



Information Paper 1

Session 1: Status of Scaling-up Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) in the Pacific

Time allocated	3 hrs 30 mins
Session objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have a common understanding on the status of coastal fisheries in the Pacific 2. To have a common understanding on the status of CBFM in the Pacific and to introduce the CBFM clusters. 3. To have a common understanding of the status of scaling per country and for country to share their main scaling activities.

Summary/Short description:

This session is divided into three parts. 1) Firstly, to understand the status of coastal fisheries resources in the Pacific, 2) Secondly the status of CBFM in the Pacific and 3) to understand the scaling up initiatives carried-out in the respective Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and partners,

1. Status of coastal fisheries resources in the PICTs

There is no doubt about the importance of coastal fisheries to PICTs – both through their contributions to economies and livelihoods, as well as the major role they play in food security. However, the regional status of coastal fisheries is hard to assess. This is because of the local nature of many coastal fisheries, and the sheer quantity of species: from fish, sharks, and turtles, to crustaceans, molluscs, and worms. In this session, we explore:

- what information is available to understand the status of coastal fisheries in the Pacific,
- how we could work towards tackling gaps in our understanding of these key resources.

2. Status of CBFM in the PICTs

A recent regional study commissioned by SPC to assess the status of CBFM and coastal fisheries management in the 22 PICTs.¹

¹ https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/H_uNgzxUo7kB36r



The overall purpose of the survey was to assess to what extent communities in the PICTs are supported to achieve sustainably managed coastal fisheries. This covered support for communities provided at sites (usually CBFM) as well as provision of CBFM enabling environment in the areas of policy, legislation, and capacity to achieve coastal fisheries management.

Over 600 CBFM sites serving more than 1,000 communities have been documented across the Pacific Islands. However, this is equivalent to only 10% coverage of the total coastal communities in the region after nearly 3 decades of efforts. It is very important to note that the diversity of PICTs is a major characteristic and therefore generalising about CBFM in the region is inappropriate.

For the sake of our discussions, it is useful to differentiate two extreme situations:

- Countries where government has achieved, or has high chances of achieving, site-based community management plans for the majority of coastal villages that need it (e.g. Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands).
- Countries which will not achieve significant coverage of villages with management plans because of very large populations and/or spread-out geographies. (e.g. PNG, Solomon Islands).

There are a variety of intermediary situations, but this lends weight to the urgency of discussing scaling-up support for community action in the different contexts in order to ensure sustainable coastal fisheries.

3. Scaling Up initiatives in PICTs

During this session, we will be learning from countries and territories, and partners, what CBFM scaling up initiatives have been implemented, lessons-learned, challenges and success stories from the intervention. The CBFM scaling-up activities presented refer to activities aligned to the 5 Objectives and 11 Outcomes of the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling-up CBFM²

² <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/yr5yv>