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Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

2025 Strategic Investment Plan

WCPFC22-2025-03

23 October 2025

Submitted by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the updated Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for 2025. A brief report on implementation of the Plan is also provided.
2. The draft SIP for 2025 is provided for the information and consideration of the Commission at WCPFC22.

Background

3. The SIP is intended to target investment to address priority needs identified by developing States, including supporting their effective participation. The Commission agreed the Secretariat would update the Plan annually for approval by the Commission.
4. Consequently, since 2018 the Secretariat has presented a draft annual update of the [SIP](#) to provide the latest information about developing States' capacity assistance requests and needs. The annual updates are to include "any capacity assistance needs identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report (pCMR) and in Part 2 reports (as may be agreed by TCC each year and contained in the Executive Summary of the pCMR)." This information becomes reclassified as public domain data. It is also routine for the Secretariat to report to the Commission on implementation of the SIP each year.

Report on Implementation

5. The ongoing work of the Commission includes a range of approaches to facilitate the effective participation of developing States, particularly small island developing States and where appropriate participating territories (SIDS).
6. The Secretariat administers three types of funds, outside of the General Account fund, that may be used to support developing countries and participating territories' capacity needs: Trust Funds, Special Requirements Fund (SRF), and Voluntary Contributions. A list of activities funded in 2025 under the SRF, Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), and the Chinese Taipei Trust Funds (CTTF) can be found in

the Finance and Administrative Committee (FAC19) paper, *Report on the Status of Other Funds for 2025* ([WCPFC22-2025-FAC19-03](#)).

Special Requirements Fund

7. As of 11 October 2025, two CCMs, China and the United States, had provided contributions to the SRF in 2025. During the year, the SRF has been used to support travel to TCC and an “Enhancing Fisheries Project” for Fiji. It is important to recall that the SRF is a financial mechanism established to assist developing members and where appropriate territories, to meet their obligations under the Convention. The SRF is also an important component of the Commission’s [SIP](#) which matches capacity and capability requirements of developing States and territories with appropriate investment strategies.
8. There is a targeted base level for the SRF of USD \$150,000. In 2023, the Commission at WCPFC20 noted with concern that the SRF was fully depleted ahead of WCPFC20 and that insufficient funds were available to meet the requests made by Small Island Developing States to support their participation in WCPFC20.
9. In 2024, at WCPFC21, based on the recommendations of FAC18, the Commission agreed the following amendments to the Financial Regulations:
 - a. The draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for two representatives from each developing State Party to the Convention and, where appropriate, territories and possessions, to each meeting of the Commission and to meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission,
 - b. Removal of Financial Regulation 7.8,
 - c. That for 2025, contributions for the additional \$46,090 would be split between non-SIDS on a proportional basis, and that this would be agreed for one year, with a future tasking to review the \$46,090 offset applied to non-SIDS next year.
10. During 2025, as of 10 October 2025, the new financial provision to support two representatives from each developing State to attend Commission and subsidiary body meetings has been actively utilized. To date, a total of 29 participants from developing States have benefited from this support to attend SC21 and TCC21.
11. In considering ways forward, it is important to recognize that Regulation 7 of the Financial Regulations adopted by the Commission at its Inaugural Session in December 2004, details the purposes of the SRF which include:

- Assisting developing State Parties, small island developing State members of the Commission, and where appropriate, territories and possessions, with human resources development, technical assistance and transfer of technology in relation to conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and development of fisheries for such stocks; and
- Building capacity for activities in key areas such as effective exercise of flag State responsibilities, monitoring, control and surveillance, data collection and scientific research relevant to highly migratory fish stocks on a national and/or regional level.

12. Additionally, the administration of the fund by the Secretariat is also guided by Financial Regulation 7 guidelines for applying for assistance from the SRF which have been adopted by the Commission (see Appendix A of [Principles, guidelines and operational procedures for the Commission's Special Requirements Fund](#)).

Capacity building activities

13. The Commission also provides an annual contribution of \$130,000 towards capacity assistance workshop activities conducted by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC-OPF), noting that the work of these organisations directly assists many Pacific Island countries and territories who are also WCPFC Members. Since 2009, the Commission has provided direct support to Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam in support of data collection and management through the [West Pacific East Asia - Sustainable Pacific Fisheries Activity \(WPEA-SPF\)](#). An update on the WPEA-SPF project activities is available for WCPFC22 review (see [WCPFC22-2025-08](#)).
14. The WCPFC's [Compliance Monitoring Scheme](#) provides an annual opportunity for a Small Island Developing State, Participating Territory, or Indonesia and Philippines, if they cannot meet a particular obligation, to submit capacity assistance requests and Capacity Development Plans, and provide updates on the progress of meeting their capacity assistance needs. This is part of the annual update process for the Strategic Investment Plan.¹
15. The Secretariat is aligning its planning more closely with CCMs' identified capacity-building needs, using a mix of targeted attachments and tailored training. In 2025, this included the two-week Attachment Programme for officials from Solomon Islands and Fiji, designed in response to country requests for deeper understanding of compliance monitoring, annual reporting, and use of WCPFC online tools.
16. The Secretariat's wider outreach and training activities with CCMs throughout 2025 were structured around supporting long-term capacity development. Familiarization sessions and online workshops were delivered on key compliance tools, data submission systems, and reporting obligations, supporting CCMs across compliance, monitoring, and administrative functions.

Implementation of Article 30 information

17. Since early 2019, the Commission has maintained an *Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention* webpage at this link: <https://www.wcpfc.int/about/special-requirements-developing-states>. The webpage is dedicated to the Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention and includes the following information:
- Current and historical Strategic Investment Plans;
 - Funding options, eligibility, and application processes;
 - Special Requirements Fund (SRF) proposals and project completion reports for projects greater than \$10,000;

¹ Further information on these areas of support from WCPFC to assist CCMs in improving compliance please see this page on the WCPFC website: <https://www.wcpfc.int/about/special-requirements-developing-states>.

- CMM 2013-06 template and assessments to date²; and
 - Reports by CCMs on implementation of [CMM 2013-07](#).
18. TCC21 referred CCMs to the capacity assistance needs and Capacity Development Plans listed in ([WCPFC-TCC21-2025-11](#)) and the Summary from 2025 Annual Report Part 2 [CMM 2013-07](#) annual reports: RY2024 ([WCPFC-TCC21-2025-12_rev1](#)). A copy of the [CMM 2013-07](#) reports from CCMs are also posted to [the Article 30 webpage](#).
 19. The Commission, at WCPFC20, tasked TCC, as a standing agenda item relating to the Special Requirements of Developing States, to review and assess the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with, [CMM 2013-06](#) *Conservation and Management Measure on the criteria for the consideration of conservation and management proposals* for the previous calendar year. (see *WCPFC20 Summary Report, paragraph 754 (a)*)
 20. In 2024, TCC20 considered a [discussion paper](#) prepared by the Secretariat aimed to support TCC's review and assessment of the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with CMM 2013-06 for the previous calendar year (2023). TCC20 recommended that the Commission at WCPFC21 task TCC21 to continue discussions on approaches for reviewing and assessing the Commission's implementation of, and compliance with, [CMM 2013-06](#) with a view to finding a way forward. (see *TCC20 Outcomes, paragraph 74*)
 21. In 2025, TCC21 reviewed FFA Members' Delegation Paper ([TCC21-2025-DP13](#)) on assessing compliance with [CMM 2013-06](#). It was recommended that WCPFC22 amend the audit point for paragraph 1 of [CMM 2013-06](#) and direct the Secretariat to develop a standardized reporting template and guidelines to streamline submissions (WCPFC22-2025-32). Further, it was recommended that TCC annually assess compliance with paragraph 2 of [CMM 2013-06](#), by reviewing any cases of disproportionate burden and evaluating the effectiveness of related mitigation measures and special requirements implemented by the Commission. This would be informed by the Secretariat compiling any mitigation action taken by the Commission to any identified disproportionate burden in the previous year. The review will also evaluate compliance with paragraph 4 [CMM 2013-06](#), considering any identified cases of disproportionate burden, the mitigation measures or special requirements implemented under paragraphs 4(a)–(d) and [CMM 2013-07](#), and the effectiveness of those measures. Finally, TCC21 reaffirmed the importance of [CMM 2013-07](#) and noted inconsistencies in CCM reporting. It tasked the Secretariat with developing a structured reporting template for Annual Report Part 2 to align assistance with [CMM 2013-07](#) and better identify and prioritise the needs of SIDS.
 22. [WCPFC22-2025-IP01](#) - *Report on the Implementation by the WCPFC of Article 30 of the Convention on the Special Requirements of Developing States* provides a consolidated inventory of the financial, procedural, and substantive mechanisms through which the Commission operationalises Article 30 in support of developing States, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Participating Territories.

Overview of updates made to the Plan

1. The Secretariat has incorporated updates that consider the outcomes from consideration of capacity assistance needs and were identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report adopted by

² This section is a work in progress with some historical submissions to be included.

TCC21, as well as in the 2025 Part 2 Annual Reports (**Attachment A**). Updates have been included to the table summarising the capacity building activities that FFA/SPC have advised were supported annually through the “Regional Capacity Building Workshops” annual budget line listed under Sub-item 2.3 “Technical & Compliance Programme”.

Recommendation

2. The Commission is invited to endorse the updated Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for 2025 as presented in **Attachment A**.

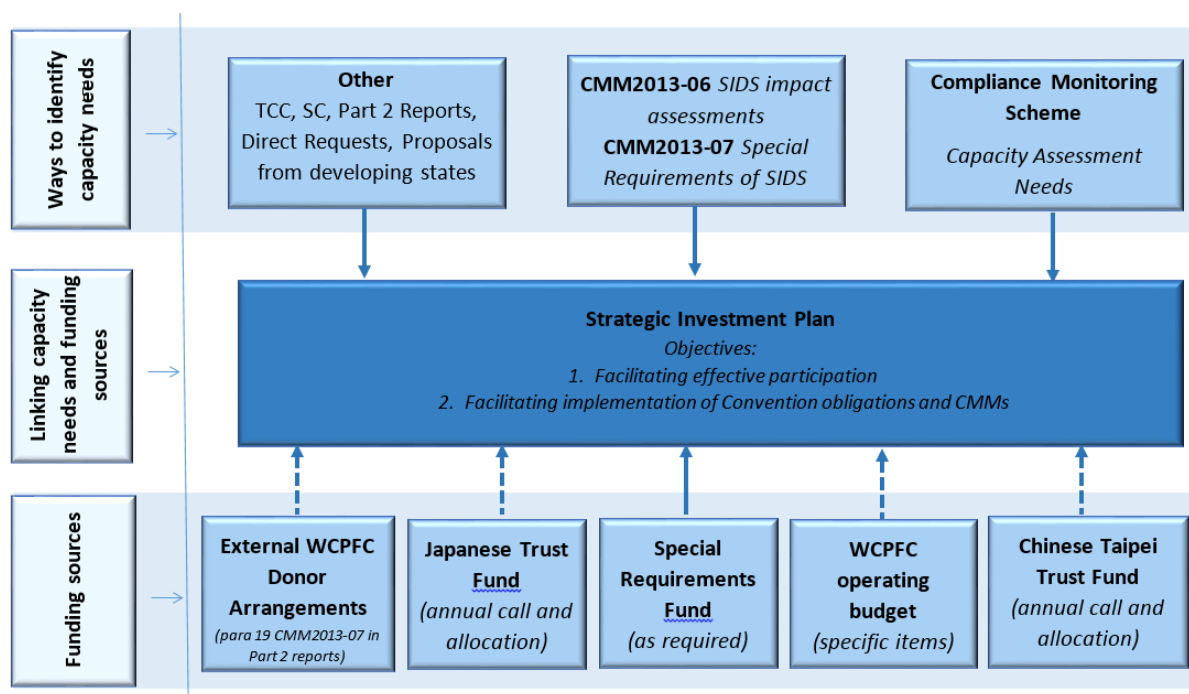


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2025 Draft Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

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



Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:

- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
- development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above. The WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to CCMs when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission in fulfilling the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention³.

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

5. The following Capacity Assistance Needs areas were recommended by TCC21 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2024 activities:

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
Indonesia Scientific data provision (SciData03) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 26 Sep 2017 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	Indonesia reported significant challenges which hindered their ability to gather and complete the necessary operational data. The expected timeframe for meeting this capacity assistance need was 2027. However, Indonesia noted that there may still be challenges in providing 100% of data to SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 26 Sep 2017	Indonesia reported that effort was being put into resolving the issue of meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including

³ Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3) RP Indonesia Annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3) RP	<i>Anticipated CDP end date: within 3 years</i>	through the holding of a further WPEA workshop with SSP (SPC-OFP). TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Fiji Implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a) IM Reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements (CMM 2014-02 9a VMS SSPs 2.8) RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	Fiji reported that it had faced turnover in VMS officers. It had been able to train the VMS officers, but Fiji still needed the Secretariat's assistance in working through operationalizing the CMM in development of the SOPs. This would take place over the next nine (9) months. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Fiji's capacity assistance needs in Fiji's CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Indonesia 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 9 Oct 2021 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: March 2025</i>	Indonesia reported that observer coverage is lower than last year because of budgetary constraints. It was still planning to reach 100% coverage and was working with industry on cost sharing arrangements, but this work was ongoing. Indonesia hoped to be in a position to have 100% coverage in 2027. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Philippines 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023, RY2024)	The Philippines reported that it had hired more observers and were currently at 85% observer coverage (up from 60% in the year before). The Philippines was seeking additional funds to reach 100%

CCM Obligation	Capacity Assistance Needed <i>URL link to CDP and end date</i>	CCM and TCC21 comment
national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33) IM	CDP / 10 Sept 2019 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: November 2023</i> CDP / 27 Sept 2025 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2028</i>	observer coverage. TCC21 noted that for RY 2023 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
Vanuatu Report in regard to their implementation of the requirement to achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 26 Sept 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: by 2026</i>	Vanuatu reported that there is information on the minimum observer coverage, but additional legislative work is needed to ensure that this requirement is met in the longer term. TCC21 maintained the CAN status, but noted that further information may be provided prior to WCPFC22 as to whether Vanuatu's capacity assistance needs in their CDP had been met.
Fiji Report in regard to submission by a Member to WCPFC of a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel RP	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023, RY2024) CDP / 20 Aug 2024 <i>Anticipated CDP end date: June 2025</i>	Fiji reported that it met the FISHED/DID NOT FISH reporting obligation, however Fiji needed ongoing assistance in order to develop specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reporting requirements to ensure that they met this obligation on an ongoing basis. Fiji withdrew its CAN request and CDP as it had met the obligation, but indicated that it would still require the assistance of the Secretariat and FFA Secretariat to ensure that it would continue to meet this obligation into the future.

6. Some targeted assistance was identified to assist SIDS and other CCMs in implementing specific obligations during the 2025 dCMR process. These are identified in the table and information set out below.

Obligation	CCM	Capacity Assistance Needed
<u>CMM 2011-03 01</u> <i>Prohibit purse seine setting on cetaceans, if animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set</i> IM	Indonesia	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025
<u>CMM 2023-01 30</u> <i>Purse seine catch retention requirements (20N - 20S)</i> IM	Solomon Islands	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2024) CDP 24 Sept 2025

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

7. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY 2024 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2025. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY 2024 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
CMM 2013-07 Paras 01-03 General Provisions	FSM is a SIDS country. However, FSM continues to assist other fellow SIDS through collaboration within the PNA, FFA and other bilateral arrangements. FSM is also a recipient of assistance from non-SIDS within the WCPFC membership. Indonesia Indonesia's involvement in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations. For further details on these initiatives, you can visit the following links: http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219 http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238 In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS. Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity. Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners. Niue: Capacity building needs for reporting requirements. Wallis and Futuna islands tuna development plan for the next 5 years is targeting a single middle-size longliner for the domestic market. So as to inform a more robust viability analysis, a short experimental tuna fishing campaign is expected to be implemented in the short term. However, the search for a partner in the region to implement it has not been successful so far: 2 companies have been reached out for a time charter arrangement but both offered chartering conditions that were considered too risky if not unaffordable. One of them has dismissed a proposal for a fishing license including requirement to offload in Wallis and commitment from local authorities to contract a buyer for the fish with an agreed price. In that context, assistance needs from CCMs and regional organisations (SPC and WCPFC) for capacity building relate to : - helping design terms of reference for the chartering arrangement - helping find a company who would make a vessel and skilled crew available for 3 months within affordable day fee - providing observer(s) to cover one trip out of 2 or 3
CMM 2013-07 Paras 04-05 Capacity development for personnel	FSM is a small island developing state and a recipient of such assistances. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional, sub-regional programs and collaboration with other SIDS. Fiji did make a submission in 2024 where Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR. The implementation of this training is still ongoing and will be reported under 2025 Part 2 Report. Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) New Caledonia is a territory and has not required any assistance in this category in 2024. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2024. Vanuatu VU is anticipating and welcome more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements. Wallis and Futuna No capacity building assistance requested and thus received in the past few years from CCMs. One contract staff in charge of Fisheries Observatory has

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	attended SPC's Tuna Data Workshop in 2024 and 2025. The lack of permanent staff hinders the dept's capacity to build on training opportunities. Assistance needs relate to : - fisheries dept: data collection, refreshment on WCPFC requirements, processes and current work - fisheries sector: early career captain capacity building for longline (through boardings as chief mates on well-performing vessels in the region)
CMM 2013-07 Paras 06-07 Assistance with technology transfers	Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) Nauru is a SIDS and supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/T Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU welcome assistance relating to fisheries science and technology through ePSM , EMS, ER and with the aim to improve all e systems into development of VU. - Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirement
CMM 2013-07 Paras 08-09 Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management	Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) Kiribati is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries. Tonga one of the SIDS countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance. Wallis and Futuna (<i>as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05</i>)
CMM 2013-07 Paras 10-11 Assistance in the areas of Monitoring, Control and surveillance	FSM participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM participated in joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance in 2024. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary. Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) Kiribati is a SIDS and requires support and assistance in both aerial and surface patrols. Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance. Vanuatu is a SIDS - VU actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This include MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed. Wallis and Futun: SPC (S. HARE, 2019) conducted an assessment of IUU fishing potential risk in the EEZ, based on a backward analysis of VMS and AIS logs over 2014-2018.

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	Though it concluded that no UNN fishing have taken place over the period, a lot of people keep on thinking that the EEZ is illegally harvested and that it explains the scarcity of tuna nearshore and offshore. Assistance from other CCMs would pertain to : - cooperation to ensure no vessel nears or enters WF EEZ without VMS on, to experiment and implement new technologies for real-time surveillance, like cross-checking detection of radar signals by satellite and VMS tracking - investigations on whether tuna resources are declining faster than around and what are the factors responsible for that.
CMM 2013-07 Paras 12-18 Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access	FSM FSM's Involvement in PNA marketing initiative most specifically the MSC development to broaden the marketing value in FSM's fishing industry. In addition to improving the market value, FSM receives regional and sub-regional assistance in MCS capacity building to meet certification requirement that will allow fishing stocks to be market to high valued vendors. Assistance in implementing port state measure minimum standards aims to achieve these marketing objectives. This is an ongoing work. Fiji has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As part of Fiji's 2024 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocation remained at 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work to digitalize vessel arrivals via Electronic Port State Measures (EPSM) and catch verification via Catch Accountancy System (CAS) to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also a assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry. Indonesia (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>) RMI No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements. Palau Palau is a SIDS and supports this CMM, and may seek assistance in the future. Samoa is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance. Tonga is one of the SIDs countries and therefore this obligation is not applicable. To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna Fisheries Management Plan. Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2024 reporting year
	Companies in developing and improving their business planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program. In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pangopango, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter. Vanuatu is a SIDS. - Capacity assistance required for development of the National CDS plan .VU definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well. Wallis and Futuna (<i>as per above response for 01-03, and 04-05</i>)

Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

8. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.
9. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at Attachment 1. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.
10. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

Title: Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
Obligation: Article 30
Capacity Building Assistance Needed: Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for: • travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and • in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget). It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member,

including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.

Parameters around accessing the program will include:

- limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget

Timeframe: Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program

Cost: up to USD300,000 annually

FAC18 agreed to recommend that the following edits are made to the Financial Regulations:

*3.5 The draft budget shall include an item specifying the costs required to finance the travel and subsistence for ~~one~~ **two** representatives from each developing State Party to the Convention and, where appropriate, territories and possessions, to each meeting of the Commission and to meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission.*

Removal of Financial Regulation 7.8

~~7.8 Financial Regulation 7.5 and 7.7 on the application process and reporting requirements, respectively, shall be waived for:~~

~~a) one traveler from each small island developing States and Participating Territories delegation to meetings of the Annual Session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies; and~~

~~b) the travel for the Chairs of SC, TCC, FAC Co-Chair and the WCPFC Vice Chair from SIDS to the Annual Session.~~

FAC18 also agreed to recommend that for 2025 contributions for the additional \$46,090 would be split between non-SIDS on a proportional basis, and that this would be agreed for one year, with a future tasking to review the \$46,090 offset applied to non-SIDS next year.

This was subsequently adopted by the Commission at WCPFC21.

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

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

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

	monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	
2021: WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$223,374
2022: Observer sea safety training project proposal for WCPFC Regional Capacity Building Workshops Funding	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for Nauru's national fisheries observer programme to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: \$124,887
2023: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$108,640
2023: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC20	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC20 meeting.	Cost: \$21,360
2024: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$93,816
2024: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: \$36,184
2025: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: \$82,517
2025: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: TBC

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

Donor/program	Eligible Recipients
Australia: various programs	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)	PACP countries and Pacific regional
FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans Tuna project 2022 - 2027)	WCPFC, FFA, SPC
FFA: various programs	Pacific island FFA members
GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
New Zealand: various programs	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
US: various programs	All WCPFC members