

Concept Note for an EDF11 Project

Draft for Consultation with PACP Fisheries Officials

Name of Applicant:	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) <i>In conjunction with SPC, USP, SPREP and the Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA)</i>	
Title of the Project:	Comprehensive Fisheries Project for the Pacific ACP Countries (CompFish)	
Location(s) of the Project:	All PACPs Complementary activities in the OCTs may be arranged by agreement between the OCT RAO and SPC.	
Total Duration of the Project:	66 months (5 years of operation with 6-month start-up phase)	
Total eligible cost of the Project (A): Refer Budget Summary Page	Amount of Grant requested (B)	% of total eligible cost (B/Ax100)
EUR 35 million	EUR 40 million	100%

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Application Number	
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(for use of the Pacific RAO only)

1. Summary of the Project

The **overall objective** of this project is *the alleviation of poverty in Pacific ACP countries through the sustainable management and development of marine resources*. The project **purpose** is *to support improved management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity*. It will be the first EDF regional project to bring together all regional organisations involved in the marine resources sector, with 4 international agencies and one NSA working together as project implementing agencies to ensure a comprehensive partnership with the EU.

Fisheries are the lifeblood of Pacific Island countries. They are essential for food security and provide great opportunities for economic growth. They are already an important source of foreign exchange revenue, employment for men and women, small business opportunities and provide most of the protein consumed by coastal communities. Tuna fisheries support essential government services through foreign access fees (more than 20% of government revenues in 4 countries), and increasingly through direct involvement in the catching and onshore processing sectors with over 18,000 jobs across the region. Coastal fisheries are vitally important at the community level, providing food security and income for small-scale fishers - more than 60% of households in coastal areas rely on fishing. While tuna fisheries are still generally regarded as healthy by global standards, they are coming under increasing pressure as fishing effort continues to expand. Overfishing is a problem for bigeye tuna, other stocks are at or near historically low levels, and incidental and directed catches of sharks and turtles are depleting these iconic species, sometimes to critically low levels. Many coastal resources, especially commercial invertebrate species, are over-exploited.

However, there are also positive developments. In the tuna fishery: tuna catches and the value of the fishery in PIC waters recently attained record levels; access fees have trebled since 2010; the proportion of the catch taken by local fleets is increasing; and in some countries at least there has been substantial new investment in processing, creating thousands of new jobs. Techniques have been developed to minimise by-catch of non-target species and there is a convergence between conservation and market access requirements. Several PACP states have improved management and monitoring of their tuna fisheries to avoid import bans under the EU IUU regulation. Other national and regional tuna fisheries have, or are pursuing, eco-labelling of their catches, requiring more rigorous management rules and measures to reduce by-catch and the impact of the fishery on the environment.

In coastal fisheries, staff of national fisheries agencies have been trained in techniques to assess stocks of valuable invertebrates and export moratoria have been used to allow stocks to recover in most countries. National staff have also been trained in assessment of finfish resources and sales. A number of PACPs have also made great strides in establishing community based ecosystem management of inshore fisheries, with around 30% of coastal waters in Fiji under local management, for example. There have also been successes in developing alternatives to coastal fishing that can help ease pressure on inshore resources, generate income and promote tourism in some cases.

The project will build on the results of previous EU-funded regional fisheries projects (in particular the EDF10 SciCOFish and DevFish 2 projects) and pursue some work needed to ensure that the benefits of these projects are sustained. However it will also undertake work in many new areas, and take a much more comprehensive approach covering not only the sustainable management of fisheries resources, but also the broader ecosystem impacts, and will develop the training needed for the next generation of fisheries professionals. The project results anticipated are in seven areas (provided in section 3.1).

The project has been developed as a result of close consultations with relevant national authorities in the PACP countries on their needs and priorities. In addition to discussion of the concept in the steering committee meetings of the EDF10 projects mentioned above, it responds to needs identified by PACP officials and Ministers in the governing council meetings of the regional organisations; as well as their processes to identify national priorities (FFA Service Level Agreements, SPC Joint Country Strategies, and other less formal processes).

2. Relevance of the Project and Context

2.1 Analysis of the problems

Oceanic fisheries, dominated by large-scale industrial tuna fishing, are a shared resource requiring a regional approach to management and development. They already provide substantial government revenue – essential for some of the smallest and most vulnerable economies in the region – as well as opportunities for economic development. Despite some successes in developing tuna fishing and processing in the region, some 70% of catches from national EEZs are still made by foreign vessels; and around 90% of these catches are transhipped for processing in Asia and

Latin America. Particular challenges for PACP countries include meeting market access requirements and facilitating genuine investment to support export-led economic growth.

Effective control of **IUU fishing**, particularly in the tuna fishery, is necessary to ensure sustainability of these globally important resources and increasingly is becoming a market access requirement. Recent investigations by the EU's DG Mare have identified a range of deficiencies in systems and legislation in five PACP countries. More effective control of IUU fishing will both reduce pressure on resources and increase economic benefits to coastal states. Effective monitoring and surveillance of fishing operations in the region will also promote compliance with the large oceanic areas designated by a number of Pacific Island States as Marine Protected Areas or multiple-use Marine Parks. A specific gap is in the delimitation of maritime boundaries – despite good progress in the last two years, 15 shared boundaries out of a total of 48 still need to be negotiated.

The region has benefitted from considerable support for **oceanic fisheries science**, particularly from earlier EDF programmes; but science-based management remains essential to ensure sustainability of the stocks. In particular, bigeye tuna stocks are estimated to have been depleted to 16% of their unfished biomass. Important gaps in knowledge include biological parameters of key tuna species that are needed for accurate stock assessments; incidental and targeted take of threatened and migratory species, particularly sharks and turtles; errors and non-reporting of operational data; understanding the evolution of the purse seine fishery including effort creep; implications of climate variability and climate change on the stocks; and bio-economic analysis to inform PACPs of the most economically effective ways to improve management and ensure sustainable stocks and viable fishing industries.

Traditionally, **coastal resources** have been harvested for subsistence purposes. However, more recently, there has been an increasing focus on harvesting for livelihoods as well, adding more fishing pressure on these stocks. Estimated population growth (expected to double between 2010 and 2030) will also exacerbate the problem and in many cases lead to overfishing. Over-harvesting of carnivorous fish has resulted in disturbance of trophic relationships and a consequent decline in the health of coral reefs. Climate change (ocean acidification and warming) will degrade fisheries habitats in the longer term and measures are needed to build resilience. Food security is threatened, while products harvested for cash income and export, notably sea cucumbers, have been virtually wiped out across much of the region, and effective enforcement of moratoria is needed to allow recovery. The diversity and number of coastal species (finfish and invertebrates) requires a new approach to data collection and the science needed to support management. Community-based management will take a holistic ecosystem approach (ridge-to-reef) to mitigate land-based effects on the marine environment and conserve biodiversity.

The impact of fishing on **endangered species** is poorly quantified, but is thought to be an important cause of the decline of sea turtles – particularly green, hawksbill and leatherback turtles which are endangered and declining globally. A 2001 estimate suggested around 620 turtles per year may be killed by tuna fishing operations each year. Better analysis of the interaction between oceanic fisheries in particular and these iconic species is needed to target mitigation efforts as well as improved protection of nesting beaches by local communities. Conservation of threatened coastal species, including sharks, will be important to protect biodiversity and preserve attractiveness for tourism.

Capacity building is essential to build sustainability of the programme, but current ad hoc training courses (although of high quality) are not providing the level of skills and their recognition required by fisheries professionals in today's complex environment. A flexible **tertiary training programme** delivered inside the region and catering to academic and vocational needs (including sustainable fisheries observer training) is urgently needed. Developing capacity for marine research is also important in areas such as genetics and evaluating the benefits of Marine Protected Areas.

2.2 Lessons Learned from Past Projects

While reviews of past EDF regional fisheries projects have paid tribute to their relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, there have been recommendations for improvement. These, together with the experience of the implementing agencies, have been integrated into the design. Features include:

- The importance of adequate resources for project management and administration, reflected in a special component of this project;
- The need for a relatively long implementation period, with a mobilisation period of six months to allow recruitment of experts;
- The importance of strong communications and adequate attention to EU visibility (specifically included as a result area with measurable indicators);
- The need for a balance between a demand-driven approach, and ensuring equitable benefits for all PACP countries;
- The need to address governance issues in fisheries.

2.3 Target groups and final beneficiaries

The final beneficiaries of the project will be the Pacific population in general, as the improved livelihoods, food security and government revenue resulting from sustainable fisheries management and development will alleviate poverty. Conservation of threatened biodiversity and habitats will assist in building climate change resilience and provide both local and global benefits. Target groups will include coastal communities, fisheries departments, other government departments (environment, planning, finance, foreign affairs) with an interest in coastal and oceanic fisheries and conservation of marine biodiversity, fishing industries and NGOs. In the case of oceanic fisheries, the WCPFC, its subsidiary bodies (particularly the Scientific Committee) and members (including the European Union) will be an additional target group.

2.4 Relevance of the Project to target countries, and to the target groups/final beneficiary groups

The relevance of the project is demonstrable at a number of levels. At **the national level**, Fisheries is identified as a priority in the national development plans or strategies of all Pacific ACP countries. Sustainable management of the resources, while seeking to derive greater social and economic benefits, are common themes of these documents.

At **the regional level**, the 2014 Pacific Framework for Regionalism is not intended as a checklist for donors; but the project supports two of its four high level objectives, namely: *Sustainable development that combines economic social, and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably*; and *Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable*. Regional issues and priorities are rather highlighted in the communiques of the annual Forum Leaders meetings, which over the past three years have included calls for:

- science-based management action to address overfishing, including the adoption of appropriate management measures.
- improving coastal fisheries management and development in support of food security and sustainable livelihoods;
- encouraging increased investment in Pacific fisheries;
- securing region-wide market access for Pacific fisheries products¹;
- implementing key initiatives to better support members in pursuing strengthened fisheries governance and economic development;
- strengthen sustainable fisheries conservation and management plans and measures that constrain and reduce catches based on current and accurate data and information²;
- appropriate solutions to address IUU and associated significant loss of fisheries earnings;
- protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change; and
- strengthened regional efforts to fix baselines and maritime boundaries³.

At **the global level** the project is aligned to the proposed **Sustainable Development Goal 14 – to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**. More specific global goals include: **14.2** by 2020, *sustainably manage, and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans*; **14.4** by 2020, *effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics*; **14.5** by 2020, *conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information*; and **14.7** by 2030 *increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism*.

The proposed project addresses all of these priorities.

2.5 Relevance of the Project to the priorities and requirements of the EDF11 Regional Indicative Programme

The project is aligned with the focus of the Cotonou agreement (as revised in 2010) on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy. Cotonou further requires the principles of sustainable management of

¹ Communique of the Forum Leaders meeting in Rarotonga, 2012

² Communique of the Majuro Forum, 2013

³ Palau declaration on Oceans, Forum Leaders' meeting 2014

natural resources and the environment, including climate change, shall be applied and integrated at every level of the partnership.

Both the EC's communication *Towards a renewed EU-Pacific development partnership* and the draft EDF 11 Pacific Regional Indicative Programme highlight the importance of fisheries in the region and the need to sustainably manage these resources. The European Parliament's Pacific Fisheries Strategy specifically "calls on the Commission to ensure that the 11th EDF takes this strategy into account and also reflects the possibility of increasing the percentage of sector-specific assistance".

The project is designed to contribute to achieving the RIP objective to *Improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for PACP states arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment*. The project addresses all three focal areas of the RIP. While most of the planned activities come under **Focal Area 2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment and the Management of Waste**, the work on market access and export development for fisheries products fits under the **Regional Economic Integration focal area (building increased productive capacity for trade)** – noting that fisheries products are one of the few commodities produced in the Pacific Islands for which export values are growing steadily. The project will also promote improved transparency in fisheries information and decision-making, supporting focal area 3. The main RIP operational areas targeted by the project include:

- Support the improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Services (SPS) and in the field of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- Promote private sector investment and enhance competitiveness in particular in priority RIP sectors in a sustainable manner that also takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of the Pacific region
- Support the sustainable development, use and management of living and non-living oceanic and coastal resource
- Develop and implement policies and regulations focused on integrating economic activities with biodiversity conservation and development and sustainable management of oceanic and coastal resources
- Support initiatives promoting community-based management of oceanic and coastal resources to improve food security and small-scale livelihoods
- Contribute to the implementation of comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance strategies for the exploitation of oceanic and coastal resources
- Assess extinction risk and encourage conservation of endemic species in oceanic and coastal areas under or designated for development
- Strengthen human resources capacity in waste management and in the development and management of living and non-living oceanic and coastal resources; and
- Strengthen national and regional data collection, analysis and information sharing systems, particularly in priority RIP sectors.

2.6 Complementary programmes

The importance of regional fisheries issues has been recognized by many of the donor agencies active in the region, and the CompFish project is designed to complement other existing and planned initiatives. For example SPC receives significant support for general aquaculture development from Australia and the trade side is covered through the Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT) work, which is covered under a separate EDF11 funding proposal, so this area of work is not included. An important project supported by the Global Environment Facility will support tuna fisheries management in Pacific Island countries, enhancing the uptake of tuna fisheries science. Support for enforcement capability at the national level under the World Bank PROP will allow countries to implement their plans to combat IUU fishing. A recently approved GEF project on dugong conservation will address threats to this iconic species. A comprehensive list of complementary projects will be provided with the proposal.

3. Project Description and Effectiveness

3.1 Overall objective of the Project, purpose, and expected key results

The **overall objective** of the project is *the alleviation of poverty in Pacific ACP countries through the sustainable management and development of marine resources*. The **project purpose** is *to support improved management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity*. Results of the project link directly to many of the results sought in Focal Areas 1 and 2 of the RIP.

Results will be in the following areas:

- (1) Governments and organisations of which they are members are supported by the provision of high quality scientific and management advice for the oceanic fishery (SPC and FFA);
- (2) Governments and the private sector are assisted in sustaining and increasing economic benefits from tuna fishing, processing and export (FFA);
- (3) Coastal communities are empowered through national processes to improve the management of their fisheries resources through scientific and legal advice, as well as practical support at the village level (SPC, LMMA and SPREP);
- (4) Monitoring control and surveillance of both oceanic and coastal fisheries is enhanced to reduce IUU fishing and improve the effectiveness of marine managed areas (FFA and SPC);
- (5) Impacts of fishing on the marine environment and key species, particularly on turtles and sharks, is reduced through targeted by-catch mitigation programmes and coastal conservation initiatives particularly for megafauna (SPREP and SPC);
- (6) A practical, flexible and relevant tertiary training programme for fisheries and marine species management professionals, including researchers, is developed and sustained (USP with inputs from other agencies);
- (7) The programme is efficiently managed and communicates well with stakeholders and the general public, also providing strong visibility of EU assistance (all agencies).

Nearly all of the result areas will address crosscutting issues. Development of the tuna industry creates opportunities for stable employment of women in tuna processing, and attention will be given to ensuring equitable employment conditions. Coastal fisheries management activities will take a 'whole of community' approach, involving women and youth; while the training component of the project clearly targets youth, with a view to providing increased employment opportunities.

3.2 Proposed activities, and key performance/success indicators

Detailed schedules of activities have not been developed at this stage, but the project will operate under the same mix of regional initiatives and 'demand driven' national activities used in implementing the EDF10 fisheries projects, so that each PACP can tailor inputs to their specific needs. This will draw on existing processes for determining national priorities (for example the FFA service level agreements and SPC joint country strategies), as well as annual project steering committee meetings.

Key activities, listed by result area, will include:

- (1) Research into tuna biology and ecosystems, tuna tagging, analytical work on purse seine effort and bio-economic modelling;
- (2) Investment facilitation, development policy work, a regional competent authority support unit, and assistance in meeting the EU IUU regulation requirements;
- (3) Coastal resource assessment and data management training, national fisheries staff trained to provide appropriate scientific support, roll-out of national and community based fisheries management, and assistance with coastal fisheries legislation;
- (4) Implementation of IUU national plans of action, development of sustainable observer training arrangements, roll-out of electronic monitoring and reporting, training of oceanic and coastal MCS officers, and support for negotiation of maritime boundaries;
- (5) Analysis of observer data to quantify impact on turtles and sharks, satellite tagging of turtles, identification of interaction hotspots, increased observer coverage to fill gaps and targeted mitigation action to reduce turtle mortality, work with coastal communities to protect sharks and turtles and conserve marine habitats;
- (6) Accredited fisheries courses established which incorporate a range of appropriate modules, sustainable systems in place for observer training and other short technical courses, and relevant research projects implemented by MSc, PhD and post-doctoral researchers;
- (7) Strong project management and coordination unit established, project support to administrative staffing in each implementing agency, effective information and communications support, and special attention to EU visibility requirements

Performance indicators for the project (mainly drawn from the RIP) will include the following. Many of these are already measured and reported by the implementing agencies on an annual basis:

- Volume and value of trade in fisheries products from the region

- Value of foreign direct investment in the fisheries sector
- Number of new fisheries and support businesses established
- Increased financial returns (measured by value of harvest) from the coastal and oceanic resources sector at national and regional level
- Status of tuna species in PACP-controlled waters as measured against regionally-agreed reference points
- Area under Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and similar community-based management in PACP countries
- Reduction in IUU in oceanic and coastal fishery operations and improved surveillance of protected areas
- Number of maritime boundary treaties signed
- Status and trends in turtle populations assessed and impact of fisheries on them quantified and reduced
- Number of male and female students graduating from tertiary and technical/vocational, courses and studies in fisheries and marine conservation
- Number and uptake of media releases casting the EU and project activities in a positive light.

More detailed indicators at the activity level will be developed.

3.3 *Involvement of implementing partners*

The project will be implemented by the FFA, SPC, SPREP, USP and LMMA in close collaboration with the Fisheries Departments in Pacific ACPs. Implementing agencies will also work with local communities, other NSA partners in-country, and industry representatives, as appropriate, to maximise implementation at the grass roots level.

3.4 *Other possible stakeholders*

The project will focus on communities, particularly in the case of the coastal fisheries components. Local communities and community groups, fishing associations, small-scale fishers and others with an interest or involvement with coastal fisheries will be stakeholders. In the components dealing with tuna fisheries, private sector fishing and processing enterprises will be major stakeholders. Fisheries Departments of the 15 Pacific ACPs will be important partners for implementation. Other government departments, such as conservation & environment, planning, and maritime police will also be included as appropriate, as well as interested NGOs. Pacific OCTs are already members or observers of most of the implementing agencies, and there may be a parallel project under the EDF11 OCT envelope.

3.5 *A description of monitoring and evaluation procedures*

There will be a range of monitoring and evaluation procedures associated with this project. All of the implementing agencies have monitoring and evaluation systems in place, and collect data needed to report on the key performance indicators. The project manager and project administrator will be responsible for the day to day running of the project. There will be regular meetings of the project implementing agencies to ensure coordination. An Advisory Committee, made up of the Heads of Fisheries for the Pacific ACPs, the DMRO and EU, will give annual guidance and input to the project. Annual reports will be provided with audited accounts to the DMRO and EU. There will be annual monitoring missions, a mid-term review and a final evaluation of the project, all coordinated by the DMRO.

4. Sustainability of the Project

4.1 *Initial risk analysis and contingency plans*

A significant risk for all regional programmes is that support and advice will not be translated into action at the national level. The project will mitigate this risk by using wide consultation with stakeholders (including existing processes⁴) to identify activities that are necessary and achievable in each PACP member.

A lack of capacity at the national level is also often cited as a risk to achieving and sustaining results. The project's emphasis on capacity building, including the development of tertiary training and postgraduate research, aims to address this risk in the medium term.

At the level of each result area, the following specific risks have been identified:

- (1) A failure of the WCPFC process to fully adopt scientific advice in management measures across the range of the tuna stocks can sometimes stall the necessary management measures. During the course of the project, the PACPs will make renewed efforts to reach consensus with distant water fishing interests – however since the majority of the main fisheries occur within their EEZs they also have the option of adopting measures at the sub-regional and national levels.

⁴ Including SPC joint country strategies, FFA service level agreements and SPREP marine species action plans.

- (2) Facilitating investment in the tuna industry remains a challenge for small island developing states, however the increased value of fisheries access creates new opportunities to leverage development. Investment in infrastructure under bilateral programmes (including EDF11 in at least one case) also helps to remove constraints.
- (3) There is a significant risk that community based management of coastal fisheries and marine biodiversity will not be effective, particularly in areas where community leadership is weak. The project will aim to address this by focusing on communities that have a real will to improve their resource management; working with all stakeholders especially women and youth; by providing for stronger enforcement of national management measures through regulations
- (4) Successfully addressing IUU fishing may be put at risk by a failure of national administrations to devote adequate budgetary resources to MCS work, as well as governance issues when dealing with offences. However, the EU IUU regulation has encouraged PACPs, particularly those that rely on the EU market to tackle the issue effectively and creates synergies between results 2 and 4. At least four PACP countries will secure additional resources for MCS under the World Bank PROP project.
- (5) Reduction of turtle and shark mortality caused by the fishing industry may be undermined by increased or continuing directed capture on nesting beaches or coastal waters. This will also be addressed under this component as well as by encouraging governments to introduce stronger regulations to protect marine biodiversity where such legislation is currently weak
- (6) A major risk to the training component is that there will be insufficient uptake of training opportunities to make the programme viable. This is addressed by providing a flexible learning opportunity – suitable for both short in-service training as well as full time undergraduate studies; as well as close consultation with prospective employers through an advisory committee. A lack of vacancies for graduates has also been problematic in the past – again this is addressed by providing a mix of full-time and in-service training opportunities.
- (7) No real risks are identified for project management – all of the implementing agencies have robust systems and extensive experience and the four CROP agencies have all recently undergone 7 pillar institutional audit assessments. Development of a robust communication strategy for the project will be needed, however.

4.2 Preconditions

Preconditions are largely a matter for the donor to establish. At this stage, the only preconditions envisaged are that, following 7-pillar assessments of the implementing agencies, there may need to be some improvements in systems and procedures in some agencies as a condition of funding.

4.3 Sustainability after completion of the Project

Most of the project's activities are designed to build capacity at the national level. Components of the project will have specific objectives of reducing reliance on future EU support. For example, it is expected the training programme will develop into courses that can be sustained by student fees; there is an explicit objective of developing cost recovery for observer training; and the regional competent authority model is expected to be financially viable once fully established. While regional agencies will require donor support to continue to deliver the current level of services to their members, alternative sources of funding are being developed (including cost recovery in some cases) and the reliance on EDF funds has been reduced overall.

5. Operational Capacity and Expertise

5.1 Applicant's experience in project management of similar projects

The EC's joint communication '*Towards a renewed EU-Pacific development partnership*' notes that: 'EU-financed regional cooperation in the Pacific is supported by well-functioning regional organisations which enjoy political support from their member states and are financially and technically well equipped.'

The project will be implemented by the four main regional organizations, as well as a highly-regarded regional non state actor. All of the regional agencies have experience of delivering a wide range of donor funded initiatives. FFA and SPC have very extensive experience of managing EDF funding. Recent EDF projects in the fisheries sector have been very favourably evaluated by monitoring missions and independent reviews.

5.2 Applicants' technical expertise

- The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) is the agency mandated by leaders to drive regional cooperation to create and enable the maximum long term social and economic benefits from the sustainable

use of shared offshore fisheries resources. Established in 1979, the agency currently has an annual budget of around €20 million and employs over 40 internationally recruited experts. It is organised in three functional divisions (with corporate services support): Fisheries Management; Fisheries Development; and Operations (which covers monitoring, control and surveillance of the tuna fishery); and has a reputation as the ‘go-to’ agency for high quality technical support in these areas. Particular areas of expertise include market access for fisheries products, investment facilitation, and coordinated surveillance operations. Its headquarters is in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) is a large multi-sectoral agency, founded in 1947, with headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia and offices in Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands. Of particular relevance to this project is the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division, which has programmes dealing with oceanic fisheries science (OFP) and coastal fisheries (CFP). FAME has an annual budget of €12 million and employs more than 50 international experts. OFP is the science service provider for the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and is a global leader in tuna fisheries science and stock assessment. CFP provides a responsive and relevant service to members in coastal fisheries management. Other SPC programmes provide technical support in delimiting maritime boundaries, as well as in crosscutting areas of gender and youth.
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) was established within SPC in the 1970s and became a separate international organisation in 1993. Based in Apia, Samoa, it has more than 40 internationally recruited staff and an annual budget of €18 million. Of particular relevance to this project is the threatened and migratory species programme, which has extensive experience in sea turtle conservation. SPREP also brings considerable expertise in climate change policy, ecosystem management and communications, as well as waste management (the complementary area for focal sector 2 of the EDF11 indicative programme).
- The University of the South Pacific (USP) – based in Fiji and with campuses in Samoa and Vanuatu and centres in Cook Islands, Solomons, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Niue and Tonga - is the only truly regional provider of tertiary education, and has more than 9,000 students enrolled. It has trained many senior Pacific Island fisheries personnel through its Marine Studies Programme. USP in Suva is currently engaged in a research programme on the genetics of turtles in Fiji. The Institute of Marine Resources (IMR) provides a developing platform for postgraduate research; while the recently established vocational training arm will provide a permanent centre for training of fisheries observers. USP was established in 1968, has a total budget of €60 million and employs over 200 staff.
- The Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA) is a group of marine conservation practitioners working in the Indo Pacific who have joined together to increase the success of their efforts. Established in 2000, the network has national member organisations in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Solomon Islands (as well as Indonesia and Philippines) – and works in other PACPs on an opportunistic basis. While lacking the formal governance structures of the agencies listed above (LMMA will be contracted by SPC to deliver services) it has been supported by grants from several charitable foundations and the EU under a GCCA project, and promotes a cost effective method of roll-out for community based management.

6. Summary budget (in Euros)

Result area	Budget
1) High quality scientific and management advice for the oceanic fishery	€5 million
2) Increased economic benefits from tuna fishing, processing and export	€5 million
3) Coastal communities empowered to improve the management of their fisheries resources	€8 million
4) IUU fishing reduced	€7 million
5) Mitigation of the impact of fisheries on by-catch and the ecosystem	€5 million
6) Tertiary training programme for fisheries professionals and research	€5 million
7) Efficient project management and communication	€5 million
TOTAL	€40 million

Draft logical framework for the project

<i>Narrative Summary</i>	<i>Performance/Success Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Project Objective			
<i>The alleviation of poverty in Pacific ACP countries through the sustainable management and development of marine resources.</i>	Increased financial returns (measured by value of harvest) from the oceanic resources sector at national and regional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFA economic indicators report 	
Project Purpose			
<i>To support improved management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity.</i>	<p>Status of tuna species in PACP-controlled waters that are exploited within regionally agreed reference points</p> <p>Volume and value of trade in fisheries products from the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports to WCPFC Scientific Committee • FFA economic indicators report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support and advice is translated into action at the national level - capacity building at the national level is effective
Project Results			
<p>(1) High quality scientific and management advice for the oceanic fishery</p> <p>(2) Increased economic benefits from tuna fishing, processing and export</p> <p>(3) Coastal communities empowered to improve the management of their fisheries resources</p> <p>(4) IUU fishing reduced</p> <p>(5) Mitigation of the impacts of fisheries on iconic species and coastal biodiversity</p> <p>(6) tertiary training programme for fisheries professionals and research</p> <p>(7) efficient project management and communication</p>	<p>Stock assessments accepted by the WCPFC SC including peer reviews</p> <p>Value of foreign direct investment in the fisheries sector</p> <p>Area under Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and similar community-based management in PACP countries</p> <p>Reduction in IUU in oceanic and coastal fishery operations</p> <p>Status of turtle populations assessed and impact of fisheries on biodiversity quantified and reduced</p> <p>Number of male and female students graduating; research results published</p> <p>Number and uptake of media releases casting the EU and project activities in a positive light.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports of implementing agencies • Project reports and evaluations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific advice adopted in management measure - infrastructure adequate for investment projects - community based management effective - adequate budgets for MCS, good governance - adequate uptake of training opportunities
Project Activities			
<p>1) Tuna biology and ecosystems, tuna tagging, analytical work on purse seine effort and bio-economic modelling;</p> <p>2) Investment facilitation, development policy work, a regional competent authority support unit, EU IUU regulation requirements;</p> <p>3) Coastal resource assessment training, roll-out of community based fisheries management, coastal fisheries legislation;</p> <p>4) Implementation of IUU NPOAs, sustainable observer training arrangements, electronic monitoring and reporting, training of coastal MCS officers, negotiation of maritime boundaries;</p> <p>5) quantify impacts, identification hotspots, targeted data collection and mitigation action, conservation action in coastal areas;</p> <p>6) Accredited fisheries courses of appropriate modules, sustainable systems in place for observer training, relevant research projects implemented</p> <p>7) Project management and coordination unit, project support to each implementing agency, effective information and communications, special attention to EU visibility requirements</p>	<p>Result area</p> <p>Lead agency</p> <p>1) High quality scientific and management advice for the oceanic fishery</p> <p>SPC</p> <p>2) Increased economic benefits from tuna fishing, processing and export</p> <p>FFA</p> <p>3) Coastal communities empowered to improve the management of their fisheries resources</p> <p>SPC</p> <p>4) IUU fishing reduced</p> <p>FFA</p> <p>5) By-catch mitigation & conservation programmes</p> <p>SPREP</p> <p>6) Tertiary training programme for fisheries professionals and research</p> <p>USP</p> <p>7) Efficient project management and communication</p> <p>Shared</p> <p>TOTAL</p>	<p>Budget</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€8 million</p> <p>€7 million</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€5 million</p> <p>€40 million</p>	

DECLARATION BY THE APPLICANT FOR CONCEPT NOTE

The Applicant, represented by the undersigned, being the authorised signatory of the Applicant, including every partner (if any), hereby declares that:

- The Applicant has the sources of financing and professional competence and qualifications specified in the Concept Note.
- The Applicant is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the Project with its partners and is not acting as an intermediary.
- The Applicant and its partners are not in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in the Section in these Guidelines on the Non Participation of Eligible Applicants.
- The Applicant and each partner are eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in the Guidelines for Applications.

Signed on behalf of the Applicant:

Name	James Movick
Signature	
Position	Director General
Date	15th March 2015