

**SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION**

**TWENTY-SECOND REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES**  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 6-10 August 1990)

**SPC FISHERIES PROJECTS FOR LOME IV FUNDING CONSIDERATION**  
(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

**Background**

1. Lome IV, the fourth ACP/EC cooperation convention, came into force on 1 March 1990 and will govern relations between the European Communities and the sixty-six (soon to be sixty-nine) Pacific, African and Caribbean ACP states for the next ten years, with renewable 5-year financial protocols. Financing has been increased from ECU 8.5 billion under Lome III to ECU 12 billion for the first five years of Lome IV, a nominal increase of 46%, and 25% in real terms. Most of this increase is allocated to structural adjustment and trade related areas. The actual amount of funds allocated to the Pacific ACP regional programme under Lome IV has yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be of a similar magnitude to Lome III (39 million ECU), with the possibility of a small increase indicated.

**SPC Project proposals**

2. At the 3rd Joint Pacific ACP/EC Ministerial meeting held in Suva from 2-4 April, 1990, SPC submitted the two fisheries projects detailed below for funding consideration under Lome IV. Both projects were listed for further consideration.

**1. Regional Small-scale Purse Seine Test Fishing Project**  
Indicative funding required: 4,000,000 ECU

3. The project as approved was developed over a period of two years and is based on a detailed technical feasibility study supported by extensive consultation with member countries. The final project document and financing proposal was strongly supported by country delegates at RTMF 21 and fully endorsed by the 1989 South Pacific Conference in Guam for presentation to the EC for funding consideration under Lome IV. (Copies of this document are available on request to delegations only).

**2. South Pacific Regional Tuna Research Project**  
Indicative funding required: **5,000,000 ECU**

4. A preparatory funding proposal outlining a South Pacific Tuna Research Project was presented to the ACP/EC Joint Ministerial meeting in Suva seeking continued EC funding for priority tuna and billfish research activities to be undertaken by SPC on behalf of member countries and in support of regional management and conservation initiatives.

5. The rational management of resources is vital to the interests of the peoples and countries of the Pacific Islands. Tunas are the largest single fisheries resource in the Pacific Islands region and the Western Pacific ocean is the world's last remaining tuna fishing ground which is not fully exploited. Catches are dominated by the tropical tunas skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye, with albacore the basis of several important fisheries, in more temperate waters. Levels of exploitation continue to increase for all species, as do interactions amongst fleets, fisheries and countries. Understanding of critical biological parameters of most species remains inadequate.

6. Ongoing research on a large scale will be required to monitor the health of these resources and provide the basic biological and fisheries related information and advice required by Pacific Island countries for decision making on management and conservation issues. This will enable the long-term rational exploitation of these important resources, on a regional basis.

7. A five-year programme of research is considered necessary to meet the requirements of member countries during the Lome IV period. This 5-year time-span will be a crucial time for tuna management in this region and will see the framework defined for regional management and conservation regimes for several if not all economically important tuna species. Consultations on the international management of South Pacific albacore stocks are at an advanced stage and effort limits on purse seine vessels are under active consideration or in some cases have been put into effect by Pacific Island countries. The maintenance of an active field research programme for tunas and billfish at SPC will be essential in support of these initiatives.

8. Indicative annual costs of proposal research activities are attached for RTMF consideration and critical comment. If this approach is supported by the meeting and subsequently endorsed by the South Pacific Conference in October, a more detailed project document will be prepared for technical review at SCTB4 (June, 1991) and final consideration by RTMF 23.

1.	Field research (tagging and other biological research activity)	700,000 ECU/yr
2.	Port sampling and observer activities	100,000 ECU/yr
3.	Laboratory analyses	150,000 ECU/yr
4.	Statistical services upgrade	<u>50,000 ECU/yr</u>
	Total	1,000,000 ECU/yr
	<b>Total cost 5-year project</b>	<b>5,000,000 ECUs</b>

**Action required**

9. The meeting is invited
- i) *to note and comment as appropriate on the action taken by the Secretariat with respect to the submission of fisheries projects for Lome IV funding;*
  - ii) *to review, amend and endorse the proposed South Pacific Regional Tuna Research Project (SPRTRP) as outlined; and*
  - iii) *to recommend that both projects be strongly supported for EC funding support under Lome IV.*
-