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The Oceanic Fisheries Management Project III – A Project overview and opportunities

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The Oceanic Fisheries Management Project III (OFMP III)

About OFMP III

1. The project is entitled ‘Mainstreaming climate change ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC’ or otherwise known as the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project III (OFMP III).
2. The project commenced on the 1st of July 2022, for a five year period and is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and managed by UNDP, Bangkok Regional Hub.
3. The project is implemented by the FFA, with the assistance of project partners: SPC, PNAO, WWF and PITIA.

Brief history of OFMP III

4. The previous Oceanic Fisheries Management Project, OFMP II, aimed to support Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to implement and enforce arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fisheries.
5. Two major outputs from the project were a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a subsequent Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The TDA identified key problems and challenges in the ongoing sustainable management of the Western and Central Pacific Oceanic Fisheries. Whilst the SAP outlined strategies and activities to address and mitigate the issues documented in the TDA.
6. The OFMP III project was designed to build on the findings of the SAP and assist Pacific SIDS in implementing strategies and activities in support of sustainable tuna fisheries management, IUU elimination and climate change impact mitigation.
7. The OFMP III project design document was formally submitted to GEF in November 2021, and was endorsed by the GEF Council early in 2022 for formal commencement as of 1st July 2022.

OFMP III Components

8. The OFMP III project has four major components. Each of these has target outcomes and outputs and for each output there are a series of possible activities. A full list of possible activities can be found at [Attachment A](#)
9. **Component 1.** Implementation of a proactive and adaptive ecosystem-based approach to regional fisheries management. Under this component there are two outcomes:
 - Outcome 1.1: *Adaptive and sustainable ecosystem-based management of fisheries and associated natural resources with an emphasis on response to climate change impacts and focusing on the benefit to the Pacific Island Countries in order to maintain the current 100% sustainability of all four WCP tuna stocks representing some 3 million mt annual catch.*
 - Outcome 1.2 : *Improved capacity and expertise for overall fisheries management at both the national and regional level as well as to expand opportunities for Pacific SIDS engagement in fisheries markets*
10. **Component 2.** Innovative technology development and implementation to support the adaptive ecosystem-based approach to regional fisheries management. Under this component there are two outcomes:

- Outcome 2.1: *Improved monitoring of catch, bycatch and movement of catch (transshipping, landing and marketing), MCS and data analysis aiming to further reduce IUU fishing below the current already low 6.5% (measured level as of latest year, 2019).*
 - Outcome 2.2: *Greater management, monitoring and control of FADs to optimise returns from target stocks and reduce bycatch and other ecological impacts.*
11. **Component 3.** A regional strategy for improved community subsistence and resilience to climate change effects on the ecology and fisheries of the region. There are two outcomes under this component:
- Outcome 3.1: *Strengthened data capture, modelling and assessment feeding into management responses to climate-induced impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems.*
 - Outcome 3.2: *New strategies in place to respond to socioeconomic changes and food security issues related to climate change (i.e. improving community subsistence and small-scale commercial fisheries).*
12. **Component 4.** Knowledge Management and Sharing. Under this component there is one outcome:
- Outcome 4.1: *Knowledge Management, Communication and Awareness implemented and outreaching to WCPFC stakeholders as well as the global community.*
13. Delivery of outputs is either tasked to a specific project partner or shared between partners.

Opportunity to collaborate

14. The project is designed to be driven by the aspirations and needs of the Members and is supporting some key meetings, workshops and consultancies. For example, the MCS Working Group, Stock Assessment Workshops, the Climate Change Symposium, the South Pacific Group, Tuna Data Workshops and Management Options Consultations.
15. The project is considering proposals to support other national level workshops, meetings, training, studies and consultancies and we recommend that you download the link to the wider components, outcomes, outputs and activities document noted above.
16. The Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to consult directly with Members and to advance opportunities for collaboration.
17. Members are encouraged to contact Project Manager and Chief Technical Adviser, Lisa Buchanan on lisa.buchanan@ffa.int

Attachments

- A. OFMP III – Components, Outcomes, Outputs and activities