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Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

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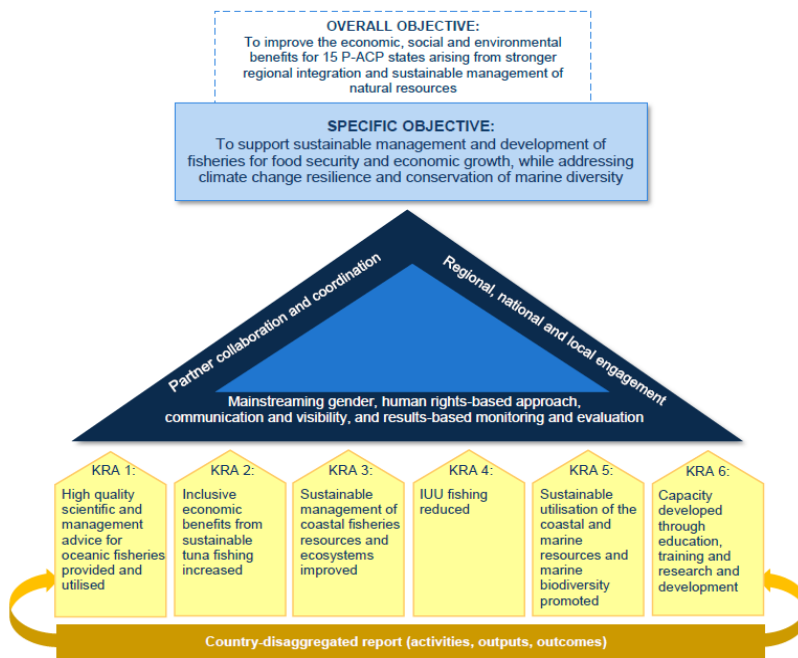
The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)

1. Background

The **Pacific – EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme** is the flagship initiative funded by the European Union (EU) to promote a healthy Pacific Ocean and a strong governance of marine and coastal resources to improve sustainable and inclusive growth within the region.

The Programme - jointly financed by the EU and the government of Sweden for a total amount of EUR 45 M over seven years - is a clear sign of EU's and its Member States' commitment to promote sustainable, responsible and transparent management of the marine resources in the Pacific Ocean. The EU and its Member States consider oceans governance as a priority in the partnership with Pacific Countries.

The Programme adopts an integrated and multi-sectoral approach, with inter-related components implemented by several regional agencies. The programme's six **Key Result Areas (KRA)** are structured as follows:



The first five KRAs are implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). KRA 6 is implemented by the University of the South Pacific (USP).

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) was established within the leading agency (SPC) to coordinate with partners and implements the Human Rights and Gender component, the Communication component and the Maritime Boundaries component.

Programme is currently in its seventh and final year of implementation. This report covers the achievements of all Key Result Areas (KRA 0 – KRA 6) **during Year 6 of its implementation (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024)** and are summarised below.

2. MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING YEAR 6 OF IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Delimitation of maritime boundaries (KRA 0 - SPC lead)

- Technical support provided to countries (Solomon Islands, PNG, Tonga and Palau) during Year 6 include:
 - Support on the process of depositing maritime boundaries limits with UNDOALOS
 - Geocap software - Extended Continental Shelf training
 - Coastline survey
 - Marine Spatial Planning Workshop on the territorial seas (12M) and Contiguous zone (24M)
- Through technical support through workshops and capacity building on delimitation and negotiation of their maritime boundaries and extended continental shelf submission was provided to 63 nationals during year 6.
- PEUMP funded consultants to complete the draft of two full submissions for North Fiji Basin and the Melanesian Borderland Plateau which also included workshops with the relevant national representatives.
- A digital format on depositing maritime boundaries with UNDOALOS through the International Hydrographic standard (S121) was developed for several countries.
- The amendments to the coordinates between Cook Islands and Kiribati maritime boundaries treaty were signed during Year 6 and with the support of PEUMP Staff.
- The 22nd Pacific Maritime Boundaries Working Session had convened in December 2023 at the University of Sydney.
- PEUMP staff participated in the 6th Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council that took place at the University of Sydney in December 2023.

1.

- *Under the PEUMP programme, 1 full time Maritime Boundaries Officer and 2 part time Maritime Boundaries officers are supported.*

2.

2.2 Scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries (KRA 1 - SPC lead)

Analysis of tuna by-catch at regional and national levels:

- During Year 6, consultants were hired to deliver specific analyses of bycatch interactions and the maintenance and update of the WCPFC Bycatch Mitigation Information System (BMIS).
- The scientific peer review paper by Peatman et al. "[Estimating trends and magnitudes of bycatch in the tuna fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean](#)" was published in Fish and Fisheries.
- The Bycatch report was prepared for WCPFC Scientific Committee ([SC19-ST-WP-02](#)), which feeds into the reporting of the Tuna Fisheries Report Card and provides information on the progress against the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries.
- National bycatch reports have been drafted for the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga and Fiji, and draft reports for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are in preparation.

Ecosystem modelling and development of indicators

- The PEUMP SPC staff took part in leg 2 of the Warmalis 3 cruise to conduct sample, data collection for monitoring the Pacific ecosystem and micronekton from past research voyages including Warmalis 3 were analysed.

- Research on biodiversity and new species has continued, with progress on the observation and study of *Polyipnus sp.* specimens.
- The PEUMP programme also supported and allowed for the publication of two scientific studies:
 - A publication arising from the analysis of micronekton samples and providing information on biodiversity: “[Konstantinidis & Vourey. 2023](#). A rare Macristium stage Bathysaurus mollis (Aulopiformes, Bathysauridae) from the South Pacific, Deep-Sea Research Part II, 200, DOI: 10.1016/j.dsr.2023.104137”.
 - A publication arising from the analysis of stomach content: “Garrigue et al. 2023. [Marine mammal strandings recorded in New Caledonia, southwest Pacific Ocean, 1877 to 2022](#). Pacific Conservation Biology. <https://doi.org/10.1071/PC23016>”.

Evaluation of electronic monitoring (EM) for purse seine vessels

- An EM module has been developed within the TUFMAN2 regional database system. This module allows countries to view their EM data and run reports.
- PEUMP SPC staff engaged with countries implementing EM (Fiji, FSM, RMI, Solomon Islands) through technical discussions on national needs, data and process standards and demonstrating to members the use of the EM module in TUFMAN2 including links with other data sources.
- The testing and development of the Electronic Monitoring Longline *JSON format* process continued with countries.
- Support was provided on the implementation of the “OnBoard” application in longline fisheries in Fiji, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.
- Three in-country technical training workshops on longline fisheries ER applications were conducted:
 1. July 2023: 40 staff attended from the Ministry of Fisheries Fiji and Ministry of Marine Resources Cook Islands. The Ministry of Fisheries in Fiji has since conducted trainings following the initial training under PEUMP (train the trainers' approach), targeting Fiji flagged longline freezer vessels operating in the high seas and/or neighbouring EEZs.
 2. July 2023: 23 staff attended from the Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 3. October 2023: 20 staff attended from the PNG National Fisheries Authority PNG to prepare for the expansion of their longline fishery.

Research to address biological uncertainties in tuna stock assessment models

- Work during Year 6 focused on the write-up of the skipjack growth paper for the WCPFC Scientific Committee.
- To date, 298 strontium chloride (SrCl₂) marked otoliths from skipjack tuna tagged and released during the 2019 and 2022 WCPFC tagging cruises have now been recovered. Over 200 of these tagged skipjack also had a tissue sample collected from them at the time of release for genetic analysis. A pipeline is now in place for retrieving and cataloguing all chemically marked otoliths and matching tissue samples from skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna tagged during past WCPFC cruises.
- PEUMP-funded staff was involved in the sampling programme for the WCPFC-funded South Pacific albacore Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR). Training of in-country SPC staff, fisheries staff and port samplers across the region has taken place, and the sampling protocols have been refined and tailored to the unloading and processing systems in place in each port.
- Formal analysis of the otolith morphometric and genetic data for Phase 1 of the South Pacific albacore connectivity project is now complete.
- The multidisciplinary WCPO skipjack connectivity study based around the collection and analysis of multiple data types (e.g. genetics, otolith morphometrics, otolith microchemistry) continued

during Year 6. All analyses of the different data types are now complete, and the scientist supported by PEUMP is leading the write-up of this work for publication in a scientific journal.

- Research paper examining the drivers of tuna diet and stomach fullness across the WCPO entitled “Are tuna always hungry? A deep dive into stomach fullness measures in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean” was provisionally accepted in the scientific journal *Marine and Freshwater Research* in March 2024,
- A PEUMP-funded staff was involved with the collection of new data on tuna lengths and weights and biological samples under WCPFC Projects 35b and 90. New additions of tuna biological samples to the WCPFC Pacific Marine Specimen Bank have come from the WCPFC CP16 cruise, as well as from ongoing fisheries observer and port-based sampling programmes throughout the WCPO region.
- As part of WCPFC Project 90 reporting for SC19, held in August 2023, the PEUMP-funded scientist undertook a full re-analysis of the length-weight and weight-weight conversion factors for bigeye and yellowfin tuna that fed into the 2023 stock assessments for each species. The SC19 paper is available here: <https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/19346>.
- An update on Project 90 work since SC19 was presented by the PEUMP-funded staff member at the PAW in March 2024. Activities undertaken include the derivation of new length-weight relationships for south Pacific albacore and southwest Pacific striped marlin in the lead up to the 2024 assessments.

Improved modelling of relative abundance using catch per unit effort

- Work during Year 6 focused on the delivery of standardised catch per unit effort (CPUE) inputs to the bigeye and yellowfin assessments in 2023, and the CPUE inputs to and assessment of South Pacific albacore in 2024.
- Improvements were made to the longline CPUE indices for use in the 2023 yellowfin and bigeye stock assessments based on recommendations by the 2020 yellowfin assessment peer-review workshop.
- Work was planned on pole and line CPUE analyses with a survey for fishing captains developed to evaluate potential areas of focus. Discussions also included further quantification and modelling of effort creep.
- Work continued on the development of key standardized CPUE inputs into the 2024 South Pacific albacore assessment.
- The potential for ‘effort creep’ within the purse seine fishery within PNA waters was examined, and a paper was provided to the PNA’s annual meeting in March 2024.

Capacity development through long-term attachments with the SPC

- A Pacific Island Fisheries Professional from the Ministry of Fisheries in Fiji completed the 1-year attachment at SPC in April 2024.
- 3.
- *Under the PEUMP programme, eight staff in the SPC Oceanic Division are either fully or partly supported.*

2.3. Economic benefits from sustainable tuna (FFA lead - KRA 2)

- During Year 6, support was provided to sanitary Competent Authorities (CA) by the market access specialist at FFA. Country visits that were undertaken in Marshall Islands, FSM, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

- PEUMP supported the peer-to-peer exchange between Solomon Island & Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) through an attachment for Solomon Island Competent Authority (CA) lead in RMI.
- The PEUMP MCS Adviser travelled to Samoa to provide technical assistance to Samoa's Fisheries team during the national consultations of their Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan and Tuna Fisheries National Monitoring Control Surveillance & Enforcement (MCS&E) Strategy.
- Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Strategy 2024-2029 workshop was held in Nadi with support from the PEUMP programme.
 - The Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Strategy 2024-2029 was endorsed by the Officials Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC133) on the 9th of May 2024 in Nauru and adopted at the 23rd Annual Ministerial Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) on the 23rd of July 2024 in Honiara, Solomon Islands.
- Support was provided in the review and development of National Tuna Management Development Plans (TMDP) for Niue.
- Procurement of equipment for Niue Tuna Jerky Ltd was finalised in June 2024.
- Work on the re-evaluation and audit for compliance with the MSC Group catch certification took place with the Fiji Fisheries Industry Association.
- Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Pacific Fisheries Symposium took place in April 2024 – this was held in Honiara and organized by FFA in collaboration with SPC and partners.
- Capacity Development Needs Analysis and CMM interagency workshop took place in June 2024 – participation of representatives from national fisheries administrations and national interagency partners on labour standards work such as Labour, Legal, Maritime Police, Trade and the Fishing Industry was supported
- Technical advice was provided for Samoa's Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Plan and Tuna Fisheries National Monitoring Control Surveillance & Enforcement (MCS&E) Strategy.
- Overall, 250 people were funded to attend either a training, consultation or seafood expo during year 6.
 - Republic of Marshall Island (RMI) CA Vessel & Landing Sites Audits Training took place in in July 2023.
 - A 2-week training program aimed to enhance the skills of Compliance and Assurance officers and Fisheries Industry representatives in sampling techniques took place through the Regional Sampling Training in September 2023.
 - A Regional Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training was held in Suva, Fiji in April 2024 and attended by 17 representatives from 6 Members countries including Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Is, Tuvalu, Samoa and Vanuatu.
 - A two-week Regional Thermal Processing Training was held in Lae, PNG with a total of 20 participants, out of which 9 were from CAs from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Is and RMI and 8 from the industry.
 - FFA PEUMP supported the delivery of the High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Training for 42 Compliance and Boarding Officers in PNG.
 - Fiji MOF Observer training on WCPFC CMM compliance too place during Year 6 with 35 participants from the Ministry of Fisheries Fiji.
 - FSM Observer training, with a total of 10 certified Observers from NORMA were trained.
 - Cook Islands High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) training took place for Cook Islands Compliance Boarding Officers in accordance with the WCPFC CMM 2006-08, legal fisheries instruments (International, Regional and Sub-regional), as well as utilising the FFA MCS tools

- intel analysis and pre-boarding risk assessment prior to surveillance planning and boarding inspections
- Singapore Expo in September 2023 – A total of 6 companies representatives were supported to attended.
- Spain Seafood Expo in April 2024 - A total of 3 fishing companies were supported to attend.
- FFA PEUMP assisted the participation of 2 females at the Solomon Islands Senior Executive Women in Leadership Program Training Program in July 2023.
- A workshop on Initiative for Leveraging Change on Complex Issues through Leadership was held in Solomon Islands- PEUMP ensured the participation of 4 industry representatives.

2.4. Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources (SPC lead - KRA3)

- Overall, 548 people were funded by PEUMP to attend either a training, consultation or 1 year attachment during year 6 including:
 - In-country training provided to fisheries staff in Kiribati and Tonga in fishery-independent sea cucumber and giant clam surveys and market and landing surveys, resulting in staff proficient in survey design, data collection, data management and using GIS for survey planning.
 - A training of enumerators took place to support the socioeconomic assessment of Samoan coastal fisheries.
 - QGIS training was conducted in Noumea in January 2024 for Tuvalu fisheries officers and in March 2024 for Kiribati fisheries officers
 - Produced training materials for a Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) course which will be offered as an elective in the Professional Certificate III for Community Fisheries Compliance Training Course.
 - The Provincial Fisheries Officers (PFOs) from Urban Local Level Government (LLG) jurisdictions in PNG took part in training workshops during which LLG work plans were finalised with the aim to be incorporated in the 2024 provincial budget.
 - A Pacific Island Fisheries Professional from Fiji concluded a 12-month contract to support the science team to conduct invertebrate surveys and data collection methods for invertebrate stock assessments.

Community-based Fisheries Management

- Work on Community-based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management during YEAR 6 included the LMMA PEUMP small grants activities and through financial support to implementing partners in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji to deliver specific activities in each country.
 - After a selection of 16 potential grantees through the call for Expression of Interest, a capacity building phase took place which consisted in 3 general information sessions and 11 one-on-one sessions with applicants who requested them.
 - The 3rd Community-Based fisheries Dialogue took place in Noumea.
 - The CBRM Community Scaling and Networking Forum was organized in Solomon Islands which gathered 34 participants from several provinces, local NGOs and CSOs, MFMR, SPC, cChange and LMMA.
- 4.

Coastal fisheries surveys and data collection

- Developed and refined the invertebrate sampling strategy for community-based fisheries data collection programmes in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

- The socioeconomic assessment of the bonefish recreational fishery in Kiribati completed and published.
- Work was ongoing to refine the online electronic non-detriment-finding (eNDF) tool for use with sea cucumbers.
- From July 2023, a study was conducted to increase SPC's invertebrate image library.
 - The outcome of this activity is that the data and analysis are being used in the publication 'Leveraging deep learning and computer vision technologies for automating coastal fisheries monitoring systems in Small Island Developing States of the central and south Pacific'.
- Important achievements were reached in the development of the IKASAVEA app during Year 6:
 - PEUMP staff supported the development of AI models for the automated processing of pictures of fishes on the measuring boards used in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands for market data collection and integration with Ikasavea mobile app and SPC coastal fisheries web applications. Presentation of Ikasavea to the Micronesian countries took place during a workshop in Guam in first quarter of 2024.
 - Ongoing invertebrate AI (Artificial Intelligence) development and support to countries (Tonga, Samoa, PNG, Solomon Islands) using Ikasavea.
 - A sampling protocol for the Tonga specific market and landing contexts was developed that will enable fishery-dependent length-based invertebrate stock assessments and calculations of monthly production estimates.
 - The Ikasavea mobile application must be migrated to a new technology and part of the code must be rewritten accordingly.

Community outreach activities

- **Tuvalu:** 2 radio episodes of the newly designed radio program were scripted and recorded
- **Tuvalu:** A training workshop on strategic communications and video/radio content was held from with 17 participants from the Tuvalu Fisheries Department and their relevant partners.
- **Cook Islands:** following a request from MMR, a poster on giant clams' conservation was finalized and approved.
- **Solomon Islands:** compliance package for PFOs (Provincial Fisheries Officers) was initiated, in collaboration with the ongoing awareness campaign.
- **Kiribati:** 23 staff from Coastal Fisheries and the Environment and Conservation Division undertook a 5-days training on Communication strategy and Behavioural Change to actively engage in communication techniques and utilize content creation technology to effectively run awareness campaigns.
- **FSM:** The photo exhibition "Beyond the Reef," promoting sustainable nearshore fishing practices, was printed and shipped to Pohnpei to assist the FAD team in organizing training sessions with community fishers and awareness-raising events
- **Ciguatera awareness raising tools:** Following the production of a ciguatera awareness-raising tools for Vanuatu, work focused on supporting Fiji, Samoa and Tonga on the local version of the toolkit.
- **Fish smart rules booklet:** this document complements the Fishing community's toolkit with specific information on 6 fisheries management rules.
- **Regional CBFM web portal: "Echoes of Oceania"** the regional e-platform about CBFM in the Pacific was launched in November 2023
- **Dissemination of the awareness and training series** of videos for the region: The Guardians of the Pacific video series was aired on Pasifika TV in January and February 2024.
- **Fish & tips:** This series of videos highlights nearshore fishing practices targeting the more resilient pelagic species to take some pressure off the threatened or restricted coastal resources.

Tools and systems to combat IUU fishing activities in coastal waters

- The first initiative is the trial of 25-30 electronic tracking devices being placed on 25-30 small-scale inshore fishing vessels in Kiribati.
- The second initiative is a trial involving the use of CCTV for monitoring inshore artisanal fishing activity at the two boat ramps or landing points on the Republic of Nauru.
- The third initiative is the review of the Regional MCSE inspection database through the engagement of a contractor with relevant MCSE database development experience and with MCSE requisite operational experience. At present, only one member country is using the current version of the Regional MCSE inspection database.

5.

- *Under the PEUMP programme, 8 technical staff in the SPC Coastal Fisheries Division are either fully or partly supported.*

6.

2.5. Reducing IUU fishing (FFA lead - KRA 4)

- Samoa Fisheries Division national stakeholders' consultations was held during year 6 with a total of 17 Samoa Fisheries staff.
- The draft National Plans of Action on IUU for Nauru and Tuvalu were finalised.
- Fiji National Fisheries legislation training was held in Suva with a total of 43 participants with a focus on Fiji's Fisheries Act Cap.158 and Offshore Fisheries Management Act 2012.
- Regional Fisheries Prosecutions workshop took place during Year 6 aimed at enhancing the knowledge of Prosecutors and Fisheries officers with the International Law Legal Framework governing Emerging Technology. A total of 30 participants from 10 Member countries joined in person in Solomon Islands.
- PEUMP supported a Vanuatu Fisheries Officer's participation at the Fisheries Management short course held by the University of Wollongong, Australia.
- PEUMP supported 2 representatives Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (SI MFMR) and 2 representatives from the National Fisheries Developments Ltd (NFD) in Noro to participate in the E-port State Measures (e-PSM) systems training that was in December 2023.
- An 'Onboard' Training Workshop was jointly organised and aimed to share and enhance capacity on the E-reporting application, i.e. 'OnBoard'. Participants included 39 from the Fiji Fisheries Department, the Fiji Navy, 1 from Cook Is Ministry of Fisheries, and from the Fishing Industry.
- Solomon Islands MFMR MCS, PSM, CDS forms review workshop was held in August 2023.
- Electronic Reporting Onboard training for Samoa Fisheries division was during Year 6 with a total of 23 participants: 14 from Fisheries and 9 representatives from 3 companies representing the domestic fishing and processing industry.
- Kiribati Boarding and Inspection Training took place with a total of 25 participants.
- Fiji e-Port State Measures (e-PSM) systems user training and trials was conducted.
- Attachment of 2 Tuvalu Compliance Officers in RMI for electronic scales training, took place in 2024.
- Work to enhance RMI's monitoring and analysis through a consultancy with Starboard for transshipment was conducted.
- PEUMP supported 2 representatives from National Fisheries Development (NFD) from the Solomon Islands to participate in the i-FIMS workshop.
- e-Port State Measures (e-PSM) systems user training and trials took place in Tonga with a total of 19 participants.

- Solomon Islands MFMR e-PSM Capacity Building Training & Noro e-Port Discussion with 17 participants from SI MFMR and SI ICT staff. The following was procured to enhance the members MCS initiatives and to ensure compliance with the new WCPFC CMM requirements:
 - Mobile Trans receiver Units (MTU) for Fiji x 3
 - Solar VMS units for Samoa to support their Alias (domestic LL vessels) x 2
 - Samsung Tab A5 for Palau's Observers x 5
 - Tablets w/Wi-Fi for Solomon Is Boarding and Inspection Officers x 10
- The Regional PSM Risk Assessment Training was held in RMI with 23 participants from 8 Member countries.
- Re-engagement of WWF through a third MOA in November 2023 to ensure continued partnership with WWF and their facilitation of Civil Society Organisations' (CSO) advocacy on IUU-fishing at various platforms especially at the WCPFC. WWF supported the participation of CSOs at the WCPFC20 from 4th-8th December 2023. A total of six CSO representatives were selected through a call for Expressions of Interest to participate at the WCPFC20 (4 female and 2 male).
- The Regional Certificate 4: Fisheries Compliance course at USP Fiji for 2022 to 2023 class, was held Face to Face in August 2023. All students will graduate with a Certificate IV qualification from the University of South Pacific (USP).
- A new Diploma of Fisheries Investigation and Prosecution qualification programme was launched in February 2024. The cohort only 13 students currently make up to cohort.
- The Regional Certificate 4: Fisheries Compliance course at USP Fiji for 2023 to 2024 cohort were assessed during Year 6.

7.

- *Under the PEUMP programme, 1 full time FFA MCS staff is supported.*

2.6. Sustainable utilization of the coastal and marine biodiversity (SPREP lead - KRA5)

- Established a SPREP virtual collection to store BIEM related knowledge products (including non-published products). [Projects Knowledge Products | Virtual Library](https://www.sprep.org/projects-knowledge-products-virtual-library) (sprep.org).
- In Fiji, during year 6, SPREP approved inception report for biodiversity and socio-economic assessments in the Navua catchment and Beqa Lagoon, facilitating marine and terrestrial surveying.
 - 2- 4 marine surveys were conducted at 40 sites in Beqa Lagoon.
 - A community consultation workshop was conducted with 60 community members from Serua, Namosi and Rewa provinces including women groups, youth groups and persons with disabilities.
 - The Fiji Steering Committee approved ecosystem-based adaptation livelihood activities based that included catchment reforestation activities with native tree species through the establishment and registration of native tree nurseries on Beqa and Yanuca islands.
- An underwater photography training for Vanuatu Fisheries Department staff was conducted and the first found of marine BIORAPs in Malekula's Southwest Bay was conducted in May-June 2024.
- Aerial photography completed in Vanuatu covering Mataso Island, Tongoa, Laika and Tevala, Epi, Ambrym, Pentecost, Ambae, West coast of Malekula, Maskelyne Islands and Cooks reef at Emae.
- Community Turtle Management signage prepared for communities in Vanuatu. Signage printing and shipment to sites and construction completed.
- Work consisted of finalising the Regional marine turtle extinction risk assessment.
- Consultants to conduct the Turtle Risk Data Statistical Analysis was contracted.

By-catch mitigation strategies developed and rolled-out

- Port-based extension activities progress with Birdlife International. The final report has been published and available on SPREP Library website.
- Hookpod by-catch mitigation trial in Fiji was prepared during Year 6 .
- Agreement with Ministry of Fisheries in Tonga was reached for a longline crew training including on shark longline awareness and CITES implementation capacity building.
- National Plan of Action for Sharks and Turtles developed in the Solomon Islands. Next steps include final and official validation by the government.
- The final report for the Dolphin by-catch mitigation development and implementation in Papua New Guinea is being prepared for publication.

Capacity development through research grant

- Lui Bell Scholarship for research students at University of PNG: Both UPNG and Snubfin Dolphin Project (SDP) will support two post-graduate students to study by-catch issues in the Kikori region of Papua New Guinea.
- Scholarship for Master's student at Solomon Islands National University: The research thesis completed by the student.

Support for community monitoring and protection of endangered species

- Activities related to the development and implementation of a management plan for Laika-Tevala island wedgetail shearwater bird colony in Vanuatu are ongoing.
- Community Turtle Management Plans in Bamboo Bay and Wiawi, Malekula in Vanuatu are also ongoing.

Capacity development on NDF (Non-Detriment Findings) process for CITES parties

- NDFs developed for Hard Coral and Live Rock in Fiji.
- Work is ongoing for the Review of Crocodile Trade Act in Papua New Guinea.
- Work is ongoing to develop NDF for CITES listed sharks, coral and cultured giant clams in Tonga.
- The Review National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks, sea birds and turtles in Vanuatu is ongoing.
- NDF developed for Giant Clams in the Solomon Islands.
- The development of national saltwater crocodile management plan in the Solomon Islands was ongoing during Year 6

2.7. Education, Research and Capacity Development (USP lead – KRA 6)

Improved access to fisheries and marine education and training

Accreditation and delivery of existing TVET courses, USP PEUMP achieved the following:

- developed learning resources for Diploma 5 & 6 in Resilience,
- a regional cohort of 17 students started the Certificate IV Pacific Ocean Finance
- a regional cohort of 31 students were supported for Certificate IV on Resilience
- a cohort of 19 students Nauru where supported for the Certificate IV on Resilience

Design of continuing professional development and career pathways

Accreditation approval was received for two new micro - qualifications:

- Micro-Qualification to Scale-up Community-Based Fisheries Management in the Pacific (CBFM)
- Micro-Qualification to Enhance Agricultural and Fisheries Value Chains in the Pacific Islands (VCA)

The following micro-qualifications were delivered during Year 6 of the PEUMP programme:

Date Commenced	Training	Focus	# of females	# of males	Total #
31 st August to 11 th September, 2023	1. Micro-qualifications in Establishing and Operating a Seafood Business – Kiribati ¹¹	Kiribati	8	6	14
6 th to 10 th November, 2023	2. Micro-qualifications in Establishing and Operating a Seafood Business – Samoa ¹²	Samoa	16	2	18
27 th November to 4 th December, 2023	3. Micro-qualifications in Establishing Seafood Safety & Quality – Kiribati ¹³	Kiribati	13	6	19
13 th to 17 th February, 2024	4. Micro-Qualifications in Seafood Safety & Quality	Christmas Island, Kiribati	11	9	20
19 th to the 23 rd Feb, 2024	5. Micro-qualifications in Establishing and Operating a Seafood Business – Christmas Island ¹⁴	Christmas Island, Kiribati	11	7	18
25 th to the 28 th March, 2024	6. Micro-qualifications in Establishing Seafood Safety & Quality – Samoa ¹⁵	Samoa	10	3	13
4 th to 5 th of April, 2024	7. Awareness in Establishing Seafood Safety & Quality – Dili Fisheries, Timor Leste ¹⁶	Timor Leste	13	12	25
13 th to the 17 th of May, 2024	8. Micro-qualifications in Establishing and Operating a Seafood Business – Tonga ¹⁷	Tonga	14	6	20

Development and delivery of additional training courses in coastal fisheries and sustainable development.

- Educational material was developed for traditional canoe building and sailing processes in Cook Islands
- A sustainable traditional canoe building and sailing program was proposed for Tonga with the help of their vocational schools.
- The process to develop a new micro-qualification in Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Fisheries was started.

Applied Research

Eight students have been sponsored and are developing the following research topics:

- MSc – Micro-plastic Abundance and Distribution in Surface Waters around Viti Levu, Fiji
- MSc - Impacts of coral bleaching from rising sea surface temperatures (SST) and population drivers on fish catch in Tuvalu
- MSc – Macro- plastic impact on photosynthetic activity of symbiotic zooxanthellae in corals
- MSc - Evaluating the adaptation skills and roles of men, women and youth in coastal fisheries to the impacts of climate change – a case study of Serua
- PhD - Impact of Climate Change on ecological connectivity of Coastal Ecosystems
- PhD - Applying biomarkers for monitoring the effects of pollution in the marine environment in Viti Levu, Fiji.
- PhD - Tuna fisheries management in a remote sensing environment
- PhD – Shifting Baselines in Fiji’s Marine and Inland Fisheries – A study of the significance in including Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

USP PEUMP allowed for the publication of 12 scientific papers during Year 6 on the following topics:

- Ecosystem management policy implications based on Tonga main tuna species catch data 2002–2018
- Sandfish generations: Loss of genetic diversity due to hatchery practices in the sea cucumber *Holothuria (Metriatyla) scabra*
- Red eyes in juvenile bull sharks (*Charcharhinus leucas*) from Fiji

- Environmental Factors Determine Tuna Fishing Vessels' Behavior in Tonga
- Global genetic diversity and historical demography of the Bull Shark
- Rays in the shadows: Batoid diversity, occurrence and conservation status in Fiji
- Characteristics of Fiji's small-scale ray fishery and its relevance to food security
- Baseline study of biomarkers of exposure to metal and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon in wild Mugil cephalus from the coastal waters of Fiji
- Observational data on the reproductive condition of female Oceania fantail

2.8 Gender and Social Inclusion

The accomplishments of PEUMP during Year 6 on the cross-cutting component related to gender, human rights and poverty reduction are summarized hereunder.

- The SPC “handbook for human rights, gender and social inclusions in tuna industries” was launched in October 2023 and then presented during the 16th Head of Fisheries (HoF16) meeting in April 2024.
- The planning process for the development of the Kiribati gender and fisheries assessment began in August 2023 with field research starting in October – November 2023. The draft report was presented back to Kiribati in March 2024 coupled with a 3-day GESI training for MFMRD staff. MFMRD Director for Coastal Fisheries presented the findings from the assessment during HoF16 in April 2024. The assessment will be published during year 7. Initiation of Tuvalu's gender and fisheries assessment in February 2024 and will continue into year 7.
- Community consultations on a GESI strategy with the MFMR took place in the Solomon Islands followed by a validation workshop in April 2024.
- A GESI and Communication guide with a community based fisheries management focus was developed.
- SPC PEUMP staff supported the developed of Tonga's draft Special Management Area (SMA) national strategy.
- A GESI session was conducted during the plenary of the regional Community Based Fisheries Dialogue in November 2024 to elevate the voices of community with focus on women and youth.
- A GESI session was conducted during the Socio-economic workshop and community of practice (CoP) and supported the development of an Action Plan.
- SPC PEUMP staff attended the workshop dedicated to support PICs in drafting the advisory opinion to the International Court of Justice answering the Court's question on how climate change may have impacted human rights, including state obligations related to this matter under International Human Rights Law (IHRL).
- SPC PEUMP staff supported the development of gender and fisheries country fact sheets in 7 selected countries: Tonga, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, PNG. This work is ongoing and will be finalised in Year 7.
- SPC PEUMP staff presented PEUMP's work and the Pacific Tuna handbook on HR/GESI at the international expert meeting on human rights in fisheries at the Danish Human Rights Institute (DHRI).
- During Year 6, a GESI training was conducted for 12 community fisherwomen in Fiji.
- The [Kiribati Gender and Fisheries Assessment](#) was finalised during the Year 6 which included field research, trainings and consultations. The draft report was presented back to Kiribati in March 2024 coupled with a 3-day GESI training for MFMRD staff.
- Tuvalu's gender and fisheries assessment started in February 2024 and will continue into year 7.
- Collaboration with FFA on the [Regional Gender in Fisheries Symposium](#) in April 2024 in Honiara.
- Overall, 138 nationals participated in a GESI, HRBA training, symposium during year 6.

- Under the PEUMP Programme, one full time Gender Specialist at SPC is supported.

3. Ongoing interventions funded by the European Union related to Ocean Governance in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Project Name	Description	Amount EU Contribution	Status
Pacific EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	The overall objective is to 'improve the economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 Pacific ACP states (PACPs) arising from stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.	35 M (total 45M)	Ongoing with SPC, FFA, SPREP and USP
Biodiversity and Protected Area Management – BIOPAMA II	To overall objective is to contribute to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in ACP regions in protected areas and surrounding communities through better use and monitoring of information and capacity development on management and governance.	EUR 1.3 M Pacific component	On-going through SPREP and IUCN
Pacific Biodiversity and Sustainable Land - Seascapes - Pacific BioScapes	The overall objective is to contribute to the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS and coastal countries while contributing to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by supporting and improving the management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.	EUR 12 M Pacific component	On-going through SPREP
FISH4ACP: Sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in ACP countries	The overall objective is that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains contribute to economic growth, decent jobs creation, food and nutrition security in ACP countries.	EUR 3 M RMI value chain selected for support in the Pacific	Ongoing through FAO
“Kiwa initiative” Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience	The overall objective is to make pacific island ecosystems, economies and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	EUR 13.9 M (total of 41 M)	Ongoing through the AFD
KIWA II Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Resilience	The overall objective is to make pacific island ecosystems, economies and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	EUR 6 (total of 20 M)	Ongoing with AFD
Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications	The overall goal of this Action is to support the climate information services value chain with technical and financial assistance, infrastructure and capacity building in ACP countries	EUR 9 M	Ongoing through SPREP
Pacific Solutions: Integrated Ocean Management PSIOM	The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen ocean governance and support the development of National Ocean Policies	EUR 1.5 M (Total 1.8M)	Ongoing with SPC
Strengthening Pacific Intra-Regional and International Trade (SPIRIT)	The overall objective is to support Pacific States in developing their trade policy and capacities and to strengthen economic regional integration in order to better benefit from international trade.	EUR 5.75 M	Ongoing with the PIFS

Support to Pacific Island Countries on the ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Treaty	The overall objective is to provide Pacific Island Countries legal and technical support in the ratification and implementation process of the BBNJ Treaty	EUR 115,000	Ongoing with OPOC/PIFS
Total EU Contribution in the area of Ocean Governance		EUR 87.565 M	

4. Follow-up and next steps

- The European Union is preparing a new regional ocean programme in the Pacific in continuation of the seven-year Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme.
- The new ocean programme, or phase II of PEUMP, will cover a period of five years (2025- 2030) and will focus on ocean governance and will aim to promote the sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing IUU fishing, climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity in the region.
- The EU Delegation for the Pacific has been conducting consultations with national representatives, technical and financial partners as well as key stakeholders and beneficiaries in the Pacific since May 2023. An EU – Pacific Ocean Dialogue was organised in October 2023 contributed to identifying needs and defining the key focus areas of the future ocean programme.
- At a regional level, the 2025 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent along with its implementation plan remains an important reference for the EU’s engagement with the Pacific with a shared interest to work towards common priorities and objectives. The outcomes of the WCPFC negotiations are also an important reference