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Mr Glenn Hurry
Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry – Australia
Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch
GPO Box 858
Canberra, ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

27th July, 2005

Dear Mr Hurry:

Subject: Request for observer accreditation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

Please accept this letter and attachment as a formal request from WWF the global Conservation Organisation, for observer status at meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

WWF is an independent international non-profit making conservation organisation based in Switzerland. WWF was founded in 1961 and is constituted as a foundation under Swiss law. Its purpose is to conserve the natural environment and ecological processes worldwide.

WWF International (wwf.panda.org) runs an active global marine programme including representation to and advocacy in fora addressing fisheries management and protection of the marine environment (see Attachment 1). The implementation of sustainable fisheries management objectives is further secured through national and programme offices in respective regions, one of them being a dedicated Fisheries Conservation Officer at the regional South Pacific Programme Office based in Suva. Moreover, there are plans to develop fisheries capacities in national offices in the Pacific Islands region.

Globally, WWF has an established reputation for working constructively with all sectors of the community to develop sustainable options for management of natural resources, including fisheries. Now that the Commission has been formally established, WWF would welcome the opportunity to engage in this forum as an observer, and believes that it can contribute to the work of the WCPFC. It supports the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the region.

President: HE Chief Emola J
Director General: Dr Claude Martin
President Emeritus:
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Founder President:
HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

Registered as:
WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature
WWF-Fondo Mondiale per la Natura
WWF-Fonds Mondial pour la Nature
WWF-Fonds Mondial pour la Nature
WWF-ANR Natur Fonds
Also known as World Wildlife Fund





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WWF has been working in the region since the 1970s and has a strong presence in the coastal and fishing States that operate in the convention area.¹ Our work in these places ranges from community-based management projects, involvement in the development of rules governing subsidies, a handbook on negotiating access agreements, trade analyses to identify illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, development of ecosystem-based management approaches, assisting industry that seek certification of their fishery, as well as establishing and managing marine protected areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if further information is needed to meet the requirement for observer status.

Yours sincerely,

Dale Withington
Representative
WWF South Pacific Programme Office

Seremaia Tuqiri
Fisheries Conservation Officer
WWF South Pacific Programme Office

cc: Fisheries Officer, Global Marine Programme, WWF International, Gland
Project Leader, Consumer Choices for Sustainable Seafood, Melbourne
Regional Marine Coordinator, WWF South Pacific Programme, Suva

¹ WWF has National Organizations in Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong SAR, the Philippines, and Indonesia, and WWF Programme Offices in the South Pacific (headquartered in Fiji with project offices in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and New Caledonia), People's Republic of China, Indo-China (headquartered in Vietnam with project offices in Vietnam, LAO PDR, and Cambodia), and Thailand. WWF also has strong presence in fishing States in the region, including the European Union, and the USA.



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Attachment 1:

Summary of international and regional fora that WWF holds formal observer status or has long-term representation on delegations, relevant to the WCPFC

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND OCEANS

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

- TRAFFIC² representation on Australian delegation

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCAMLR)

- WWF on ASOC, South African and New Zealand country delegations

FAO Council, Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

- WWF regular observers

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

- WWF Australia on country delegation
- WWF East Africa has Observer Status
- TRAFFIC representation on South African delegation

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

- WWF US Commissioner
- WWF has formal observer status

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- WWF representative on Japan country delegation
- WWF has Standing Observer Status

United Nations (UN)

- NGO in consultative status (Category I) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations – WWF International official representative

Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

- WWF observers on Fiji and United States country delegations
- TRAFFIC representation on Australian delegation for MHLC process
- WWF and TRAFFIC representation on country delegations for PrepCons
- TRAFFIC representation on Australian delegation and WWF representation on US delegation during MHLC process
- WWF and TRAFFIC representation on country delegations for PrepCons and linked workshop (US - multiple PrepCons, Fiji - 2004 PrepCon, New Zealand – 2003 PrepCon, Japan – 2004 Sapporo workshop)

² TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.



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REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

- WWF observes at HoF

Scientific Committee on Tuna and Billfish (SCTB)

- WWF observed at the SCTB meetings (2003)

Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) of CROP³

- Collaborated with the MSWG in the formulation of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy Framework

³ CROP - Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific