

Effective Coastal Fisheries Management Project

Midterm Review

Midterm Review Report



February 2020



Cover picture: carved squid, Solomon Islands

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Glossary

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
ADD	Activity Design Document
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security
CEAFM	Community-based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
DAC	Development Assistance Criteria
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ECFM	Effective Coastal Fisheries Management project
FAME	Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division of SPC
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MCS&E	Monitoring, Control, Surveillance & Enforcement
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MPI	New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries
MTR	Midterm review
NZ	New Zealand
NZD	New Zealand Dollar
PEUMP	Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership programme
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIFP	Pacific Islands Fisheries Professional ¹
RTM-CF	Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries
SPC	The Pacific Community
USP	University of the South Pacific

¹ Previously known as ‘Pacific Islands Young Professional’ or ‘Pacific Islands Junior Professional’

1 Abstract

A midterm review of the Effective Coastal Fisheries Management project was carried out over the period November 2019 – February 2020. The project is supported by approximately NZ\$7.7m of funding through the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and is scheduled to run through to mid-2021. The aim of the review was to provide an assessment of progress and assist future implementation of the project.

The review was informed by a) a review of project-related documentation and b) a set of consultations with SPC staff and other stakeholders in Noumea, along with country missions to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati.

The review finds that the project is strongly relevant with regional and SPC priorities. It has been delivered effectively, and is largely on track towards output targets. The mode of delivery has worked well, and the project is being delivered efficiently, within the largely fixed costs associated with project activities (staff and travel). The review found encouraging signs of increased capacity in core project areas (e.g. legislation, policies, plans), though sustainability is not assured at this mid-term stage. While the project is responsive to gender, social inclusion and environmental issues, there are some areas (e.g. the Fisheries Professional programme) where the review suggests reviewing and addressing barriers to participation of women.

The review makes four recommendations relating to: 1) supporting the project going forward; 2) improved delivery in some specific areas; 3) maintaining M&E processes; and 4) updating regional guidance documents (New Song for coastal fisheries, and the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries).

2 Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of a midterm review (MTR) of the Effective Coastal Fisheries Management (ECFM²) project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and delivered through the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) under a Grant Funding Arrangement.

The project started in June 2016 and is scheduled to operate through to June 2021. The total project budget is NZ\$7,287,759. The project funds the appointment of three full time specialist staff (Legal Adviser, Policy and Management specialist and MCS&E³ specialist). Additional resources support the secondment of four Fisheries Professionals to SPC for periods of 12 months each during the term of the project. Other SPC staff contribute their time for management and administrative support, and the project works closely with other activities and projects delivered through FAME, other divisions of SPC and outside agencies. The review was conducted over the period November 2019 to January 2020. Interviews were held with stakeholders in the margins of the third Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries held in November 2019, and subsequent country visits to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati.

The review assessed the project against seven criteria. The key finding in each case are summarised below:

a) Relevance

The project was found to be strongly relevant with regional and SPC priorities, and well aligned with the MFAT regional strategic framework

b) Effectiveness

The project has been delivered effectively through SPC coastal fisheries programme. The project is largely on track to deliver against output targets, however some of the outcome targets, and their data requirements are not practical to assess within the resources available to the project (i.e. they rely on external data inputs). Stakeholders provided positive feedback on core elements of the project.

c) Efficiency

The mode of delivery works well, and there is a strong, constructive relationship between SPC and the donor. Most of the project costs are either fixed (staff costs) or unavoidable (travel costs). The project is being delivered efficiently given the cost environment.

d) Impact

Stakeholder consultations indicated significant capacity development in countries receiving a high level of service through the project.

e) Sustainability

Sustainability is difficult to assess at the mid-term stage, but there are encouraging signs that the project has contributed to increased capability in-country.

f) Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders

The review found good working relationships with key projects being delivered in parallel with ECFM.

g) Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

The project is responsive to gender, social inclusion and environmental issues. There are some areas – notably the Fisheries Professional programme where the review suggests more is needed to identify and address barriers to the participation of women.

² The Project design is set out in the Activity Design Document (ADD), titled: 'Improving fisheries, food security and sustainable livelihoods for Pacific Island communities'; in some documents the project title 'Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance' (ECFG) is used.

³ Monitoring, Control, Surveillance and Enforcement

The overall picture emerging through the review is of a sound project being well implemented by a highly capable team within SPC FAME's Coastal Fisheries Division. No major concerns were identified with respect to delivery, competence, management or finances. There is some scope for incremental improvement in certain areas.

Recommendations

1) Support for project going forward

Given the effective delivery to date, the review supports continuation and supports the proposal for a no cost extension, as discussed in the Steering Committee. Further, the review recommends that SPC and MFAT consider options for further support for coastal fisheries beyond the term of the current project.

2) Improved delivery

Several suggestions have been discussed that may potentially improve delivery of the project. The review recommends that SPC FAME consider the merits of these suggestions as they relate to the delivery of:

- Placements / PIFPs
- MCS training (arrangements and funding for certificate programme)
- Follow-up procedure to assess effectiveness of training over time
- South-South cooperation / learning / exchanges

The review also makes the specific recommendation that SPC FAME review the relevant application procedures to identify and address any barriers that may limit applications from women (for example as PIFPs) and are inclusive in other respects. This may include additional support to ensure that countries and territories have sufficient capacity to seek assistance under the project, and increased awareness / visibility of the project as a vehicle for support.

3) Maintain M&E processes

Monitoring and reporting processes are intended to feed into assessments of project progress and serve as a source of learning / experience to guide future delivery. In this context it is important to focus on the content of the Monitoring Framework and attend to any outstanding elements that are yet to be completed. The review recommends that SPC (and MFAT as appropriate) take stock of what is required under the framework and ensure that a) details in the Framework itself are completed, and b) activities under the project focus on achieving the agreed indicators and targets during the term of the project.

4) Consider update of regional guidance

It has been five years since the New Song for Coastal Fisheries and regional Roadmap were developed and adopted by Leaders. The review recommends that SPC consider a review of the coastal fisheries content in these documents to ensure that they remain current in light of shifting priorities at regional level (for example, inclusion of climate change), and engage with donors for support as appropriate.

3 Background

This report presents the findings of a midterm review (MTR) of the Effective Coastal Fisheries Management (ECFM⁴) project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and delivered by the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) under a Grant Funding Arrangement.

Background and context to the activity The ECFM project was designed to address increasing concern over the use and sustainability of coastal fisheries resources across the Pacific Islands region. The project focuses on strengthening governance structures and processes, specifically legislation, policy and monitoring, control, surveillance (MCS) and enforcement, with the overall goal of contributing to enhanced food security and sustainable livelihoods in Pacific Island countries. The results diagram of the project is included in Annex A.

The project started in June 2016 and is scheduled to operate through to June 2021. The total project budget is NZ\$7,287,759. The project funds the appointment of three full time specialist staff (Legal Adviser, Policy and Management specialist and MCS&E specialist). Additional resources support the secondment of four Fisheries Professionals to SPC for periods of 12 months each during the term of the project. Other SPC staff contribute their time for management and administrative support, and the project works closely with other activities and projects delivered through FAME, other divisions of SPC and outside agencies.

Evaluation purpose and design

Purpose

The Terms of Reference for the mid-term review set out three main objectives for the MTR:

- 1) assess the project's progress towards the expected medium-term and short-term outcomes and outputs;
- 2) inform the remaining implementation of the project; and
- 3) assess the project's relevance to the priorities of SPC-FAME, national partners, MFAT and other implementing partners.

The mid-term review is intended to inform decision making about the future of the ECFM project and similar future initiatives in the region, document lessons learned and identify key recommendations for the ECFM project on any improvements needed.

Scope

The mid-term review covers the period June 2016 to June 2019, with inclusion of some activities from later in 2019. The geographic range encompasses the Pacific Island countries and territories participating in the project. The target groups are fisheries agencies at the national and sub-national levels, other project beneficiaries, staff of Coastal Fisheries Programme of FAME, SPC, NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and NZ MFAT staff involved with the ECFM project.

⁴ The Project design is set out in the Activity Design Document (ADD), titled: 'Improving fisheries, food security and sustainable livelihoods for Pacific Island communities'; in some documents the project title 'Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance' (ECFG) is used.

The review is directed to address the five Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for evaluation, with the addition of relationships, and gender and social inclusion:

- a) Relevance
- b) Effectiveness
- c) Efficiency
- d) Impact
- e) Sustainability
- f) Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- g) Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

MTR Evaluation Design

The evaluation design is set out in the Evaluation Plan attached as Annex A.

Information was gathered through two main mechanisms:

- a) Review of documentation: Relevant documentation was provided to the review from SPC and other key stakeholders.
- b) Consultations with stakeholders: Consultations were held in Noumea with SPC FAME staff directly employed under the project along with selected other staff whose work is aligned or linked with the project. The consultation mission to Noumea coincided with the third Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF 3) and associated meetings held at SPC headquarters over the period 4-8 November 2019. Opportunity will be taken during this week to interview national representatives of participating countries, as well as other partners present / observing during the RTMCF.

Additional in-country consultations were held with stakeholders in four countries: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji. Further stakeholder interviews were conducted remotely where appropriate.

The MTR was carried out over the period November 2019 to February 2020.

4 Findings

The review's findings are based on the sources of information described above; document review / research, supplemented by staff interviews and corroborated by interviews with representatives from partner agencies and selected national government fisheries agencies.

The overall picture emerging through the MTR is of a sound project being well implemented by a highly capable team within SPC FAME's Coastal Fisheries Division. The review identified some areas where changes could be made in terms of priorities and future use of resources.

Findings are discussed below in relation to each of the specified criteria. The discussion is guided by the key evaluation questions for the review, included as Attachment 3 to Annex A.

4.1 Relevance

Relevance is assessed in relation to regional and national priorities, as well as those of MFAT.

Regional strategies and priorities

The project's Activity Design Document (ADD) sets out the regional context for coastal fisheries as at the time the project was designed. The ADD identifies two related documents that provide guidance at a regional scale:

- New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change (The Noumea Strategy) 2015
- A regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries 2015

Both these documents set out directions at a high level, and broad regional scale. The former (New Song) presents eight 'medium term outcome areas' to support management of fish stocks and the wellbeing of coastal communities:

1. Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights
2. Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy
3. Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management on a national and sub-national scale
4. Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by CEAFM
5. Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning
6. Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence
7. More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups
8. Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes and contributing to improved fisheries management

The latter (regional Roadmap) covers all fisheries (i.e. including offshore / oceanic fisheries) and highlights the issues of Empowerment, Resilience and Livelihoods in relation to coastal fisheries. Both were endorsed by Pacific Island leaders in 2015.

ECFM project alignment with regional strategies

The ECFM project addresses three areas that are identified as priorities under these regional strategies. The New Song and Roadmap both emphasise the need for ‘strong and up-to-date legislation, policy and plans’, while the Roadmap explicitly notes that ‘strengthened enforcement will be needed’. It is clear that the project activities are well aligned with these regional priorities.

Are these regional plans current and do they reflect current need and priorities?

The two strategies both have a medium to long-term focus. The New Song does not have a specific term, but speaks of ‘long-term overarching outcomes’ being achieved through the medium term activities (as listed above). The Regional Roadmap has a nominal term of ten years, but leaders have expressed direct interest in seeing more rapid progress in some areas, notably economic development.

The question arises whether regional circumstances and priorities have shifted over the five years since these documents were developed. This is of particular relevance to the New Song, with its explicit focus on coastal fisheries. The review considers that it is timely to consider revisiting the strategy in order to re-validate the assumptions, assess progress and review/refine the content and outcomes/indicators. This would have wider significance for SPC, as the agency both guided the process to develop the New Song and in turn uses the document to provide direction for its own work. A revision of the New Song would also have implications for the regional Roadmap.

National priorities

Many (though not all) Pacific Island countries and territories have some form of national coastal fisheries strategy, policy or plan. Such plans generally set out medium term goals and objectives, while more specific annual planning is handled through annual government budgeting/planning processes. This annual planning process determines what will be funded each year. This means that national circumstances differ from year to year according to both medium-term plans and annual budgets.

ECFM relevance to country needs

The Coastal Fisheries Programme’s work under ECFM is strongly driven by country / territory requests for assistance. SPC has used the regular regional Heads of Fisheries meeting to highlight the role of the ECFM project and raise awareness about the specific areas of expertise supported by the project. This is in line with FAME’s overall mode of operation, which is based around member requests, within its overall set of priorities. In this sense SPC’s work under the project is clearly relevant to country/territory needs, being delivered in direct response to requests.

This mode of operation does raise some broader issues about whether all requests are addressed – or the mechanism used to manage these. The review saw evidence of work being done at some level across multiple countries / territories, with more in-depth work in a smaller group. The impression gained by the review is that this is managed through judgement across a range of considerations (including logistics; availability of key personnel on both sides; opportunity to achieve results, as well as longer term objectives). No significant concerns were raised in stakeholder discussions about the overall approach, though some specific issues were raised (discussed in the relevant sections) below.

Are there any significant gaps at national level that are not being addressed?

It is beyond the scope of MTR to review national policies and plans to identify priorities and gaps. However a current snapshot of SPC members needs in relation to coastal fisheries is available through the participants' reports to the RTMCF 3 meeting held in November 2019. Participants were asked to provide a presentation that, amongst other things, described:

- National Technical priorities for coastal fisheries, and
- Issues and Challenges for coastal fisheries

The country / territory responses to each of these issues are summarised in Annex B. This shows responses covering a range from very specific agency problems, through to broad sectoral issues.

In relation to technical priorities, there is strong emphasis on the core areas covered by ECFM, along with some additional areas including:

- Capacity of fisheries agencies to deliver improved management
- Data/ research needs
- Focus on management for development (food security and economic benefits) along with sustainability

The Issues and Challenges reflected similar concerns with more emphasis on:

- Staff turnover and inter-agency relationships / mandates
- Integration across issues (oceans, oceanic fisheries, transport, traditional practices, local management)
- External and future impacts (effects of land-based activities, climate change)

The priorities raised by RTMCF 3 participants are consistent with the scope of the ECFM project, though many are covered by other projects or agencies. Some of the future focus issues (e.g. climate change) may be appropriate for consideration in any broader review of New Song.

MFAT priorities

The project ADD describes the projects alignment with New Zealand government development programmes (including those run by other New Zealand agencies such as the Ministry of Primary Industries), and those of other donors. Certain MFAT objectives and measures are incorporated into the project Monitoring Framework in the presentation of indicators and targets.

Overall the review considers that the project is strongly relevant to regional and national needs and priorities.

4.2 Effectiveness

Effectiveness of the work delivered under the ECFM project is assessed primarily in relation to progress towards achievement of project objectives and outputs in the Monitoring Framework. Before discussing the level of achievement, two issues are described which provide context for the assessment of effectiveness.

Changes in Project design

The project Steering Committee meeting in March 2019 discussed the specification of Output 2, noting that assistance in law and policy drafting at subnational level had 'not been prioritised by

countries', resulting in low demand for these services. As a consequence, it was agreed to modify the wording of Outputs 1 and 2 to focus on laws/drafting and capacity building respectively. This formulation was adopted to align with the approach for the policy / planning work under outputs 3 and 4. These changes were formalised in Variation No. 1 to the Grant Funding Arrangement for the project signed in June 2019.

Reflecting this change, the review focusses on the amended output wording for Outputs 1 and 2, and the associated changes in indicators and targets, as included in the Monitoring Framework attached as Annex C. Because of the timing of the Variation, all project reports up to that time (including annual reports) use the original formulation for outputs 1 and 2. The review's approach to assessment of progress has been to use the existing information, viewed from the perspective of the revised indicators and targets.

How the ECFM is delivered

The ECFG programme is embedded in the structure of the SPC / FAME Coastal Fisheries Division. As set out in the ADD the project supports the employment of specialist staff in the core project areas; legal, policy and planning, MCS, and awareness raising (part funding). ECFM provides operational funding to support each of the activity areas, including specific capacity-building initiatives. Provision is also made for SPC management / overhead costs.

Planning for the project is carried in association with the wider SPC / FAME planning processes, and subject to SPC agency requirements in relation to budget financial processes and accountability, in addition to the reporting and accountability responsibilities to MFAT. Project planning is handled annually, and confirmed through the Project Steering Committee at a meeting convened for this purpose.

The selection of work activities in the short term is based on country requests for assistance, within the focal areas set out for the project. In practice this means that the work programme operates in several time scales:

Medium term - project term, along with key events over a 1-2 year time scale (Heads of Fisheries, technical meetings, SPC governing body etc.)

Annual – annual planning and reporting

Short-term – month by month arrangements for specific training and capacity building, including in-country support (depending on availability of counterparts, logistics etc.)

Assessment against Results Framework

Overall effectiveness is measured against the indicators and targets in the results framework. This was carried out in two stages, firstly through consideration of the monitoring framework itself (in particular the results measurement table), and secondly through assessment of progress towards project indicators / targets.

Results framework and measurement table

The project theory of change is implicit in the results diagram (included as an Attachment 1 to Annex A). This shows the six project outputs contributing to short, medium and long-term outcomes – ultimately supporting food security and livelihoods associated with coastal fisheries.

The results measurement table provides further elaboration on indicators, targets and sources of information. Two issues were identified in relation to the results measurement table:

- Some of the outcome indicators are drawn from MFAT's Strategic Results Framework which guides its own work⁵. These, and some of the other outcome indicators (long, medium and short term) incorporate information / data needs that the review considers outside the scope of the current project.
- The project design assigned responsibility to SPC to provide baseline information and identify appropriate targets during the early phase of the project. This has largely been done, but in certain areas there are gaps in relation to baseline information, and in some instances targets have not yet been set.

Assessment of progress

A copy of the results measurement table incorporating commentary on the level of achievement as at the time of the MTR is attached as Annex C. A summary covering the key outcome and output assessments is provided below in table 1⁶. This shows that good progress is being made in relation to *outputs*, while there are data / measurement issues relating to some of the *outcomes*.

Table 1: assessment against indicators and targets					
Rating scale:					
	On track or already achieved		Slower than planned		Insufficient data
Long & medium term outcomes					Rating
L1: Enhanced food security and sustainable livelihoods from fisheries and aquaculture					
M1: Legislation and regulations provide a clearer and more transparent basis for decision making					
M2: Coastal fisheries and aquaculture are more effectively and sustainably managed, monitored and enforced					
Short term outcomes					Rating
S1: PICTs have improved and robust legislation and regulations at national and subnational levels					
S2: PICTs have improved and robust policies and management plans at national and subnational levels					
S3: Increased capacity and skills to develop and implement management arrangements					
S4: Improved awareness of fisheries rules, regulations and penalties					
Outputs					Rating
O1: <i>New or revised national and subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed</i>					
O2: <i>Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in drafting coastal fisheries and aquaculture laws and regulations</i>					
O3: Policies and management plans are reviewed, updated or developed					
O4: Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in fisheries management arrangements and policy					
O5: MCS and enforcement modules with supporting database are developed and training delivered					
O6: Awareness raising materials on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties are developed and disseminated					

Table 1 shows that Output 6 (awareness raising) is being delivered 'slower than planned'. This is largely due to the delay in appointing a person dedicated to this role. There is opportunity for increased emphasis in this area over the remainder of the project, as well as in increasing the overall visibility of the project itself.

⁵ The specific indicators are highlighted in Annex C.

⁶ Further detail on project activities is provided in the collation of annual report content by Output, attached as Annex D

The formal assessment against indicators and targets was supplemented by in-country stakeholder interviews in order to gain a sense of how work under the project was perceived by participating country representatives. The response from in-country, and other, stakeholders was strongly favourable; some examples of activities seen as successful are outlined below:

- **Overall quality of expertise** – the expertise of project staff was rated very highly; as one stakeholder put it: the ECFM team is ‘fabulous – rate them really highly – very effective’.
- **Direct support for laws, policies and plans** – contributing to national capacity in these areas.
- **Reeflex** – highly appreciated ('like gold') by stakeholders working across the region as a whole.
- **Capacity building** – the suite of capacity building initiatives has been highly appreciated. Positive feedback was received across the range of activity areas, workshops, PIFPs, short-term placements, MCS support and certification. The concept of ‘South-South’ cooperation (e.g. exchange visits between Pacific Island countries and territories) was also supported.

While stakeholders were in general strongly supportive of the project, they were not uncritical in their support. Several examples were cited where stakeholders identified areas for potential improvement:

- Short-term placements: in a small number of instances, some dissatisfaction was expressed about the benefits achieved, either through mismatch in expectations, or unavailability of relevant staff. It would be useful to ensure that all parties are well prepared prior to the placement in terms of scheduling and expectations.
- Policies / plans: the review heard that policies and plans in themselves do not improve fisheries management, and that assistance is needed for implementation
- MCS Certification: Issues raised about the funding model for the USP certification and associated training. Currently a number of different agencies and consultants support the course through funding from a variety of sources. It may be useful to investigate the potential benefits of developing a more straightforward funding/accountability model for the course.
- PIFPs: several suggestions were made about the operation of the PIFP program, including:
 - Term too long or too short
 - Should be short period of overlap between successive PIFPs
 - No funding for families to join PIFP in Noumea

The review also heard low-level concern about the nationality of PIFPs appointed over recent years.

Regional Coverage

Drawing from the inference in the latter comment, the review undertook an analysis of the distribution of effort under the project towards different countries and territories to provide a picture of coverage across the region. Three parameters were assessed:

- a) Word search: The content of project annual reports (Annex D) was searched, using the ‘word search’ facility, to identify the number of times each country / territory was mentioned in reports (occurrences relating to regional workshops were excluded)
- b) Staff travel: A total of 80 project staff travel reports (64 from project staff and 16 from PIFPs) were reviewed to establish the number of staff days spent in each country / territory during the course of the project
- c) Training data: SPC provided data on the nationality of participants in training events carried out under the project

Taken together, these elements provide an overall indication of where work has been carried out, as shown in table 2 (the four highest are shaded in each column).

Country / territory	a) Word search 'hits'	b) Days in country*	c) Trainees
American Samoa	4	6	
Cook Islands	5	26	7
Fiji	26	54	34
FSM	17	71	23
French Polynesia	8	15	1
Kiribati	27	62	21
RMI	5	12	14
Nauru	6	8	5
New Caledonia	0	0	
Niue	7	14	
Palau	9	5	
PNG	4	3	3
Pitcairn	0	0	
Samoa	22	22	8
Solomon Islands	18	84	30
Tokelau	1	0	
Tonga	47	43	10
Tuvalu	2	0	2
Vanuatu	32	141	39
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	
Totals	240	566	197

*Notes

- Figures only represent time in-country – time in travel / transit to or from the target destination(s) is not included
- New Caledonia, as the ‘home’ of SPC, does not involve travel, so travel reports are not applicable.
- Regional meetings / workshops are not included – for example 79 person days of Regional meetings/workshops held in Fiji – have not been included in the Fiji total

It is evident that the location of in-country work is not evenly distributed. This is a result of a combination of factors, but is strongly related to FAME’s responsiveness to country requests. Some countries / territories are clearly better equipped than others; either they already have capacity and do not make extensive requests, or are better placed to make well formulated requests than others. In the latter case the conditions combine to establish a situation where the receiving country is receptive to change (training / capacity building) and initial success builds on itself to form, at least temporally, an affective partnership between the country and SPC FAME as a provider of capacity building expertise. In this respect the review considers the focus on a small group of countries is an effective way of making progress, and it is consistent with the approach outlined in the project design and monitoring framework.

In the medium term it would be useful for FAME to periodically assess when it may be appropriate to relocate efforts. For example, where the balance of capacity and needs indicate that either capacity has been raised to the point where some SPC activities are not necessary, or the circumstances show greater needs elsewhere.

Stakeholder interviews with countries that had received less services under the project all reflected appreciation for the limited work done. Several commented on the fact that it was difficult to schedule in-country support from SPC ECFM staff ([they are] ‘pretty popular’), and that they ‘would love to make more use of them’.

As recorded above, countries have a slightly different perspective in relation to regional coverage for PIFPs. These positions are highly sought-after and the appointments are known/visible to all in the

region (through country visits and participation in regional meetings / workshops). The Review heard increasing interest about the nationality of successful candidates; in particular, some observed that PIFPs appear to be drawn repeatedly from a small sub-group of countries. The review is aware that there is an open process for application, and rigorous selection process for PIFPs, based on merit, (i.e. there is no requirement to prioritise regional representation) and does not propose a shift from this. The review also heard that applications are not received from all participating PICTs, which limits the range of nationalities in the application pool. To ensure that there are no barriers to applications it may be useful for SPC to provide additional guidance on eligibility, and the kinds of experience / presentation that are more likely to be rated highly in the selection process.

4.3 Efficiency

Efficiency can be seen as having two dimensions; effectiveness in achieving outcomes, and the costs associated with this.

With respect to achievements, the discussion on ‘effectiveness’ above shows a good level of progress towards achieving the indicator targets.

In relation to costs, summary budget information suggests that project finances were largely on track as at 30 October 2019, with one output significantly underspent and another overspent (Output 6 and 1 respectively). However the figures do not represent ‘project year’ expenditure. This is especially evident for year 3, for which ‘actual expenditure’ covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 October 2019; a 19 month period which does not align with the reporting year under the project (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019). When adjusted to 12 months, it is likely that the expenditure is significantly underspent compared to the budgeted expenditure for the first three years.

Setting aside the exact matching of financial years, the figures show that as of 30 October 2019, approximately \$3.3m remains available over the final 19 months of the project (through to 30 June 2021); disbursement of these funds during the term of the project would require a much higher rate of expenditure than previously. This issue was raised during the MTR in discussions with SPC, with the proposal put forward that the expected funding ‘surplus’ be used to support an extension of project activities for a further period. This issue had previously been discussed at the Third project Steering Committee meeting held in March 2019. The meeting minutes record that *‘The MFAT agreed with the proposal [of a no-cost extension] in principle and requested SPC to indicate the duration of the extension, subject to availability of funds under the current budget’*.

The Review supports this proposal, assuming funds are available for this purpose.

Most of the costs are in staff employment and travel, areas where the agency has little flexibility. Staff employment costs are set for SPC as a whole within the framework of the regional (Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific - CROP) system and conditions. Travel also is a cost that cannot be avoided, as it is necessary for work in-country; while travel costs are not fixed in quantum (in the way that staff salaries are fixed) they cannot be avoided if staff are to provide effective support in-country. It is also well recognised that distances are long, logistics often complex, and airfares high, relative to other regions.

Some marginal gains may be possible in relation to certain aspects such as the number of attendees at certain events; identifying cost-effective combinations of work / itinerary; and ensuring that visits

are programmed for maximum effectiveness. With improving communications (internet quality) it may be possible to carry out some kinds of engagement remotely. All these options require some level of trade-off between costs and effectiveness to be made on a case-by-case basis.

A further consideration is the level of flexibility available under the Grant Agreement between MFAT and SPC FAME. The review heard repeatedly of the quality and strength of the relationships between the agencies. It was evident that there is a high level trust/confidence between staff in the respective agencies. Specific benefits of the arrangement include:

- high level of flexibility relating to use of resources within the overall scope of project
- simple, clear accountability structure (through the project steering committee)
- non-onerous reporting requirements

An additional issue raised with the review is that the FAME costs/time associated with management and oversight of the project have increased over time and are greater than anticipated. This has been driven by increasing internal planning and accountability requirements within SPC, rather than the donor requirements under the Grant Agreement.

Overall, the review finds that the project has been delivered efficiently within the circumstances described.

4.4 Impact

Impact can be considered in relation to achievement of the medium and long term project objectives in the Monitoring Framework. The review has noted above that there is good progress towards some of the medium-term targets, but there are difficulties with some of the formal measures in terms of access to data. In that sense there is little evidence about achievement of the long term targets. Also, the long term indicators / targets represent systemic elements that are, in a practical sense, far removed from the work of the project.

A more direct sense of the impact of project activities can be gained by assessing the experience at national level, which the review undertook through stakeholder interviews. Interviews showed some evidence of improvements in capacity at national level as a result of project activities.

Examples included:

- Increase in skills relating to drafting for legislative and regulatory changes
- Taking responsibility at national level for developing policies and plans
- Effective contributions from PIFPs on return to their home agencies
- Enhanced skill and confidence amongst MCS trainees

At the same time, it is clear that capacity building activities do not always result directly in improvements at national level. Some of the knowledge is lost, or not utilised, for example through staff changing roles. It is therefore necessary to take a long view on capacity development for individuals and for agencies.

The review also saw evidence of the way in which implementation of appropriate management measures can bring direct benefits at community level. Discussions at community level showed the social and economic benefits available through sustainable harvest of sea cucumber in Vanuatu. The review heard that returns from intermittent, controlled harvest provided financial benefits that supported food security, education (school fees) and social engagement.

4.5 Sustainability

As for impact, there is limited evidence at this stage of the project about sustainability of results.

For most of the project activities, the physical products (regulations, plans, equipment, posters etc) have a short or limited ‘shelf life’ and need to be continually renewed over time. While this is also true in relation to people and agency capability, the review found encouraging signs, in countries visited, of increased capability at national level and growing confidence in the ability to take on core tasks at national level (including the judgement to know their limits, and when expert assistance is genuinely needed).

This was most evident in the area of policy and planning, and to some extent the connection between these and legal/regulatory changes. Several of the national level stakeholders clearly signalled this during interviews:

[we]can produce plans with minimal input from SPC.

Stakeholders were also aware that more is needed to take policies, plans etc. and transfer these into improved management of coastal fisheries:

[we need to] focus more on the next level ... implementation. Otherwise [just] plans and plans – fisheries is full of plans

we may need support in implementing those plans

These comments again highlight the direct connection between FAME’s work under the project (on policies, plans, legal/ regulatory systems, MCS) and on-the-ground fisheries management, as well as the need for ongoing support with implementation. This issue was identified in the project design, which stated:

It is acknowledged that having updated legislation, policies and plans in themselves will not necessarily effect change; this will come through targeted awareness raising, capacity development, and effective MCS&E of the new supporting regulations at the national and subnational levels

At this stage of the project, it is reasonable that countries that have made progress on laws, regulations and policies/plans are now looking towards implementation. Implementation itself is a concept that covers a broad range of activities, and the review considers that some components of the project do address this – notably the MCS work where work under the project ‘has barely scratched the surface’ in relation to overall needs for coastal fisheries across the region. Having said that, the review considers that continued / enhanced emphasis on implementation is appropriate.

4.6 Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders

In terms of project partners, the ECFG team works with a range of other agencies and projects including CROP agencies (USP, FFA), other projects (PEUMP) and donors, notably NZ / MFAT funded placements (including in Kiribati, Solomon Islands) and agencies (*MPI te Patuitanga Ahumoana a Kiwa* support for MCS and policy / plan development).

The key project relationship within FAME is with the European Union funded PEUMP. The review was advised that these two projects (PEUMP / ECFM) were designed in parallel, and specifically targeted different aspects of coastal fisheries in order to establish a complementary set of activities.

This alignment can be seen in Table 3⁷ which describes core elements of the projects. The co-funding of the communications/awareness role between the two projects is an example of the common interest and collaboration.

Another relevant collaboration is with the DFAT funded Pacific ‘Pathways’⁸ project; this project is run through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and supports community-based coastal fisheries in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati. Key objectives of Pathways are also included in table 3.

Table 3: Linkages between ECFM and selected other projects			
	EFCG outputs	PEUMP components	‘Pathways’ objectives
Legislative and Policy Frameworks	New and revised national and subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed		Strengthen Pacific institutions to implement the New Song for coastal fisheries
	Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in drafting coastal fisheries and aquaculture laws and regulations		
	Policies and management plans are reviewed, updated or developed.		
	Provide capacity development training and mentoring to national and subnational levels in fisheries policies and management plans		
Science, research, data		Surveys of commercially important invertebrates	
		Socio-economic surveys of coastal communities	
		Coastal fisheries data collection and national database development including trials of new technology	
		Capacity development through long-term attachments for national fisheries and NGO staff [surveys and data]	
CEAFM		Support and mentoring for the CEAFM at national and local levels	Improve and scale out community-based fisheries management (CBFM) in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
		CEAFM management and coordination with NGOs	Improve the opportunities, viability and performance of livelihoods in support of CBFM fisheries
		CEAFM activities at sub-national and community level	Promote food and nutrition security in the Pacific food system through improved management and use of fish
MCS	MCS and enforcement modules with supporting database are developed and training delivered.	[MCS adviser employed under FFA component of PEUMP]	
Gender	[incorporated as a cross-cutting issue in all outputs]	Gender-based and rights-based trainings, national gender stock takes	Increase social and gender equity in coastal fisheries governance, utilisation and benefit distribution
Communication and outreach	Awareness raising materials on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties are developed and disseminated.	Communication activities and production and dissemination of information and materials for communities	
		Outreach activities including adaptation with communities	

⁷ Note that PEUMP is a regional project implemented through several different agencies – the table focusses on the content of ‘component 3’ delivered through SPC, with reference also to the MCS role delivered through the Forum Fisheries Agency.

⁸ The name ‘pathways’ refers to the project’s role in supporting the regional strategy ‘New Song for Coastal Fisheries – pathways to change’

Steering Committee meeting records have also noted the '*well established linkages and collaboration with FFA and MPI in jointly undertaking Fisheries Policy and Management Plan Training workshops. On a specific case, [a] good working relationship has been established with WorldFish and ANCORS resulting in the support provided to Vanuatu to develop its National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap*'.

4.7 Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

Table 4 above shows that issues of gender and social inclusion are shared across multiple projects, in particular, PEUMP and ECFM. In this context a joint initiative was undertaken with the SPC Social Development Division to 'undertake a gender stocktake or audit in the fisheries sector in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu'. During 2019 a 'gender in fisheries assessment was underway for FSM', and an assessment carried out for the Cook Islands. A legal report on human rights in coastal fisheries is in preparation.

In terms of the ECFM work on legal aspects, the review was advised that a systematic approach has been taken to ensure that coastal fisheries legislation and regulations:

- 1) Use gender neutral language and avoid discrimination in relation to access to fisheries (who may apply for licences etc.);
- 2) Ensure that subsistence fisheries are not subject to unnecessary restrictions (right to food);
- 3) Provide for safety at sea of small fishing boats;
- 4) Provide for adequate fines that are not unjustifiably high for small-scale fishers;
- 5) Ensure that fair trial is provided before imposing a prison term for fisheries violations;
- 6) Provide a legal basis for community-based fisheries management (participation).

More generally, interviews with ECFM staff showed a clear recognition of gender and social issues in relation to the project. The way this was expressed in project work varied according to activity. As a minimum, there is evidence of record keeping in relation to the gender, nationality and (in some cases) age of workshop / training participants. These are presented in annual project reports and trip reports, but not, as far as the review is aware, regularly consolidated into an overall summary for the project. Sample data from training delivered under the project is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Training data 2017-19 by gender		
	Male number (%)	Female number (%)
2017	25 (60%)	17 (40)
2018	34 (59%)	24 (41%)
2019	77 (64%)	43 (36%)

It is also clear that gender issues are taken into account through the MEL support to the project within FAME, particularly in relation to gender responsiveness in the approach to work in the component fields, and the participants' experience of activities such as capacity-building / training.

The review observed an MCS training workshop (to assess competencies for fisheries officers in relation to MCS training / certification) and conducted interviews with a sample of participants and trainers. It was clear from these that gender and social roles played a significant role in the work of fisheries officers, and that this is recognised in their training. It was notable that the workshop participants comprised roughly even numbers of men and women. Documentation for the

workshop⁹ itemised course content including, amongst other things: *adopting communication strategies that reflect consideration of the full range of human characteristics / factors, knowledge of codes of ethics, principles of cross-cultural communication, impacts of age, gender, ethnicity/aboriginality, special needs groups, personality and drugs/alcohol on the communicative process.*

ECFG staff identified the fact that all the PIFPs selected under this project have been male. Staff explained that this has been recognised as an issue of concern, but that it has been difficult to address in the most recent appointment round as, on merit grounds, the quality of applicants/applications had meant that no women had reached the stage of being shortlisted¹⁰. It was explained that there are many women in national fisheries departments, but predominantly working in the oceanic / tuna fisheries field.

Data on the four application rounds under the ECFM project is presented in Table 5. The table shows that over 60% of eligible applications were from men, and that men and women are shortlisted in the same ratio (very closely) as the ratio of men and women applicants. In three of the rounds, there were women candidates considered ‘appointable’ after the interview process, however in each case the appointment panel selected a male as the best applicant.

Table 5: Data on PIFP applications and appointments 2017-20							
	All eligible applicants		Short listed		'appointable'		Appointed
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2017	5	2	2	1	2	1	M
2018	13	7	2	2	2	1	M
2019	15	10	2	2	1	1	M
2020	8	5	3	0	3	0	M
Total (%)	27 (63%)	16 (37%)	9 (64%)	5 (36%)	8 (73%)	3 (27%)	M=100%

The review considers that SPC should look into this issue to identify whether there are any systemic issues relating to the criteria, eligibility, selection process or conditions of engagement that may discourage or work against women candidates. One potential factor brought to the attention of the review is that the PIFP conditions of employment do not include any provision (financial support) for family members to join the appointee at the duty station (unlike all other SPC staff). FAME advised that staff on duty travel routinely encourage applications from women and men. In this context, the review was informed of two instances where potential women applicants, with children, had asked prior to applying whether the placement conditions would cover the cost of family travel etc; in each case, on being advised of the conditions of employment, they did not proceed to lodge an application. It appears that this lack of family support may be a major discouraging factor for women applicants, particularly if they have children. The Review was advised that the specification of terms of employment for PIFPs is made by SPC; it is not a requirement under the Grant Agreement.

With respect to environmental issues, these were considered a core element of fisheries management in that they relate to the biological sustainability of fish stocks and ecosystems. In some cases there are crossovers with other agencies having an environmental focus (e.g. SPREP), for example in relation to protected / endangered species, or species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Stakeholder interviews also highlighted the linkages at national level; *[we] did training with environmental officers [there are] crossovers about the environmental interest in MCS role’.*

⁹ ‘competency standard MCS4-09A: undertake community engagement activities’

¹⁰ It was noted also that the PEUMP project is experiencing the same issue

5 Evaluation Conclusions

a) Project being well delivered

The review concludes that the project is being well delivered by a strong team with a clear sense of commitment and purpose. No major concerns were identified with respect to delivery, competence, management or finances. There is some scope for incremental improvement in certain areas.

Project on track at mid-term

Evidence from reports and staff discussions indicates that the project is broadly on track as at the MTR. Good feedback was received from stakeholders on the quality of expertise and support provided, notably in the areas of:

- Capacity building activities across all sectors (legal, regulatory, policy and planning, MCS); from participating countries / territories
- The ReeFlex database; from partners

Financial reports show that expenditure is tracking slower than planned, due to delays in recruitment, especially at the initial stage.

b) Suggestions for improvement

Suggestions for improvement in delivery have been identified in the Findings (Section 4) above. The most significant of these relate to deployment of services under the project both in terms of regional coverage and gender representation. On the latter issue, the review is aware of FAME's concerns in relation to gender representation amongst PIFPs selected under the programme, and proposes a review of the current settings to identify and address any barriers to participation of women.

c) SPC FAME management and planning

ECFM project planning is carried out as part of overall FAME and coastal fisheries planning. Planning and budgeting is undertaken annually with specific activities mapped out over a shorter time horizon according to requests received, availability of personnel, logistics etc.

Some stakeholders observed that they see a tension (planning for project delivery) between short-term response to country requests on the one hand, and medium term (strategic) objectives on the other. The review acknowledges this concern but notes that the management approach is openly committed to responsiveness to country requests as the primary driver – within the scope and objectives of the project.

One key characteristic of project delivery, as observed by the review, is the team-based approach adopted amongst project staff. Staff clearly have a strong sense of identity with the project and work together to both support each other and provide joint assistance to countries / territories. In the reviewer's experience this sense of team is stronger than in similar other projects reviewed over recent years.

d) SPC FAME monitoring and reporting

Reporting under the project appears to be timely and appropriate. However annual reports are largely descriptive and could be enhanced by more emphasis on overall progress towards objectives (and looking at gaps, barriers or other issues which might feed into forward planning).

The monitoring and evaluation framework as designed included some gaps in relation to indicators or targets to be developed during the project. While most of these have been completed, some gaps remain (as shown in Annex C) along with areas where there is ongoing discussion between SPC and MFAT.

The framework also sets out the need to develop baseline assessments for certain indicators (e.g. national status with respect to legislation policies and plans) as well as databases and assessment tools. The review finds that while many of these tasks have been carried out the overall monitoring could be enhanced, for example through:

- Tracking of status of legislation, policies, plans, prosecutions etc (the review notes that some of this has been done but others aspects are in process)
- Tracking attendance at events (e.g. gender disaggregation – data is gathered but not presented for the project overall)
- Follow-up on training – post training experiences and effectiveness
- Use of monitoring to inform annual planning

On the issue of follow-up; the review was provided with summary information derived from post-training participant feedback surveys for a) MCS training and b) short course in preparing and drafting coastal fisheries legislation. These provide useful information on participants' views on the quality and relevance of training. It would be useful to add to this type of survey by means of longer term tracking of participants to identify how the information is used in their work (or not) over longer periods.

e) Project extension

The proposal for a no-cost extension to the current to the current project has been raised during the review and earlier in the project Steering Committee. The review supports this proposal, subject to the quantum of funds available and formal consideration of how best to utilise this.

f) Overall direction for coastal fisheries – regional priorities

The review considers that it may be timely to consider whether the regional strategy documents, especially the New Song could usefully be reviewed or revised, five years on from their adoption. This would provide the opportunity to reflect progress to date as well as any changes in emphasis from the perspective of national / regional needs and priorities, such as the potential inclusion of climate change.

The current SPC review of the role of the Coastal Fisheries Working Group provides additional context. That review's focus on accountability back to Pacific Island governments, rather than civil society, may be relevant, given the multi-stakeholder role in development of the New Song.

6 Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from project experience are presented below; in general these are not new or novel, but underline ongoing issues for capacity development.

a) Mode of delivery

The mode of delivery of the project (i.e. the Grant Agreement relationship between MFAT and SPC) has worked well. The flexibility of the arrangement allows the project to respond relatively quickly in a field where others are more rule-bound; it represents a good example of effective project delivery based on a relationship of trust between donor and provider.

b) Capacity building is long term

It is well recognised that capacity building is challenging; it is time consuming, intensive, requires ongoing resources and has uncertain or only transient outcomes. The project offers a range of mechanisms for developing capacity including some that focus on incremental changes across the region while others focus on in-depth experiential learning for individuals. With this portfolio of methods the project has produced encouraging results as viewed by the review. However there needs to be a long-term approach to this issue and monitoring on a similar timescale (e.g. tracking trainees over the medium term to identify longer term benefits and potentially compare different approaches).

c) Implementation is national

Legislation and policies / plans may be necessary for improved management of coastal fisheries but they are not sufficient in themselves. While this project provides important elements needed to improve fisheries management, national representatives highlighted the need for ongoing support with implementation of plans, policies, laws and regulations. This emphasis on implementation is an issue for consideration in future project design.

d) Conditions for success

A signal that emerged from in-country interviews was that the level of engagement and capability appeared to be enhanced when there is a group of people in the national agency with fresh/recent experience of training or capacity building experiences. In one example, coastal fisheries staff had collectively completed a range of training /capacity building experiences (this includes direct training in a specific area; competency enhancement (e.g. leadership training), short and long-term placements, in-country training etc.). In this situation there appeared to be a developing ‘critical mass’ of people with direction and enthusiasm; they could see the possibilities of improved ways of doing things, and wished to take the opportunity.

Related to this, some of the countries where more effort has been focussed under ECFM have been in receipt of other support in the area of coastal fisheries - e.g. through MFAT technical assistance placements, *Te Pātuitanga Ahumoana a Kiwa*, prior SPC placements as PIFPs, or through other projects such as Pacific Regional Oceanscape Project (PROP). It is possible that this prior support sets the conditions for enabling the ability to identify specific needs and formulate compelling requests for support and are ‘ready’ (in terms of human resources and capability) to take the next step in terms of skills and capacity. This appears on the face of it to support the case for longer -term or ongoing donor investment across a range of modes.

e) Monitoring national needs / priorities

The ADD includes a table (Table 1, on page 9 of that document) which shows an array of priority issues across Pacific Island countries and territories. A significant proportion of 'high priority' markers appear in the table, and the ECFM has clearly made efforts to address these. It would be useful to revisit this table to establish whether the priorities have shifted or where the ECFM, along with other support, may have improved the situation to the point where some needs are being met, or are less urgent. This would provide a picture of how issues and priorities change over time.

f) Regional priorities – not static

Further to the above, regional priorities also may shift with changing circumstances. Emphasis has shifted in recent years as different issues have gained prominence: climate change, Oceans, the Blue Pacific, the Blue Economy etc. It may be timely to revisit the New Song to ensure that relevant emerging issues are incorporated.

7 Recommendations

1) Support for project going forward

Given the effective delivery to date, the review supports continuation and supports the proposal for a no cost extension, as discussed in the Steering Committee. Further, the review recommends that SPC and MFAT consider options for further support for coastal fisheries beyond the term of the current project.

2) Improved delivery

Several suggestions have been discussed that may potentially improve delivery of the project. The review recommends that SPC FAME consider the merits of these suggestions as they relate to the delivery of:

- Placements / PIFPs
- MCS training [arrangements and funding for certificate programme]
- Follow-up procedure to assess effectiveness of training over time
- South-South cooperation / learning / exchanges

The review also makes the specific recommendation that SPC FAME review the relevant application procedures to identify any barriers that may limit applications from women (for example as PIFPs) and are inclusive in other respects. This may include additional support to ensure that countries and territories have sufficient capacity to seek assistance under the project, and increased awareness / visibility of the project as a vehicle for support.

3) Maintain M&E processes

Monitoring and reporting processes are intended to feed into assessments of project progress and serve as a source of learning / experience to guide future delivery. In this context it is important to focus on the content of the Monitoring Framework and attend to any outstanding elements that are yet to be completed. The review recommends that SPC (and MFAT as appropriate) take stock of what is required under the framework and ensure that a) details in the Framework itself are completed, and b) activities under the project focus on achieving the agreed indicators and targets during the term of the project.

4) Consider update of regional guidance

It has been five years since the New Song for Coastal Fisheries and regional Roadmap were developed and adopted by Leaders. The review recommends that SPC consider a review of the coastal fisheries content in these documents to ensure that they remain current in light of shifting priorities at regional level (for example, inclusion of climate change), and engage with donors for support as appropriate.

Annexes

Annex A: Evaluation Plan

Annex B: National priorities as presented to RTM-CF 3 (November 2019)

Annex C: Annotated Monitoring Framework

Annex D: Annual report collation by Output

Annex A: Evaluation Plan**Evaluation Plan****Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance project****Mid-term Review**

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ECFG – Mid-term Review – Evaluation Plan

November 2019

Introduction

Background and context to the activity

Coastal fisheries are of enormous importance to Pacific Island Countries and peoples, in terms of food security, livelihoods and cultural significance. However these resources are finite, and there has been increased concern over the use and sustainability of these resources across the Pacific Islands region. The New Zealand Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has been delivering support for coastal fisheries in a number of ways; regional, bilateral, and through targeted technical assistance. The subject of the current review is a regional element of this assistance; the Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance (ECFG¹¹) project implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME).

The ECFG project focuses on strengthening governance structures and processes, specifically legislation, policy and monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E), with the overall goal of contributing to enhanced food security and sustainable livelihoods in Pacific Island countries. The results diagram of the project is included as Attachment 1.

The project started in June 2016, will end in June 2021, and has a budget of NZD \$7.287,759. Three specialist staff (Legal Adviser, Policy and Management specialist and MCS&E specialist) have been recruited to implement the project, with additional SPC staff contributing their time for management and administrative support. In addition, the project supports the secondment of three Pacific Island Fisheries Professionals to SPC for 12 months each.

Evaluation purpose

The Terms of Reference for the mid-term review (MTR) state that review has three main objectives:

- 1) assess the project's progress towards the expected medium-term and short-term outcomes and outputs;
- 2) inform the remaining implementation of the project; and
- 3) assess the project's relevance to the priorities of SPC-FAME, national partners, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and other implementing partners.

The mid-term review is intended to inform decision making about the future of the ECFG project and similar future initiatives in the region, document lessons learned and identify key recommendations for the ECFG project on any improvements needed. The results of the mid-term review will be reported to the funding partners and disseminated to SPC and FAME senior management, Coastal Fisheries programme team, ECFG implementing partners and national fisheries agencies as key stakeholders.

¹¹ The Project design is set out in the Activity Design Document (ADD): 'Improving fisheries, food security and sustainable livelihoods for Pacific Island communities'.

Evaluation scope

The mid-term review will cover the period June 2016 to June 2019. The geographic focus will be the Pacific Island countries targeted by the project and the target groups will be fisheries agencies at the national and sub-national levels, other project beneficiaries, staff of Coastal Fisheries Programme of FAME, SPC, NZ Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and NZ MFAT who have been involved with the ECFG project.

The review will cover the five Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for evaluation, with the addition of relationships and gender and social inclusion:

- a) Relevance
- b) Effectiveness
- c) Efficiency
- d) Impact
- e) Sustainability
- f) Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- g) Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

Evaluation Design

The overall approach to the MTR is guided by the review's purpose, objectives, and key review questions, as signaled in the Terms of Reference, and MFAT guidance material.

The MTR team will address this, in the first instance, by a contextual review of the strategic priorities of SPC and associated regional policies / strategies for coastal fisheries. In the consultation phase this will be supplemented by reference to national legislative and policy context, and local circumstances. Cumulatively, these will inform evaluative judgements on the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of activities.

Evaluation principles underpinning this evaluation

The MTR will be guided by MFAT's Guiding Principles¹², in particular:

- Impartiality and Independence
- Credibility
- Usefulness
- Partnership and Participation

These principles will be implemented through a) contracting an independent reviewer b) ensuring adequate stakeholder consultation, and c) joint agency participation through the governance arrangements described below.

¹² As set out in Evaluation Policy for the New Zealand Aid Programme (2014)

Information collection

Information will be collected through two main mechanisms:

- a) Review of documentation: Effort will be made to collect relevant documentation from SPC and from key stakeholders, focussing in particular on outputs resulting directly (in whole or part) from work under the project (policies, plans etc) as well as workshop records and the like. Documentation available in preparation for the MTR is listed below:
 - Project Activity Design Document (ADD)
 - Progress Report Year 1 (2017)
 - Progress Report Year 2 (2018)
 - Progress Report Year 3 (2019)
 - Report against workplan Year 1 (2017)
 - Project variation 2019
 - Record of meeting – Steering Committee 3
 - Copy of training data collection
 - Coastal fisheries governance project – briefing to HoF 10
 - MTR priority countries to visit
 - Training 1st cohort data collection form
 - Training 2nd cohort data collection form

- b) Consultations with stakeholders: Consultations will be held in Noumea with SPC FAME staff directly employed under the project and a wider selection of staff whose work is aligned or linked with the project.

The Noumea-based consultations will be scheduled to coincide with the third Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF), and associated meetings held at SPC headquarters over the period 4-8 November 2019. Opportunity will be taken during this week to interview national representatives of participating countries, as well as other partners present / observing during the RTMCF.

Beyond that consultations will be held in country with stakeholders in four countries – selected by SPC FAME as being countries where support has been provided under the project: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Fiji¹³. Additional stakeholder interviews will be conducted by skype (or similar) as appropriate. The Consultation mission will be scheduled over the period 14-29 November as described under ‘Evaluation Schedule’ below.

For In-country consultations a background ‘flyer’ will be used to inform stakeholders briefly about the project, the purpose of the mid-term review, and the kind of questions that the MTR is focusing on (attached as Attachment 2). The flyer is based around the key evaluation questions attached as Attachment 3. Country representatives will also be provided with a list of country support activities under the project, to ensure that interviewees are aware of the project activities and relevant products at national level – an example of this is included in Attachment 2. The interviews themselves will be semi-

¹³ Note that the Terms of Reference specified travel/consultation in Tonga but this could not be scheduled at a time when staff were available in-country; fisheries staff in Tonga will be contacted via skype (or similar) where practicable within the MTR schedule.

structured in character; guided by the key questions, but allowing participants to expand freely on their own areas of experience and expertise.

Implementation of the MTR

The MTR will be managed by SPC FAME's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) staff, and carried out by an independent consultant (Bruce Chapman) contract by SPC FAME. The consultant will be assisted by FAME MEL staff, to the extent that this is consistent with the principles of impartiality and independence cited above. This support may include, for example, designing surveys of workshop participants using tools such as 'Survey Monkey' the outcome of which could be used an input into the MTR.

Evaluation Schedule

The MTR will be carried out over the period November 2019 – January 2020 as shown below.

Timeline for preparation of ECFG MTR 2019-20							
	Week 1	2-3	2-4	5	7	7-11	12
Activity / week starting date	4 Nov	11 Nov	11-25 Nov	2 Dec	16 Dec		20 Jan
Contract signed (30 October)							
Mission 1: Noumea (RTMCF)							
Evaluation Plan							
Mission 2: Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Kiribati							
Follow-up consultations (Skype etc)							
Draft MTR Report							
Feedback on draft MTR (17 Jan 2020)							
Final MTR Report (24 Jan 2020)							

Mission itinerary

The itinerary for Mission 2 is set out below:

- 14 November arrive Vanuatu (Port Vila)
- 15 – 18 November consultations Port Vila
- 19 November travel Vanuatu to Solomon Islands (Honiara)
- 19 – 20 November consultations Honiara
- 20 November travel Solomon Islands to Fiji (Suva)
- 21-22 November Consultations Suva
- 23 November travel Fiji to Kiribati (Tarawa)
- 25-27 November consultations Tarawa
- 28 November depart Tarawa to home base

Preliminary Findings

A short summary of preliminary findings will be provided after completion of the consultation missions, to provide an initial indication to SPC and the Steering Committee of signals emerging from stakeholder consultations to that point.

MTR Report

The MTR report will follow the structure and content provided in MFAT guidelines, specifically the MFAT *Recommended template for evaluation report*, although some modifications may be made as needed to reflect the character of the review.

Evaluation Stakeholders

A range of different categories of stakeholders will be included in the review process and consultations:

SPC FAME: Staff directly employed under ECFG project funding – including specialist staff fully funded under the project, staff part funded under the project, and others with roles linked to the ECFG work and project objectives.

Participating countries: Representatives from fisheries departments of participating countries will be consulted either in the margins of the RTMCF, or through in country mission. A list of key stakeholders prepared by SPC for selected country visits is attached as Annex D. Where practical, opportunity will be taken to meet with civil society.

Project partners: The MTR will also identify other projects or activities that may be linked to or operate alongside ECFG, including New Zealand funded projects (e.g. *Tobwan Waara* in Kiribati; Ministry of Primary Industries), and others funded through other donors (European Union, Government of Australia) or mechanisms.

Other Considerations in the Evaluation

Quality considerations: The MTR will attempt to verify information and stakeholder viewpoints by cross-checking between views expressed (e.g. whether there is a concurrence or divergence of views) and formal documentation.

Ethical considerations: The MTR will ensure that participants are aware of the purpose and context for the review, and the way their input will be used and presented (ensuring confidentiality as appropriate).

Limitations, risks and constraints: The MTR is time-constrained, in the sense that it needs to be completed in a window up to early 2020. This flows on to affect in-country consultations in terms of both logistics and availability of key people – especially in the Christmas / New Year period. The MTR will endeavour to work around these conditions by using a variety of consultation methods (phone, skype etc) as time permits. Where there are specific limitations that affect the quality or certainty of conclusions, these will be noted in the final Report.

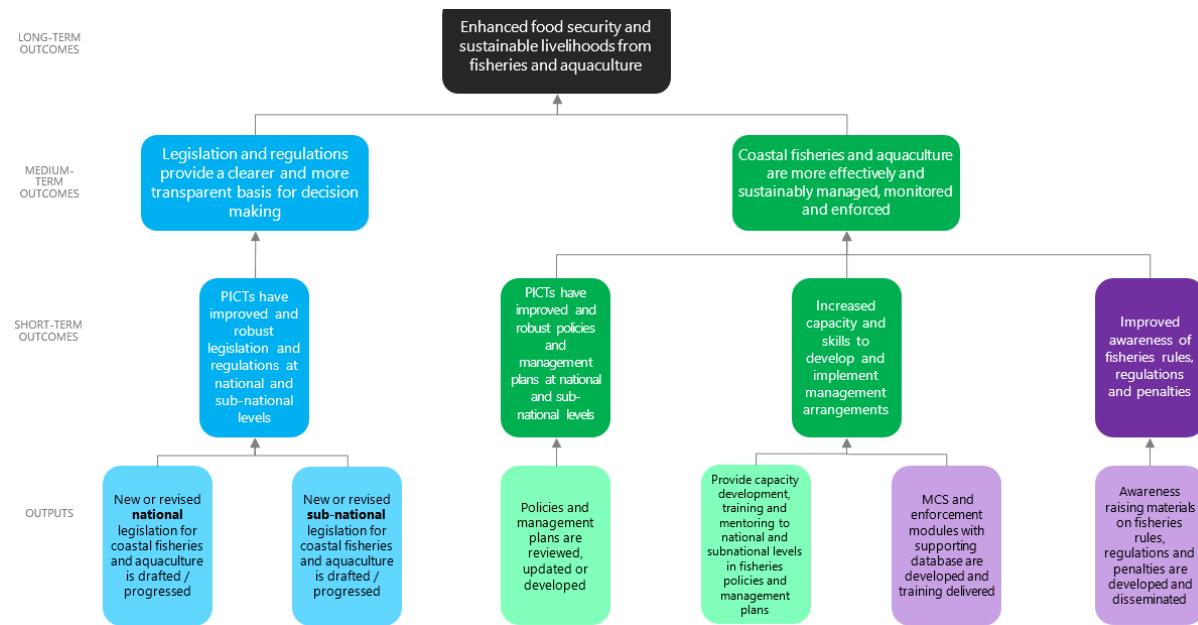
Governance arrangements: The MTR will be managed by SPC FAME MEL staff with reference to the Project Steering Committee.

Communicating Evaluation Findings

SPC FAME will develop procedures for communicating results and providing acknowledgement to stakeholders who contributed to the process. This may involve specific actions and products for this purpose (potentially set out in a Communications / Dissemination plan).

Attachment 1

Project Results Diagram



Note that a 2019 variation to the project amended the definition of Outputs 1 and 2 as below:

Output 1: New and revised national and subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted /progressed

Output 2: Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in drafting coastal fisheries and aquaculture laws and regulations.

Associated changes were made to the activity descriptions and funding.

Attachment 2

The Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance (ECFG) Project

Mid-term review November 2019 [Terms of Reference]

The Effective Coastal Fisheries Governance (ECFG) project is funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and implemented by SPC. It focuses on strengthening governance structures and processes, specifically legislation, policy and monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E), with the overall goal of contributing to enhanced food security and sustainable livelihoods in Pacific Island countries. The project started in June 2016, will end in June 2021, and has a budget of NZD \$7,287,759.

The project is designed to focus on several key areas; specialist staff are employed to support the work as shown in the table below.

ECFG – focal areas and SPC staff	
Focal area	Specialist staff
Coastal Fisheries policies and plans	Policy and Management specialist
Coastal fisheries MCS	MCS&E specialist
Coastal Fisheries legal and regulatory systems	Legal Adviser
Awareness raising	Communications advisor (part-time)
Capacity development (PIJP / PIFP)	General

Purpose of the Mid-Term Review

The mid-term review (MTR) has three main objectives:

- 1) assess the project's progress towards the expected medium-term and short-term outcomes and outputs;
- 2) inform the remaining implementation of the project; and
- 3) assess the project's relevance to the priorities of SPC-FAME, national partners, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and other implementing partners.

The MTR aims to find out what has been done so far and identify any lessons that indicate the need for changes in the project over the rest of its term.

Independent reviewer

SPC has contracted a consultant (Bruce Chapman) to carry out the MTR.

MTR questions

The MTR is designed around some core questions that will form the basis of the discussions with stakeholders. This are:

1: Relevance

- Has SPC's work under ECFG been relevant to country needs?
- What are the specific national needs for coastal fisheries addressed by the ECFG? – are there any significant gaps?

2: Effectiveness

- Has the ECFG work been well delivered
- What is an example of something that has been particularly successful?
- What could be improved

3: Efficiency (value for money)

- Could the work have been done in a more cost-effective way (examples)?

4: Impact

- What changes at national level have come about as a result of the ECFG work?
- What would happen without the ECFG project?

5: Sustainability

- Has the ECFG work been taken up at national level?
- Are there examples where national capacity has improved?
- What aspects were most successful / could be improved?
- Is ongoing donor support required to maintain services?

6: Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders

- How effectively has the ECFG managed relationships with partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders?

7: Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

- To what extent is the ECFG project contributing to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversities?

Summary of activities for Vanuatu

Fisheries management plans and policies

- Updating aquaculture plan for Vanuatu – approved and printed
- Updating sea cucumber plan for Vanuatu – approved and printed
- Trochus fishery management plan
- Lobster fishery management plan
- Vanuatu National Roadmap for Coastal Fisheries – approved and printed
- 6 Community plans – approved
- Vanuatu participated in a sub-regional Policy and management plan training workshop

Awareness Raising

- Translation into Bislama of the “Guide & Information sheets for fishing communities Third Edition (2013)”
- Designed and produced Vietnamese blue boat posters in English and Bislama
- Designed and produced posters on restricted species and Tabu species in English, Bislama and French for distribution throughout Vanuatu

MCS

- Stakeholder consultation and agreement for a solar powered small craft tracking system to be implemented in 2019/20
- 2 workshops for MCS training for Fisheries Officers and Authorised officers on both Port Vila and Luganville Santo – including supply of hi vis vests, notebooks and fishery officers’ caps to all participants
- 2 staff from Vanuatu fisheries on short attachments in Noumea to develop standard operating procedures for vessel and market inspections and guidelines for seafood health and safety

Legal

- Support to review fisheries regulations (coastal fisheries part)
- Stakeholder consultation on size limit regulations
- Two officers participating in Training workshop on legislative drafting for coastal fisheries
- A number of officers attended guest lecture at USP School of Law on Coastal Fisheries legislation

Attachment 3: Indicative Evaluation Questions

1: Relevance

Questions will target the key elements of relevance at regional and national level

Regional

- What are the key plans or strategies that guide SPC CF work regionally?
- Are these regional plans current and do they reflect current need and priorities?
- How well is the ECFG project aligned with these strategies?

National

- What drives [country] priorities at national level?
- Has SPC's work under ECFG been relevant to country needs?
- Are there any significant gaps at national level that are not being addressed?

2: Effectiveness

Questions will seek to identify the extent to which project objectives have been met in terms of the respective timeframes (short, medium and long term). They will also illicit information to corroborate (or otherwise) the content of project reports.

- What is the experience at national level – how has the project/work been received?
- What is the overall level of achievement against objectives for each Output?
- What specific work has been done in [country]?
- What is an example of something that has been particularly successful?
- What could be improved?

3: Efficiency

Questions will target any areas that could potentially have been handled more efficiently, in terms of both finances, and activities/products

- How has the ECFG work been delivered?
- Could the work have been done in a more cost-effective way (examples)?
- State of finances / co-financing

4: Impact

Questions will focus on any changes at national level, be they codified in documents, improved conditions for beneficiaries, or changes in environmental state

- What changes at national level have come about as a result of the ECFG work?
- What would happen without the ECFG project?

5: Sustainability

Questions will lead towards an understanding of the extent to which change has been mainstreamed or stabilised

- How has the ECFG work been taken up at national level?

- Are they examples where national capacity has improved?
- How have the specific training or capacity-building activities been absorbed by the government or other stakeholders?
- Has there been any subsequent follow-up from SPC (when – weeks, months after the training?)
- What aspects were most successful / could be improved?
- Is ongoing donor support required to maintain services? In what specific areas

6: Relationship between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders

Questions will identify areas of common interest with other stakeholders, and the quality of the professional relationships.

- Where does [project] interact with ECFG activities
- Explain the nature experiences working with ECFG staff
- What could be improved?

7: Gender and social inclusion, social and environmental responsibility

Questions will seek to identify whether these issues have been evident in dealings with stakeholders

- To what extent is the ECFG project contributing to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversities?
- Have ECFG staff mentioned gender, social inclusion, and environmental issues in the course of their work?
- Are there any other issues should have been raised in these areas?

Attachment 4 Country stakeholder list

ECFG MTR 2019: List of selected country stakeholders		
Country	Stakeholders: person	Role
Vanuatu	Sompert Gereva	Deputy Director VFD
	Felix Ngwango	Legal/Compliance Officer
	Christopher/Kalna Arthur	Senior Policy Officer
	June Brian Molitaviti	
	Joby Siba	Senior Fisheries Officer
	Yakar Silas	Senior Fisheries Officer
	Lucy Joy	Data Manager
	Ajay Arudere	Policy Officer
	Betsy Charlie	Seafood Authority
	Rosalie Masu	Deputy Director
Solomon Islands	Ronnelle Panda	Deputy Director
	Ivory Akao	PFO – Management Inshore Division
	Stenneth Atu	PFO – Marketing Inshore Division
	Paul Tua	
	Sylvester Diake	Senior Aquaculture Officer
	Allan Aba	
	Assaneth Buarafi	
	Sebastin Misiga	
	Anne-Maree Schwarz	MISSF team leader
	Mere lakeba	Director – MoF
Fiji	Richard Veeran	Head – inshore fisheries section
	Kolinio Rakaka	Senior fisheries officer
	Saras Sharma	Principle fisheries officer
	Damian Johnston	MCS advisor to MoF
Kiribati	Tooreka Teemari	Inshore Fisheries Director
	Karibanang Tamuera	Principle Aquaculture Officer
	Taati Eria	Senior Fisheries Officer
	Max Peter	Principle fisheries officer
	Taratau Kirata	Senior fisheries officer (Kiritimati)
	Erietera Aram	Senior fisheries assistant MCS
	Ruria Iteraera	Associate Attorney General MoJ
	Ateti Tekawa	Associate Attorney General MoJ
Tonga	Ereta Bruce	Legislative drafter
	Dr Tuikolongahau Halafili	CEO of MoF
	Siola'a Malimali	SMAs and CBFM MoF
	Mele Atuekaho	Senior Policy Officer
	Sisi Mafileo	Policy Officer
	Poasi Ngaluafe	Compliance / aquaculture officer
	Losolini Loto'ahea	Licensing /data officer
	Salote Kolomatangi	Legal Officer

Additional stakeholders representing other sectors will be identified during the course of the evaluation. For example, civil society representatives in each country will be identified through discussion with government representatives in the first instance.

Annex B: National priorities as presented to RTM-CF 3 (November 2019)

RTMCF 3 – National Technical priorities for coastal fisheries

	Staff		Agencies	Leg.reg.	Sub-national	Policy /strat			Development	Data / Research	Awareness	MCS	Other
Cook Is.	Tech staff monitoring + equipment*	E-monitoring capacity											
FSM		Capacity / training—all areas		Fisheries legislation		Overarching policy / strategy						Shift to enforcement emphasis	
Fiji				Leg. Reg. framework Size limits		Overall framework for finfish	Management plans effective	Manage for: food sec Economic value	FADs	Science input		Safety at sea MPAs (30%)	
Guam			Single point of contact							Data (fishing)			
Kiribati		Capacity / training: MCS; stock assess; awareness					Fisheries management	CBFM	Fisheries development (cooperatives)	Data + data storage			
RMI										Data capacity. Research livelihoods and markets			
New Caledonia				Levies for non-commercial fisheries				Manage for food sec		Stock assessments			
Palau		Institutional strengthening. Inter-agency coord. Financing		Work with State governments	Strategic Plan for BoMR					Data management program [multi issues]			
PNG		Capacity building	Financing				Effective policies	Manage for sustainability			Education, awareness, information		

Fr Polynesia				Regs for community management					Data collection. Stock assessments [key sp]			
Samoa		Capacity for management					Manage for food sec, livelihoods, economics sustainability	Strengthen CBFM				
Solomon Islands								CBRM up – scaling		Science – stock assessments		
Tokelau								Manage for sustainability (methodologies)		Assessment of coastal fisheries		Climate change
Tonga								Special Managed Areas		Data and surveys / assessments	Compliance	
Tuvalu									Reverse decline in fish production	Databases and analysis of stocks		
Vanuatu							Quota management system					Crown of Thorns eradication
Wallis & Futuna							Integrated management (sustainability)	Manage for food security	Develop 'deep sea' fisheries. Increase production	Reliable catch / market data		Safety at sea

RTMCF 3 2019 – Issues and Challenges for coastal fisheries

	Local / area management		Institutions		Staff	Policy	Legal / Reg.	Awareness	MCS	Development and Markets	Data: Econ / social / biology	Impacts on fisheries
Cook Is.	Traditional management practices	Specific locality management (diff rules)										
FSM		Overlapping agencies mandates	Levels of control: natl. state local		No overall policy. Coordination							
Fiji					Management plans				Compliance (incl. wardens)	Market data	Cross – sector data	
Guam	Community buy-in										Improve data	Land – based impacts. Fishing gear
Kiribati					Staff turnover				MCS capacity		Data reporting and analysis	
RMI	Inter – island transport / comms				Limited capacity						Data – small scale fisheries	
New Caledonia		Stock knowledge for sustainability	Structured professional organisation		Professional status for staff				Improve safety (training)			
Palau	Integration: coastal / oceanic / state govts	Local expertise				Long – term strategy (+ scaling up)		Education and outreach				
PNG	Scale and complexity of coast									Income generation. Access to finance. Infrastructure	Lack of data for management	
Fr. Polynesia	Co-management. Regulated Fishing Areas										Stock assessments – adaptive management	Protect ecosystems. Resilience, anthropopisation,

											Climate change
Samoa			Political pressure (govt + community).	Lack of resources	Staff turnover Lack of capacity		Lack of regs	Lack of awareness	Lack of enforcement		
Solomon Islands						CBFM scaling up [multi issues]			MCS – scale and lack of capacity		
Tokelau	Isolation / transport				Lack of capacity [multi areas]						
Tonga				Resources for management			Weak legislative base	Work with communities and stakeholders		Income generation for SMA communities	Limited catch data
Tuvalu				Inflexibility of donor funding (PROP)	Staff turnover				FAD programme (delayed)	Data handling and analysis	
Vanuatu			Weak governance. Lack of clarity of rights						Lack of funds for livelihoods and wellbeing	Stock assessments (designated sp)	Population Natural disasters Climate change Land – based activities (runoff etc)
Wallis & Futuna						Implement management and regulatory measures	Implement management and regulatory measures	Awareness raising and communication	Address unsustainable fishing practices	Support for professional fishers	Improve data collection

* Equipment needs: drones, cameras, dive computers, water quality monitoring data loggers, computer software

Annex C: Annotated Monitoring Framework

Rating scale:

	On track or already achieved		Slower than planned		Insufficient data
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Table highlights:

	Shading in the 'Indicator(s)' column identifies indicators that match MFAT indicators (see MFAT Strategic Results Framework Indicators – Fisheries)
X%	Yellow highlights identify instance where targets have not yet been identified

Results	Indicator(s)	Baseline Information	Planned targets	MTR summary of progress against targets (as at November 2019)
Long & medium term outcomes				
L1: Enhanced food security and sustainable livelihoods from fisheries and aquaculture	• Per capita fish consumption level across the region	• 2008: 20-147 kg per capita consumption	• Per capita fish consumption maintained (2016-2021)	• Depends on data from household income and expenditure surveys + procedure for estimation – unlikely to be available during term of project
	• % of main source of protein from fish	• 2008: Main source of protein (50-90%)	• Fish as main source of protein maintained (2016-2021)	
	• % of Fisheries stock within safe biological limits	• Unknown stock within safe biological limits	• Increase to X% of fisheries stock within safe biological limits by 2021	• % target yet to be determined. Needs inputs and procedure not currently available (could be done for key species such as sea cucumber)
M1: Legislation and regulations provide a clearer and more transparent basis for decision making	• Coverage (%) of up-to-date legislation for coastal fisheries & aquaculture at national and subnational levels (PICT, region)	• 25% of PICTs (6 countries)	• Increase to 45% of PICTs (4 additional countries) coverage of legislation by 2021	• Project records show reviews and revision of legislation in 4 countries
	• % of legislation and regulations which have clarity and	• 25% of PICTs (same 6 countries)	• 100% of new / updated legislation or regulations provide a clear and	• Subject to confirmation that revised legislation achieves this

	transparency for decision making		transparent basis for decision making by 2021	
M2: Coastal fisheries and aquaculture are more effectively and sustainably managed, monitored and enforced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage (%) of coastal fisheries and aquaculture resources covered in national and sub-national management arrangements / policies (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016: 4 countries with national policies covering aqua and/or coastal 9 countries with aqua man/dev plans or strategies 10 countries had coastal fisheries specific or general plans/strategy, some had multiple. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase to X% of resources covered in management arrangements by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % target yet to be determined. Annual report refers to discussions between FAME and MFAT on the target
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal fisheries commercial and subsistence catch (Ton) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillett 2016 report using 2014 data: coastal commercial catch 53,753 mt; subsistence catch 110,183 mt; total 163,936 mt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 163,936 mt Ton of Coastal fisheries catch across the Pacific by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs inputs and procedure not currently available (update of Gillet work?)

Short term outcomes

S1: PICTs have improved and robust legislation and regulations at national and subnational levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of new or updated national and subnational legislation / regulations that have been signed off and number and enacted (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: National legislation is up-to-date or NA for 14 PICTs 2015: Subnational legislation is up-to-date or NA for 8 PICTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 additional PICTs have new / updated national or subnational legislation or regulations submitted by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative revisions carried out [no formal reporting since indicator was revised]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % of enacted legislation and regulations that are robust and inclusive of community based management and shared benefits (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of PICTs (11 countries) have an enabling legal framework for CEAFM (some may need improvement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of new/updated enacted legislation and regulations are robust and inclusive by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to confirmation that revised legislation achieves this. Currently it is not clear how the 'robust and inclusive' character of legislation and regulations is to be assessed. Target omits reference to being 'inclusive of community based management'
S2: PICTs have improved and robust policies and management plans at national and subnational levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of new or updated management arrangements or policies that have been signed off and number implemented (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: Coastal fisheries policy / plans are up-to-date or NA for 3 PICTs 2015: Aquaculture policy / plans are up-to-date or NA for 3 PICTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 additional PICTs have new/improved policies by 2021 7 additional management plans are enacted by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting shows development of multiple policies and plans. The target that these be 'enacted' is interpreted as formal government sign-off of plans. Indicator also refers to the number 'implemented', which is not included in the target – the review considers this appropriate as responsibility for 'implementation' rests with the respective PICTs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % of policies and management plans that are robust and inclusive of community based management and shared benefits (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of new/updated policies and plans are robust and inclusive by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for S1 above
S3: Increased capacity and skills to develop and implement management arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased confidence among staff that they have appropriate skills and knowledge to fulfil their roles (PICT, age, gender) Training participants show change in attitude, skills or knowledge (PICT, age, gender) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of attachments and PIJPs have increased skills, knowledge & confidence (2016-2021) 75% of MCS&E training change in attitude, skills or knowledge (2016-2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears on course – further evidence in preparation regarding MCS training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % of staff using skills / knowledge received at 6 month follow up² (PICT, age, gender) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% and # of staff using skills / knowledge obtained at 6 month follow up (2017-2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up yet to be implemented
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % change in infringements and prosecutions (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown (to be set once baseline is identified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline and target not determined – indicators 'in discussion'
S4: Improved awareness of fisheries rules, regulations and penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and % of community members showing increased awareness of the existence and content of rules, regulations and penalties (PICT, age, gender) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown (to be set once baseline is identified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline and target not determined – indicators 'in discussion'
Outputs				
O1: New or revised national and subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of national legislation/regulations drafted (PICT, region) Number and type of subnational legislation/regulations drafted (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015: National legislation is up-to-date or NA for 14 PICTs 2015: Subnational legislation is up-to-date or NA for 8 PICTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New / updated national legislation or regulations are reviewed, drafted or progressed for 8 PICTs by 2021 New / updated subnational legislation is reviewed, drafted or progressed for 2 PICTs by 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project records show reviews and revision of legislation in multiple countries at national and sub-national level [no formal reporting since indicator was revised]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Member Countries involved throughout the process (PICT, region) Level of Member Country engagement in the process for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICT representatives involved for all 8 PICTs Strong engagement in the process for 75% of legislation drafted (2016-2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports show 'strong engagement of attachment trainees in legislative drafting'

	legislation drafted			
O2: Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in drafting coastal fisheries and aquaculture laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of attachments (PICT, age, gender) Number of participants at national and subnational levels (PICT, age, gender) 	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 staff on attachment at SPC (2016 – 2021) 10 national or subnational staff participants (2016 – 2021) 25% of training participants are women (2017 – 2021) 	• [no formal reporting since indicator was revised]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of records available on the law and policy database for coastal fisheries and aquaculture Number of laws and regulations analysed to extract management measures for coastal fisheries 	• 2015: about 20 records of laws and policies are available on the SPC website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 records of laws and policies uploaded to online database 22 laws or regulations analysed to allow comparison between management measures 	• Progress reported in the context of ReefLex
O3: Policies and management plans are reviewed, updated or developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of policies and management plans reviewed (PICT, region) Number and type of policies and management plans updated or developed to draft stage (PICT, region) 	• 2015: Coastal fisheries policy / plans are up-to-date or NA for 3 PICTs • 2015: Aquaculture policy / plans are up-to-date or NA for 3 PICTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/improved policies are drafted for 7 PICTs by 2021 7 additional management plans are drafted by 2021⁴ 	• Reports show drafting of multiple policies and plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Member Countries involved throughout the process (PICT, region) Level of Member Country engagement in the process for drafting policies and plans (PICT, region) 	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PICT representatives involved for all 7 PICTs Strong engagement in the process for 75% of policies and plans drafted or updated 	• On track (being assessed)
O4: Capacity development, training and mentoring is provided at national and subnational levels in fisheries management arrangements and policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of attachments (PICT, age, gender) Number of Pacific Islander Junior Professionals 	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 x 2 week attachments (Year 1 – 8, Year 2 – 8, Year 3 – 8, Year 4 – 8, Year 5 – 8) 4 Pacific Islander Junior Professionals (12 month consecutive positions starting in Year 1 Q2) 	• Reported as being on track
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and type of mentoring activities undertaken Number of participants at national and subnational levels 	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 - Mentoring activities 20 national or subnational staff participants (2016-2021) 25% of mentoring recipients are 	• Records show mentoring activities (for years 1 and 2 66% were women)

	(PICT, age, gender etc)		women (2017-2021)	
O5: MCS and enforcement modules with supporting database are developed and training delivered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of MCS&E modules developed and integrated into FFA MCS&E materials • Number of train-the-trainer courses conducted • Number of attendees (PICT, age, gender etc) • Number of country specific training sessions conducted • Number of attendees per country specific training session (age, gender etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015: No coastal MSC&E modules/content in FFA training or materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-15 modules developed for coastal fisheries and aquaculture and integrated into FFA MCS&E training and materials by 2017 • 4 train-the-trainer courses conducted by 2021 • 12 participants complete each train-the-trainer course (2017-2021) • 8 country specific training sessions conducted by 2021 • 8 participants in each country specific training (2017-2021) • 25% of all above training participants are women (2017-2021) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports show on track (consolidated gender information not presented)
O6: Awareness raising materials on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties are developed and disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of materials developed • Number of community awareness events • # of staff attachments to develop materials (PICT, age, gender) • Number of communities reached by materials (PICT, region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-30 materials developed • 12 awareness raising events (3/year 2017-2021) • 16 staff attachments for developing materials by 2021 • X# of communities reached by materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in initial phases of project. [Indicator not yet determined]

Annex D: Annual report collation by Output

Summary of annual reports by output

Output 1

Output 1 New and revised national legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed.

Year 1 Report: Work in this area commenced in mid-January 2017. The legal frameworks for each country and territory were reviewed, with a list produced of national legislation, including the down loading of laws/reg/ and produced as a quick reference file/spreadsheet by Ariella. This included reviewed the international framework such as Treaty's/instruments, international organisations for which countries are a party or member etc. Prioritisation of countries needing support was also undertaken.

Travel was also undertaken to the Solomon Islands to review and assess national legislation and regulations with the fisheries department and the MSSIF team. Meetings were also held with the FFA to form collaborations for future reviews of national legislation, so coastal and aquaculture can be addressed at the same time as FFA is doing the oceanic legislation.

Travel was also undertaken to Tonga, where in collaboration with the FFA, a review of the legislation was undertaken, and this will lead to future work with FFA in making amendments to the legislation and regulations. Discussions were also undertaken with Niue and MPI for future collaborative work. Initial discussions with French Polynesia were also undertaken at the HoF meeting for assistance with their coastal fisheries legislation.

Overall: One national legislation and/or regulation has been reviewed by Ariella, and some preliminary data on gender and human rights issues collected. Some preliminary legal advice will be provided during the upcoming country visits. There has been no drafting of legislation or regulations at this stage, with this to commence in the next reporting period.

Year 2 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- Collection of national legislation on coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
- Analysis of the international legal framework applicable to each of the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (international agreements ratified).
- Review of legislation on coastal fisheries, with focus on the Conservation of Sea Cucumbers Regulations undertaken in American Samoa, and support provided for the revision of other fisheries-related regulations.
- Review of legislation on coastal fisheries and aquaculture in French Polynesia. This included the provision of legal advice on the development of sea cucumber farms using sea ranching techniques (in collaboration with SPC Aquaculture Section).
- Revision of Draft Fisheries Act and Draft Regulations on fishing permits, fishing gear and regulated species for French Polynesia, with in-country consultations in May, including a legal opinion on the Draft Regulations declaring the French Polynesian EEZ as a marine protected area.
- Initial scoping missions to Kiribati and PNG to assess coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation and regulation needs with government agencies for both national and subnational work.
- Review of coastal fisheries and aquaculture regulations in Samoa (Fisheries Management Act 2016, Local Fisheries Regulations 1996, and community by-laws) to identify gaps,

including a workshop with Samoa Fisheries staff in Apia.

- Preparation of Draft Fisheries Management (Sea Cucumber) Regulations in Samoa and consultation with Samoa Fisheries Division and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Legal Adviser.
- Review of coastal fisheries and aquaculture legislation and regulations for Tonga, including a legal opinion on the implementation of Special Management Area (SMA) regulations.
- Worked with one attachment from Tonga to draft proposed amendments to the coastal community regulations on SMAs and the legal framework for the registration and safety of small scale fishing vessels.
- Revision of coastal fisheries regulations (Fisheries Regulations 2009, Parts 10 & 11) in Vanuatu with staff from the Fisheries Department and from the Prosecutor's Office, and stakeholder consultation with community-authorised officers on reef fish regulations.
- Review of Draft Fisheries (Protection of Certain Marine Resources) Regulations for Kiribati: comments provided to national authorities (Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development and Office of Attorney General) and shared with relevant partners operating in the country under three projects in particular: Pathways, Tobwan Waara and Ridge to Reef.
- Discussion and validation of proposed amendments to SMA-related legislation in Tonga – i.e. the Fisheries (Coastal Communities) Regulations 2009 and related sections of the Fisheries Management Act 2002 – with the Ministry of Fisheries and other relevant partners.
- Initial discussions on possible solutions to address the issues of registration and safety of small boats in Tonga with a view to amending the Fisheries (Local Fishing) Regulations 2009, in collaboration with Tonga's Marine and Ports Division of the Ministry of Infrastructure.
- Preparation of the terms of reference of the Coastal Fisheries Legal and Policy Task Force created under the Coastal Fisheries Working Group to foster collaboration between partners.
- Preparation of background papers on the legal and institutional framework for data governance in Pacific fisheries and presentation of proposed approaches at the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF), held at SPC, and at the Asia-Pacific Workshop on International Law, Climate Change, Oceans and Coasts, hosted by the University of Tasmania.
- Participation in the FFA Regional Port Monitoring Workshop and in the FAO Workshop held in Vanuatu on the formulation of a National Strategy and Action Plan for Compliance with the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

Overall: The legal framework for coastal fisheries and aquaculture of 6 countries has been reviewed by Ariella (American Samoa, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu), and some preliminary data on gender and human rights issues collected. Assistance was provided for the drafting of 10 new pieces of legislation (acts and regulations) in those 6 countries of which 3 were finalised (French Polynesia and Samoa) and 2 are currently being validated. Some preliminary legal advice provided on legislation currently in force covering sea cucumber fisheries and aquaculture (American Samoa, French Polynesia and Samoa), small boat registration and sea safety (Tonga), and SMAs (Tonga).

Year 3 report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- ☒ Collection of national legislation on coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
- ☒ Update of the international legal framework applicable to each of the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (international agreements ratified).
- ☒ Development of the ReefLex Database on fisheries laws and policies with Franck Magron, Information Technology Officer of SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP) and the newly recruited short-term staff Alizée Bonnet, Legal Research Assistant.
- ☒ The database is divided in two main parts: (1) a document repository organised by country (22 PICTs + Timor Leste) and by type of document (act, implementing regulations, policies, management plans), with a brief introduction on the legal framework for each PICT; and (2) a species regulations search tool which allows to compare regulatory measures in force in each

PICT (e.g. size limits, seasonal closures, gear restrictions). ☐ Collaboration with other legal databases, such as FAOLEX, ECOLEX and PACLII/USP) is underway to ensure sustainability of the ReefLex Database.

- ☒ Six national officers from fisheries agencies and attorney-general's offices hosted on attachment for legislative training in coastal fisheries and aquaculture during this reporting period: o Nauru (1 male and 1 female); o Kiribati (2 females and 1 male); and o RMI (1 male), funded under MFAT Aquaculture Project.
- ☒ Finalisation of the Kiribati Draft Fisheries (Conservation and Management of Coastal Marine Resources) Regulations in consultation with the Pathways project.
- ☒ First version of the Kiribati Draft Fisheries (Aquaculture) Regulations in collaboration with the SPC aquaculture team. ☐ Review of the Nauru Draft Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill and recommendations on proposed changes.
- ☒ Review of coastal fisheries legislation in the FSM (national and subnational) on the occasion of a joint scoping mission with the Policy Specialist to the 4 States (see Output 2).
- ☒ Review of Tongan legislation on the export of aquaculture products, with focus on processing and export of wild and farmed sea cucumbers.
- ☒ Stakeholder consultation on the Kiribati Draft Fisheries (Conservation and Management of Coastal Marine Resources) Regulations in collaboration with the Pathways project and the NZ-funded Tobwan Waara project.
- ☒ Stakeholder consultation on the Nauru Draft Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill (fishers and civil society).
- ☒ Support and input provided during Second Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF2) held at SPC Headquarters in November 2018.
- ☒ Coordination and input provided to the Law and Policy Task Force, established under the Coastal Fisheries Working Group (e.g. inventory of laws, new song indicators, mapping of jurisdictions).
- ☒ Two-hour guest lecture on coastal fisheries legislation at USP School of Law in Vanuatu (video was recorded) and half-day working group with students on their national legislation.
- ☒ Legal papers and presentations prepared for the SPC/USP Course on Coastal Fisheries Compliance and MCS, and support during the face-to-face assessment workshop in Fiji.
- ☒ Presentation prepared for the SPC/MPI Fisheries Policies and Management Plans Writing Workshop. Participation in future workshops is being planned.
- ☒ Two consultants are being recruited: one for a short course on legislative drafting in coastal fisheries; one for a study on gender and human rights law in coastal fisheries. Both consultancies will focus on a selected number of countries to define a methodology that may be used for others in the future. Overall: The legal framework for coastal fisheries and aquaculture of 5 countries has been reviewed by Ariella (Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, RMI and FSM). Assistance was provided for the drafting of 5 new pieces of legislation (acts and regulations) in 4 of those countries. Some preliminary legal advice was provided to our NGO partners on legislation currently in force in Fiji.

Six government staff from Kiribati, Nauru and RMI came to SPC on attachment for legal training. Ariella has contributed to the MCS Course developed under this project and to RTMCF2. She has also led the set up and population of the new database for coastal fisheries laws and policies in the Pacific (ReefLex), made significant inputs into the Coastal Fisheries Law and Policy Task Force, and held a guest lecture at USP. Challenges: Once a draft piece of legislation is developed and consulted with stakeholders, the national counterpart is responsible to carry it through the internal legislative or regulatory process. This is a stage where the adoption of legal texts may be delayed and where SPC cannot interfere. Some of the texts that were developed during the last reporting period are still in the pipeline; others are undergoing additional consultation required by the country's internal processes. Another issue is the fact that most fisheries administration do not have their own legal officer and, when they do, the person is often fully committed with work related to oceanic fisheries and does not have the time or ability to draft legislation, be it national or subnational. This is even truer for Assistant Attorney-Generals who are dedicated to fisheries or natural resources legislation. A third challenge is the ability to undertake appropriate and effective legislative reform for coastal fisheries in most PICTs. In-depth legal reviews - including comparative ones - are needed in order to have a strategic approach to legislative reform (e.g. provisions concerning gender and human rights issues, enabling community-based fisheries management, recognising traditional fishing rights, increasing legal strength/flexibility of coastal fisheries management measures). Positive impacts: Subject to the agreement of fisheries administrations on a case-by-case basis, the best approach so far in order to successfully develop draft legislation has been to follow these three steps: ☐ Perform a scoping mission to collect basic information and perform overall assessment of legal needs in coastal fisheries management; ☐ Prepare a basic draft and organise a consultation workshop to identify main issues to be addressed in legislation and identify appropriate and effective approaches; ☐ Finalise the draft in collaboration with two government staff on training attachment: a legal officer (from the fisheries administration or the Attorney-General's office) and a fisheries staff (e.g. policy officer, fisheries officers). Another positive impact has been to integrate legal aspects into the Policy and MCS training workshops in order to highlight the linkages that policy and planning, on the one hand, and MCS, on the other hand, bear with legislation. Finally, positive feedback was received on the document repository of the ReefLex Database, which was released at RTMCF2 in late 2018. Countries and partners have made numerous suggestions to improve the database, increase available documentation and develop awareness material to facilitate its fruition.

Output 2

Output 2: New and revised sub-national legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted / progressed.

Year 1 Report: Work in this area also commenced in mid-January 2017. The review of national legislation also included an initial review of country governance over coastal waters and Maritime delimitations (e.g. Tuvalu Island Councils have jurisdiction up to 6nm from their coastal line) was undertaken by Ariella. Other work included the selection of articles and publications for Pacific coastal fisheries and the identification of relevant coastal fisheries issues.

The fieldwork in the Solomon Islands in March also included the review and assessment of sub-national legislation and regulations with the fisheries department, the MSSIF team and provinces where this is possible. Meetings were also held with the FFA, although the provincial legislation and regulations will be separate to national work. Meetings were also undertaken with WorldFish and other NGOs working at the provincial level to see where collaborations can be made and Ariella has started her networking for future work. The same work assessment work was undertaken in Tonga, although the situation there is different.

Overall: One sub-national legislation and/or regulation had an initial review for specific provinces and not all within a country by Ariella, and some preliminary data on gender and human rights issues collected. For provincial work, it is felt that working with a single province within a country will be best to start, to set up a “model” or “framework” that can be used in other locations. Some preliminary legal advice will be provided during future country visits. The first consultation meetings with FFA were completed and were very successful. No drafting of sub-national legislation or regulations occurred during the reporting period. Note: the consultations with other NGOs will also be important so that a holistic approach can be taken when working at the provincial level.

Year 2 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- Collection on subnational legislation on coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
- Little work at subnational level in years one and two, as country priorities generally wanted to focus on national legislation in the first instance. Discussions underway with Samoa, Kiribati and PNG for subnational work in 2018. SPC support in the latter country is temporarily suspended for disciplinary purposes.
- Contact was recently made with FSM and Palau’s authorities to provide legal support at subnational level.
- Work carried out in Tonga on SMA-related legislation, including a legal attachment training, might be considered under this output as it deals with the legal framework for subnational fisheries management.
- Similarly, a consultation held with Ministry staff in Samoa on how to improve village fisheries bylaws might be considered under this output.

Overall: Discussions underway with Samoa, Kiribati and PNG in regard to subnational legislation and/or regulation by Ariella, with this firming up with Kiribati for work on bylaws in mid-2018. No drafting of sub-national legislation occurred during the reporting period, but some of the work performed at national level has direct relevance to this output. Note: according to the updated baseline, only 12 PICTs out of the 22 have a legal framework in place for the adoption of subnational legislation (state legislation, provincial legislation or village/island council bylaws). Consultations with NGOs and other partners are being undertaken where relevant so that a holistic approach can be taken when working at the provincial or subnational level.

Year 3 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered: ☐ Collection on subnational legislation on coastal fisheries and aquaculture. ☐ Little work at subnational level in year 3, as country priorities generally focused on national legislation in the first instance (e.g. Kiribati and Samoa). ☐ Joint scoping mission with the Policy Specialist to

the 4 FSM States – Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap – looking subnational legal frameworks for coastal fisheries and aquaculture. Based on the consultations with stakeholders, recommendations were made on the way forward and steps are now being taken for their implementation. ☐ Possibility of joint subnational work should arise with the new Community based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (CEAFM) Officer hired under the PEUMP Programme.

Overall: During the reporting period, grounds were set to start working on subnational legislation in the FSM but no drafting of subnational legislation was yet initiated. Synergies with upcoming CEAFM activities under new SPC projects should increase the chances to perform legal work at the subnational level.

Challenges: So far, PICT requests for support with legislative drafting have been focusing on the development of national legislation, either because the priority is to adopt an act or regulations for the whole PICT (e.g. Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu) or because the PICT does not grant legislative or regulatory powers at the subnational level (e.g. Nauru, Tonga). This is true even if we consider any legislation adopted by territories as being subnational, which is accurate in a legal sense (e.g. American Samoa, French Polynesia – see previous progress report).

Proposed solution: Based on the interest shown by countries in attending training on legal matters and on the results of the needs assessment performed for about half of SPC's member countries, the proposed solution is to redirect Output 2 towards training and capacity building. Output 1 would be dedicated to the development of national and subnational legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture and Output 2 to legal training, mentoring and capacity building activities in coastal fisheries and aquaculture, similarly to the policy-dedicated outputs (Output 3 on the development of policies and plans and Output 4 on training, mentoring and capacity development).

We, therefore, propose that Outputs 1 and 2 be rephrased as follows:

Current Outputs

Output 1. New or revised national legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted/progressed.

Output 2. New or revised sub-national legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture is drafted/progressed. ☐

Revised Outputs

Output 1. Laws and regulations are reviewed, drafted or progressed.

Output 2. Provide capacity development training and mentoring to national and subnational levels in fisheries laws and regulations.

Output 3

Output 3: Policies and management plans are reviewed, updated or developed.

Year 1

Work in this area commenced in late October 2016. The first assistance was provided by Jason to Vanuatu in early November with the final consultations to complete the draft Vanuatu National Fisheries Policy (covering oceanic and coastal fisheries and aquaculture), including the completion of the implementation plan. The policy was endorsed and launched in early December 2016. Also in Vanuatu, assistance was provided with to progress four community-based resource management plans for Port Olry, Pellong, Peskaru and Hog Harbour.

In Fiji, assistance was provided by Jason and Ian B in the final stages of developing the Fiji National Fisheries Policy (covering oceanic and coastal fisheries and aquaculture), and this included stakeholder consultations and producing the seventh draft document in collaboration with the Fiji Fisheries department. Additional assistance was provided with reviewing written submissions and incorporating these comments onto the draft. This work will continue in early 2017 with the last round of consultations and written submissions, and then it can be progressed through the internal processes for endorsement and implementation by the Fiji Fisheries Department.

Several activities have been undertaken in Tonga by Jason as they embark on developing a Tonga National Fisheries Policy. Initial consultations have been held to identify key issues, broad goals for the draft policy, and a way forward for the policy development. This will be an ongoing activity in 2017 with Jason's involvement. Linked to this was the Tonga Fisheries sector plan implementation planning meeting that Jason attended to provide input on where SPC may be able to provide technical assistance. Both Jason and Ian B also provided input to a draft of the Tonga Marine Aquarium Trade plan. Initial planning was also undertaken for the development of an aquaculture management and development plan for Tonga, and this work will continue into the next reporting period.

Fieldwork was also undertaken in the Solomon Islands in early March to review current policies and coastal fisheries and aquaculture plans with the fisheries department, and the MSSIF team. Meetings were also undertaken with the FFA, although this is more to cover national legislation and MCS&E. Meetings were also held with WorldFish and other NGOs working in this space at both the national, provincial and community level to see where collaborations can be made and Jason has some contact people to correspond with.

Overall: Work has commenced on more than three national fisheries and/or aquaculture policies, with the Vanuatu policy enacted, although the project's assistance was right at the end of the process. More than 2 management plans have also been progressed in their drafting and some stakeholder consultation have taken place, although this where possible is based on a cost share with the host government. There has been good buy-in by the Fisheries Department staff as they take the processes forward, with Jason and Ian B providing a supporting and guiding role.

Year 2

Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- Progress the National Fisheries Policy for Fiji, which has been an ongoing process in 2017, with several drafts and trips to Fiji in May and October. Now finalising comments from editor, submitted final draft of policy to Fiji MoF in November, this includes the offshore, inshore fisheries and Aquaculture implementation plans. Implementation has included action on the recommendation made that the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries have a separate inshore department which is currently being established.
- Assist to review, draft and consult towards Fiji Pearl development Plan. A first draft was submitted to Fiji Ministry of Fisheries in December 2017 for review and circulation to stakeholders. The second stakeholder consultation is planned for April/May 2018.
- Participate in a three-day symposium on Pohnpei State coastal fisheries, October 2017, to assist with the early stages of developing a coastal fisheries strategy at the sub-national level in FSM, in collaboration with NGOs and State fisheries.
- Participate in a one Day workshop on Marine Spatial Planning towards the implementation of the Vanuatu National Oceans Policy 2016
- Assistance provided with the review and updating of the draft Marine Aquarium Trade Plan for Kiritimati Island, and will provide comments on future drafts. A draft has been sent to Ministry of Fisheries and a consultation is scheduled to take place in Kiritimati in May 2018.
- Assistance provided with the review and updating of the draft Marine Aquarium Trade Plan for Tonga, The plan was approved by Tonga's Minister for Fisheries mid-2017. Editing, layout and printing has been done by SPC. Printed copies have been sent to the Ministry of Fisheries Tonga in first quarter of 2018.
- A review and drafting of the Solomon Island aquaculture management and development plan undertaken with comments provided on different drafts as this moves towards finalisation. A final draft has been sent to MFMR
- Worked with two attachments from the Solomon Islands MFMR to review and update a draft baitfish fishery management plan and draft seaweed farming action plan.
- Reviewing and drafting of the Tonga Aquaculture Management and Development Plan undertaken with comments provided on several drafts and the participation in a two-day validation workshop in preparation to finalise the plan. A final draft has been sent to Tonga Ministry of Fisheries and a copy has been submitted to the Publications Unit for editing and layout.
- Development of the lobster fishery management plan, trochus fishery management and development plan, and update the sea cucumber fishery management plan for Vanuatu with comments provided on several drafts of each plan. Final drafts of all these plans have been sent to Vanuatu Fisheries Department

- Assist in conducting a one-week workshop towards developing a Vanuatu National Coastal Fisheries Strategy – National Implementation of the New Song. A draft Vanuatu National Coastal Fisheries is in place and will be presented to Vanuatu Fisheries Department and its stakeholders in May 2018
- Prepare management advice on quota management for the implementation of the Tonga Deepwater Fishery Management Plan 2017- 2019
- Assist to review and draft Solomon Island Giant Clam Fishery Management Plan, Aquaculture Management and Development Plan, Coral Reef Industry Development Plan. A final draft of the Aquaculture Plan has been sent to MFMR. Drafts in place for the giant clam and coral reef plan.

Overall: A busy year with assistance to six countries in a range of areas covering different management plans for specific fisheries. A lot of the work is ongoing, as drafts of each plan becomes available for comment, with these provided back to country. The Fiji National Fisheries Policy continues to progress with comments provided as needed. This work also includes stakeholder consultations at the national level, and where possible, is based on a cost share with the host government. There has been good buy-in by the Fisheries Department staff as they take the processes forward, with Jason and Ian B providing a supporting and guiding role, with regular advice and comments on draft documents.

Year 3

Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered: ☐ Assistance was provided to Cook Islands on their request to review and develop their Aquaculture Development Plan. A consultation was carried out in Cook Islands in the last quarter of 2018 and a first draft of the development plan is progressing.

☒ Progress has been made towards Fiji Pearl Industry development Plan with a consultation of all stakeholders held in May 2018 in Suva. After the consultation, comments and inputs received help to improve the draft. A clean draft has been handed over to Fiji Ministry of Fisheries. In addition, assistance was provided to review drafts of:

- Mud Crab Fishery; and
- Giant Clam Fishery Management Strategy.

Drafts were sent back to Fiji and the first national consultation is scheduled for 26- 27 February 2019.

☒ Jointly with the Legal Advisor, carried out a Scoping Mission to all the States of FSM in July on legislation and policy. During the scoping mission, a request was lodged by Kosrae to assist with the development a community management plan. Initial review and drafting completed with a draft sent to Kosrae for a validation workshop that was held later in 2018.

☒ Assistance was provided to Kiribati on the reviewing, updating and consultation of the Kiribati Marine Aquarium Trade Plan for Kiritimati Island. A draft for consultation was sent to Kiribati and a consultation was held in August in Kiritimati Island. A final draft was sent to Kiribati. Assistance was also provided to review the Kiribati National Artisanal FAD Management and Development Plan. A final draft was sent to Kiribati.

☒ Assistance was provided to Palau to review and update the Palau FAD Management Plan. Final draft sent to Palau.

☒ Assistance was provided to Samoa to review and update the:

- Samoa Trochus Fishery Management Plan; and
- Samoa FAD Management and Development Plan

Drafts of both plans were sent to Samoa.

☒ Assistance was provided to Solomon Islands to review and update four management and development plans.

- Giant Clam Management Plan;
- Coral Industry Management Plan;
- Trochus management Plan; and
- Aquaculture Management and Development Plan.

Drafts of the four plans were sent to Solomon and consultations were held. The Aquaculture Management and Development plan have been approved. In addition, assistance was provided to review the Solomon Islands National Fisheries Policy. This has been approved and is currently being edited by SPC. Layout work and printing to be followed.

☒ Assistance was provided to Tonga on the review and update of:

- Marine Aquarium Trade Plan; and
- Tonga Aquaculture Management and Development Plans.

Both plans have been approved, edited, printed and shipped to Tonga. Assistance was also provided to review and update the Tonga Game Fishery Management Plan. A draft was sent to Tonga. In addition, assistance was provided to Tonga in a form of a written management brief for the Deep- water snapper fishery following request from Tonga.

☒ Assistance was provided to Vanuatu to develop a Vanuatu National Coastal Fisheries Roadmap. Two consultations were held in Port Vila and the draft roadmap is currently subjected to the Vanuatu national approval process.

Overall: A busy but good year with assistance provided to nine countries in a range of areas covering 16 different management plans for specific fisheries including a coastal fisheries roadmap and a national fisheries policy. A lot of the work is ongoing, as drafts have been handed over to countries and follow ups for consultations and approval. Out of the 16 plans and policies, two have been approved by the respective countries during this reporting period **Challenges:** FFA staff member who is our contact and who has been part of the team to undertake Fisheries Policy and Management Plans Training workshop is no longer with FFA. Communication to FFA to re-establish contact has not been successful. Large number of drafts have been handed over to countries but slow progress towards approval. During this reporting period, 16 plans have been reviewed and drafted but only two have been approved. A further two have been confirmed for approval soon

Positive impacts: As a result of Fisheries Policy and Management Plans Training workshops undertaken in Solomon Islands over the last two years, MFMR has developed a National Fisheries Policy fully lead and drafted by MFMR. Several staff that came to SPC for attachment training in developing and drafting policies and management plans are now confident and are taking the initiative to initiate the drafting of their own plans. We continue to mentor them. We have seen improvements in writing skills of several national counterparts and are aware that these staff have received writing skills training organised by one of our key partners in this project, NZ MPI.

Output 4

Output 4: Provide capacity development training and mentoring to national and sub-national levels in fisheries policies and management plans.

Year 1

Work in this area also commenced in November 2016 with Ian B and Lindsay commencing the recruitment process for the first Pacific Islander Junior Professional (PIJP). Recruitment was completed in January 2017 and a commencement date of early February agreed. However, the Director of Vanuatu Fisheries requested a three-month deferral of the commencement date as the staff chosen for the PIJP position was needed to train up a counterpart, and this was agreed. Therefore the PIJP will commence in May 2017. There were also no attachment trainees during this period as the project has just started up.

A training workshop was conducted in Solomon Islands on policy and planning, with 19 MRMR staff trained over 3.5 days, 11 of which were women. Training was implemented by SPC and MPI.

Overall: Progress under this output will continue in May 2017 with the first PIJP under the Activity starting at SPC. Several attachments will also take place during the next reporting period.

Year 2

Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- First Pacific Island Junior Professional (PIJP) funded under the project commenced work in May 2017, under the policy area, receiving some initial training with project staff in Noumea before accompanying project staff for hands-on training in-country.
 - PIJP received in-country training and provided input to the review, updating and/or development of coastal fisheries policies and management plans in Vanuatu (lobster plan, sea cucumber plan, coastal fisheries policy and trochus plan and policy brief), Kiribati / Kiritimati (aquarium fish management plan), Tonga and Solomon Islands (aquaculture management and development plans) and Fiji (Inshore fisheries and Aquaculture Implementation plans).
 - PIJP received training and provided input to three specific workshops: Te Vaka Moana countries (Tonga, Samoa, Tokelau, Cook Islands) on policy development;

- Solomon Islands MFMR staff on policy statement; and Samoa Fisheries Division on policy development.
- PIJP received training through two activities undertaken in New Zealand with MPI, the first being a technical writing workshop covering writing for fisheries officers including answering emails and report writing. The second training was for two weeks and covered how fisheries management is undertaken in New Zealand including some field trips.
- Legal Officer from the Tongan Ministry of Fisheries (female) attached to SPC Noumea to work on amending the Special Management Area Regulations (and the relevant provisions of the Fisheries Management Act) and the legal framework for the registration and safety of small scale fishing vessels for Tonga.
- Two attachments to SPC from Tonga (both female) to work on their aquaculture management and development plan, plus developed a draft sports or game fishing management plan.
- Two attachments to SPC from the Solomon Islands (1 male and 1 female) to work on their aquaculture management and development plan, complete their baitfish management plan plus draft a seaweed management plan.
- Two attachments to SPC from Vanuatu (1 male and 1 female) to develop standard operational procedures (SOPs) for market, shop and boat inspections plus a separate SOP on seafood quality and hygiene.
- Two attachments to SPC from Palau (both female) to work on the Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) Annual Report 2017. This was the first Annual report for BMR since 1993.
- Undertook a one-week training workshop in October in Samoa on fisheries policy and management plan to 17 Fisheries Division staff (6 male and 11 female).
- Undertook three MCS training workshops in Vanuatu, two in Port Vila with 22 (19 male and 3 female) and 15 (12 male and 3 female) participants and one in Santo with 16 (13 male and 3 female) participants.
- Undertook two by one week training in Solomon Islands covering Fisheries Policy and Management Plan with MFMR staff, first with 19 participants (8 male and 11 female) and second with 11 participants (7 male and 4 female)
- Undertook 1 week training workshop in Auckland on Fisheries Policy and Management Plan with Te Vaka Moana countries with seven participants (5 male and 2 female)
- Second PIJP was recruited in late 2017 and started in Noumea in early February 2018. After settling in the PIJP received training in the use of GIS and attended the same two-week training with MPI in New Zealand covering how fisheries management is undertaken in New Zealand including some field trips.

Overall: Good progress under this output with two PIJP staff recruited with a programme of capacity development for them, in Noumea, with MPI in New Zealand, and in the field with project staff. There were 9 attachments to Noumea for specific activities to progress national work under the supervision of project staff. Several national trainings were undertaken covering Fisheries policy and management plans in Solomon Islands (2 workshops 15 male and 15 female participants), Samoa (1 workshop, 6 male and 11 female participants) and one with Te Vaka Moana countries (5 male and 2 female participants). In addition three workshops were held in the Vanuatu on coastal MCS&E (41 male and 9 female participants).

Year 3

Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

☒ Two Pacific Island Junior Professional (PIJP) funded under the project were recruited. These were the second and third PIJP under the project. The second completed his 12 months contract with SPC in January 2019. The third PIJP has been hired and is currently in his first month of contract.

- The second PIJP received on the job training and provided input to the review, updating and/or development of coastal fisheries policies and management plans Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, FSM and Tonga
- The second PIJP received training and provided input to one specific training workshops (Melanesian countries policy and management plans training workshop) and four national consultation on specific fisheries management plans.
- ○ The third PIJP will receive on the job training in the reviewing, updating, drafting and consultation of fisheries policies and management plans and be part of the policy team to assist with training workshops conducted in in- country, regional or sub- regional level.

☒ Undertook a weeklong training for Melanesian countries (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) on reviewing, formulating and consultation of fisheries policy and management plans. Ten participants attended of which four were females.

☒ Eleven national fisheries agency officers engaged in the short term attachments during this reporting period:

- Fiji (2 males and 2 females);
- FSM (2 males);
- Kiribati (1 female);
- Samoa (2 females); and
- Solomon Islands (2 males).

These attachments were for reviewing and updating management plans for various specific fisheries including aquaculture and FAD management and development plans

☒ Second PIJP was recruited in late 2017 and started in Noumea in early February 2018. After settling in the PIJP received training in the use of GIS and attended the same two-week training with MPI in New Zealand covering how fisheries management is undertaken in New Zealand including some field trips.

Overall: Good progress under this output with two PIJP staff recruited with a programme of capacity development for them, in Noumea, and MPI in New Zealand, and in the field with project staff. There were 11 attachments to Noumea for specific activities to progress national work under the supervision of project staff. One training workshop was undertaken in Noumea for Melanesian countries covering fisheries policy and management plans.

Output 5

Output 5: MCS&E modules with supporting databases are developed and training delivered.

Year 1 Report: Work in this area also commenced in mid-January 2017. Work commenced on identifying course materials and needs for the coastal and aquaculture MCS&E training modules. Ian F was in contact with FFA and they have provided all modules for their tuna fishery MCS&E foundation course, and these are being assessed for what can be used, what is not necessary, and most importantly, what are the gaps that need to be filled. Some initial discussions have taken place to list the new areas and a suitable time being sought to meet with MPI staff to get their input as well. Other MCS&E documentation from Australia and New Zealand is also being assessed.

Planning was also undertaken for participation in the regional MCS&E workshop to be held in April. Discussions were also undertaken with FFA on the “Blue Boat” issue where foreign vessels are IUU fishing for sea cucumbers (beche-de-mer in their processed form) on reefs in the region, and this seems to be expanding and a workshop is being planned for early May to discuss possible approaches to address this.

Fieldwork commenced in the Solomon Islands in early March to review MCS&E needs in coastal fisheries and aquaculture with the fisheries department, and the MSSIF team. Meetings were also undertaken with the FFA, to focus on collaborations in MCS&E to ensure harmonisation given that the same staff in many countries will be doing both tuna and coastal MCS&E work. Meetings were also held with WorldFish and other NGOs to get their input into MCS&E needs more at the provincial and community level.

Overall: Good progress has been made on the development of MCS&E modules, with some course materials and assessment materials being developed, mainly from the FFA materials. Attending the regional MCS&E workshop in April will also raise the profile on the coastal work as well as the “Blue Boat” issue.

Year 2 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- Review of Fiji Coastal Fisheries MCS to identify ways to improve its priority within MoF and training requirements to increase MCS officer’s performance. Joint activity undertaken in July with MPI and a consultant working with the MoF.
- Scoping mission to Palau to introduce SPCs MCS involvement at the coastal fisheries level. This included future plans to assist with implementation initiatives for our member countries by extending the importance of port state measures to coastal fisheries MCS and legislations as entry points to strengthening coastal fisheries management.
- Assessment undertaken in Vanuatu to better coordinate coastal fisheries MCS activities and three approaches identified; raise the profile of

coastal fisheries at the National, provincial and community level; training for Fisheries Authorised Officers; and interagency cooperation and liaison on coastal fisheries.

- Workshop undertaken in Vanuatu on coastal MCS&E and how to undertake inspections at markets/fish vendors, with practical sessions that resulted in several infringements and the confiscation of some undersized lobsters and protected shell species.
- Conducting trials of a vessel monitoring system for small boats in Tonga, with the devices installed on four fishing vessels in the aquarium trade to track and monitor where they are operating.
- Attended FAO workshop on implementation of the Port States Measures Agreement in Tonga with FFA, FAO Rome and FAO Samoa, consultants and representatives from Cook Islands 6-10 Nov 2017. The key objective of the workshop was to undertake a gap analysis of current fisheries policy, legislation and MCS systems in Tonga to ascertain areas that need improvement or review as part of the PSMA implementation process. 2nd draft of the Tongan Code of Practice for Aquaculture presented to stakeholders in Tongatapu and Vava'u. Discussions on developing a mabe pearl marketing brochure for their association also undertaken. This work was undertaken in conjunction with stakeholder consultation on the Tongan Aquaculture and Management and Development Plan.
- Visited Tarawa in February 2018 for a MCS needs scoping visit and training of Christmas Island fisheries officers scheduled for 18-27 June in conjunction with NZ MPI. Also working with Simon Diffey on his MFAT project to ensure we avoid duplications and maximise our effectiveness in Kiribati
- In conjunction with FFA, developing a National MCS strategy for Niue that covers both offshore and coastal fishing and accords with the objectives of their newly established Large Scale Marine Protected Area and Marine Spatial Plan. This first trip included a 2-day stakeholder workshop that resulted in the development of an MCS Framework for Niue. Once this is approved by the Minister, we will develop an Implementation Plan (IP) for the framework with timelines, actions and those responsible for the actions.
- Attended the annual Monitoring Control and Surveillance Working Group meeting in Honiara in March and met with new MCS officers and renewed acquaintances with old officers in his role as Coastal MCS specialist with SPC. Future MCS training needs were discussed with several countries including FSM, Fiji, Palau and Tuvalu
- 1-3 March Ian F tried to attend the student Competency Assessments for the most recent FFA foundation course students in Suva, but wasn't able to due to flight cancelations that meant he couldn't get from Port Vila to Nadi. It is hoped he will be able to attend a second round of CA's in early June. The purpose of viewing the CAs is to ascertain their suitability for the CF&A MCS course.
- Drafting of 10 new student modules and study guides for the coastal fisheries and aquaculture course, along with PPTs and teaching material. This was supported by an external consultant (Megan Streeter) who will provide direction to get the new modules accredited by USP or EQAP. Includes modifying existing FFA Foundation course modules where appropriate and then undertaking accreditation with EQAP and getting recognition of prior learning for students.
- Provided advice to MCS officers in Palau on legal aspects of fish inspections and a recent hot pursuit of an offender in their EEZ.

Overall: Good progress has been made on the development of MCS&E modules and study guides, with a consultant hired to assist Ian with this. Some course materials and assessment materials being developed, drawing on the FFA materials. Reviews and assessments of coastal MCS&E needs and gaps undertaken in Fiji, Palau, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati and Niue. Trials also underway in Tonga with a small-boat vessel monitoring system that is looking very positive.

Year 3 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered: Visited Niue and in conjunction with FFA finalised a National compliance Strategy to integrate with their Marine Spatial planning Program. Also introduced a drone manufacturing company to Niue government officials with the intent of developing a pilot trial for drone usage in Niue's coastal waters and offshore waters around Beveridge reef. Completed MCS training for 13 fisheries officers and staff on Kiritimati Island in August and provided support for the stakeholder consultation on the management plan for their Aquarium Fish Fishery. Attended the Competency Assessments for Cohort 4 of the Cert IV in Fisheries Compliance and Enforcement (old FFA foundation course) in Fiji in June to assist and ascertain the applicability of some of the assessments as CA's for the Certificate IV CF&A Compliance course. Participated as a member in 4 meetings of the Industry Advisory Committee that was established to provide advice to EQAP on the development of 2 micro qualifications – Seafood Quality

and Safety and Small Seafood Business Management. Both micro qualifications were accredited by EQAP and will be offered as courses in the 2nd half of 2019. ☐ Had the new modules in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture MCS accredited by USP as a certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries & Aquaculture (CF&A) Compliance. This was a huge task to get thought the various approval committee's and USP processes and was greatly assisted by the guidance and hard work of Megan Streeter. ☐ Conducted the Competency Assessments for Cohort 1 students in the CF&A Compliance course in Fiji – Nov 2019 with assistance from AFMA, NZ MPI, Fiji Ministry of Fisheries and my MFAT team colleagues. 16 Students were assessed as competent and are currently adding to improved coastal fisheries MCS in their respective countries. ☐ Currently calling for nominations for cohort 2 of the Cert IV CFA Compliance course with 28 applicants to date.

Presented at the 6th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in Bangkok on "Capacity Building in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture MCS". Also attended the Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies Conference at the same venue that will have potential applications in the coastal fisheries and aquaculture MCS world in the future. ☐ Developed a survey to assess the level of support from SPC members for a regional MCS database. This was distributed at the 2nd RTMCF and again distributed by an official circular in February 2019 due to limited responses. At the time of writing we still have poor responses so will be followed up verbally at HoF and update provided at the steering Committee meeting. ☐ Participated as SPCs representative at the 2018 Fisheries Exchange and the 6th Assembly of the Arctic Circle in October in Reykjavik, Iceland which was a follow up from a fisheries exchange with the Icelanders in 2017. The exchange was held to coincide with the Arctic Circle Assembly that I also attended. Both events were part of a longer term engagement in shared fisheries and ocean sustainability, facilitated by the Arctic Circle and Conservation International with the support of the Government of Iceland and the Nia Tero foundation. ☐ Designed, sourced and purchased 200 fisheries officer notebooks and inserts along with 50 Hi-Vis Fisheries Officer vests and baseball caps for distribution to participants who successfully complete the national MCS training or the Certificate IV course in CFA Compliance.

Overall: The Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance has been developed and accredited by USP. The first cohort of 16 students passed in late November 2018 and applications have been called for the 2nd cohort starting in March 2019. To date 28 applications have been received. USP has committed to running the course for the next cohorts with SPC handling the Competency Assessments. A MCS scoping visit is planned for FSM in May along with MCS training for coastal fisheries Officers in RMI. Discussions are currently underway with Vanuatu to implement a small craft vessel tracking system and Tonga to extend their current trial VMS system to the snapper fishery fleet. Challenges: Inability to work with MZ MPI during much of 2018-early 2019 as specific Pacific section was under review so this impacted on the timing of initial MCS training in Kiritimati and prevented follow-up training in Vanuatu (Port Vila and Santo). Train the trainer is a misnomer in this project as most coastal fisheries authorities have no training capacity or specific people employed as qualified trainers. It is anticipated Ian Freeman will have the opportunity to "train" some of the more experienced fisheries officers after the 2nd round of national MCS workshops and provide support in a mentoring capacity as these officers are encouraged to pass on their knowledge to their less experienced colleagues.

Output 6

Output 6: Awareness-raising materials on fisheries rules, regulations and penalties are developed and disseminated.

Year 1 Report: There were no activities planned under this output, with activities to commence in the second year of the project (July 2017) and is costed in the Year 2 work plan. In regard to lessons learned from the overall project, again, it is too early to make any assessments given the project has really only been operational for around four months at the time of reporting. That being said, the steering committee discussions highlighted some issues with the reporting to get the format and layout correct and streamlined and some work has commenced on the monitoring and evaluation tools to streamline reporting in the future.

Year 2 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- Development of ship identification posters for FSM's Coast Watcher program so that coast watchers can identify the various types of vessels they may see with particular emphasis on fishing boats and small-scale vessels from Indonesia and Vietnam. Final draft provided to FSM in November for approval before printing.
- Attendance and contribution to the development of a gender toolkit for coastal fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with a range of partners, to assist the implementation of this and other coastal fisheries initiatives once the materials are developed and available.
- Developed a Vietnamese blue boat identification poster in English language for the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. These were translated into pidgin and bislama and produced 110 of each version for distribution to outer island communities and villages.
- Development of awareness raising materials, brochure and posters, covering the protected species in Vanuatu, for display in public places (posters) and distribution to communities and tourists (brochures) including translation of the Guide and Information Sheets for Fishing Communities into Bislama.
- Finalised arrangements for an article on the need for green snail and turtle protection to appear in Island Living Magazine for 12 months
- Visited Tarawa for a MCS needs scoping visit and commenced development of awareness and community education material for Kiribati's new coastal fisheries regulations. Awareness materials currently being developed and will be progressed via email and during a visit in May 2018.

Overall: Good progress with this output that started up in year 2 of the project. It is expected that work in this area will increase as information materials are produced for awareness raising, especially with MCS&E and new regulations and management arrangements. To date, several posters have been produced, some in local language, for FSM, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati.

Year 3 Report: Activities undertaken during the reporting period under this output covered:

- ☒ Development of ship identification posters for FSM's Coast Watcher program so that coast watchers can identify the various types of vessels they may see with particular emphasis on fishing boats and small-scale vessels from Indonesia and Vietnam. Poster was printed and sent to FSM during this reporting period. And on-going with FSM to produce a FAD identification poster for their coast watcher program
- ☒ Developed invertebrate size measuring devices to progress once KIR legislation with new size limit regulations is updated.
- ☒ PEUMP and MFAT projects Information and Outreach Officer recruited, 25% of this position's salary will be paid from this project to develop awareness raising material. Work will commence with the new PEUMP./MFAT officer to design a communication strategy for KIR including community awareness posters and educational material for the new coastal fisheries regulations

Overall: Slow progress with this output that started up in year 2 of the project. Now that the Information and Outreach officer is recruited, it is expected that work in this area will increase as information materials are produced for awareness raising, especially with MCS&E and new regulations and management arrangements.