



**COMMISSION
EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
Electronic Meeting
1 – 7 December 2021

UPDATED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

**WCPFC18-2021-09
16 November 2021**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the updated Strategic Investment Plan for consideration by the Commission. A brief report on implementation of the Plan is also provided.

Background

2. The Strategic Investment Plan was approved by the Commission in December 2018. Its stated purpose is “to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies.” The Commission agreed that the Plan would be updated annually by the Secretariat for approval by the Commission and that the Secretariat would report to the Commission on implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan each year.
3. In December 2019, during the WCPFC16 meeting, FFA members requested that when preparing future Strategic Investment Plan updates, that further detail be provided on how and whether specific requests were met, including how the Secretariat assisted with any administrative support, where relevant (WCPFC16 Summary Report, paragraph 134 - 135). The agreed outcome was “The Commission approved the Updated 2019 Strategic Investment Plan (Attachment G*) and tasked the Secretariat to provide additional information and context to the revisions and updates made to the Strategic Investment Plan.” (WCPFC16 Summary Report, paragraph 136)

Overview of updates made to the Plan

4. In adopting the Strategic Investment Plan, the Commission agreed “to make any capacity assistance needs identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report and in Part 2 reports (as may be agreed by TCC each year to be contained in the Executive Summary of the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report), as public domain data that will inform annual updates of the Strategic Investment Plan.” The Secretariat has incorporated updates that consider the outcomes from consideration of capacity assistance needs and as were

identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report adopted by TCC17 and in the 2021 Parts 2 Annual Reports (**Attachment 1**). This year the Secretariat has incorporated a new section within the Strategic Investment Plan to summarise the capacity building activities that FFA/SPC have advised were supported annually through the “Regional Capacity Building Workshops” annual budget line listed under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme.

Report on Implementation

5. Since early 2019, the Commission has maintained an *Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention* webpage at this link:- <https://www.wcpfc.int/implementation-article-30-convention>. The webpage is dedicated to the Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention and includes the following information:
 - Current and historical Strategic Investment Plans;
 - Funding options, eligibility and application processes;
 - Special Requirements Fund (SRF) proposals and project completion reports for projects greater than \$10,000;
 - 2013-06 template and assessments to date¹; and
 - Reports by CCMs on implementation of 2013-07.
6. A copy of the CMM 2013-07 reports from CCMs have been posted to the Article 30 webpage, as well as to WCPFC17 meeting page as **WCPFC18-2021-IP01**.
7. A list of activities that have been funded in 2021 under the SRF, Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and the Chinese Taipei Trust Funds (CTTF) can be found in the Finance and Administrative Committee (FAC15) paper Report on the Status of Other Funds ([WCPFC18-2021-FAC15-07](#)). In respect of the SRF, there were two approved requests for the use of the SRF this year.
8. Generally, the COVID pandemic has continued to affect the implementation of other activities that were proposed to be funded from the WCPFC budget as well as from other funding sources in 2021. For example, some projects may not have been started/completed particularly where training/attendance at events required travel and could not be substituted by new or wider use of on-line training packages or support materials. COVID circumstances are expected to continue to affect CCMs ability to plan and use the funding sources underpinning the delivery of the proposed strategic investments, and in turn, affecting the Secretariat’s ability to deliver against the plan in the shorter term.

Recommendation

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| 9. WCPFC18 is invited to note the report and approve the updated Strategic Investment Plan (Attachment 1). |
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¹ This section is a work in progress with some historical submissions to be included

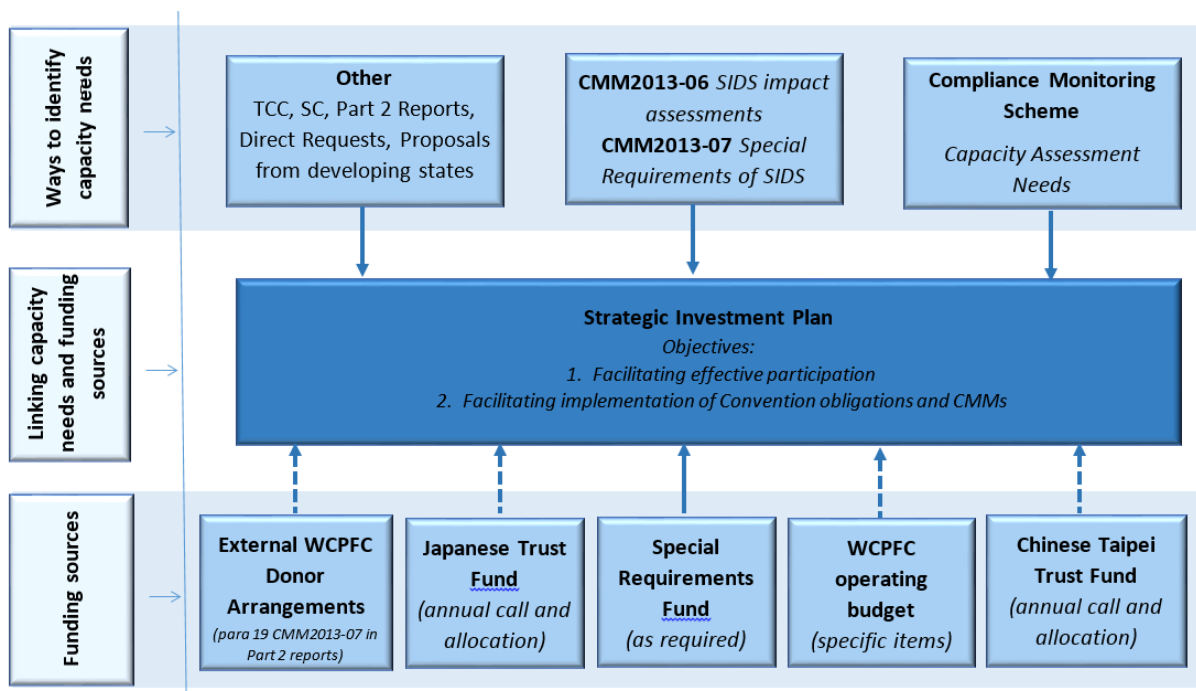


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2020-2021 Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14th meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
 - effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
 - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention¹.

Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC¹⁷⁶ in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

<p>Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that were some continuing delays in 2020 in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan due to COVID-19 circumstances. TCC17 noted that implementation of the capacity needs in the Capacity Development Plan is still open and requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the necessary technical assistance can take place. TCC noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that assistance and funding was being sought from SPC to hold dedicated workshops on sharks. However, this has been delayed due to COVID-19. TCC17 noted the continuing delays due to COVID-19 circumstances in implementation of the capacity needs in the Capacity Development Plan and requested Indonesia to report back following TCC with more specificity on the dates when the necessary technical assistance can take place. TCC noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY 2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that for RY 2020 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</p>
<p>Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in</p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020)</p>	<p>TCC noted that a written report was received from the Philippines on progress on its Capacity Development Plan which provided a schedule for implementation to progressively increase observer coverage in Philippine waters over 2020 to 2023.</p>

¹ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

<p>areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5)</p>		<p><u>TCC noted that for RY 2020 Philippine’s capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met.</u></p>
<p><u>Indonesia for 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35)</u></p>	<p><u>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</u></p>	<p><u>TCC noted that Indonesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35 is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects Indonesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</u></p>
<p><u>French Polynesia for CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 06)</u></p>	<p><u>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</u></p>	<p><u>TCC noted that French Polynesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6 is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects French Polynesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</u></p>
<p><u>French Polynesia for Sea Turtle mitigation requirements for shallow-set longline vessels, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a)</u></p>	<p><u>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020)</u></p>	<p><u>TCC noted that French Polynesia’s capacity assistance needed for the implementation of the obligation in CMM 2018-04 paragraph 7a is incorporated into a Capacity Development Plan for RY 2020. TCC17 expects French Polynesia to be meet this obligation in 2022.</u></p>

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2020 and that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2021. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2019⁸ and are continuing in RY 2020 (#). These are identified in paragraph 36 of the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report:

<u>Obligation</u>	<u>Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 reporting year</u>
<p><u>CMM 2017-03</u> <u>03-06, 11, 12</u> <u>Observer Safety</u> <u>CMM</u></p>	<p><u>Cook Islands:</u> Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require <u>legislation changes #</u></p>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 01-03</u> <u>General Provisions</u></p>	<p><u>"Indonesia</u> is included in the SIDS partnership as announced at the <u>Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference)</u> was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. <u>Several multi-stakeholders partnerships initiatives for SIDS where Indonesia as one of the partners have been operating in several SIDS such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island for Coral Triangle Initiative.</u> http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238 <u>Recently, in mid 2020, Indonesia called for mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States during a discussion with the premise on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 agenda and the Samoa Pathway: Small Island Developing States</u></p> <p><u>Kiribati</u> is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p><u>RMI</u> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><u>Tonga</u> cooperate at regional and sub regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries.</p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</p>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 04-05</u> <u>Capacity development for personnel</u></p>	<p><u>Fiji</u> still needs trainings and attachments in the following areas: 1) prosecution 2) data analysis 3) MCS #</p> <p><u>Indonesia</u> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><u>Kiribati</u> is a small island country with limited resources to manage its vast EEZ.</p> <p><u>RMI</u> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> received no assistance in this category since 2017</p> <p><u>Tonga:</u> Our current national capacity does not provide Tonga ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is recipient of capacity development assistance</p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</p>

<u>Obligation</u>	<u>Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2020 reporting year</u>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 06-07</u> <u>Assistance with technology transfers</u></p>	<p><u>FSM:</u> <u>National IMS Development/FIMS Development/TUFMN2 development/EM/ER initiatives</u></p> <p><u>Indonesia</u> <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p><u>Kiribati</u> <u>as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</u></p> <p><u>RMI</u> <u>is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</u></p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> <u>received no assistance in this category since 2017</u></p> <p><u>Tonga:</u> <u>Our current national capacity does not provide Tonga ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is recipient of capacity development assistance</u></p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> <u>CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</u></p>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 08-09</u> <u>Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</u></p>	<p><u>FSM:</u> <u>bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring and sharing of MCS data when necessary</u></p> <p><u>Indonesia</u> <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p><u>Kiribati:</u> <u>Kiribati is small island with limited resources, hence unable to provides further assistance while concentrating effort within national jurisdiction only.</u></p> <p><u>RMI</u> <u>is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</u></p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> <u>received no assistance in this category since 2017</u></p> <p><u>Tonga</u> <u>cooperate at regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS Fisheries</u></p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> <u>CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</u></p>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 10-11</u> <u>Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance</u></p>	<p><u>Indonesia</u> <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p><u>Kiribati:</u> <u>As small island state with only one patrol boat to monitor three separated EEZ. Kiribati greatly need assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage. #</u></p> <p><u>RMI</u> <u>is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</u></p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> <u>received no assistance in this category since 2017</u></p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> <u>CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</u></p>
<p><u>CMM 2013-07</u> <u>Paras 12-18</u> <u>support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</u></p>	<p><u>FSM:</u> <u>PNA market related initiatives - MSC, VDS,CDS,EM/ER,PSM</u></p> <p><u>Indonesia</u> <i>(as per above response for 01-03)</i></p> <p><u>RMI</u> <u>is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</u></p> <p><u>New Caledonia</u> <u>received no assistance in this category since 2017</u></p> <p><u>Vanuatu:</u> <u>CCM is in need of adequate capacity assistance provided for by the Commission and its partners on all areas.</u></p>

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment A**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
<p>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). <p>It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.</p> <p>Parameters around accessing the program will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget
Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program
Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

Capacity assistance delivered by FFA/SPC that were funded through the Regional Capacity Building Workshop budget item in the WCPFC core budget

10. Each year since 2015, the Commission has included under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme an annual budget line for Regional Capacity Building Workshops which FFA/SPC are to advise on the activities to be supported. The following are the activities that have been funded annually:

<u>2016: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP</u>	<u>To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills</u>	<u>Cost: \$126,268</u>
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for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers		
2017: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: \$55,000
2017: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$75,000
2018: WCPFC support towards FFA capacity building workshops	Two regional workshops were held (April and November) on allocation processes. Several opportunities were taken during the year to engage members on the development of a regional longline strategy with a dedicated workshop held in November. A dedicated workshop to discuss the south Pacific albacore target reference point, and development of the roadmap was held in November.	Cost: \$72,558
2018: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$57,442
2019: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$71,625
2021: WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$223,374

ATTACHMENT A

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment B for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

ATTACHMENT B

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members