



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION**

**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT  
FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
Busan, Republic of Korea  
11 August 2012**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

1. The Fourth Session of the West Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Busan, Korea, on Saturday, 11 August 2012. The Project Manager, Dr SungKwon Soh, welcomed participants and observers to the fourth and final meeting of the WPEA PSC, noting the presence of the UNDP Regional Technical Adviser, Dr. Jose Padilla (UNDP Bangkok) and Dr Amelia D Supetran (UNDP Philippines).

2. The following documents were available to the meeting:

- (i) The 4<sup>th</sup> Project Steering Committee Meeting Provisional Agenda (WCPFC-SC8-2012-10);
- (ii) Information on WPEA OFM Project Steering Committee (RP-WPEA-01);
- (iii) Summary Report on 2011-2012 WPEA OFM Project Activities (RP-WPEA-02);
- (iv) WPEA OFM Project Financial Statement (RP-WPEA-03);
- (v) Progress Report for Indonesia (RP-WPEA-04);
- (vi) Progress Report for The Philippines (RP-WPEA-05);
- (vii) Progress Report for Vietnam (RP-WPEA-06).
- (viii) Report of the third session of the WPEA OFM Project Steering Committee. August 2011 (RP-WPEA-07);
- (ix) Key Notes Reported to UNDP for 2012 APR/PIR for PIMS 4084: West Pacific East Asia Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (RP-WPEA-08).

**2. Appointment of Chairman and Rapporteurs**

3. The Project Coordinator, Dr Tony Lewis, served as Chair for the meeting. The WCPFC Secretariat provided rapporteuring assistance.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

4. The provisional meeting agenda was adopted following the addition of Item 9.1 Carry over / bridging funding (Attachment A).

**4. Introduction to WPEA-PSC3**

#### **4.1 WPEA Project**

5. Following a brief overview of the project from its official commencement (6 January 2010), the Project Coordinator explained that the co-funding partners supported the project from the inception phase in July 2009 until the main project funds were made available, and noted the latest injection of USD 220,000 co-funding from South Korea. The three project countries (Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam) have continued to make good progress improving the quality of their data collection and reporting for tuna fisheries at a national level, and this is reflected in the reduced uncertainty of stock assessments conducted by SPC for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. There has been further progress in the project's second objective, which is to strengthen institutional arrangements and legal processes in those countries to allow them to be more effectively involved in the work of the Commission. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implementing agency (IA) for the project, with the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and the WCPFC Secretariat act as cooperating executing agencies. It was noted that the project has five months until completion on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

#### **4.2 WPEA-Project Steering Committee Membership**

6. The WPEA-PSC is an advisory body that assists with effective implementation of the Project and in the application of the project outputs (RP-WPEA-01). It meets annually at the margins of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC) meeting. The membership, as confirmed during the 2009 WPEA-PSC meeting, includes the three participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), the WCPFC Secretariat, UNDP, UNOPS, GEF, and partner governments/agencies (including nongovernmental organizations). Dr. Jose Padilla, Regional Technical Adviser, UNDP Bangkok and Dr Amelia D Supetran, Team Leader, Environment and Energy Unit, UNDP Manila represented UNDP/GEF. There was no representation from UNOPS.

### **5. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **5.1 Financial arrangements and status of the WPEA**

7. GEF has committed to providing USD 925,000 to the WPEA under the MSP project. In addition, in-kind and cash contributions were made by the participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), and co-financing and/or in-kind partnership arrangements were in place with the Australian International Development Assistance Agency (AusAID), the US National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA, the Government of Japan (through the WCPFC Japan Trust Fund), the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC-OFP), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the government of Netherlands, and the WCPFC. In year 2012, an additional USD 220,000 co-funding was contributed by Korea. USD 190,000 of the Korean Yeosu project co-financing was allocated to strengthen the WPEA program, including refinement of consultancy reports, with the remaining USD 30,000 reserved for contingency and project management.

8. The WPEA Project Manager presented the statement of income, expenditure, and fund balance changes (RP-WPEA-03). The total income over the last year, including the balance of funds from 2010, GEF, Australia, the Japan Trust Fund, Holland fund, USA fund, Korea fund, and the WCPFC was \$1,082,248; expenditures totalled \$287,788 leaving a balance of \$794,460. About \$350,000 will be used to support project activities, including the project terminal evaluation process, by the end of 2012. Around \$450,000 of co-financing fund may carry over to next year, 2013, and the Committee agreed to use of the

remaining co-finance for the continuity of the WPEA project core activities as bridging funding until the new GEF project is initiated.

## **6 REVIEW OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

9. The Project Manager described the project log-frame and reviewed project planning from the project's inception, and then reviewed plans for the remainder of the year until the end of the project, as well as an overview of activities undertaken during 2011 and the first half of 2012. Review workshop on port sampling and data collection, terminal evaluation of the project, policy workshops and a sub-regional stock assessment workshop are planned for October or November, and the three project countries can share the outputs of the workshops.

10. An Annual Project Report or Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR) is required by GEF but is submitted via UNDP. Key issues from this report are presented in document RP-WPEA-08. The document covers the period July 2011 to June 2012 when compared against the work plan and original project documentation. The draft version as submitted to the UNDP for review will be distributed to partner countries. The PIR is due for completion by the end of August 2012.

### **Discussion**

11. Dr. Jose Padilla (UNDP Bangkok) quoted the statement from Dr John Hampton at the 2011 RSC that the project had demonstrably reduced uncertainty in stock assessment and was pleased with progress as reported in the PIR. When queried Dr John Hampton confirmed that the improvement in Indonesian and Philippines data, and information provided has improved SPC's understanding of relevant WCPFC fisheries; explained that the proportion of the entire WCPFC catch taken by Indonesian and Philippines fisheries was in the order of 20%, though it varied by species, and was up to 30% of the WCPFC yellowfin catch. Wishing to publicize the achievements of this project, Dr Padilla made a request for Dr Hampton to provide some appropriate text using a template that would be provided to generate publicity for these positive outcomes via IW:Learn .

## **7. REVIEW OF WPEA ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND ACTIVITIES**

### **7.1 Indonesia**

12. Dr Fayakun Satria and Anung Widodo (RCFMC) presented the progress of WPEA OFM project activities in Indonesia, including port sampling in Bitung, Kendari and recently Sorong, data collection, policy, management and institutional arrangements (RP-WPEA-04), and reported on planned future activities and issues encountered over the previous year.

Planned Future activities will include:

- Initiation of a scientific observer programme in Bitung (observer recruitment, training and budget).
- Development of a new port sampling programme to cover new archipelagic fishery management areas, particularly FMA 713
- Raising awareness of the results of WPEA in main project areas
- Inform a research collaboration with ACIAR Australia, related to tuna stock structure and FAD research. CSIRO involvement starts with first survey in 2012 October.

- A tuna fisheries research station will be initiated to establish in Bitung around the end of the 2012. If this Tuna Research Station is formally established it will be supported by funding from the Indonesian government.

Issues to be addressed were as follows:

- Project document expired in February 2012, and the lack of an 'official project document' that explains the extension of the project, is a potential problem within the finance systems; a formal letter from WCPFC is required to facilitate the finance process.
- The second phase of the WPEA project will require that a new project document be provided as soon as possible to secure the continuation of the key project activities such as port sampling activities in Bitung, Kendari, Sodohoa and Sorong. Noting that the WCPFC has indicated the possibility of supporting those port sampling activities using carry over bridging funds until the second phase WPEA project is approved in 2013.

## **Discussion**

13. Port samplers will be supported until the current funding (WPEA OFM project) stops, and there is a possibility that if the tuna research station at Bintung is established the port sampling program may have its own budget.

14. Noting that the Finance Ministry needs a formal legal document detailing and agreeing an extension of the project in order to enable spending of carried over funding, it was decided that the WCPFC could provide an appropriate document.

15. Indonesia will include annual tuna catch in the archipelagic waters (FMA 713, 714 and 715) in the next annual catch estimates workshop. A new port sampling is required, in particular for FMA 713, to obtain catch composition data by gear and species, for the workshop. Whilst most landings are covered by sampling at Bitung, the new FMAs will provide capture information about tuna artisanal fisheries within archipelagic waters providing more comprehensive information on catch composition by gear type and species.

16. The tuna fishery profile (TFP) is in the form of a template mostly covering FMAs 716 and 717. The TFP will be populated with additional information on tuna fishery within archipelagic waters (FMA 713, 714 and 715) as it becomes available.

17. Dr Padilla posed the same two questions to each country partner: 1) What is the status of the national tuna fisheries management plan? In the case of Indonesia, the process of ministerial adoption of the national tuna management plan is a lengthy process, and the plan is currently receiving input from other government agencies and various stakeholders. 2) Is the data collected in this project incorporated in national tuna statistics? Data from this project has facilitated differentiation of tuna by species and catch by gear, and this has been applied directly to national tuna data sets.

## **7.2 Philippines**

18. Ms Elaine Garvilles (BFAR) report listed project activities conducted to date in the Philippines (RP-WPEA-05), detailing the elements of the monitoring, data and management and fisheries assessment component, including a breakdown of catch by gear and by species. With regard to policy, institutional strengthening and fisheries management, the national tuna management plan

was first revised in 2010 after five years from the first version and then further revised in May 2012, and is a framework for managing tuna resources in Philippines and in other waters. The Philippines has made good progress in implementing all aspects of the project.

## **Discussion**

19. Logsheets data submissions in the Philippines have improved through logsheets awareness workshops and supported by national regulation on catch documentation requirements required by the European (EU) market. The current logsheets compliance covers around 20-50%, with larger vessels representing a higher portion of the catch based on the logsheets data and these vessels also tends to conform to logsheets data submission.

20. The national observer programme has developed in line with the observer requirements of the WCPFC, and it is noted that a paper was submitted to SC8. The WPEA project was responsible for the first observer debriefing training conducted in the Philippines, resulting in a huge improvement in the observer skill base.

21. Data collection as a result of WPEA project activities made significant improvements in terms of data provision required by the Commission which requires catch breakdown by species and gear type, which is not available in the national statistics. The national tuna management plan is already recognized by the national tuna industry council.

22. The only issue identified by the Philippines partner is the potential difficulty of maintaining the same level of port sampling activities/coverage when this project ends although Philippines already covers a significant portion of the port sampling costs.

### **7.3 Vietnam**

23. Pham Viet Anh (DECAFIREP) presented a review of 2011-12 project activities in Vietnam, noting that TUFMAN database that is developed by the SPC is now used to enter data, and work has been conducted on the developing historical data inventory for the tuna fishery (RP-WPEA-06). Key activities such as data collection from port sampling in three provinces and review and strengthening of policy, legal and institutional arrangements have been undertaken. The first annual catch estimates workshop was held and the estimates were included for the first time in the annual catch and effort report submitted to the Commission

Planned future activities include:

- revisiting the national level tuna association activities (Vietnamese Tuna Association)
- continuing port sampling and the logbook program in Bihn Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces
- expansion of port sampling to other provinces
- conducting a local stock assessment workshop

Issues to be addressed include:

- the lack of a legal framework to implement tuna fisheries data collection, illustrating the value of institutional strengthening beyond the fundamental need to enhance data collection and reporting capacity in country.
- a poor recovery of logbook data from smaller vessels

## **Discussion**

24. Pham Trong Yen (D-Fish, MARD) stated that participation in the WPEA project is very important to Vietnam; five years ago there was virtually no information available on tuna fisheries in country, but now it is recognised, as the most important fisheries resource after shrimp and catfish, with an export value of nearly USD 400 million in 2011. Vietnam now know more about production and the number of vessel type by gear related to tuna fisheries; and has had institutional strengthening through training courses. Regulations for tuna fisheries which were absent in the past have been reviewed under this project. There is now a Review of the Vietnam National Tuna Association, and a tuna fisheries profile and a National Tuna Management Plan has been drafted. A loan from the French government has been used to set up a new Vessel Monitoring Centre under DECAFIREP, which will be used primarily to track vessels including those targeting tuna. Vietnam is hosting the ASEAN tuna workshop at the end of the month.

25. A tuna fisheries management plan will hopefully be completed this month and then submitted to the Minister. The process of adoption is slow and complicated. Indeed, given the time it takes to complete administrative actions in Vietnam it was recommended that any papers related to the second phase of the project should be drafted and submitted for consideration by the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

## **8. Terminal Evaluation and Arrangements**

26. The need for a Terminal Evaluation of the project was drawn to the attention of the PSC. Amelia Supetran (UNDP), explained that since the WPEA project is defined as medium sized (MSP), it does not require a mid-term evaluation, and an independent terminal evaluation will suffice. The terminal evaluation typically occurs in the last 6 months of the project, but may be conducted earlier if 90 % of the outputs have been delivered. The project team may provide the terms of reference for the terminal evaluator. The work will be advertised by UNDP Philippines, and they will select the independent evaluator, but will consider recommended candidates. One person will be selected; and the usual budget of such evaluation is from USD 30,000-60,000. Philippine UNDP country office is the implementing office while UNDP/GEF will review the report. The advertisement is posted for 2 weeks, and the consultant will then be expected to draft an inception report explaining how he will deliver the contract. The next delivery should be a preliminary report, which may usefully inform the project plan for a second phase project. Indeed a draft terminal evaluation is a prerequisite for the submission of a follow-up proposal<sup>1</sup>.

## **9 FUTURE WORK PLAN**

### **9.1 Carry over / bridging funding**

27. The PSC **agreed** that the project will finish on schedule in early January 2013, and a no-cost to GEF extension will continue from 1 January 2013 until the second phase project commencement, utilizing co-financing funds. WCPFC will administer and manage this activity.

28. Jose Padilla (UNDP) informed the SC that since the bridge funding utilised non-GEF funding there was no requirement to report formally on the project progress during the carry over period, but there will be a final APR/PIR for the period July 2012 – June 2013

### **9. Development of a Successor Project**

29. Jose Padilla explained the required process when applying for a new project and the developments related to a potential UNDP/GEF Programmatic Approach for the East Asian Seas (EAS). The proposed successor project to WPEA OFM will come under the umbrella EAS framework, and the objectives of each project should correspond to those of the umbrella project. The Regional Program for EAS will target the upcoming GEF Council meeting in November. The concept for the successor project to WPEA OFM may be submitted within 6 months after GEF Council approval of the EAS Regional Program, which is from November 2011 to May 2012. A project preparation grant (PPG) may also be requested. This will provide funding for the design of project activities and finalization of a project document. The concept will have to be discussed with each country in the process of seeking formal endorsement from each country's GEF focal point.

30. The successor project should build on the achievements of the current project and consistent with the elements of the Regional Program. The Tuna Management Plans could also provide the basis for the successor project.

31. The WPEA SC **agreed** a timeline to complete an initial review of the draft PIF with a month, translate the PIF into Vietnamese, and engage in country consultation in September; endorsement will then be sought in December, and submission to GEF via UNDP in January 2013.

## **10. OTHER MATTERS**

32. Draft minutes will be shared with project partners with a two week cool down period before posting.

## **11. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

33. The report was adopted during the SC plenary.

## **12. CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

34. The Chair closed the meeting.

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<sup>i</sup> Comments from Jose : Was there an action point about the need to finalize the TOR and by when?