



Monitoring Report

Monitoring reference MR-145063.03
Report date 15/10/2013
Project title Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (SCICOFish)

I. Intervention data

Status	FINAL
Report final date	15/11/2013
Report finalised by user	MOYA SAN MARTIN ANDRES
Monitoring Report Type	Ongoing
Aid Modality	Project approach
Project	Multi Country / Regional Project - Consolidated/Horizontal Report
Project Management	Project managed by the Delegatio
Financed via a thematic budget line	No
CRIS Number	D-021370
Project Title according to Financing Agreement/Financing Decision	Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (SciCOFish)
Domain	European Development Fund
DAC - CRS Sector	-
Additional DAC - CRS code	31310 - Fishing policy and administrative management
Geographical zone	Pacific Region
Keyword (for innovative interventions)	
Date Financing Agreement/Financing Decision/Contract signed	03/03/2010
Person responsible at HQ	
Person responsible at Delegation	CATTEAU THIERRY
Monitor	PALIN Carlos
Project Authority	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Type of implementing partner	Regional bodies (MERCOSUR, SADEC, ASEAN, etc)
Start date - planned	03/03/2010
End date - planned	03/03/2014
Start date - actual	03/03/2010
End date - likely	03/03/2014
Monitoring visit date	from 07/10/2013 to 21/10/2013

II. Financial data

Primary commitment (EC funding)	9,000,000
Budget allocated for TA	0
Secondary commitment (funds contracted of EC contribution)	8,655,765
Other funding (government and/or other donors)	0
Total budget of operation	9,000,000
Total EC funds disbursed	8,537,472
Financial data on	01/10/2012

III. Grading

Relevance and quality of design	B
Efficiency of Implementation to date	B
Effectiveness to date	B
Impact prospects	B
Potential sustainability	B

IV. Summary of conclusions

Relevance and quality of design

The sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources is relevant to the target countries' governments, and ultimately to their populations. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and governments and civil society within target countries continue to be appropriate partners. The project is likely to be germane to the new Regional Indicative Programme being negotiated under 11th EDF. Oceanic fisheries resources highly interdependent and there therefore exists an imperative for national cooperation under a regional mandate. The project is relevant to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration.

Though good in its logic, the logframe has flaws, in terms of the wording of Result 2, the relevance of some of the assumptions, and the way the activities have been formulated. Whereas the approach in the project regarding result 1 is sound, there are doubts (supported by this mission) brought up in the Mid Term Review (MTR) concerning the relevance of a primarily scientific approach with respect to coastal fisheries.

The SPC's own FAME strategic plan for 2013-2016 espouses management policies and systems, as distinct from management advice and plans, and this project may have benefitted from following that line more closely. The Forum Fisheries Agency has a mandate to support tuna fisheries management in the wider sense, the mandate for coastal fisheries rests with SPC. The project may be advised to put more emphasis on support to national offices (governmental and otherwise) for collection, analysis and application of management measures, where appropriate. Gender was not adequately addressed at project design.

Efficiency of Implementation to date

The project is efficiently implemented, and the budget was largely appropriate. However, the coastal component was relatively poorly endowed with personnel. Some staff have left or posts have ended in the run up to the end of the project. For the sake of efficiency the requested extension should be granted sooner rather than later. Financial control and reporting are well executed, but the original division of the budget between Oceanic, Coastal, and Coordination & Communication has not been respected, which will cause difficulties for both monitoring and evaluation.

Ninety per cent of time has passed; on 10 October 2013 97% (EUR8,764,875) of monies are committed and 95% (EUR8,436,362) of money disbursed by the EC. To October, 40% of year 4 monies have been spent. Given that indicators have been exceeded, there is good value for money.

Outputs for Oceanic fisheries are delivered as planned in a coherent manner. For coastal fisheries, this is not always the case, as some countries have undergone training and conducted resource assessment, but because the analysis and conclusions are worked on in the central SPC offices, they have felt that there has been a delay in receiving the conclusions. Project management states that summaries (3-5 pages) are sent soon after data are gathered, but formalisation of the advice in a full report does fall behind. The project would be advised to draft the formal reports and discuss them sooner rather than later (this mission recognises that the design faults in staff allocation do influence this).

The Steering Committee facilitates efficient implementation ; there is good communication.

Effectiveness to date

Indicators of outcomes have been comfortably exceeded in most cases, leading to high effectiveness of the operation in working towards the expected results: P-ACP governments have been provided with scientific data, modelling and advice to underpin their decision-making and strategic positioning; and technical methods and training have resulted in practical scientific advice to inform management decisions.

At the Project Purpose level, indicators have been achieved: stock assessment results have been accepted by

the Scientific Committee of WCPFC, there is 100% observer coverage on purse seiners, and five countries have accepted management recommendations. It has to be said that in some countries fishing seasons have been opened (against the management advice) implying an increased need during the extension for dialogue and process with the national authorities and other stakeholders in country. Systems of data recording and analysis are in place.

A hiatus in project activities, should there not be an extension, would compromise project effectiveness. Project as opposed to programming support does compromise continuity and resource monitoring.

Impact prospects

There is no doubt that scientific advice garnered through different components will have an impact on the decisions made at FFA and WCPFC for conservation of offshore fisheries resources. However, for the time being the OO is not being attained. Overall effort on yellowfin and bigeye tuna continues to increase, but discards have indeed been reduced.

It is too early to indicate if there has been a recovery in coastal fisheries. There is no significant external factor expected, though there is political interference in wise management from a technical viewpoint. It is to the detriment of good science and management of fisheries in the West and Central Pacific that French Polynesia and New Caledonia were excluded.

The greatest unplanned benefit is that the project has exceeded its targets. There is no negative effect of the project, and it can only be beneficial from social, environmental, cultural and economic perspectives (with the proviso concerning opportunity cost, which is impossible to verify because an economic analysis was not carried out at appraisal).

SPC is in a privileged position to ensure long term programming and donor coordination, to the extent that it can influence them. Though not foreseen in the project document, gender has been adequately addressed by the project.

Potential sustainability

Permanent institutions ensure continuity; training ensures long term capacity; there is a problem with operational costs with respect to some activities (observers, training, data collection and analysis) that will constantly need addressing. There are inherent problems with the retention of well qualified staff in small island States. The project will have contributed to institutional capacity-building and will have trained a sufficient number of officers for the present. Its focus on training of debriefers and trainers will be helpful.

Key observations and recommendations

SPC: 1) Write up and disseminate all pending analyses and reports; 2) Recruit good range of skilled officers, particularly for Component 2; 3) Move toward the application of the Apia policy with respect to work in Coastal Fisheries. 4) Concentrate on the following during the extension: Ocean Fisheries Programme: observer trainers and debriefers; auditing of TUFMAN application; bio-economic modelling; Coastal Fisheries Programme: more stakeholder consultation (including NGOs) regarding management plans, to legitimate and consolidate these at a national level; formalise results and discuss in country; secondary data collection; ownership at country level for management dialogue. 5) Report on spending according to components in the Financing Agreement, as well as the administrative line items.

DUE: 1) Grant the 18m project extension, with moderate cost increase, as soon as possible, so as to recruit and retain staff. 2) Ensure that financial reporting responds to budget according to component, to allow for a cost-benefit analysis. 3) Consider programming support to SPC. 4) Be more rigorous in its appraisal of logframes (formulation of logic, assumptions, OVIs, quantities) before signing off the Financing Agreement. 5) The MTR was fielded at the beginning of the last year. For them to be most effective, the DEU should field MTRs at mid-term. 6) Ensure that French Polynesia and New Caledonia are covered by actions of this kind, even if this is from different funds.