTMCFA report.

14. The role of a vice-convenor will include:

- providing support to the convenor in all aspects of preparing for the next CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA including:
 - a. liaising with key stakeholders;

- b. identifying potential participants;
 - c. formulating the draft agenda;
 - d. drafting and reviewing meeting documents;
 - e. facilitating small group brainstorming sessions, and
 - f. assuming the role of convenor in the event the convenor is not available.
15. It is suggested that a convenor and vice-convenor are each appointed to those roles for one CBFD session in the RTMCFA. Further, if agreeable with the vice-convenor, it is proposed that the vice-convenor assume the role of convenor for the CBFD session in the following RTMCFA.
16. This arrangement is designed to strengthen the sustainability of the CBF Dialogue by promoting a capacity building opportunity, supporting collaborative initiatives, encouraging relationship building and developing familiarity with RTMCFA processes, stakeholders and institutional relationships.
17. Convenors and vice-convenors would be appointed on a voluntary basis without compensation. Travel support would be provided to both positions to attend the RTMCFA. Travel support would also be provided to the convenor to accompany the chair of the RTMCFA to the following HoF meeting to present the RTMCFA Report.
18. Until one or two RTMCFAs incorporating a CBF Dialogue have been completed, it is difficult to forecast the amount of time that a convenor and vice-convenor might be expected to dedicate to the CBF Dialogue in any one RTMCFA cycle. FAME is expected to assume the majority of the coordinating, administrative and logistical responsibilities. This will be assisted by the recruitment to FAME of a CBF Adviser in early 2022⁸. Factors that will influence the time dedicated to the responsibilities associated with convenor and vice-convenor roles will vary depending on the time and resources each appointee can allocate to their respective roles.

The selection process for convenor and vice-convenor for RTMCFA5

19. The selection process for a convenor and for a vice-convenor for RTMCFA5 will commence immediately after RTMCFA4. The selection process may broadly involve:
- a. FAME establishing and maintaining a register or list of affiliations and contact details for CSOs and NSAs associated with CBF initiatives among PICTs⁹ to assist with communications;
 - b. national CSOs and NSAs will be encouraged to select a focal point for communications with FAME. SPC is unlikely to have financial resources to assist with the support of this role but,

⁸ The Government of Australia, through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will fund a CBF Adviser position within FAME, expected to start early 2022. That post will provide administrative, logistical and technical support to the CBF session in the RTMCFA. This is similar to the role and responsibilities of the Civil Society Engagement Adviser who supports implementation of the PIFS CSO Engagement Strategy.

⁹ This is similar to the CSO database maintained by PIFS under its 2014 CSO Engagement Strategy:
<https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/B-PIFS-CSO-Engagement-Strategy-Summary.pdf>

- with the appointment of an SPC CBF Adviser, FAME will be in a position to advise on logistical and other elements of a national coordinating role;
- c. at least six (6) months in advance of RTMCFA5, utilising the FAME-maintained contact list, FAME will issue an invitation to representatives of CSOs/NSAs across all PICTs to formally nominate candidates for convenor and candidates for a vice-convenor for the CBF Dialogue in RTMCFA5 to FAME;
 - d. at least three (3) months prior to RTMCFA5, FAME will provide a summary of the CBF experience and background and a statement of interest from the candidates nominated to assume the roles of convenor and vice-convenor for the CBF Dialogue to all official and technical contacts and CSOs and NSAs representatives registered with FAME;
 - e. CSO and NSA representatives will be invited to propose their preferred candidate, with responses required at least eight (8) weeks prior to RTMCFA5. FAME will review the responses received and advise the successful candidate for each position; and
 - f. FAME will engage the selected convenor and vice-convenor in preparations for RTMCFA5.
20. It is proposed that the vice-convenor for RTMCFA5 assume responsibilities for convenor of RTMCFA6 at the conclusion of RTMCFA5.
21. If the vice-convenor accepts the nomination to convenor, the selection of a new vice-convenor would commence six (6) months in advance of RTMCFA6 applying the process described at paragraph 19 (c to f). If the vice-convenor declines the opportunity, the process described in paragraph 19 (c to f) would apply to the selection of both a new convenor and a new vice-convenor.
22. Unless there are no alternatives, the convenor, the vice-convenor and the chair of the RTMCFA should be from different PICTs. It also is recommended that the role of convenor and vice-convenor be rotated around the three sub-regions of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.
23. The selection process will also promote gender balance with the positions of convenor and vice-convenor.

Selection of participants¹⁰

24. The topic of representation and engagement presents significant challenges. Financial constraints mean that participation at any in-person regional fisheries meeting, whether that be by officials, or others, is constrained and participation is limited. As a result, the broad endeavour will be to secure the most representative participation and engagement possible with the financial resources available.

¹⁰ Throughout 2021, COVID-19 travel restrictions continue to dictate arrangements for regional meetings. For at least the remainder of 2021 and perhaps the first half of 2022, virtual meetings will be the only meeting option available. By mid-next year, physical in-person meetings may gradually be resumed, although hybrid arrangements, combining both physical in-person and virtual participation, will likely be common.

CFWG experience

25. Participants in the CFWG commented that, although value was achieved by learning of the specific experiences of Community-Based Organisations (CBO) representatives present, it was apparent that many of these participants were unfamiliar with the regional context in which the CFWG was operating and had limited understanding of what was expected of them. Partly as a consequence of funding limitations, plus an endeavour to ensure participatory opportunities were shared regionally among PICTs, this challenge was compounded by the fact that participation by individual representatives was often limited to one meeting. As a result, opportunities to build capacity to contribute to a regional process such as the CFWG was limited. The experience underscored the delicate balance in achieving representation that has detailed knowledge of the diversity of community-based fisheries initiatives across the region while at the same time being sufficiently familiar with institutional processes to be able to contribute in a regional consultation such as will be provided in the CBF Dialogue.

PIFS CSO Engagement Strategy

26. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) maintains a CSO Engagement Strategy¹¹ that is designed to support a coordinated approach for CSO engagement in “constructive dialogue for more informed policy debate”.

27. Utilising the PIFS CSO Engagement Strategy as a guide, NSAs/CSOs with a capacity to contribute to the CBF Dialogue could:

- a. inform national focal points (see 19b above) of their own areas of interest, entry points, and active networks relating to their potential contribution to regional discussions on CBF;
- b. be clear and realistic about the role NSAs/CSOs can play in a CBF Dialogue;
- c. share of information with relevant constituent groups and, where relevant, seek feedback/input to contribute back into the Dialogue;
- d. be in a position to report back on outcomes of engagement processes to constituent groups;
- e. be committed to the Istanbul 8 Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness¹²;

¹¹ See footnote 8. PIFS supports a position of Civil Society Engagement Officer who is the primary contact point within PIFS for the Strategy.

¹² The Istanbul Principles are:

- Respect and promote human rights and social justice
- Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls’ rights
- Focus on people’s empowerment, democratic ownership and participation
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Practice transparency and accountability
- Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity
- Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning
- Commit to realising positive sustainable change.

- f. provide position papers to declare representation, mandate, including endorsements;
- g. be in a position to support ongoing participation in dialogue (rather than dropping in and out), or get informed before re-entering a discussion; and
- h. contribute to the dialogue as a representative (rather than bringing individual perspectives).

28. Under an extra-budgetary grant in support of the Strategy, PIFS provided limited funding to support CSO engagement in regional policy processes for the period 2016-2018. SPC will work with PIFS on possible options for future support for ongoing CSO engagement.

NSA/CSO experience

29. The NSA/CSO community generally has extensive experience in supporting processes that promote 'representativeness' to select participants when numbers are limited because of resource constraints. This experience informed the development of the PIFS CSO Engagement Strategy. It has been adapted here as a draft, for consideration during RTMCFA4, to support an equitable and transparent selection process for application to the CBF Dialogue.

Process

30. In-person meetings will place more demands on limited budgetary resources than virtual meetings¹³. To the extent practical, the CBF Dialogue will facilitate virtual participation even when in-person meetings resume post-COVID travel restrictions; these are referred to as "hybrid meetings".

31. Participation in the CBF Dialogue, whether in-person or virtually, should be supported by a transparent and equitable selection or nomination process that includes:

- a. opportunities for participation and engagement that is open to all NSAs/CSOs that fit the criteria (paragraph 27 above);
- b. an endeavour to secure representation from each PICT;
- c. an invitation issued by FAME at least four (4) months in advance of the next RTMCFA for NSAs/CSOs to nominate their representative(s) for the CBF Dialogue at that RTMCFA. A deadline will be imposed for a response;
- d. NSA/CSO focal points will coordinate the selection process at the national level and submit nomination(s) to FAME no later than twelve (12) weeks in advance of the RTMCFA;

¹³ Even if travel to a regional meeting at a location such as Noumea is not required because a meeting is primarily virtual, SPC may still be requested to provide funding to support participation and engagement by nominated representatives from remote locations who may need to travel to a regional centre where CSOs and NSAs maintain offices with reliable virtual meeting facilities.

- e. FAME, in consultation with NSA/CSO representatives, may develop criteria for guiding representative selection from nominations received. Nominations may be assessed against such criteria;
 - f. FAME and nominated NSA/CSO representatives will score and select the participants to fill specific representative roles (i.e. at least one representative from each PICT);
 - g. to promote equity and regional representativeness, numbers of representatives from specific interest groups may be offered limited places;
 - h. selected nominations and their affiliate NSA/CSO will be advised by FAME at least eight (8)¹⁴ weeks in advance of the RTMCFA regarding their participation;
 - i. NSA/CSO nominations for participation in the CBF Dialogue do not need to be approved by government; and
 - j. SPC official contacts will be kept informed of CBF NSA/CSO engagement arrangements for the RTMCFA and they will be notified of the outcomes of nominations.
32. SPC FAME and the NSA/CSO community will widely publicise the nomination and selection process for NSA/CSO participation for the CBF Dialogue session in the RTMCFA.

¹⁴ At least eight weeks will allow time for the selected nominees to prepare for the dialogue.

Appendix A.

Draft Terms of Reference – Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue in the RTMCFA

The Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA) includes a standing agenda item that establishes a dialogue for those engaged in community-based coastal fisheries (CBF).

Purpose: The purpose of the CBF Dialogue is to provide the NSA/CSO community with an opportunity to exchange information, advice and key needs through the RTMCFA, to Heads of Fisheries to assist with informing Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries resources. It is also to provide an opportunity to share experience and lessons 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.

Discussion supported by this dialogue will focus on issues of common regional significance to community-driven coastal fisheries generally.

Time assignment: The CBF Dialogue will occupy eight consecutive meeting sessions across two days or, in the event the RTMCFA is less than a 5-day meeting, 40% of the total time available for the RTMCFA. For virtual RTMCFA of less than 5 days, the time allocation may need to be adjusted, but will not be less than 1 full day's sessions.

Convening: The CBF Dialogue will be convened by a representative from the NSA/CSO community selected utilising the process described below.

FAME will provide administrative support to the process to select a convenor and a vice- convenor. The process will be undertaken in consultation with the chair of forthcoming RTMCFAs.

A convenor will serve in that role for one RTMCFA meeting.

The convenor of the CBF Dialogue will also accompany the Chair of that RTMCFA to the following HoF where the RTMCFA Report will be presented and discussed.

A vice-convenor will serve in that role at one RTMCFA meeting¹⁵. The vice-convenor may assume the role of convenor at the following RTMCFA.

Process for the selection of convenor and vice-convenor: *subject to RTMCFA4 discussion (see paragraph 19-23).*

Role of the convenor: The responsibility of the convenor, with support from the vice-convenor, includes to:

¹⁵ If the proposed process is broadly accepted this will mean that the convenor will serve as vice-convenor for the CBF Dialogue at their first RTMCFA and convenor for their second.

- liaise with the chair of the RTMCFA and FAME staff on the development of the provisional agenda and associated schedule for the CBF Dialogue session in the forthcoming RTMCFA;
- support responsible FAME staff and NSA/CSO representatives on the selection of participants;
- work with FAME staff to identify resource personnel/subject matter experts/presenters to support the CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA;
- monitor outcomes from the RTMCFA and HoF that directly relate to the mandate of the CBF Dialogue for possible future consideration and provision of advice;
- liaise with FAME staff on the preparation and timely circulation of CBF Dialogue resource materials (such as working and information papers);
- convene the CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA;
- present the report, advice and recommendations of the CBF Dialogue to the RTMCFA;
- liaise with the chair of the RTMCFA and FAME staff on the CBF Dialogue report by the RTMCFA to HoF;
- participate in the HoF in support of the chair of the RTMCFA to present the RTMCFA report and recommendations; and
- provide the vice-convenor with a summary of the outcomes of the HoF meeting following the presentation of the RTMCFA report.

Role of vice-convenor: The role of a vice-convenor will include:

- providing support to the convenor in all aspects of preparing for the next CBF Dialogue in the RTMCFA including:
 - a. liaising with key stakeholders;
 - b. identifying potential participants;
 - c. formulating the draft agenda;
 - d. drafting and reviewing meeting documents;
 - e. facilitating small group brainstorming sessions; and
- assuming the role of convenor in the event the convenor is not available.

Unless there are no alternatives, the convenor, the vice-convenor and the chair of the RTMCFA will be from different PICTs, and the roles rotated between the three sub-regions of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

The selection process will promote gender balance with the positions of convenor and vice-convenor.

Convenors and vice-convenors are appointed on a voluntary basis without compensation.

In an endeavour to optimise efficiency, maintain transparency and engender confidence, the selection process for convenor and vice-convenor may be refined from time to time by consensus agreement.

Participation: Participation in the CBF Dialogue will be **led** by representatives of regional and national community groups (civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs)) actively engaged in CBF consistent with the purpose of the CBF Dialogue (above)¹⁶.

Participation is **open** to representatives of SPC member governments. Representatives from the donor and development assistance community will be invited to observe the dialogue.

Representatives of the NSA/CSO community will be invited to sit at the main table during in-person CBF Dialogue sessions.

Process for the selection of participants: *subject to RTMCFA4 discussion (see paragraph 30-32)*

Report: At the conclusion of the CBF Dialogue, the convenor will present a summary of key outcomes, advice, recommendations and requests agreed by consensus at the dialogue to the RTMCFA. Together with a summary of any issues arising during the subsequent RTMCFA discussion, this report will be incorporated into the report of the RTMCFA to be forwarded to HoF.

SPC FAME will provide support for the preparation of the Report.

Agenda: The 2-day CBF Dialogue may include a range of agenda topics. The convenor, vice-convenor and FAME will be responsible for preparing a Provisional Agenda. The Provisional Agenda will be circulated to SPC member administrations and the NSA/CSO constituency at least 90 days in advance of the next RTMCFA¹⁷.

Agenda topics, and the number of topics to be addressed, may change from one meeting to the next. Time allocations to each topic may also vary. Examples of candidate topics include:

- ***Progress on implementing the Pacific Framework for Action on scaling up CBFM: 2021-2025***
The Framework for Action has been approved by the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and endorsed by the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, and is recognised as providing guidance to PICTs to assist in the sustainable management of coastal fisheries from the CBFM perspective. The CBFD could: review the progress on implementing the Framework for Action; support mobilising regional coordination of CBFM; contribute to regional coordination on the M&E of the Framework for Action; and consider means to

¹⁶ 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)

“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.” PacificIslands Forum (<https://www.forumsec.org/civil-society-4/>)

¹⁷ This will provide adequate time for the identification and selection of appropriate resource personnel and participants with relevant experience to prepare to engage in the agenda items proposed for the Dialogue.

improve/strengthen national level coordination between members and local CSO/NSA in implementing CBF programmes/projects in-country.

- **Lessons learned from CBF initiatives**
Experience and lessons learned in [x] community-based fisheries initiatives. Presentations under this item will describe: the context in which the initiative was implemented, a summary of threats to coastal fisheries resources that were identified to be addressed through the initiative, responses including achievements and challenges, and on-going needs. The Meeting will summarise the outcomes of discussion with a focus on issues arising of potential regional application and benefit. Particularly attention will be given to experience with scaling up initiatives for wider implementation.
- **Capacity building gaps and needs**
This item could include presentations from practitioners, including from national fisheries administrations and NSA/CSO representatives, that profile capacity building needs, responses and outcomes. The Meeting could discuss the development of capacity in CBF and identify priorities for on-going capacity building.
- **Partnerships and relationships**
Presentations from practitioners, including from national fisheries administrations and CBO representatives, to describe the process, and corresponding outcomes, associated with establishing partnerships and relationships. The dialogue could discuss key features of relationships and partnerships that are successful in addressing threats to coastal fisheries and which establish enduring outcomes for community-based fisheries.
- **Supporting sustainable livelihoods**
The CBF Dialogue could receive presentations from [x] community-based fisheries initiatives that addressed issues relating to the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.
- **Measuring success and addressing challenges**
Each session will discuss measures of success for CBF initiatives in terms of social, economic and ecological outcomes. What makes, and what breaks, CBF initiatives?
- **Sustainable financing**
Given the emerging interest and activities at the provincial level/landscape/seascape level, financing and success in Micronesia, presentation on how SF is unfolding and what this means to communities will be discussed.
- **Gender and human rights**
The CBF Dialogue will discuss CBF-related issues relating to human rights, the participation of marginalised groups and gender-related considerations. Particular consideration will be devoted to successes and challenges associated with the meaningful engagement of these marginalised groups in CBF initiatives.