



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Tonga

statement

1. CLIMATE CHANGE

What national climate change activities or initiatives are underway to manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture?

Current activities:

- Legislation and Policies amendments/changes
- Special Management Area Program – Scale-up Community-based Fisheries Management to enhancement of inshore and coastal marine resources – promote livelihoods (food security and incomes) for communities
- FADs Projects and data collection – develop artisanal fisheries and lessening pressure on reefs and coastal areas
- Aquaculture – farming of MAPE pearl, giant clams, sea cucumber (golden sandfish), seaweed and trials on finfish (tilapia, mullet etc)
- Diversification – development of giant squid fisheries, bait fishing (NIWA)
- Research and Data Collection – Tuna, Deepwater snapper, Creel & Market survey, etc.
- Ecological and Biological monitoring - coral bleaching – collaboration with the Vava’u Environmental Protection Agency (VEPA), biological sampling (i.e. gonad, otolith, fish tissue, fins, etc.)
- Implementation of the Tonga Marine Spatial Plan (Ocean 7)
- Development of Concept Note and Proposal to the GCF

Cont.

Planned activities:

- Ciguatera biological data collection - FAO
- Stock assessment of the target inshore fisheries i.e. Coral Survey – SPC, WATTI, sea cucumber & invertebrates - SPC
- Trial fish cage culture system – SPC (i.e. Tilapia, mullet, milkfish)
- Continuing the biological sampling for offshore & inshore
- Strengthening of FADs Project – Target 50 in-placed by 2030 – FAO
- Implementing and monitoring Fisheries Management Plans
- Implementing Ridge to Reef Phase II Project – e.g. monitor Fanga’uta Lagoon, establish new SMAs, etc. GCF Fisheries Readiness Support - Feasibility Study
- Continuing the implementation of the MSP
- Implementing GCF Fisheries Support – Feasibility Study.

2. COVID-19 IMPACTS

What are your national fisheries and aquaculture current and planned activities to reduce the residual impacts of COVID-19 on food security, livelihoods, and economic growth?

Current activities:

- Policy changes – conditions of licenses for fishing vessels
- Subsidising the prices of fish at the local market – (tuna and deepwater snapper fisheries)
- Distributing fish to the outer islands
- Strengthening SMA Program – community engagement
- Promoting artisanal fishing – FADs fishing
- Promoting squid fishing
- Providing fishing gear and fuel for small-scale fishers
- Promoting aquaculture

Cont.

Planned activities :

- Continue to subsidise tuna by-catch
- Promote small-scale fish farming (cage system)
- Distribute fishing gear and boats