



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Koror, Palau
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JAPAN TRUST FUND STATUS REPORT 2023

WCPFC-SC19-2023/ RP-JTF-01
30 July 2023

Cook Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Secretariat

Introduction

The majority of the WCPFC Members are developing states including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), whose capacities to implement conservation and management measures are limited and would benefit from strengthened capacity. The WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulations and Enforcement for SIDS originated from a Japanese funding proposal to the WCPFC made in December 2005, also known as the Japan Trust Fund (JTF). The primary objective of this project is to support capacity building of the developing countries of the WCPFC members, especially SIDS. The initial phase of the project was for 5 years starting from 2006 to 2011 with a total available funding of approximately USD 2 million.

Given the success of and general support for the project in its first 5-year phase, the Fisheries Agency of Japan sought and successfully secured a budget of around USD 2 million in total, for the second 5-year phase. The objectives and terms of reference for the second phase were similar to the previous phase, with an emphasis on enforcement and compliance. In 2016 the Japanese government granted an extension of one year to the second phase, supporting projects in 2017, which was further extended to include another year, 2018.

In 2019, the Japanese Fisheries Agency approved a third phase for the JTF retaining the same objectives and terms of reference for another 5 years. This third phase program is the same as the previous phases in principle with an emphasis on a new fisheries management procedure including harvest strategy and a new monitoring technology-related project. In 2022, there were six (6) successful proposals supported by JTF with a budget allocation of USD 232,821.00.

In 2023, the total JTF was around USD 217,787. This amount was slightly reduced compared to previous years due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. There were also six (6) project proposals approved for 2023 with a total budget of USD 223,297.13. The 2023 fund shortfall was taken from the previous year's JTF balance of around USD 5,510.13. A summary of 2023 approved projects and their status are found in *Annex 1* of this report.

All JTF projects conducted are found on the WCPFC website at [Japan Trust Fund Summary of Projects 2012 to Date](#). Brief country reports of completed JTF projects in 2022 are found in [Japan Trust Fund Annual Report 2023](#). While the status reports for carried-over projects from previous years are detailed in *Annex 2* and brief reports on JTF projects completed in 1st or 2nd quarter of 2023 are found in *Annex 3* of this report.

In general, the new and carried over approved projects funded by the JTF are mainly for SIDS seeking assistance in building their capacities related to data collection, especially in these new emerging technologies such as electronic reporting and electronic monitoring (ER and EM) which will eventually assist in the harvest strategy work being developed by WCPFC.

Japan Trust Fund – Objectives and Expected Activities

The objectives and expected activities for the JTF are contained in the Consolidated Project Document (2019), which provides guidelines for the Steering Committee to select project proposals. They may be conveniently summarized as follow:

“The basic objectives of this project are, within the purview of WCPFC, to assist SIDS Members, and other developing States Members as appropriate, in improving their capacities in:

- a. *Data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC, and*
- b. *Establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective enforcement, in particular, the conservation and management measures adopted by WCPFC*

In order to pursue these objectives, following activities may be implemented under the Project:

- a. *Data collection and reporting of their fisheries and associated activities, in particular, those required by WCPFC:*
 - *identify and examine the source of uncertainty in data collection and reporting;*
 - *develop and implement capacity-building programs to improve fisheries data collection and reporting;*
 - *assist if necessary WCPFC to facilitate appropriate opportunities (e.g., meetings, workshops) to consider improved data collection and reporting of their fisheries by developing States and their participation in the Commission.*
- b. *Establishment of fisheries regulation and its effective monitoring, control and enforcement, in particular, the requirements by WCPFC*
 - *review enforcement and monitoring mechanisms in developing states Members in terms of legal, institutional and technical aspects and identify opportunities for strengthening these areas;*
 - *develop and implement capacity-building programs to improve fisheries monitoring regulation and enforcement by developing states members;*
 - *assist if necessary WCPFC to hold appropriate opportunities to consider improved enforcement by developing States under their jurisdiction and through their participation in the Commission.”*

Annex 1. Status of Approved Projects for 2023 (Year 4, Phase 3 Program)

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Title	Purpose/Summary	US\$
1	Palau	<p>Ms Kathleen Sisor Acting Director Email: utau.sisor@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms Zilah D. Oiterong Licensing and Revenue Officer Email: dirremeang@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Everson Sengebau EM Officer Observer Email: ebs6ya@gmail.com</p>	Development of Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) Program for the Division of Oceanic Fisheries of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To assess and develop a fisheries electronic reporting and electronic monitoring program for information gathering and sharing. To address known gaps in data collection in the longline fishery and enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on proper methods of data collection through ER/EM. To work in line with the newly amended and adopted WCPFC CMM 2013-05 on Catch and Effort Reporting, CMM 2014-03 on Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, FFA's Regional LL EM objectives, and Palau's Blue Prosperity Plan to improve the availability and Accessibility of quality-assured information for scientific and compliance purposes and contribute to improving economic viability of longline fisheries. 	45,500.00
<p>Status: The funds for this project was transferred in late March 2023 and the project activities are ongoing.</p>					
2	Solomon Islands	<p>Mr. Derrick Tagosia Electronic Reporting and Monitoring Coordinator Email: DTagosia@fisheries.gov.sb Phone: +677 39143/30264</p>	<p>Training of Solon Islands Fisheries Compliance Officers in Honiara and Noro on the use of Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) Compliance Module to create, record and manage non-compliance cases and incidences electronically and the training of the Industries Officers and the Fishing Vessels Captains on the use of iFIMS new eForms (Transshipment and Unloading) to record, send and manage catch data electronically.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To train our Compliance Officers on the FIMS Compliance module to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive GEN 3 reports from the Observers. Create new Incidences based on GEN 3 reports. Create new Cases based on Incidences created from GEN 3 reports from Observers. Update cases, upload documents and evidence to the Cases management module in FIMS. 	34,965.00

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change cases status based on the progresses, depending on the progress of the case, either, start investigation, start interviewing, court hearing, or fined and settled and complete. 2. To train the Fishing Companies on how to use the FIMS Transshipment and the Unloading modules to record, report and manage catch data as well as viewing status of cases in FIMS. 	
<u>Status:</u>					
Solomon Islands hasn't started the training yet as we are still waiting for funds to come through the Ministry's account, hopefully soon so that they can start their training.					
3	Solomon Islands	Mr. Derrick Tagosia Electronic Reporting and Monitoring Coordinator Email: DTagosia@fisheries.gov.sb Phone: +677 39143/30264	Training of the Longline Fishing Companies Technical people on the basic Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems troubleshooting processes and support to the Ministry's technical officers to travel down to Noro port to fix failed EM systems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To train the Fishing companies technical officers on how to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspect and check for hardware and software faults and errors. ○ Remove and replace full hard drives in port when vessels arrive back in port. ○ Shuts down and start EM systems to try and hard reset EM systems. ○ Reset systems by pressing the reset button. ○ Check to see if dates and positional data are updated. ○ Report faults and errors to the Ministry and plan for EM team to travel down to Noro to fix any serious faults and errors. 2. To travel down to Noro once every 2 months (6 times to Noro) this year 2023 to fix hardware and software faults; the faults to be fix when traveling to Noro include but not limited to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fix fault hardware 	24,675.00

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove and replace hardware spare parts including; cameras, antennas, cables, screen/server and UPS ○ Install software upgrades ○ Install updates 	
<p><u>Status:</u></p> <p>Same with the training above, Solomon Islands is still waiting for the funds to come through to the Ministry's account. The last advice received was that funds are now with the Central Bank and were transferred to the SIG Revenue account, and the Ministry already send an authorized letter for the Ministry of Finance to transfer the funds to the Ministry's account before they can raise payments for the training.</p>					
4	Tonga	<p>Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi <i>CEO for Fisheries</i> Email: supi64t@gmail.com; ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Mr. Poasi Ngaluafe <i>Head of Fisheries Science Division</i> Email: poasi.ngaluafe@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Ms. Lavinia Vaipuna, <i>Head of Offshore Section</i> Email: laviniav@tongafish.gov.to; nia.vaipuna@gmail.com</p>	Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing timely feedback through monitoring programs on conservation of tuna Species (<i>Port Sampling</i>)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fund tuna data collection (port sampling) over one full calendar year (2023) in Tonga. 2. To fund artisanal tuna data collection over one full calendar year (2023) in Tonga. 3. To empower staff capacity to enable collection of data and enter into database. 4. To conduct E-Reporting training of all new tuna vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers. 5. To improve management and provide awareness of data collection. 6. To enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on data management and reporting by attending the annual Tuna Data Workshop at SPC Noumea. 	55,326.00
<p><u>Status:</u> The assistance provided by the Japanese Trust fund has been instrumental in helping Tonga in various aspects of its port sampling activities.</p> <p>Unloading and Port Sampling Data: The JTF assistance has facilitated the collection and analysis of unloading and port sampling data from both national and foreign vessels licensed to fish in Tonga's Exclusive Zone (EEZ).</p> <p>Employment of Daily paid port samplers: The JTF support has allowed Tonga to continue employing dedicated port samplers who conduct port sampling activities, ensuring accurate data collection and monitoring.</p>					

Recruitment of TAILS Data Monitors: Thanks to the JTF projects, Tonga has been able to continue to recruit and employ TAILS data monitors at the outer island centres. This helps in monitoring and managing the fishing activities in those areas.

Continuation of ER Training: The JTF assistance has enabled Tonga to continue its training programs related to the use of electronic reporting (ER) systems. This ensures that fishermen and vessels are equipped with the necessary skills to utilize ER technology effectively.

Professional Growth and Recognition: Two port samplers have recently been promoted to higher positions within the Ministry, which demonstrates professional growth and recognition within the field.

Replacement of Port Samplers: As a part of maintaining continuity in port sampling activities, Tonga is in the process of recruiting replacements for the promoted port samplers.

Artisanal Data Collection: Through the support of the JTF projects, Tonga has successfully implemented artisanal data collection in all island groups, allowing for comprehensive monitoring of fishing activities across the country.

Enhanced ER Coverage for Domestic and Foreign Fishing Vessels: The ER coverage for domestic Tuna vessels remains 100% coverage whereas the foreign fishing vessels has increased from 50% in previous years to 86% as reported to date. This indicates improved monitoring and reporting of foreign fishing activities in Tonga's waters.

Stakeholder Consultations: Tonga has conducted two quarterly feedback consultation sessions with stakeholders, providing an opportunity for collaboration, feedback, and addressing concerns related to fishing activities and management.

Overall, the assistance provided by the Japanese Trust Fund has had a positive impact on Tonga's port sampling activities, data collection, training programs, and stakeholder engagement, contributing to effective fisheries management in the country. Implementation of project activities is ongoing.

5	Tonga	<p>Dr Tuikolongahau Halafihi <i>CEO for Fisheries</i> Email: ceo@tongafish.gov.to</p> <p>Mele To'a 'Atuekaho Deputy CEO, Compliance Division meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com</p> <p>Kalo Manuopangai Observer Coordinator kmanuopangai@gmail.com</p>	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga National Observer Program (<i>Observer Program</i>)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building capacity of senior observers, who are also certified debriefers and creating a career path for these observers by utilizing them whilst on-shore to screen, debrief and enter observer data into the regional observer database called TUFMAN 2. 2. Building capacity of Tonga's national observers by encouraging and promoting quality observer data as well as creating a performance-based incentive to keep observers on the job. 	37,800.00
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Status:

The fund has been used accordingly and is still ongoing. Data Entry for Observers and Debriefers and also encouraging and promoting observers to collect quality data and award with bonus when necessary.

6	Tonga	Dr. Tuikolongahau Halafihi <i>CEO for Fisheries</i> Email: supi64t@gmail.com Salote Toa Palu Legal Officer Email: salote.palu@tongafish.gov.to	Capacity building and strengthening of Tonga's Fisheries Legal Section	1. Continuation of the employment of the administrative assistant to help progress the ongoing legislative review that includes inclusion of the WCPFC CMMs into the legislative framework, and 2. National workshops aiming at enhancing Ministry's staff knowledge and understanding of adopted WCPFC measures and consulting on how measures are to be implemented into the national legal framework.	8,697.10
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Status:

The Legal sector is currently using the projects fund as to reach its purpose and summary outcome. The Administrative Assistant wages/salaries is still funded by the Japan Trust Fund. The reviews and progress of legislations are still ongoing as there was a promotion of a new Legal Officer to the Ministry, as the Former Legal Officer (Salote Faótusia) has been promoted by the Ministry of Justice. The New Legal Officer (Miss Salote Toa Palu) is new to the Fisheries field and is still learning and processing as much as she can. She is to be involved in enhancing and reviewing the Tuna and Snapper Management Plan and handover of the SMA Coastal Communities Regulation is already being submitted to the Cabinet for approval. There are plans for legislative reviews and other National workshops to raise awareness to the communities so that they are still made aware and to have knowledge on understanding and adopting of the WCPFC measures and consultations is to be made with these communities on the implementation of those measures. Inclusions to these plans are to be scheduled for the ongoing tasks to continue thriving. Implementation of project activities is ongoing.

Annex 2. Carried over projects from previous years

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Project Title	Purpose/Summary	Budget (USD)
1	Solomon Islands	Mr. Derrick Tagosia Electronic Reporting and Monitoring Coordinator Email: DTagosia@fisheries.gov.sb Phone: +677 39143/30264	Support to Solomon Islands National Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Consultations, Drafting and Launching	To provide financial support for Solomon Islands National Longline EM Policy internal and external consultations with the industries and stakeholders.	48,247.50

Status:

Solomon Islands (SI) recognizes that monitoring of fishing activities and operations of fishing vessels remains a big challenge, especially for longline fishing vessels, thus, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) viewed that electronic monitoring (EM) as the solution to these challenges of monitoring longline fishing vessels activities and operations. As EM is an emerging management tool in tuna fisheries monitoring utilizing new available technologies in gathering data

that will help in the verification and validation of fisheries' logbook information, leading to enhanced data, which will support improved fisheries management and help verify and monitor implementation of CMMs. In WCPFC, EM data could be a source of independent and impartial data which will supplement the ROP and other data sources, that will eventually support the harvest strategy work that is currently being developed. In this regard, the support provided to Solomon Islands for this project is essential to guide Solomon Islands EM program implementations.

Solomon Islands has completed the internal consultations within the Ministry and the external consultations with the companies, and already has a draft SI EM Policy to review and submit to the management for their input before they will go for the validation workshop, printing, and dissemination before June 2023.

The fund balance of USD25,000 will be used to complete the consultations in quarters 1 and 2 of 2023, including the validation workshop, printing, and dissemination of the Policy.

Solomon Islands continues to thank the people of Japan for their funds through the WCPFC that supports our EM Policy activity in 2022 and the ongoing activities in 2023. As previously requested, SI seeks permission to extend this project to June 2023 for them to complete their consultations and then launch the Solomon Islands National EM Policy that will guide their Ministry and the Longline companies in its EM program. SI will provide a full report at the end of June 2023 after the EM Policy Consultations are completed.

2	Cook Islands	Mr Andrew Jones Senior Fisheries Officer A.Jones@mmr.gov.ck	Development of National Competent Authority [HACCP strategy] for Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries	This project seeks to support a comprehensive review of Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Competent Authority programs to ensure that current systems respond to the needs of MMR's fisheries management framework.	74,500.00
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Status:

Cook Islands informed the previous Steering Committee that the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) Bill is undergoing stakeholder consultations which have delayed the development of the HACCP regulations. In 2022, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for an extension. Some of the project activities were hampered due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic such as international travel required for staff to complete sanitary inspections training on factory processing vessels. The Cook Islands is going to release a tender for the Competent Authority Project. The majority of this work is still ongoing, and Cook Islands is requesting to carry over the funds for an additional year. Please refer to the [JTF Annual Report 2023](#) for more details on the project update.

3	Cook Islands	Ms Pamela Maru Secretary MMR P.Maru@mmr.gov.ck	Improving participation and engagement in international fisheries forums	The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) intends to implement a series of training sessions to engage and prepare staff to participate in regional fisheries meetings. This work supports professional development, including working with other Ministries' training	62,886.10
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				<p>programs such as diplomatic protocols and negotiations, to ensure staff are adequately trained before they venture into international meetings to represent the Cook Islands.</p>	
<p><u>Status:</u></p> <p>Cook Islands informed the previous Steering Committee that a tender process of exemption from the Government’s Tender Committee was requested to facilitate the use of funds for consultancy (above HoM discretionary level). With the assistance from FFA, a consultant from International Environmental Law Project was identified to deliver courses. The planning process on materials and course content is on progress. In 2022, Cook Islands requested to carry over the funds for an additional year and Japan agreed to the request for extension.</p> <p>In December 2022, Cook Islands informed that the project activities have been completed such as course material development (9 modules, study guide plus quiz/test materials), in-country delivery of courses to two cohorts (with 1 expert only) during a single visit to Rarotonga. Some of the activities have been undertaken in a reduced capacity given travel, expert availability, and other factors. In this case, their total received budget of NZD 92,406 have some savings of about NZD 22,515. The Cook Islands requested that the remaining funds be used to update the training materials and digitize the said materials (e.g. videos) to provide for self-learning. The Cook Islands prepared a proposal related to this request which was approved by Japan.</p> <p>That request has now been formally approved by the Committee. Negotiations with the service provider have commenced regarding a timeline and schedule of activities, Contracting is expected to be completed by the end of July 2023.</p> <p>The work of this project is still ongoing noting the extension of the project activities until December 2023. Please refer to the JTF Annual Report 2023 for more details on the project.</p>					

Annex 3. Brief Reports of JTF Projects Completed in 1st or 2nd Quarter of 2023

I. **Project Title:** Capacity Building training for **Tuvalu** Fisheries and Maritime Police officers to conduct High Seas Boarding Inspections (HSBI)

II. **Project Objectives**

This project seeks enhance the capacity of fisheries and Police Maritime personnel to conduct boarding Inspections in the High Seas in accordance with WCPFC Boarding and Inspection Procedures (CMM 2006-08); by the end of the project the officers will fully understand HSBI procedures and the application of the CMM 2006-08 in the WCPF Convention area.

III. **Results and Discussions**

Tuvalu first High Seas Boarding and Inspection (CMM 2006-08) training was conducted back in 2018 at the Tuvalu Fisheries Conference room in Funafuti by trainers from NZ MPI Mrs. Justine Duder and Mr. Glen Blackwell. The training went on for 1 week with participants from both Maritime Police and Fisheries Officers attended the training. The training was successfully delivered by the two NZ-MPI trainers in accordance with the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures (CMM 2006-08). The training was very useful and important for the future of HSBI activities in Tuvalu. Both trainers also shared their experience in conducting HSBI activities on board NZRN vessels operating in the Pacific waters and the High Seas patrol operations. The training outcome helps Tuvalu authorized officers to understand HSBI procedures and the application of the CMM 2006-08 in the WCPFC Convention area.



Tuvalu In-country training on the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (2018), Funafuti. TUVALU

Following the training outcome and suggestion Tuvalu Fisheries need to procure ID machine for boarding officers' identifications card according to HSBI procedures. The ID machine was procured from the JTF project funds in 2018. After the completion of the training there is still funds remaining which need to be utilize. This is because the trainers' DSA and flight arrangements were all met by NZ Government as part of their government training and services process for the Pacific region. Tuvalu sent a request to the WCPFC JTF for the second training similar to the first one which was later been approved. In 2020 COVID-19 pandemic period have a great impact in the Pacific region and the globe. Tuvalu Fisheries ceased most of the ongoing workshops and activities due to border restrictions which also includes HSBI training. Later in 2022, Tuvalu uplifted pandemic measures and borders were open again. In the post COVID era, one of the priority

activities for the Compliance Fisheries section is the High Seas Boarding and Inspection training which was agreed to be scheduled to 2023.

Earlier this year 2023, Tuvalu Fisheries planned the second HSBI with NZ-MPI as there is available funds remaining from the first training. It was then confirmed the HSBI training 2 scheduled for April in Suva, Fiji. This is because there is a great number of Long-line vessels which also regarded as high seas vessels in Suva port at the moment which is relevant for practical exercise as part of the training. In addition, the funds are fully utilized by our officers participated in the training. The Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Australia Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) were among the facilitators for this training together with NZ-MPI trainer. Mr Yohni Fepuleai (FFA), Marsh Maebiru (FFA), NZ-MPI Justine Duder and Damian White (AFMA) are the four trainers. This training is broader and covers other areas compared to the first training in 2018. This was made possible because FFA and AFMA have joint in the training to deliver some very useful and relevant tools and information that is essential for high seas boarding and inspection operation. There are 8 participants for this training which include 4 Tuvalu fisheries officers and 4 Tuvalu maritime police. In terms of funding FFA agreed to fund DSA for the 8 Tuvalu participants while JTF funds the return air tickets for the 8 participants. The 1-week training in Fiji from 24th – 28th April was very intense and useful in terms of national HSBI operation procedures and the High seas risks assessment prior to boarding.

The second HSBI training was successfully implemented with more information and training materials and experiences shared among the facilitators to the participants. One highlight of the training is the practical exercise which was conducted in Mua-I Walu jetty with the assistances from Fiji Fisheries Boarding Officers. This exercise was conducted according to the HSBI procedures that was discussed in the training. The team managed to board two Longline vessels usually fish in the High Seas which was very useful to the application of HSBI procedures (CMM2006-08). The training was concluded with a great understanding and knowledge received by participants on HSBI process and procedures (CMM2006-08).



High Seas boarding and Inspection training 2 in Suva, Fiji Islands (24th – 28 April 2023)

IV. Budget (if the project has been completed, please provide details)

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	18,700.78 AUD
Funds Utilized	14,732.69 AUD
In-Kind Contribution (if any)	NZ-MPI/AFMA/FFA
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	FFA

Note: additional supporting documents may be requested as deemed necessary

V. Fund Balance (if any, after the project has been completed)

[The beneficiary may indicate if and how the balance is to be passed down to a project in the coming year]

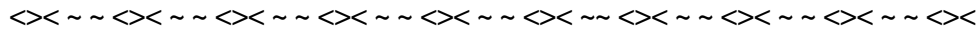
There was a remaining balance of \$3,968.09 AUD. This is because AFMA, NZMPI and FFA have all play an important role on co-funding with JTF on the implementation and execution of the training. Tuvalu suggest to utilize this remaining funds for other HSBI tools and equipment and also to support Tuvalu future HSBI activities.

VI. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

[Please feel free to give your comments/conclusions/feedback/suggestions/recommendations regarding the usefulness and/or operation of JTF]

The project was successfully executed and completed in April 2023 with a positive outcome. There is a great understanding and knowledge of the CMM 2006-08 HSBI process and procedures by the Tuvalu Authorized Officers.

Tuvalu would like to acknowledge the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) for approving Tuvalu’s proposal through WCPFC Small Island Capacity Building Project and providing financial funds to this very important training. It was very beneficial not only for the Officers but to Tuvalu Fisheries and Maritime Police building capacity to better manage and monitor its tuna resources in the High Seas. In conclusion, this project also contributes to countering IUU fishing in the WCPFC Convention area.



I. Project Title: Kiribati Capacity Building for Harvest Strategy

II. Project Objectives

This proposal seeks to build the capacity of Kiribati fisheries officers on harvest strategy (HS) work to enable them to fully participate in the decision-making process for HS as a member of the WCPFC.

The specific objectives of the project are the following:

1. To build capacity for fisheries staff on how Harvest Strategy works, to enable full understanding, and to allow the Government of Kiribati to fully participate in decision-making for HS.
2. To consult with relevant stakeholders to allow for a better understanding of the implication of the different elements and options of HS and to enable formulation of position for Kiribati.
3. To assess the different candidates of HS as currently proposed by the Scientific Provider to enable Kiribati to be fully aware of the implication and also to enable a country position on a way forward to adopt HS.
4. To enable Kiribati to fully participate in the decision-making for HS as a member of the WCPFC.

III. Results and Discussions

WCPFC11 agreed to CMM 2014-06 Conservation and Management Measures to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO. The objective of the CMM 2014-06 is "To agree that the Commission shall develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for each of the key fisheries or stocks under the purview of the Commission according to the process set out in CMM 2014-06." Harvest strategy is a new approach, and it acknowledges that CCMs should have a consistent understanding of the harvest strategy approach, in terms of its structure, function, and implementation within WCPFC. The Commission further

recognizes the special requirements of Developing States Parties for its effective participation in Commission meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies undertaking work on harvest strategies.

This project seeks to continue and build the capacity of Kiribati fisheries officers on harvest strategy (HS) work to enable them to fully understand and participate in the discussion of HS as a member of the WCPFC. Kiribati received the funds in March 2020 and sought assistance from SPC however there was no training since the outbreak of COVID-19 and its impact on flight restrictions. Kiribati has requested to carry over the funds in previous years based on their preference to have a more productive and interactive workshop if conducted physically.

When Kiribati’s national borders re-opened, commercial flights also resumed. Kiribati (MFMRD) has communicated with SPC on the physical workshop and finally, the said workshop was held from 9-10 May 2023. The workshop was conducted successfully for 2 days. The 10 participants were from Kiribati’s Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development - Oceanic Fisheries Division. There were four (4) experts who conducted the workshop (3 from SPC and 1 from FFA).



Harvest Strategy workshop participants and experts from SPC and FFA.

IV. Budget (if the project has been completed, please provide details)

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	54,010
Funds Utilized	54,010
In-Kind Contribution (if any)	
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	

Note: additional supporting documents maybe requested as deemed necessary

V. Fund Balance (if any, after the project has been completed)

[The beneficiary may indicate if and how the balance is to be passed down to a project in the coming year]

VI. Comments/Conclusions/Feedbacks/Suggestions/Recommendations

[Please feel free to give your comments/conclusions/feedback/suggestions/recommendations regarding the usefulness and/or operation of JTF]

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund’s support in our harvest strategy capacity-building for our staff. Your generous funding has allowed Kiribati to implement comprehensive workshop and professional development opportunities, equipping our team with essential skills and knowledge on harvest strategy. We are truly grateful for your support and commitment to the advancement of our workforce.