

A long-term fisheries training programme for the Pacific

PFTP is an acronym that the fisheries sector in the Pacific Islands region will become more familiar with over the next four years. It stands for Pacific Fisheries Training Programme and is NZAID's latest package of fisheries training assistance to the region. The programme began in April 2013 and will conclude in March 2018. PFTP will be jointly implemented by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and SPC, with each organisation implementing specific components of the programme.

The goal of PFTP is to increase sustainable economic development through a greater contribution from the seafood sector, and the intended outcomes to be achieved are that Pacific Island men and women will be well qualified for work in the seafood sector, and that the competency of Pacific Island fisheries public sector officials to sustainably manage fisheries will be increased.

The seven training components (and the organisation responsible) under PFTP are:

1. Development of regional standards and training for Pacific Island regional fisheries observers (FFA).
2. Training in seafood market development (FFA).
3. Training in fisheries policy, investment appraisal and international seafood commerce (FFA).
4. Training in small vessel operations (SPC).
5. Training in seafood safety and tuna handling (SPC).
6. Practical training for fisheries extension officers (SPC).
7. Training in seafood sector business management for small and medium sized operators (SPC).

SPC is in charge of training components that its Nearshore Fisheries Development Section is already experienced in delivering to its members.

The programme requires both SPC and FFA to provide training to different countries each year under each of the seven components. For SPC, this means delivering in-country training in seafood safety and tuna handling (Kiribati covered in year 1), business management (Tuvalu in year 1) and small vessel operations (Kiribati in year 1). The practical training for fisheries extension officers is a regional training activity that members are well familiar with — the annual “SPC practical safety, fishing and financial management course” for fisheries officers that SPC and the Vanuatu Maritime College in Santo run annually.

Completed training activities in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

The first year of project activities went smoothly with some relevant and useful training sessions delivered. At the same time that FFA has been working to develop new course curricula for its components, SPC has been fine-tuning existing training programmes and has begun to deliver training workshops.

Five seafood safety and tuna handling workshops (each two-days long) were conducted in Tarawa between 23 October and 2 November 2013 by SPC and the PNG National Fisheries College. In total, 88 people — including 75 fishers, 9 trainers and 4 fish processors — were



Basic fire fighting is one of the training modules delivered during the SPC Practical Safety, Fishing and Financial Management Course for Fisheries Officers, Santo, Vanuatu, 2013 (images: William Sokimi, SPC).

The NZAID-funded **Pacific Fisheries Training Programme** is monitored by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that meets annually to review past activities under the programme and endorse FFA and SPC's annual work plans and budgets.

At its second annual meeting in Honiara in March 2014, PSC considered and approved SPC's planned activities under each of its four training components for the second year of the Programme (April 2014 to March 2015).

SPC will facilitate the following training in 2014 and 2015:

Item 4: Training in small vessels operations will be conducted in Funafuti, Tuvalu, during the first quarter of 2015. It is envisaged that instructors from the Kiribati Fisheries Training Center will introduce the BSSF course curriculum in Tuvalu jointly delivering the training with instructors of the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI);

Item 6: Practical training for fisheries extension officers will be conducted at the Vanuatu Maritime College in October 2014. The course announcement will be circulated in June and the top performing participants at the Fisheries Officers course currently being delivered in Nelson will be offered a seat on the SPC/VMC course. The participation of female Fisheries Officers will be actively encouraged.

Item 7: Training in seafood sector business management will be delivered by SPC staff in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in June 2014. The course will target women involved in small and medium scale fishing or aquaculture operations in Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Manihiki. The training is being facilitated by the Ministry of Marine Resources and the Business Trade and Investment Board.

Item 5: The recipient country for training in seafood safety and tuna handling has not yet been identified so countries wishing to receive this training should contact SPC urgently. The training will consist of a series of short workshops enabling the participation of as many fishers as required. It is specifically targeting urban centers where local commercial tuna fishers have the opportunity to sell their catch to a large fish processor for exports. The training aims at improving tuna quality so that the catch of local fishers meets export standards for international markets.

taught seafood safety and tuna handling standards, as well as best practices to implement and maintain those standards. With the available training budget, SPC was in a position to subsidise insulated fish bags to make them more affordable to local fishers. As a result of the training and the use of fish bags, Betio-based tuna processor and exporter, Kiribati Fish Limited, has reported a sharp increase in the quality of tuna being supplied by local fishermen. A more detailed account of this training can be found in an article published in *Fisheries Newsletter* #142.

The first business management course for small and medium sized operators was delivered in Tuvalu from 29 January to 7 February 2014. Its objectives were threefold: increasing capacity in business, marketing and finance; writing business plans; and implementing business (financial and fishing data) record keeping. The training targeted private fishing businesses in Funafuti; 14 participants (including 12 women) were selected on the basis of their financial management role in their business. One important outcome of the training was that participants were able to write their own business plan and it is hoped that with improved financial record keeping and literacy resulting from the training, fishing business managers will maximise profits and will more easily access finance to upgrade or diversify their fishing business.

Two, two-week-long small vessel operation courses were conducted in Maiana and Abaiang atolls in Kiribati in March and April 2014. The courses were successfully

delivered by instructors of the Kiribati Fisheries Training Centre (KFTC) who taught their country fellow countrymen the existing Basic Sea Safety and Fishing (BSSF) course curriculum. While several of the BSSF courses had been conducted in Tarawa, this was the first time that KFTC had the financial resources to export their training to Kiribati's outer islands. The training budget enabled SPC to provide the local trainers and their trainees with some safety grab bags that were left on the islands after the training.

The practical training for fisheries officers took place in Santo, Vanuatu from 30 September to 25 October 2013, and was conducted by SPC and the Vanuatu Maritime College. As usual with this training, the course programme consisted in a mix of theoretical and practical subjects in safety at sea (one week), vessel and fishing operations and FAD rigging and deployment (two weeks) and financial and business management (one week). The course was attended by 12 fisheries officers from 8 countries.

For more information:

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