

DevFish2 begins

Context

Pacific members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (P-ACP countries) are located in the midst of the most important tuna fishing ground in the world, which annually supplies over 1 million tonnes of tuna (one-quarter of the world supply) valued at more than USD 1 billion. At present, the majority of the catch is taken directly by distant-water fishing nations in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of P-ACP countries in return for licence fees. A smaller, but growing share is harvested by P-ACP vessels or landed in P-ACP ports. These activities employ an estimated 12,000 Pacific Islanders, mostly women. Ninety per cent of these jobs are land-based processing jobs. The economic livelihoods of thousands more are dependent on small-scale commercial tuna fishing and marketing. There are, therefore, very large potential gains for P-ACP countries from increasing the share of benefits that they secure from tuna resources through increasing P-ACP fishing operations and capabilities, and from encouraging the localisation of other tuna fishery-related activities. Since there are limited opportunities to increase total catches, the emphasis will be on securing a greater share of the sustainable catch for local enterprises. Economic studies carried out under the first phase of DevFish (Development of Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific ACP Countries Project) under the ninth European Development Fund (EDF 9) have demonstrated empirically the benefits of this approach, and formed the basis for development planning and policy advice to promote private sector development and foreign investment.

The first phase of the DevFish project was designed to build on past projects by the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and other agencies, which identified constraints to the development of P-ACP domestic tuna industries. In particular, the DevFish project undertook interventions to improve economic and policy conditions as well as specific actions to mitigate constraints in areas including EU food safety requirements, port management, and rising fuel prices. Its success was recognised in annual Results Orientated Monitoring (ROM) missions as well as a mid-term review. However, these reviews acknowledged that a long-term commitment will be necessary to achieve the ambitious goals of the project, and a second phase was strongly recommended.

DevFish2: Reduce constraints to domestic tuna industry development

The two regional EDF10 projects, SciCOFish (Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region) and DevFish2, represent a coordinated approach by two regional agencies (FFA and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community [SPC]) to jointly address the three pillars of sustainable fisheries — science-based management, development and enforcement. They also complement activities under the proposed EDF10 Increasing Agricultural Commodity Trade (IACT) project, which will enhance capacity for trade in agricultural and aquaculture products.

DevFish2 has formally commenced and is jointly implemented by FFA as the lead agency, with support from SPC. In line with the mandates of the two organisations,

work undertaken by FFA will focus on economic and policy issues relating to industry development, as well as the coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance activities. SPC will contribute technical expertise in fisheries development, particularly assistance targeting artisanal fishers and small and medium enterprises, and analysis of tuna fishery databases to quantify illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing levels, as well as assistance to countries in better using national data for this purpose. The two organisations have an extensive history of joint work.

The overall objective of the programme remains the same as that of the original DevFish project — to increase the contribution from the sustainable use of highly migratory marine resources, particularly tuna, to the alleviation of poverty in P-ACP states, now also including Timor Leste. The project's purpose is to reduce constraints to domestic tuna industry development. These arise from economic and environmental vulnerabilities, such as a lack of local capacity to manage and support the tuna industry, including small-scale operations, and from IUU fishing activities, which both divert economic benefits and threaten efforts to sustainably manage the resource.

Implementation

DevFish2 is a four-year project that began in 2010, with a total budget of EUR 8.2 million, of which EUR 7.2 million represents project direct costs.

The targeted beneficiaries (P-ACP countries) are Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Federated States of Micronesia



SPC ACTIVITIES

(FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Solomon Islands, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The requests from countries for project assistance are required to come from fishers associations with endorsement of the ministry of fisheries.

SPC's responsibilities in this phase fall into the following areas:

- Support for industry (capacity development) including artisanal fishing stakeholders
- Industry training for expansion of exports
- Formal training for enterprise managers
- Upgrades of artisanal fishing activities, including running pilot projects to introduce new technologies such as the replacement of 2-stroke with 4-stroke engines, etc.
- Integrated assessment of enforcement and fisheries databases

FFA will take the lead in assisting with fisheries development strategies, and providing technical support to competent authorities.

Both agencies will collaborate with each other on activities as necessary.

Project Steering Committee

The project's Steering Committee is responsible for technical and administrative oversight. The first project steering committee meeting will coincide with the Heads

of Fisheries meeting held by SPC in February/March 2011. The draft project work plan and cost estimates developed especially for the annual work plans for Year 1 and Year 2 will be discussed and formalised.

The project will require one representative from each fisheries department in the region as well as selected representatives from the private sector (i.e. fishing industry associations) to attend meetings of the Steering Committee.

Staff



*Fisheries Development Officer (DevFish):
Jonathan Manieva*

Jonathan, who is from PNG, was the Fisheries Development Officer based at SPC in the first phase (2005–2009) of the DevFish project.

In his position in DevFish2, Jonathan's main task is to continue to administer the project activities coordinated by SPC. This includes assessing and coordinating support to the fishing industry and fishing associations, especially facilitating their initial establishment and strengthening their effectiveness.

He also helps to provide additional support to industry and fisheries authorities in focus areas of the project.



Derelict longliners in Pohnpei, FSM. The local tuna longline fleet has struggled over the years to survive. Devfish2 will bring support to local tuna fishing operations by providing technical assistance and training for fishing companies through activities such as trials and the introduction of new technologies in fuel efficiency

Identifying Cook Islands' priorities for DevFish2 support

The second phase of DevFish has been introduced to about 20 members of the Cook Islands National Fishing Association. At the request of the Ministry of Marine Resources, Jonathan participated in the project's Cook Islands inception meeting on 22–25 November.

Jonathan presented work done during the first phase of the DevFish project, highlighting the area of focus: support to the fishing industry and fishing associations, especially facilitating their initial establishment and strengthening their effectiveness. He made observations on lessons learned (fishing associations' challenges and benefits), explaining why it is appropriate to have an association such as the Cook Islands National Fishing Association.

He stressed the success of the support provided to the industry association by the DevFish-funded officer: during the first phase of DevFish, this project assistance was noted as a model to expand in the region. The support enables a national association to have a full-time staff member to serve the collective affairs and interests of the association. Traditionally, association executives serve on a voluntary basis and seldom dedicate their time to association work. Unfortunately, many associations have small memberships and lack the resources to hire staff. Jonathan noted that this kind of support is still available under DevFish2.

During the meeting, representatives of member fishing associations and fishing clubs noted their priority needs with regard to future development. The following priorities were identified:

1. construction and maintenance of fish aggregating devices
2. sea safety gear, and training on their usage
3. increased supply of bait and fishing gear (hooks, fishing line, lures and nets)
4. formal incorporation of member associations/clubs
5. training in post-harvest fish handling and treatment
6. development of marketing arrangement (transportation mode) of fresh fish and processed products
7. replacement of aged outboard motors of clubs or associations



DevFish2 aims to enhance national Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) practices in P-ACP countries in order to increase tuna exports, as for these exportable yellowfin tuna in chill bins.

8. ice-making facilities
9. leading lights at wharves/jetties
10. subsidies to offset fuel costs
11. reviving processing and storage facilities on outer islands
12. ice bags and chilly bins

These will guide the association in formulating its development plan and pursuing support.

Representatives recommended that DevFish2 support the funding of the support staff position as an immediate priority. The support officer, once in place, should coordinate and assist with administrative arrangements and undertake the development of strategies to address the list of priority needs, with guidance of the newly elected association executives

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