COMMISSION
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Manila, Philippines
2-6 December 2012

GEF ABNJ Project Proposal Endorsement

WCPFC9-2012-24
13 November 2012

This paper was sent to members in Circular 87. The covering letter to this Circular explains the process of the development of the proposal and also the requirement for a letter of endorsement from the WCPFC to the FAO/GEF.

This project proposal while requiring support does not require any additional funding to be provided by the WCPFC but seeks to identify in-kind funding that can be attributed for the project proposal.

Decision: The members of the WCPFC to discuss the project proposal and decide on whether to provide endorsement for the in-kind funding required for the proposal.

TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

Circular No. : 2012/87
Date: 13 November 2012
No. pages: 36

Global Environment Fund (GEF)....Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Initiative

Dear All:

Please find attached the following documents:

- FAO/GEF Executive Summary (Attachment A);
- Samples of endorsement letters (Attachment B); and
- Letter from the Executive Director (ED) on a proposal for Sustainable Management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through funding by GEF

These documents are circulated as requested by the ED.

Thanks

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Executive Director

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ATTACHMENT A
FAO/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
PROJECT SUMMARY[1]

Countries:	Global Project
Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
GEF Project ID:	4581
FAO Project ID:	614524
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/GLO/365/GFF
GEF Agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Other Executing Partners:	T-RFMOs (CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, and WCPFC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Government of Fiji and Government of Ghana, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), BirdLife International (BLI), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and industry.
GEF Focal Area:	Multifocal Area (International Waters and Biodiversity)
GEF Strategic Programme:	FAP Program: Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
Duration:	60 months
Estimated Starting Date:	1 February 2013
Estimated Completion:	31 January 2018

Financing Plan:

GEF/LDCF/SCCF allocation:		USD 27.193,500
Co-financing:		
	FAO	USD 25,000,000
	CCSBT	USD 1,300,000
	IATTC	USD 6,285,000
	ICCAT	USD 4,334,000
	IOTC	USD 2,534,000
	WCPFC	USD 6,347,000
	FFA	USD 2,000,000
	OSPESCA	USD 200,000
	PNA	USD 113,800
	SPC	USD 348,500
	Govt. of Fiji	USD 335,600
	Govt. of Ghana	USD 1,118,000
	NOAA	USD 45,000,000
	ACAP	USD 992,500
	BLI	USD 2,900,000
	ISSF	USD 2,297,000
	MSC	USD 150,000
	WWF	USD 15,000,000
	Industry	USD 34,673,900
Subtotal Cofinancing		**USD150,929,300**
Total Project Budget:		**USD 178,122,800**

[1] Prepared for WCPFC Commission meeting and taken from the draft project document (Nov 2 2012)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The oceans make up about 40 % of the Earth's surface and support a wide range of natural processes including oxygen production, carbon dioxide absorption and climate regulation that are vital for the existence of life on earth. The ocean areas that lie beyond states' jurisdiction are commonly considered to be the world's last large global commons and many of the world's most valuable fisheries and marine ecosystems are found in or are functionally connected with these Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). These areas contain critically important ecosystems and their use and conservation pose unique challenges for global environmental governance. Moreover, the ecosystems are inextricably linked to the health and productivity of other adjacent ecosystems. Consequently, poorly managed ABNJ fisheries can seriously undermine the viability of coastal fisheries on which over 540 million people rely for jobs and food security.

The five tuna Regional Fishery Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) and their member countries are responsible for the management of tuna resources both within ABNJ and the related Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). These t-RFMOs have been established with mandates that primarily focus on ensuring the sustainable use, conservation and management of tuna fisheries. To fulfil their mandates, the member countries of t-RFMOs work collaboratively and through specialized committees. As directed by their members, they pilot and implement various approaches and activities for the management of tuna fisheries including bycatches and all t-RFMOs have in place conservation management measures aimed at the management of resources and biodiversity conservation. Notwithstanding, experience shows that managing fishing capacity remains a real challenge, catch limits have been applied with too many exceptions and/or in ineffective ways, making it hard to regulate the total catch. As a consequence, there is a growing interest among stakeholders that rights based approaches coupled with strong Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, offers promising alternative approaches to current management systems in some areas. Moreover, duly established processes to allocate fishing opportunities among t-RFMO members, in a fair, transparent and equitable manner, has been highlighted as imperative for effective management of global fishing capacity for tuna resources worldwide.

This Project, "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction", is a critical component of the overall GEF supported ABNJ Programme "ABNJ Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction". It offers a unique opportunity for GEF and FAO and their associated partners to fast track the development, management and sustainability of ABNJ fisheries and biodiversity conservation. Without the Project, the current inconsistencies in management, high levels of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and threats to biodiversity from current fishing practices would likely have increasingly negative impacts on the tuna stocks and marine biodiversity and therefore, on people's wellbeing.

With the Project, GEF funds would be used to provide the necessary boost and incentive to address the issues and constraints previously discussed; a set of challenges beyond the capability of any single partner/stakeholder represented in this project. Consequently, GEF funding would result in substantial progress towards achieving the agreed goals at national, regional and global levels for ABNJ fisheries.

The goal of the Full-Size Project (FSP) is to achieve sustainable and profitable tuna fisheries while conserving biodiversity by: (i) improving fisheries management through the application of an ecosystem approach to fishing, establishment of harvest control rules that take account of reference points; (ii) reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and (iii) mitigating adverse impacts of tuna fisheries on biodiversity.

The project strategy is to foster a new wave of technical cooperation and partnering among the key stakeholders, to provide additional critical human and financial resources to catalyze and accelerate priority activities of the tuna RFMOs.

This goal can be expected to be achieved through a multiple-phase approach over a period of 15 – 25 years of which the present Project of five years represents the initial phase. In this initial phase progress toward meeting this goal would be achieved through supporting the implementation of three mutually reinforcing components, each one offering solutions to inter related issues – plus a cross-cutting component in support of project monitoring and evaluation and information dissemination. The activities proposed in the three thematic components respond to relevant national, sub regional and regional fishery management organization priorities as identified through inter alia the Kobe Process and are designed to supplement and complement on-going support already provided by other partners/stakeholder directed at achieving the sustainable development of ABNJ fisheries. The project components address: (i) Promotion of sustainable management in accordance with an ecosystem approach; (ii) Strengthening and Harmonization of Monitoring, Control & Surveillance to Address Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing; (iiii) Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Fishing; and (iv) Information and Best Practices Dissemination and Project Monitoring & Evaluation.

The main transformational change supported by these components over time will be to achieve a significant progression towards the adoption of management systems set according to a rigorous ecosystem approach thereby ensuring efficient and sustainable fishing over the years. The main outcomes from the Project will be: (i) the adoption of precautionary fishery management decisions that implement Harvest Control Rules and limit Reference Points; (ii) each t-RFMO agrees on priority ecosystem components and management goals including bycatch species; (iii) Rights-based Management implemented as an effective effort / capacity management tool option in at least one t-RFMO region (WCPFC); (iv) RBM promoted and awareness raised; (v) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance systems addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related activities are strengthened and harmonized through adoption of action plan\study recommendations by t-RFMOs and States; (vi) improved ability to detect, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; (vii) at least two t-RFMOs (WCPFC and IATTC) adopt harmonized data standards and fields for bycatch to facilitate interoperability; (viii) at least 40 % of vessels in both ICCAT and IOTC regions report uptake of agreed conservation management measures in support of mitigation of adverse seabird impacts; (viii) new conservation and management measures for bycatch mitigation measures for small tunas/sharks in purse seine fisheries adopted by at least two t-RMFOs; (ix) adoption of new CMMs for sharks designed to maintain key species within biologically acceptable limits by at least two t-RFMOs (WCPFC and IATTC); and (x) adoption of new CMMs for sharks designed to maintain key species within biologically acceptable limits by at least two t-RFMOs.

The associated Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) will mainly be achieved in terms of: (i) effective application of new CMMs that result in measurable improvements to the status of the tuna stocks in the areas under the jurisdiction of the five t-RFMOs, with catches reduced and lower than their maximum sustainable yields; and (ii) measureable reductions in the threats to bycatch species in the areas under the jurisdiction of the five t-RFMOs, especially for sharks as target species, marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds.

This Project supports the implementation of a number of important global instruments that will significantly enhance the conservation and management of fisheries resources. These include: (i) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the associated United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; (ii) the 10 December 1982 Agreement relating to the Conservation and Management of

Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; (iii) Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas; (iv) FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; (v) FAO International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards; (vi) FAO International Plans of Action (IPOAs) for IUU, Seabirds and Sharks); (vii) FAO Guidelines for Reducing Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations; (vii) Agreement on Port State Measures (PSM) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (Port-State Measures Agreement); (viii) Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on Migratory Species; (ix) Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels; (x) Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles; (xi) UN resolution on Sustainable Fisheries (A/RES/66/68) and (xi) Millennium Development Goals as well as a number of international conventions associated with the establishment of the t-RFMOs.

1 PROJECT FRAMEWORK AND EXPECTED RESULTS

1.1 PROJECT STRATEGY

The project strategy is to foster a new wave of technical cooperation and partnering among the key stakeholders, to provide additional critical human and financial resources to catalyze and accelerate agreed recommendations made through the joint meetings of tuna RFMOs who have recognized: (i) the critical need to arrest further stock decline in the case of depleted stocks; (ii) the importance of maintaining and rebuilding tuna stocks to sustainable levels and to deal effectively with overfishing, overcapacity and IUU fishing activities; and (iii) the value in jointly committing to actions to cooperate through tuna RFMOs in accordance with their obligations under international law.

Cooperation among tuna RFMOs in recent years has been enhanced through the Kobe process through which the foundations for more effective management of tuna fisheries have been laid. Notwithstanding, limited financial resources and technical resources have constrained progress. Building on the foundations laid by the Kobe process, taking advantage of incremental support from like minded civil society organizations, the tuna fishing industry and the GEF, an opportunity exists for renewed and enhanced actions to transition tuna fisheries to a sustainable basis. Work towards this broader stakeholder partnership started in earnest in 2011 and has continued through engagement with stakeholders during COFI 2011, the Madrid Workshop, Kobe III as well as through stakeholder consultations at t-RFMO Commission / Scientific meetings and other appropriate fora.

Bringing together an alliance of the top organizations engaged with fisheries management and oceans biodiversity together with the private sector, civil society and the GEF, provides access to human and financial resources far greater than any one single organization can muster. And, through this alliance, the Project aims to address what has been seemingly intractable problems confronting the effective management of fisheries in the high seas can actually be reversed and lead to both sustainable economic development and ocean biodiversity conservation. As a collective, the efforts by all project partners will support the further development of fisheries management systems and fishing practices including: (i) the application of an ecosystem approach and the establishment of harvest control rules that take account of reference points; (ii) the reduction of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and (iii) the mitigation of adverse impacts of tuna fisheries on biodiversity.

1.2 PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to achieve sustainable and profitable tuna fisheries while conserving biodiversity by: (i) improving fisheries management through the application of an ecosystem approach to fishing and establishment of harvest control rules that take account of reference points; (ii) reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and (iii) mitigating adverse impacts of tuna fisheries on biodiversity.

1.3 EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES

The main outcomes from this project will be: (i) the adoption of precautionary fishery management decisions that implement HCR and RP; (ii) each t-RFMO agrees on priority ecosystem components and management goals including non-targeted species; (iii) RBM incorporated as an effective management tool in at least one t-RFMO region; (iv) RBM promoted and awareness raised; (v) MCS systems addressing IUU fishing and related activities are strengthened and harmonized through adoption of action plan\study recommendations by t-RFMOs and States; (vi) improved ability to detect, deter and eliminate IUU fishing; (vii) at least two t-RFMOs (WCPFC and IATTC) adopt harmonized data standards and fields for bycatch to facilitate interoperability; (viii) at least 40

% of vessels in both ICCAT and IOTC regions report uptake of agreed (CMM) seabird mitigation measures; (ix) new CMMs for bycatch mitigation measures including for small tunas/sharks in purse seine fisheries adopted by at least 2 t-RMFOs (WCPFC and IATTC); and (x) adoption of new CMMs for sharks designed to maintain key species within biologically acceptable limits by at least two t-RFMOs.

1.4 PROJET COMPONENTS AND OUTPUTS

The Project has been structured into the following five interlinked components and sub-components. These are presented in Table 1 and described in more detail below and include accompanying outputs and outcomes presented by sub-component and component, respectively. Component 5, Information Dissemination and M&E, a non-technical cross-cutting component, has been described in Section 6 (for more detail on the project's outputs and outcomes see the Results Framework in Appendix 1).

Table 1. Components and Sub-components of the Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Project

1. Promotion of sustainable management (including Rights-Based Management) of tuna fisheries, in accordance with an ecosystem approach
A. Incorporation of HCR and RP into t-RFMO CMMs
B. Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)
C. Improved Decision Making
D. Rights Based Management
2. Strengthening and Harmonizing MCS to Address IUU
A. MCS "Best Practices" Identified and Endorsed
B. Implementation of Selected "Best Practices"
C. Updating, Expanding and Improving the Reliability of the CLAV, National and Regional Vessel Registries (GR).
D Satellite-based VMS & EOS LL and PS Pilot Activities
E. Maximize MCS Tool Synergies
F. Market/trade Policy Traceability Analyses and "Best Practices"
3. Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Tuna Fishing
A. Improved Information on Bycatch
B. Expanded and Implemented Bycatch Mitigation LL and PS "best-practices" Pilot Activities
C. Improved and Integrated Shark Management
4. Information and Best Practices Dissemination and M&E
A. Information and Best Practices Dissemination
B. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Component 1. Promotion of sustainable management (including Rights-Based Management) of tuna fisheries, in accordance with an ecosystem approach (Component Budget USD 40.2 M; GEF Grant USD 7.9 M). The objective of the component is to accelerate the adoption of and incorporation of HCRs into t-RFMO CMMs.

Development and agreement on decision frameworks are important components of sustainable management of tuna fisheries. Maintenance of sustainable fisheries requires implementing a precautionary approach to fishery management, as called for under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and as framed in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.[2] To support this approach, conservation and management measures or CMMs based on harvest control rules (HCR) that take account of reference points (RP) need to be evaluated and considered by the relevant t-RFMOs.

[2] The precautionary approach involves the application of prudent foresight, taking account of the uncertainties in fisheries systems and the need to take action with incomplete knowledg

While some t-RFMOs have progressed this concept, there has yet to be general acceptance and implementation of HCRs which relate recommended catch and/or another fishery control measures to the current state of the stock as reflected on the value of selected control variables.[3]

Advancing the Precautionary Approach through adoption of HCRs requires significant feedback (dialogue) between scientific advisors, policy-makers and stakeholders to illuminate key desirable features of these decision frameworks. This dialogue needs to elicit from t-RFMO policy-makers and stakeholders, preferred management alternatives, time-frames, and tolerable risk-of-failure levels (degree of precaution) in achieving each Commission's Convention objectives while scientific advisors need to fully characterize uncertainty in stock status evaluations in order to advise on the odds of achieving management objectives under the alternatives considered. In response, the Kobe process has agreed that broader application of decision support tools such as the Kobe II Strategy Matrix (K2SM)[4] be more fully developed and utilized in communicating risk-reward trade-offs for achieving management objectives under different management alternatives.

Participants in the Kobe Process recommended that a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process in support of HCR development needs be widely implemented in the t-RFMOs. In this way, t-RFMOs can objectively consider the ability of different candidate HCRs to deliver across the range of desired management outcomes and choose an HCR for a management procedure that is appropriate to the characteristics of the different fisheries involved and most robust to meeting Convention objectives with high probability of success.

The open access nature of fisheries for tunas and high market demand has led to substantial overcapacity in harvest potential. Rights based approaches, where tenure and responsibilities are assigned, tend to generate more wealth and benefits and at a lower cost in terms of harvesting, conservation and management. However, the establishment of such regimes in an international fishery poses a range of particularly difficult conceptual, political, legal and economic challenges. Approaches to rights based management have been initiated in some fisheries but there remain challenges to make such systems more effective.

The component objective will be achieved through providing support for the following three sub-components:

Sub-component 1. A. Incorporation of HCR and RP into t-RFMO CMMs. The objective of this sub-component is to accelerate t-RFMO development and acceptance of HCRs and reference points in support of sustainable fisheries management decision-making through supplementing t-RFMO funds for preparation for and conduct of regular regional dialogue workshops focused on MSE and the uncertainty in stock status evaluations. The main output from this sub-component will be MSE science management dialogue reports and their consideration by the t-RFMOs through their respective Commission Meetings.

Sub-component 1. B. Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). The objective of this sub-component is to provide support on development of EAF plans within t-RFMOs.

[3] HCRs can be empirical or model based in which the control variables are quantities estimated from stock assessment or other models (e.g., $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$ and $SSB_{current}/B_{MSY,}$ the metrics used in the Kobe plots now applied in all the t-RFMOs).

[4] A decision table in a harmonized format for presentation of fishery management alternatives. The K2SM is expected to improve the way in which the tuna RFMOs' Scientific Committees communicate to the Commissioners the potential risks and consequences of management options. When possible, K2SM tables, or similar tools, can guide Commission discussions when adopting conservation and management measures with the aim of providing a high probability of achieving and maintaining stocks at levels consistent with Convention objectives. The precautionary approach, which reflects the UN Fish Stocks Agreement as well as certain tuna RFMO Conventions, may be implemented by adopting a higher level of probability of success for a given management action.

Accordingly, the outputs from this sub-component will be draft EAF plans developed through t-RFMO workshops which identify the priority areas for furthering the EAF in each of the t-RFMOs.

Sub-component 1. C. Improved Decision Making. The objective of this sub-component is to increase capacity in at least 10 G77 t-RFMO members to more effectively participate in development of management advice and decision-making through three sets of activities. These are: (i) supplementing existing t-RFMO capacity building funds, (ii) directed national training of fisheries administration personnel and other key stakeholders on t-RFMO processes for development of management advice and decision-making based on common curricula and (iii) improved characterization of catch composition and disposition in data poor fisheries. The main output will be the provision of additional training for decision-making in the context of precautionary fishery management in at least ten G77 countries.

Sub-component 1. D. Rights-based Management (RBM). The objective of this component is to evaluate, strengthen and promote RBM systems in tuna fisheries. Within the area of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, the eight Pacific island countries in the Nauru Agreement have recently replaced the previous limited vessel entry scheme with a limited fishing day scheme, the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS). This is a form of individual transferable effort and represents a rights-based management system. The rights afforded under the Vessel Days Scheme (VDS) among the PNA group will, when effectively implemented be transformational in at least three ways: (i) to deal with ENSO-driven variations in stock distribution across countries, (ii) through options to reduce days and make the right more valuable ensuring a greater stream of revenues to SIDS and (iii) through capping the number of days at a level below MSY. The vessel day scheme (VDS) places limits on the total numbers of fishing days or Total Allowable Effort (TAE) that are permitted in the EEZs of its members. The TAE is set by the PNA on the basis of the best scientific, economic and management information and advice. Notwithstanding the significant advances accomplished by the PNA and its partners with the VDS towards an effective rights based management scheme, there remain opportunities for its continued improvement. Improved effectiveness of the VDS is important because of its potential as a tool for managing the Western Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) tropical tuna fisheries, including the fisheries for skipjack. Currently, the Scheme is experiencing difficulties and inadequacies in the early stages of implementation. Accordingly, a comprehensive third party independent review and assessment of the VDS accompanied and post assessment interventions will provide the stimulus needed to overcome these shortcomings. Combining such a performance review with an international public forum on the VDS would also be an effective way of promoting rights based approaches internationally.

The objective of this sub-component component will be achieved through the supporting the following:

Sub-component 1.Di. Review, Assessment and enhancement of the VDS. The objective of this set of activities is to provide an independent assessment and performance review of the PNA Vessel Day Scheme including *inter alia*, legal, policy, resource management and socio-economic benefits analyses. Findings of the assessment process will inform and guide further improvements of the system. Results of the assessment will be made through public fora such as during COFI to inform a broad range of industry and civil society stakeholders. The main output will be technical guidance for the PNA on improving the effectiveness of the PNA VDS for skipjack tuna.

Sub-component 1.Dii. RBM Promoted and Awareness Raised. Using lessons from sub-component 1.Di the objective is to promote and raise awareness on the potential for applying Rights Based Approaches to other tuna stocks through workshops. This activity will include support to the mainstream work being carried out under the Oceans Finance Facility to Finance Effective

Management and Transitional Reform of Oceanic Fisheries. The main output will be a workshop presenting case studies on the costs and benefits of RBM.

Component 2. Strengthening and Harmonizing MCS to Address IUU (Component Budget USD 74.5 M; GEF Grant USD 9.3 M). The objective of this component is to strengthen and harmonize MCS systems. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to sustainable fisheries, marine ecosystems, and the livelihoods of legitimate fishers. It is also an increasing threat to global food security. A recent study indicates the global scale of IUU fishing is massive, worth an estimated USD 10 to USD 23 billion. There have been a number of global, regional and national efforts to combat tuna IUU fishing over the past two decades that have had some success. However, the problem still persists and is large enough to have gained international notoriety. The complete elimination of IUU fishing globally is beyond the MCS capability of any one country or regional fishery body. It will take a concerted international effort, using a variety of tools in coordination, to significantly restrain these illegal activities.

This project component takes a multifaceted approach to combat tuna IUU fishing and to harmonize MCS activities through the application of best practices, technology, training and modern MCS instruments, such as the International Plan of Action (IPOA) IPOA on IUU fishing, the Port States Measures (PSM) Agreement and the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) strengthening national and regional vessel registries through capacity building (GR). Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, it aims to involve MCS professionals and practitioners globally in a more cooperative and inclusive manner to apply these new and existing tools in the fight against IUU fishing.

The objective of the component will be achieved through the supporting the following sub-components:

Sub-component 2.A. MCS "best practices" Identified and Endorsed. The objective of this sub-component is to develop a series of internationally accepted MCS "best practices." The sub-component will support the compiling of a comprehensive inventory and review of MCS methods, MCS CMMs, and Compliance Committee practices across all t-RFMOs and selected other high performing RFMOs in the form of a comparative study. The study will be subsequently reviewed at a MCS Expert Workshop composed of t-RFMO Compliance Officers, Compliance Committee Chairs and other invited MCS experts and resource personnel. The product of the study and Expert Workshop will be a Best Practices Report and recommended Action Plan for consideration by the t-RFMOs. Regional MCS Workshops, one per t-RFMO, will also take place with emphasis placed on the participation of actual senior MCS operational representatives from member and cooperating non-member States with an intended outcome of improving and harmonizing MCS measures across all t-RFMOs. The main outputs of the sub-component will be: (i) a comparative study of t-RFMO MCS measures, practices, and Compliance Committee standards with t-RFMO Action Plan; (ii) t-RFMO MCS practitioner workshops conducted in each region; and (iii) provision of technical advice through the participation and involvement of MCS operations personnel in t-RFMO Compliance Committees through their G77 national delegations.

Sub-component 2.B. Implementation of Selected "Best Practices". The objective of this sub-component is to support a series of "best practices" identified from the previous sub-component for purposes of dissemination and upscaling to other relevant t-RFMOs and/or G 77 member countries. The sub-component will support the following: (i) provision of technical guidance through support to participation of t-RFMO G 77 member states in the semi-annual International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshops (GFETW); (ii) creation of a MCS Training and Qualification Program for compliance professionals in the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) subregion and IOTC region; and (iii) implementation of port state

measures (PSM) in the IOTC region where there already exists an enabling legal framework. The main outputs of this sub-component are: (i) MCS representatives from G77 t-RFMO countries attending the GFETW; (ii) MCS officer qualifications enhanced through successful participation in newly designed MCS training programs developed for two t-RFMO regions; and (iii) PSM resolution compliant legislation drafted for one t-RFMO country members.

Sub-component 2.C Updating, Expanding and Improving the Reliability of the CLAV, National and Regional Vessel Registries (GR). The objective of this sub-component is to improve traceability of fishing vessels through a robust CLAV and further development of the Global Record of fishing vessels (GR)[5] in order that they can be used in concert with other existing instruments to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. This objective will be achieved through supporting the two sets of activities described below:

Sub-component 2.Ci. Updating, Expanding and Improving the Reliability of the CLAV. The objective of this activity is to update, consolidate, and disseminate in near real time a Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) fishing under the auspices of t-RFMOs. The activity will support technical assistance to: (i) facilitate the interoperability of the different t-RFMO vessel lists; (ii) develop software which will support real time updating of the CLAV in response to changes made in each t-RFMO list; (iii) eliminate errors and inconsistencies in selected G 77 national vessel registers; and (iv) support the IOTC Secretariat, the "lead" t-RFMO responsible for the coordination of global CLAV work. The main output of the activity will be a fully functioning highly accurate CLAV with vessel information from all 5 t-RFMOs.

Sub-component 2.Cii Capacity Building to Improve National and Regional Vessel Registries (GR) The objective of this activity is to provide support at regional and sub-regional level through working with the *Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola de Centroamerica* (OSPESCA) and its member countries to enhance national and regional capacities to further develop their vessel registers in order to collect necessary vessel data and be able to obtain an UVI number. Specifically this activity will be achieved through: (i) a regional workshop to promote greater harmonization of national and regional vessel registers including relevant definitions and codes; (ii) technical assistance with upgrading national registers; (iii) outreach and promotional activities to raise awareness; and (iv) support to capacity building for the competent authorities, captains, shipbuilders and other stakeholders on the GR development. The main outputs of the activity be standardization, harmonization and improved performance of national and regional vessel registers.

Sub-component 2.D. Satellite-based VMS & EOS LL and PS Pilot Activities. The objective of this sub-component is to evaluate VMS-EOS as a robust tool in support of MCS. The sub-component objective will be achieved through providing support for pilot activities in Ghana (purse seine) and Fiji (longline), respectively. Activities supported under the sub-component include: (i) contracting a project design team; (ii) selection and equipping vessel subsets representative of each fishing fleet; (iii) provision of training to local observers to conduct analysis of the video footage and in the installation, maintenance, repair, and troubleshooting of the EM package; (iv) development of policy and legal frameworks to support the use of these new technologies and their integration into national fisheries management planning process; and (v) develop and implement a the business model which transfers ownership of the project activity to the national fisheries administration and the appropriate fishing fleets. The main outputs from this sub-component will be EM systems used to more effectively monitor purse seine fleets and tuna long line vessels especially those where human observers are either not available or where small size of the vessels has limited observer monitoring.

[5] Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (GR)

Sub-component 2.E. Maximize MCS Tools Synergies. The objective of this sub-component is to increase capability on both the national and regional levels to conduct fisheries intelligence analysis. The sub-component takes a two-pronged approach to improve the application of this data for directing limited MCS assets. First, human capacity will be improved at FFA and focus on IUU fishing in EEZs and areas just beyond EEZs. Second, a technological approach will be taken at WCPFC and focus on IUU fishing in the ABNJ. The two approaches in concert will vastly improve the MCS capability in the region and detail an approach for other regions to model. Specifically the sub-component will support TA to the FFA to build: (i) internal capacity to conduct MCS data analysis on a regional level and (ii) national capacity for conducting MCS data analysis. The main sub-component outputs are: (i) number of actionable targeted intelligence reports/threat assessments generated by the FFA MCS cell supporting MCS operations; and (ii) establishment of a fully functioning Information Management System (IMS) which incorporates GIS to support MCS activities.

Sub-component 2F. Market/trade Policy Traceability Analyses and "Best Practices". The objective of this sub-component is to study, identify best practices and build capacity in market trade related measures in order to combat IUU fishing. This evaluation will assess, inter alia, potential shortcomings including exemptions/exceptions, the opportunity for forgery and unauthorized duplication of paperwork, and mixing or substitution of legal and illegal material. Specifically, the sub-component will support the identification of ten developing countries producing tuna for international markets and map a total of at least one representative supply chain from each country to a major tuna market. Each country's competence with respect to issuing and handling catch certificates and other traceability documentation will be examined and proposals for capacity building in each country will be developed as necessary. Each supply chain will then be examined to determine where there are potential weaknesses for infiltration of IUU fish based on the types/locations of trade nodes involved in each chain. In addition, the catch documentation or traceability systems applicable to each supply chain will be identified and evaluated, based on theory and practice where available. Recommendations will be made for where catch documentation schemes and/or traceability schemes can be strengthened or combined to close these gaps. Combining the results from all assessed supply chains, components of a "best practice" traceability framework will be proposed as benchmark for comparing and improving existing trade flows. This framework can form the basis for voluntary sourcing policies for major tuna traders/purchasers that can be layered over current corporate traceability systems highlighting linkages between trade flows and systems, as well as areas for improvement. The main output of the sub-component will be recommendations for traceability / Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) system improvements in ten G77 t-RFMO countries.

Component 3. Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Tuna Fishing (Component Budget USD 50.1 M; GEF Grant USD 7.6 M). The objective of this component is to promote an ecosystem approach to tuna fisheries through supporting integrated management focusing on maintaining ecosystem structure and function.

Many of the species affected by tuna fisheries are components of oceanic ecosystems that mostly lie outside the focus of national fisheries management systems. In the ABNJ, t-RMFOs have traditionally focused on managing a small number of commercially- important tuna species. In recent years, t-RFMOs have begun to undertake assessments and to adopt management measures for some taxa that have traditionally been considered bycatch-mainly seabirds, sea turtles and sharks-but such actions remain limited. In most cases, these taxa are released or discarded without being recorded; impacts to their populations and to the ecosystem as a whole have gone unassessed; implementation of management measures remains limited.

The ecosystem approach to fisheries involves moving away from a primary focus on target species,

and secondary consideration of bycatch species towards integrated management focusing on maintaining ecosystem structure and function. Under the ecosystem approach, adverse impacts to ecologically-related species are not only mitigated through adjustment of tuna fishing operations, but also managed to ensure population sustainability and ecosystem integrity is maintained.

One of the key challenges to adopting the ecosystem approach is to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient knowledge and capacity to implement it effectively. In this proposal this challenge is addressed by developing systems to gather and disseminate information about taxa that are usually excluded from catch reporting (sub-component 3A). In addition to raising awareness of their ecosystem importance, this information can contribute to assessment of priority ecologically-related species and to evaluation of whether current management practices are effective and sufficient (sub-component 3C). Beyond data and assessment, another key challenge is to strengthen political will to implement agreed t-RFMO conservation and management measures involving avoidance or safe release. In many cases, these techniques are known but have yet to gain widespread uptake in fishing fleets for a variety of reasons including: safety, loss of fishing efficiency, cost, incorrect advice / insufficient information on how to correctly use such measures. At sea demonstration and training is proposed to catalyze implementation in fleets that are currently lagging behind best practice (sub-component 3B).

Specifically, the component will support the following sub-components:

Sub-component 3.A. Improved Information on Bycatch. The objective of this sub-component is to facilitate t-RFMOs and their stakeholders to make maximum use of existing information on bycatch thereby removing duplication of effort, harmonizing the information base, reducing technical uncertainty and focusing discussion on management approaches. This will be achieved through providing support for: (i) enhancing the existing data platform and using it to promote data harmonization; (ii) capturing of new and RFMO-specific data including spatial information; and (iii) promoting harmonized bycatch data standards and fields through regional workshops. The main outputs of the sub-component will be: (i) the delivery of a global t-RFMO database of bycatch mitigation and management information capable of supplying information for management decision-making; and (ii) the use of the information system for decision-making.

Sub-component 3.B. Expanded and Implemented Bycatch Mitigation LL and PS "best-practices" Pilot Activities. The objective of the sub-component will be to support the demonstration, refinement and promotion of at-sea bycatch mitigation techniques in fisheries for which there are high risk interactions and for which there is a high potential for propagating successful techniques beyond the vessels immediately involved in the trials. The sub-component will support: (i) trials for longline gear focused on seabird and turtle bycatch mitigation for vessels fishing in both the ICCAT and IOTC areas; and (ii) trials for purse seine mitigation techniques focused on small tunas and sharks in the western Pacific. The main activities will be provision of support for at-sea longline and purse seine trials, fleet dissemination meetings, regional skipper's workshops followed by t-RFMO dissemination meetings in the later years of the Project. The main outputs of the sub-component will be: (i) longline sea trials in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans designed to promote implementation of effective seabird mitigation measures conducted in at least two different fleets and results disseminated in two ocean basins; and (ii) purse seine sea trials designed to explore and confirm effective small tuna/shark mitigation measures conducted in at least one ocean basin and disseminated worldwide.

Sub-component 3.C. Improved and Integrated Shark Management. The objectives of this sub-component are to: (i) identify risks and priorities for shark conservation and management; (ii) design and implement programmes for obtaining improved data to support management measures; and (iii) to assess and identify necessary strengthening of bycatch and target shark management

measures. This sub-component will begin with establishing a baseline of the status of the individual t-RFMOs in relation to shark information, data collection and assessments. It will then proceed to support activities designed to improve management of tuna fisheries affecting sharks in the WCPFC and IATTC regions. These two t-RFMOs volunteered to host this sub-component because of their recent shark activities (e.g. the WCPFC Shark Research Plan); their ability to work together to construct a pan-Pacific shark conservation and management approach for shared stocks impacted by tuna fishing; and their acknowledgement of the importance of this issue to their members. Ultimately, technical and management innovations in these two t-RFMOs will encourage similar advances in the remaining t-RFMOs through the Kobe process and through States which are members in more than one t-RFMO. The results of this work are expected to lead to a shark data inventory and assessment catalogue, improvements to shark data holdings and four new Pacific shark stock assessments. The main outputs of the sub-component are: (i) creation and partial progress toward completion of a t-RFMO shark data inventory and assessment methods catalogue; and (ii) completion of four new Pacific shark assessments.

2 IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Partners:

This Project is unique in that it draws together a large and diverse group of partners and stakeholders who play important roles in tuna fisheries. Project design has built on this institutional foundation and will serve to both strengthen and diversify existing collaborative arrangements to promote more sustainable and coordinated approaches to managing the resources. Without broad-based cooperation and synergy to optimise the use of scarce capacity and resources there is little likelihood of achieving the global goals for sustainable fishing and biodiversity conservation.

The project partners in addition to FAO are the five t-RFMOs, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Organization of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA), Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Birdlife International (BLI), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and members of fish harvesting and processing industries.

In addition to supporting project activities involving all t-RFMOs there are a number of pilot activities in selected t-RFMOs member countries. These are Fiji (sub-component 3D, Satellite-based VMS & EOS LL and PS Pilot Activities), Ghana (sub-component 3D) and the Republic of South Africa (sub-component 4B, Expanded and Implemented Bycatch Mitigation LL and PS "best-practices" Pilot Activities).

All partners participated in project preparation through meetings, workshops and regular communications with the project preparation team. A brief description of the main partners that will be involved in project implementation follows below:

CCSBT. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is responsible for the management of southern bluefin tuna throughout its distribution.

IATTC. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other marine resources in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The Convention Area adjoins the area of competence of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

ICCAT. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The tuna species of primary concern are the Atlantic bluefin, skipjack, yellowfin, albacore and bigeye.

IOTC.The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is an intergovernmental organization established under Article XIV of the FAO constitution. It is mandated to manage tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The tuna species currently under the management mandate of IOTC are the yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, albacore, southern bluefin and longtail tunas.

WCPFC. The area covered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission represents almost 20% of the Earth's surface. The Commission seeks to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks (i.e. tunas, billfish, marlin) in the western and central Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is home to some of the world's most abundant populations of tuna species such as albacore, skipjack and yellowfin.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). FFA is an important regional fisheries body for tuna. The agency aims at strengthening national capacity and regional solidarity so that its 17 Pacific Island members can manage, control and develop their tuna fisheries adequately. Its formal role is advisory and focuses on the EEZs of the member countries. As tuna are migratory, their management needs to be addressed both in ABNJ and within the related EEZs. FFA can play an important role in bridging the EEZ and ABNJ dimensions.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Organization of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA). A sub-regional fishery organization located in El Salvador, OSPESCA was created in 1995 for the purpose of promoting the sustainable development and coordination of fishery and aquaculture sector in the broader framework of Central American political integration through the definition, approval and implementation of policies, strategies, programs and projects.

Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA). The Nauru Agreement Concerning Cooperation In The Management Of Fisheries Of Common Interest (Nauru Agreement) is an Oceania subregional agreement between the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The eight signatories collectively control 25-30% of the world's tuna supply and approximately 60% of the western and central Pacific tuna supply. Historically, the Nauru Agreement and other joint fishery management Arrangements made by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (usually referred to as PNA) have been concerned mainly with the management of tuna purse-seine fishing in the tropical western Pacific. From its initial enactment in 1982, the implementation of the Nauru Agreement was coordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). However a separate PNA Office was created in 2010, based in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The Secretariat of the Pacific Community, or SPC (sometimes Pacific Community), is a regional intergovernmental organisation whose membership includes both nations and territories. It aims to "develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capability of Pacific Island people and directly provide information and advice, to enable them to make informed decisions about their future development and well-being." The SPC headquarters is in Nouméa, New Caledonia.

National Fisheries Authorities. National Fisheries Authorities are responsible for ensuring, through proper conservation and management measures, that the living resources of the fishing zones under their jurisdiction are not endangered by over-exploitation. They may also have additional responsibilities associated with international agreements / obligations related to exploitation and management of resources on the high seas.

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The NOAA is the lead U.S. federal government agency charged with science and stewardship of that country's living marine resources. As a member of three of the world's t-RFMOs, NOAA plays an active role in the provision of data, science and management of shared stocks of tuna and tuna-like species and the ecosystem impacts associated with the target fisheries. NOAA hosted the third global conference of t-RFMO Commissioners (Kobe III) in La Jolla in July 2011. The recommendations focused on improving scientific information, ensuring sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like stocks, and addressing compliance and IUU. Kobe III welcomed the scientific recommendations pertinent to bycatch and it is likely that they will be considered for endorsement at the next five t-RFMO annual meeting.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a legally binding international treaty signed in 2001 and entered into force on 1 February 2004 when South Africa ratified as the fifth Party to the Agreement. It was created in order to halt the drastic decline of seabird populations in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly albatrosses and petrels procellariids. The Agreement requires that measures be taken by signatory governments (Parties) to reduce bycatch (by the use of mitigation measures), protection of breeding colonies and control and removal of introduced species from breeding islands. Currently ACAP protects all the World's albatross species and seven southern-hemisphere petrel species. The Agreement marks the increasing international commitment to protect albatrosses and petrels, and is a considerable step forward in the fight to protect these charismatic seabirds. It is supported by a Secretariat located in Hobart, Tasmania.

BirdLife International (BLI). The BLI is a global partnership of conservation organizations aimed at conserving birds, their habitats and global biodiversity. BLI works on reducing bycatch in global fisheries, including assessment of known and potential impacts of bycatch on seabirds, and development of best-practice mitigation. BLI has played a key role in the development and implementation of IPOA-Seabirds, and the development of the supporting FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – Best Practice to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in capture fisheries. Since 2004, BLI has been working with the five t-RFMOSs to assist in reducing bycatch of vulnerable albatross and petrel populations in their fisheries. In addition, BLI established the Albatross Task Force in 2005 which works in seven countries and directly with fishers and fishery managers to implement best-practice mitigation.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). The ISSF is a global partnership between the tuna processing/trading industries, the world's leading fishery scientists and WWF. ISSF represents more than 70 per cent of the world's shelf stable tuna production and includes major purchasers of all species of tunas, except bluefin. The Foundation's mission is to undertake science-based initiatives for the long term sustainable use of tuna stocks, reduction of bycatch and promotion of ecosystem health. It is working to promote sustainable use of all tuna stocks by focusing on improving conditions on the water through direct action, applied science and advocacy. It has contributed significantly to concrete progress in the areas of bycatch reduction, improved MCS, elimination of IUU fishing and implementation of RBM.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is an independent non-profit organization which sets a standard for sustainable fishing. Fisheries that wish to demonstrate they are well managed and sustainable against the science-based MSC standard are assessed by a team of experts who are independent of both the fishery and the MSC. Seafood products can display the blue MSC ecolabel only if that seafood can be traced back through the supply chain to a fishery that has been certified against the MSC standard. The MSC's mission is to use its ecolabel and fishery certification program to contribute to the health of the world's oceans by

recognising and rewarding sustainable fishing practises, influencing the choices people make when buying seafood, and working with partners to transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF is a global conservation organization with offices around the world, promotes sustainable fisheries management (including rights-based) within fishing communities, markets, associations, governments and inter-governmental institutions, to reduce excess fishing capacity as well as bycatch. WWF is actively involved in the Kobe process of strengthening t-RFMOs and is directly engaged with all of them. The Fund also promotes policies aimed at protecting habitats of biologically important marine species. WWF is a partner in the Sub-Saharan Fisheries Partnership with the U.S.A., World Bank and FAO, for helping African fisheries to become more sustainable. Its global Smart Fishing Initiative (SFI) provides an integrated framework for transformation of fisheries by focused fisheries, market, and financial strategies implemented dozens of participating countries. In addition, it runs a Smart Gear Competition designed to reward innovations for reducing bycatch.

Industry (Fishing vessel owners associations, Purse seine and longline fishing companies engaged in fisheries of the WCPFC, IATTC, ICCAT and IOTC).

Table 3 (below) lists the participating partners by project sub-component and output. FAO as the GEF Agency, will be responsible for project oversight (this is described in greater detail below). FAO will also have direct management responsibility for some of the project outputs. For other outputs, WWF under the overall responsibility of FAO, will have management responsibility (the respective tasks have been identified under the "lead" column in Table 3. The responsibility for technical leadership among the partners for their respective outputs has been described in the narrative text that follows Table 3.

Table 1. "Lead" Implementing Partner by Sub-component and Proposed partner involvement

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement													
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
Component 1: Promotion of sustainable management (including Rights-Based Management) of tuna fisheries, in accordance with an ecosystem approach																
1.A Incorporation of HCR and RP into t-RFMO CMMs	1.1 MSE science management dialogue reports discussed by the t/RFMOs in Commission Meetings.	FAO	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	
1.B Application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)	1.2 Integrated Ecosystem Evaluations to support EAFM in t-RFMOs and Study.	FAO	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x
1.C Improved Decision Making																
Supplementing existing t-RFMO capacity building funds	1.3 Additional training for decision making in the context of Precautionary Fishery Management in at least 10 G77 countries.	FAO	x	x	x	x	x									
Characterization of catch composition and disposition in tuna-directed driftnet fisheries in the northern Indian Ocean		WWF				x					x				x	x
National level training of fisheries administration personnel and other key stakeholders on development of management advice and decision-making		WWF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	
1.D Rights Based Management		FAO														
Review and Assessment of VDS RBM Promoted and Awareness Raised	1.4 Independent assessment of PNA	FAO					x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement														
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
Global Awareness Raising on RB Approaches	1.5 VDS Workshop on RBM in the EPO held	WWF									x	x	x		x	x
Component 2: Strengthening and Harmonizing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to Address IUU																
2.A "Best practices" MCS Identified and Endorsed	2.1 Comparative study of t-RFMO MCS measures, practices, and Compliance Committee standards with t-RFMO Action Plan. 2.2 T/RFMO MCS practitioner workshops conducted in each region. 2.3 MCS operations personnel participating and involved in t-RFMO Compliance Committees through G77 national delegations	FAO	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x				
2.B Implementation of Selected MCS "best practices"		FAO														
2. Bi Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop	2.4 MCS representatives from G77 t/RFMO countries attending the Global Fisheries Enforcement	FAO									x				x	

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement													
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
	Training Workshop															
2 Bii Training for compliance professionals in2 t-RFMO regions	2.5 MCS officer qualifications enhanced through successful participation in newly designed MCS training programs developed for WCPFC and IOTC.	FAO				x	x				x				x	
2. Biii PSM resolution compliant legislation drafted for IOTC members	2.6 PSM resolution compliant legislation drafted for IOTC members	FAO				x					x				x	
2 C. Updating, Expanding and Improving the Reliability of the CLAV, National and Regional Vessel Registries (GR)		FAO														
2. Ci Updating, Expanding and Improving the Reliability of the CLAV	2.7 Improved CLAV accuracy	FAO	x	x	x	x	x				x				x	
2. Cii Development of the GR	2.8 Vessel registries of OSPESCA countries enhanced	FAO									x				x	
2.D. Satellite-based VMS cum EOS LL & PS Pilot Activities		FAO														
2.D (i) Satellite-based VMS cum EOS in LL (Fiji)	2.9 EM systems used to effectively monitor tuna long line vessels.	FAO					x	x	x		x				x	x
2.D (ii) Satellite-based VMS cum EOS in PS Pilot Activities (Ghana)	2.10 EM systems used to effectively monitor tuna purse seine fleet	WWF			x						x	x			x	x

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement														
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
	vessels.															
2.E. Maximize MCS Tool Synergies	2.11 Number of actionable targeted intelligence reports/threat assessments generated by the FFA MCS cell supporting MCS operations. 2.12 Fully functioning IMS that incorporates GIS to support MCS activities.	FAO					x	x	x						x	
2.F Market/trade Policy Traceability Analyses and "best practices"	2.13 Recommendations for Traceability / CDS system improvements in 10 G77 t/RFMO countries.	FAO	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Component 3: Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Tuna Fishing																
3.A Improved Information on Bycatch	3.1 Delivery of a global t-RFMO database of bycatch mitigation and management information capable of supplying information for management decision-making 3.2 Use of the	FAO	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement													
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
	information system for decision-making.															
3.B Expanded and Implemented Bycatch Mitigation LL and PS "best practices" Pilot Activities		WWF														
3.C (i)Implementation of LL Best Practices in S. ATL & S. IND. Oceans	3.3 Longline sea trials in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans designed to promote implementation of effective seabird mitigation measures conducted in at least two different fleets and results disseminated in two ocean basins.	WWF			x	x					x			x	x	x
3.C (ii) Implementation of PS Best Practices in IND. Ocean	3.4 Purse seine sea trials designed to explore and confirm effective small tuna/shark mitigation measures conducted in at least one ocean basin and disseminated worldwide	WWF				x					x	x				x
3.D Improved and Integrated Shark Management	3.5 Creation and partial progress toward completion of a t-RFMO shark data inventory and assessment methods catalogue	FAO	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	

Technical Component/Sub component	Outputs		Partners involvement														
		LEAD	CCSBT	IATTC	ICCAT	IOTC	WCPFC	SPC	FFA	PNA	WWF	ISSF	WB	BLI	t-RFMO members	Industry
	3.6 Completion of four new Pacific shark assessments																
Component 4: Information and Best Practices Dissemination and Monitoring & Evaluation																	
4.A Information and Best Practices Dissemination	4.1 Knowledge management system established and implemented.	FAO									x						
4.B Monitoring & Evaluation	4.2 FAO's M&E capacity strengthened to supervise GEF supported activities	FAO									x						

Specific Roles and Responsibilities of the Partners

Tuna RFMOs. All 5 t-RFMOs will share the technical lead to (i) develop HCRs and RPs for priority tuna stocks in their respective ocean regions and for drafting CMMs (output 1.1). SPC (as service provider) will provide technical support to WCPFC with respect to HCRs and RPs for priority stock(s) in the WPO, (ii) develop EAF plans for priority fisheries (output 1.2) and (iii) disburse GEF funds to increase G77 participation in the development management decision making processes in t-RFMOs (output 1.3.1). In addition, IOTC will lead the technical development of the CLAV (output 2.7), WCPFC and IATTC will lead the development of a t-RFMO shark data inventory and assessment methods catalogue (output 3.5) and completion of four new Pacific shark assessments (output 3.6). ICCAT will provide policy and scientific advice to Ghana output 2.1.

Support to the Project from t-RFMOs will come in the form of in kind technical assistance associated with their t-RFMO regular program of activities in support of compliance, stock assessment, resource management, data management and information sharing in support project components 1, 2 and 3 through salaries, office space and utilities.

Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The FFA will: (i) take the technical lead on the development of the FFA MCS Information Management System and preparation of intelligence reports/threat assessments (output 2.11 and 2.12), (ii) provide in kind policy and legal support to the Fiji fisheries administration in the pilot testing and implementation of electronic observer systems (output 2.9), (iii) provide policy and technical support to PNA countries in support of the review and strengthening of the vessel day scheme (output 1.4) and (iv) provide support to the development of training curricula (output 2.5).

Support to the Project from FFA will come in the form of in kind technical assistance associated with their FFA's regular program of activities in support of compliance, data management, policy and legal advice to FFA members and information sharing in support project components 1, 2 and 3 through salaries, office space and utilities.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The SPC will: (i) provide technical leadership in the development of a global t-RFMO database of bycatch mitigation and management information capable of supplying information for management decision-making (outputs 3.1 and 3.2), (ii) support the development of HCRs and RPs for tuna stocks in the WPO (output 1.1) and EAF (output 1.2) and (iii) provide support to Fiji VMS cum EOS systems (observer data) (output 2.9).

Support to the project from SPC will come in the form of in kind technical assistance associated with their SPC's Oceanic Fisheries program of activities in support of compliance, data management, stock assessment, information sharing in support project components 1 and 2. The SPC will also support the Project through providing technical services to sub-component 3 (Improved Information on Bycatch) and travel.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Organization of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA). OSPESCA in cooperation with FAO will support the updating, expanding and improving the reliability of national and regional vessel registries in OSPESCA countries (output 2.8).

OSPESCA support to the Project will come in the form of salaries for government staff, office space and utilities associated with development and maintenance of national vessel

registries and participation in workshops and training activities associated with outputs 2.7 and 2.8.

FAO. FAO's technical role in the Project will be to: (i) in cooperation with t-RFMO compliance committees lead the preparation of a comparative study of t-RFMO MCS measures and practices (Output 2.1), (ii) convene an Expert Workshop on MCS best practices (output 2.2), (iii) facilitate involvement of MCS practitioners in t-RFMO compliance committee meetings (output 2.3), (iv) facilitate G77 member countries participation in international fisheries enforcement training workshops (output 2.4), (v) in cooperation with IOTC and FFA, facilitate the development and trialing of a new training program for MCS compliance professionals (output 2.5) and (vi) work directly with IOTC members to prepare a needs assessment on PSM and deliver training in PSM and technical assistance in drafting of PSM compliant legislation (output 2.6). FAO will also facilitate the development of recommendations for traceability/CDS system improvements in 10 G77 countries (output 2.13) with support from MSC and WWF and lead the M&E component (outputs 4.1 and 4.2)

Support to the Project will come primarily in the form of provision of technical and administrative services in support of both the technical (components 1, 2 and 3), non-technical (component 4) and project management.

Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA). The Parties to the Nauru Agreement in cooperation with FAO, FFA and WCPFC will have the technical lead for the development of a third party review, assessment and implementation of enhancements to the PNA Purse Seine Vessel Day Scheme (output 1.4) supported by FFA and WCPFC.

Support to the Project will come in the form of PNA members salaries, travel to regular PNA meetings during which output 1.4 will be discussed), office space and utilities associated with workshops.

Fiji Fisheries Administration: The National Fisheries Authorities of Fiji in cooperation with FFA, SPC, WCPFC and FAO will provide administrative and technical support to lead the development Satellite-based VMS cum EOS systems for vessels engaged in longline fishing (output 2.9).

Support to the Project will come in the form of salaries for government coordination and fishery observers and office space and utilities.

Ghanaian Fisheries Administration: The National Fisheries Authorities of Ghana in cooperation with ICCAT, ISSF, the fishing industry will provide technical and administrative support to lead the development Satellite-based VMS cum EOS systems for vessels engaged in purse seine fishing.

Support to the Project will come in the form of salaries for government coordination and fishery observers and office space and utilities.

Industry. Industry partners in the Project consist mainly of the participating fishing associations (ISSA, PITIA, FTBOA) and fleets of vessels working in (i) the longline (Fiji) fishery (output 2.9), the purse seine (Ghana) fisheries (output 2.10), Industry will make available their vessels as a platform for at sea testing and demonstrating of various fishing activities and the participation of officers and crew in training workshops. The industry will also provide technical inputs into project design and testing protocols.

Project support from the industry will be primarily in the form of: vessel time, salaries associated with industry observers and assuming all the costs following the start-up phase (i.e., licenses, technical backup and O&M of the VMS equipment placed on the participating vessels and its coordination).

BirdLife International (BLI). The BLI will have technical leadership for Implementation of LL Best Practices in S. ATL & S. IND. Oceans (output 3.3) through provision of birdlife bycatch mitigation equipment, development of experimental mitigation gear, promotion of technology transfer through covering salaries for the technology transfer instructors and coordinators, covering the costs of basic economic analyses, pre and post cruise workshops, information dissemination and covering the costs of salaried personnel and travel to t-RFMO meetings.

Support to the Project will come in the form of vessel time, equipment, salaries, office space and utilities associated with workshops, at sea testing and demonstration and information dissemination.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). The ISSF will provide technical leadership for: (i) the development of training curricula and implementation of training programs in ten G77 countries to support improved decision making at the national level for fisheries administration personnel and other key stakeholders (output 1.3.3) and (ii) support the development and dissemination of PS Best Practices in the Indian Ocean (output 3.4).

Project support from the ISSF will be primarily in the form of: coordination of the program of with ISSA industry partners, salaries and workshops in support of Project components 1, 2 and 3.

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In light of NOAA's significant presence in supporting the sustainable management of tuna and other associated species its contribution to the project, either directly or indirectly, will cover most of the project's sub-components. Support will come primarily in the form of salaries, travel expenses and vessel time associated with (i) capacity building, (ii) monitoring and research related to tunas and associated species and strengthening the t-RFMOs. Support will come from contributions through its Pacific Islands Regional Office, Pacific Islands Science Center, Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Headquarters

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). The ACAP will contribute to the Project primarily through technical assistance to development of the (BMIS) component (output 3.1). Specifically, ACAP will contribute to BMIS by providing: (i) the results of regular reviews of research undertaken on seabird bycatch mitigation measures and the production of best practice advice in English, French and Spanish; (ii) species assessments on over 30 species that are maintained and updated as appropriate through a database maintained by the ACAP Secretariat, with inputs provided by ACAP Parties and researchers on an annual basis and serve as inputs into ecological risk assessments supported under output 1.2); and together with BLI, (iii) preparation and maintenance of mitigation fact sheets, which provide detailed information on mitigation measures that can be used to minimise the incidental mortality of seabirds caused by fishing operations.

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) will support the Project primarily through contributions to output 2.13 (Market/trade Policy Traceability Analyses and "best practices") in the form of outreach and training on traceability

requirements, and identification and mitigation of supply chain risks.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF will lead the work to: (1) Characterize the catch composition in tuna-directed driftnet fisheries in the northern Indian Ocean and training in fisheries management issues and value added opportunities (output 1.3.1), (2) promotion and raising awareness on RBM (output 1.5).

Project support from WWF includes management support under the overall responsibility of FAO to various partners tasked with development of specific outputs (1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.5, 3.3 and 3.4) as well as providing technical assistance and information dissemination support to project components 1, 2 and 3.

NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY
PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea
Telephone: 3090444, Facsimile: 320 2061, Email: nfa@fisheries.gov.pg

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Monday, 06rd January 2011

Barbara Cooney
GEF Coordinator
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Subject: **Co-financing letter for the FAO-GEF Project "Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (REBYC-II CTI)"**

Dear Madame,

I hereby confirm that the National Fisheries Authority representing the Government of Papua New Guinea (GOPNG) agrees to provide a total amount of USD 153, 000 (equivalent to PNGK 450,000) in cash and USD 226,100 (equivalent to PNGK 665,000) in-kind towards co-financing of the GEF-FAO Project "Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management" (REBYC-II CTI).

The co-financing contribution to the Project represents staff time, office space, and other operating expenses devoted to implementation of this project and to carry out activities that are essential for achieving the objectives of the Project.

This financial contribution will be managed by the Government of Papua New Guinea as a contribution to the project component to be implemented in the country and to support the country's participation in regional activities. The co-financing will be assessed and recorded each year by the project team in accordance with FAO-GEF policies and procedures for recording and reporting co-financing.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvester B. Pokajam

Managing Director

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOMENT
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES
No 10 Nguyen Cong Hoan Str., Ba Dinh Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (+84)-4-37245116 Fax: (+84)-4-37245120

Hanoi, August 16th 2010

Barbara Cooney
GEF Coordinator
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Subject: *Letter of Commitment for Co-financing of REBYC-2 Project namely "Strategies for Fisheries Bycacth Management in Vietnam" funded by GEF.*

Dear Sir,

I hereby confirm that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam through the Directorate of Fisheries (D-fish), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will contribute an amount of approximately $897,600 as in-kind co-financing to project REBYC-2 namely "*Strategies for Fisheries Bycacth Management in Vietnam*". This estimated amount is based on expenses for staff time, office base, stationery, equipments and relevant items which will be contributed to implement the above project by central government and local governments during the four year project life, the period 2011 - 2014.

On behalf of the Directorate of Fisheries (D-fish), I kindly assure commitment of the Government to contribute above co-financing source to the GEF project REBYC-2 component in Vietnam. The amount of co-financing will ensure to smoothly carry out project activities. The Department of Capture Fisheries and Fisheries Resources Protection (DECAFIREP) under D-fish will be in charge of coordinating co-financing source and implementing project activities in collaboration with the GEF, FAOHQ and FAOVN.

Last but not least, we do very much expect that the REBYC-2 project will benefit the marine capture fisheries management of Vietnam and please do accept assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Chu Tien Vinh
Deputy Director General
Directorate of Fisheries (D-fish)
CC: the Department of Sciences, Technology and International Cooperation, D-fish
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT

COPY

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TD 10/ 0857

Barbara Cooney
GEF Coordinator
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracolla
00153 Rome, Italy

27 August 2010

Dear Madam,

Co-financing letter for the FAO-GEF Project
"Strategies for Trawl By-catch Management (REBYC II – CTI)"

I hereby confirm that the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) agrees to provide co-financing for the GEF-FAO Project "Strategies for Trawl Bycatch Management (REBYC II – CTI)".

This SEAFDEC support can materialize in the form of in-kind contribution for an estimated USD 800,000 including SEAFDEC staff and project-related resources in support of the project activities as follows.

1. Preparation of
   - FAO/GEF Inception Workshop in By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards in Trawl Fisheries
   - Regional Workshop on Preparation of Activities in the FAO-GEF Project "Strategies for fisheries by-catch management"
2. The SEAFDEC Regional activities related to REBYC II-CTI
3. Operation of Regional Coordinating Unit and Expert employment
4. Vessels for survey and operations

This in-kind contribution will be managed as an integral part of the project by SEAFDEC. It will be assessed and recorded each year by the project team in accordance with FAO-GEF policies and procedures for recording and reporting co-financing.

Yours sincerely,

Dr.Chumnarn Pongsri
Secretary-General
and Chief of the Training Department

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9299597/9295847 Telefax No. 9298074

20 September 2010

Ms. Barbara Cooney
GEF Coordinator
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT : Co-financing letter for the FAO Project "Strategies for Trawl Bycatch Management (REBYC-II CTI)"

Dear Ms. Cooney,

I hereby confirm that the government of the Philippines through the Bureau of Fisheries And Aquatic Resources agrees to provide a total amount of **USD 680,900** in in-kind and cash co-financing for the GEF-FAO Project "**Strategies for Trawl Bycatch Management**" **(REBYC-II CTI)** which is proposed to be implemented in the Philippines over a period of four (4) years.

The **in-kind** contribution to the Project will amount to **USD 558,136** in the form of salaries/time of government staff, office space, use of equipments and vehicles and the cash contribution will amount to **USD122,764** as support to operations of vehicle, equipments and other operating expenses devoted to implementation of this project and to carry out activities in the Philippines that are essential for achieving the objectives of the project.

This financial contribution will be managed as an integral part of the project component to be implemented in Philippines and to support the country's participation in regional activities. The co-financing will be assessed and recorded each year by the project team in accordance with FAO-GEF policies and procedures for recording and reporting co-financing.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLN I. SARMIENTO, JR
Director

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة
联合国粮食及农业组织
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций
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Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

12 October 2010

Subject: Cofinancing for GEF Project "Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management (REBYC-II CTI)"

I hereby confirm that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department agrees to provide cofinancing of USD 300 000 for the GEF Project "Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management (REBYC-II CTI)".

The contribution to the project will amount to "in-kind" USD 140 000, comprising a contribution of staff time and other operating expenses devoted to collaboration with this project, and a cash contribution of USD 160 000 from the funds provided to FAO by the Royal Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Norway (ref. 200900092- /RDJ; Development of the International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards), to be used to carry out activities that are essential for achieving GEF objectives as described in the project document.

These contributions will be managed as an integral part of the GEF project by FAO and will be assessed and recorded each year by the project team in accordance with GEF policies and procedures for recording and reporting cofinancing.

Yours sincerely,

Kevern Cochrane
Director
Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Use and Conservation Division
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

13 November 2012

ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS, COOPERATING NON-MEMBERS AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

Dear Members

Global Environment Fund (GEF)....Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Initiative

Project Title: Sustainable Management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Over the last 18 months the GEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Fisheries Department have been consulting countries and regional organizations about developing and the implementing over the next 5 years a project to address and promote improvements in the management and conservation of tuna fisheries in the ABNJ. The main purpose of this project is to advance work in areas of interest to the partners in the project and in particular the t-RFMOs. Some of the funding will be contributed to existing areas of interest such as MCS and bycatch while other funding will be invested in new and emerging areas of importance to t-RFMOs such as sharks, harvest strategies (including rights based approaches).

The FAO are also GEF co-agency in Phase II of the GEF-UNDP-FAO project "GCP/RAS/267/GFF Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)". Together, these two GEF projects represent a significant investment by GEF in the tuna fisheries in the Western Pacific Ocean.

The FAO and the GEF has identified a number of partners to implement the various elements of this project. The partners include the tuna RFMO's , Birdlife International, WWF, ISSF, NOAA, FAO and some of the individual members of t-RFMOs who have substantial investment in research in these individual project areas, sub regional organizations and country groupings including the FFA, SPC and the PNA and also in our area includes Fiji.

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The GEF is prepared to invest around $27 million globally in this initiative and there is an understanding that GEF projects have to attract a 5 to 1 matching for co-funding and in this case that would equate to $147 million over the 5 year period of the life of the project. This co-funding can come from either new money invested with the GEF or from identified sources of in-kind funding. The in-kind funding is money that can be identified as spent by the t-RFMOs or the other partner organizations in areas directly related to the projects outlined above and part of their programmed activities.

The FAO established a project team to develop the project under three main theme areas. The first of these, Improved Management Decision Making" is led by Dr Jerry Scott, Mike Cerne led the work on "Strengthening and Harmonizing MCS to Address IUU", Dr Shelley Clarke developed the components of the third project "Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Tuna Fisheries" and Robin Allen has been providing a global oversight in the proposal formulation. The full list of the individual projects with a short abstract explaining them is enclosed at attachment A.

Work has now been completed by the project team to identify current sources of funding including expenditure across all the t-RFMOs that can be identified as in-kind contributions to the project. In kind funds refer specifically to existing programmed expenditures that can be attributed for co-funding purposes.

The identified in kind contributions from the TRFMOs is in the following table.

RFMO	CONTRIBUTION
CCSBT	1,300,000
IATTC	6,285,000
IOTC	2,534,000
WCPFC	6,347,000
ICCAT	4,334,000

Attachment A summarizes the project supported by the FAO-GEF ABNJ tuna project that will contribute to the t-RFMOs capacity to develop and implement improvements in these areas. In some of the subcomponents there will be little demand on the time of the t-RFMO staff to advance the issue as in the case of the long-line trial. In others technical support staff or consultants will work within the t-RFMO structure with members and staff to progress the project outcomes. The WCPFC will be directly involved in a number of these projects namely those on MCS, bycatch and sharks. This GEF investment of $27 million dollars in global tuna fisheries in the ABNJ will help us significantly in this time when funding for important development work to improve tuna management and conservation is often difficult to find and is an acknowledge of the global importance if tuna fisheries.

The project documentation will be formally submitted by FAO to the GEF in December this year for CEO endorsement. Letters of endorsement from the partners need to be attached as part of the formal submission. Accordingly, each t-RFMO will need to provide FAO with a letter of endorsement (including the amount of co-financing) to the broad ABNJ project. Implementation is anticipated about four months following endorsement.

This project has been developed to assist the tRFMOs and began with a meeting in Madrid some 18 months ago. It has taken time to refine and develop the project concepts and themes; however, it has the potential to significantly improve our management of the tuna fisheries globally and as such it is an initiative worthy of support. It is important to note that supporting this decision will not cost the WCPFC any money and we will benefit from funding. What we have done is to identify funding that is currently in the WCPFC budget that is utilized by us for similar work and this becomes identified as in-kind contributions to the project.

Decision:
The WCPFC will need to approve the Executive Director to send a letter of endorsement to the FAO that approves the identification of $6,347,000 over 5 years as in-kind funding. Examples of "Letters of Endorsement" are at attachment B for your information.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT NEW FUNDING BUT IS MONEY THAT IS ALREADY PROGRAMMED IN OUR ONGOING BUDGET THAT CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS AGAINST THIS GEF PROJECT.

Warm regards…

Professor Glenn Hurry
Executive Director