



**WEST PACIFIC EAST ASIA
OCEANIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
SECOND SESSION**

14:00-16:30, Saturday, 13 August 2011
PNG Room, Secretariat, Kolonia



**WCPFC-SC7-2011/GN-IP-12
WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-08**

Report of the third session of the WPEA OFP Project Steering Committee

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1. The West Pacific East Asia (WPEA) Oceanic Fisheries Management Project Manager, Dr SungKwon Soh, welcomed participants and observers to the second meeting of the WPEA Project Steering Committee (PSC), noting the presence of the UNDP Regional Technical Adviser, Dr. Jose Padilla, from the UNDP Bangkok office.

2. The following documents were available to the meeting: (i) The 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting Provisional Agenda (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-01); (ii) The Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-02); (iii) Summary of the 2010-2011 WPEA OFM Project Report, detailing activities undertaken in the three project countries (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-03); (iv) WPEA OFM Project Fund Statement of income and expenditure and changes in the fund balance as of 31 July 2011 (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-04); (v) Progress Report for Indonesia (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-05); (vi) Progress Report for The Philippines (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-06); Progress Report for Vietnam (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-07).

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEURS

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

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The provisional meeting agenda was adopted (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 Chair explained that the co-funding partners supported the project from the inception phase in July 2009 until the main project funds were made available. The three project countries (Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam) have already made good progress to date in 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. The project's second objective 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.

4.2 WPEA-Project Steering Committee Membership

6. The WPEA-Project Steering Committee (PSC) is an advisory body that assists with effective implementation of the Project and in the application of the project outputs. 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 and partner governments/agencies (the Australian International Development Assistance Agency, the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the Government of Japan through the WCPFC Japan Trust Fund, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community). Dr. Jose Padilla, of the UNDP Bangkok office represented UNDP/GEF.

5. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Financial arrangements and status of the WPEA

7. GEF has committed to providing US\$925,000 to the WPEA. In addition, in-kind and cash contributions are made by the participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), and co-financing and/or in-kind partnership arrangements are in place with the Australian International Development Assistance Agency (AusAID), the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the Government of Japan (through the WCPFC Japan Trust Fund), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Netherlands, and the WCPFC.

8. The WCPFC Finance and Administration Officer presented the statement of income, expenditure, and fund balance changes (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-04). As of 31 July 2011, the total income over the last year (including the balance of funds from the former Indonesia Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP), and contributions from Australia, the Japan Trust Fund, the Netherlands, and the WCPFC) was \$402,819; expenditures totaled \$206,077, leaving a balance of \$196,742. A total of \$280,828 will be transferred to WCPFC from the UNOPS to support 2011 activities, making available by the next PSC meeting a total of about \$477,570 for approximately 45 activities spread across the three countries. An application for an additional \$US 300K in support of the project will be considered by the Korean funders during an upcoming visit to Pohnpei. The funding proposal, includes the collaboration and involvement of a Korean research team in the project.

9. The process for disbursing funds to countries and subsequent receipting was explained. Funding is sent to countries to pay for specific activities, and all expenses are receipted. After the Project Manager's review of each draft project activity proposal from the country, fund transfer is made based on the final signed proposal by the country project coordinator.

10. The UNDP representative informed the Steering Committee of the need to report in-kind funding provided by the project countries. This is best achieved by providing dollar equivalents for in-kind services as appropriate. The Chair concluded that the project finances are sound but notes the need for further clarity in the reporting of in-kind funding by country partners.

5.2 Clarification of audit requirements

11. Regarding the financial audit of this project, the Commission's own independent annual audit investigated all projects including the WPEA OFM project. Noting that the current Commission audit finds the Commission finances (including those of this project) to be in good order, the Steering Committee considers that the audit requirements of GEF have been met. The Project Manager mentioned a communication from UNOPS indicating acceptability of the current audit procedures. It was agreed by the Steering Committee that, while WCPFC audits individual country's finance expenditure, project funds earmarked for each country's project audits will be re-allocated to support project operations.

12. The Chair observed that Agenda Item 5.2 'Clarification of audit requirements' is now redundant for future Steering Committee Meetings.

6. REVIEW OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

13. The Project Manager (WCPFC Science Manager) introduced WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-03, including summary of key activities in the annual work plan and activities conducted and outputs during the last project year. He categorized over 40 project activities into three: (i) tuna fishery monitoring, (ii) capacity building, and (iii) policy and management of tuna fisheries. He briefly introduced detailed activities described in the annual work plan and budget schedule for year 2011 and contents of key activities, including data collection from port sampling, training of data manager and scientists of each country by sending them to SPC's capacity building workshops, and development of national tuna management plan. He emphasized that most of the relevant activities related with the seven outcomes in the logframe have been initiated since the first project year and carried over to the second year to strengthen the outputs.

14. The Chair noted reporting requirements for the project and participating countries.

7. REVIEW OF THE FIRST YEAR WPEA ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

7.1 Indonesia

15. Dr Fayakun Satria (Research Centre for Fisheries Management and Conservation)) reported the progress of the Indonesian port sampling programme in Bitung and Kendari, Progress of capacity building through trainings and workshops and progress with addressing legal, policy and institutional issues (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-05). Positive results have gained from the Project, he then raised the following issues, which were discussed by the meeting:

- a. There is a need to involve some key staff more closely in the project to engender a sense of ownership.
- b. The Indonesia national tuna coordinator Dr. Subhat Nurhakim will retire in August 2011.
- c. There had been delays in the provision of NOD for budget transfers to the RCFMC account; noting that the problem has been resolved by the current Commission Finance and Administration Officer.
- d. For the longer term, there is a need for a permanent dedicated supervisor to assure data validation.
- e. Concern was expressed that a weakening dollar exchange rate disadvantages port samplers paid in IDRs.

Discussion

16. The Steering Committee concurred that it would be in the best interests of the project if all partners had a sense of ownership, and an early replacement for the current Indonesian national tuna

coordinator would be appreciated. The Project Manager confirmed that an early replacement for the current Indonesian national tuna coordinator will be appointed and a collaboration will be made to appoint a long-term dedicated supervisor for the consistency of fishery monitoring in this project; He also noted that there is already a financial compensatory mechanism in place to compensate for fluctuating exchange rates in relation to port sampler's salary.

7.2 Philippines

17. Dr Mudjekeewis D Santos (National Fisheries Research and Development Institute / Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) presented a detailed report on the project activities conducted to date in the Philippines. There is an extensive port sampling regime in place, a logsheet programme had been implemented for purse seine and ring net vessels, information was provided on cannery receipts, and an annual tuna catch estimates review workshop was held. The presentation concluded with details of future project activities. The associated report provides a breakdown of activities and associated budget split by donor and Philippine co-financing (WPEA OFM/PSC02/WP-06).

Discussion

18. Concern was expressed regarding the likely quality of species identification for smaller fish in the cannery data, with the observation that small yellowfin and bigeye may easily be tallied as skipjack in commercial cannery sorting processes.

19. It was clarified that domestic and overseas flagged Philippines vessel data can be separated in the receipts.

20. In discussions regarding logbook data, it was explained that purse seine and ring net data is covered by logbooks. Peter Williams (SPC) indicated that the rate of recovery for logbooks is around 70-80% over the last few years for the larger vessels. Only a relatively low proportion of total vessels is covered, but it is important to note that these larger vessels take the majority of the catch.

21. Jose Padilla (UNDP/GEF) observed that the Philippines have tracked donor and co-financed funding, and also that only \$99k was indicated as co-funding in the budget as presented. The presenter explained that this is because the \$99k dollars represents cash funding only, in-kind funding is not listed.

7.3 Vietnam

22. Dr Tien Vinh Chu (Director, Department of Capture Fisheries and Resources Protection, MARD) presented a review of the activities undertaken to date. Longline port sampling has been successfully implemented, with gillnet and purse seine sampling to follow. The most recent activity was a workshop and local consultancy in July 2011 to develop a National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP) in Vietnam. The NTMP is to be completed and submitted to the Vietnam Government by the end of 2011. Amongst the identified issues was 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 range of related projects supported by other donors was presented, including the provision of VMS and electronic reporting.

Discussion

23. Interest was expressed in the new VMS and associated catch reporting initiative. Dr Vinh indicated that all data collected on board is transmitted via a system linked to the VMS.

8. FUTURE WORK PLAN

24. Peter Williams presented on externally supported data-related activities proposed for the remainder of 2011 and early 2012. Workshops will be held in Indonesia and Vietnam to ensure that data is collected according to the Commission's guidelines. Annual catch estimates review workshops in each of the project countries are scheduled for early 2012, with this being the first time for Vietnam.

25. The Project Manager noted the process of developing annual work plan for the final year of the project. The Chair sought confirmation from UNDP that a final project evaluation will be prepared next year, around six months before the end of the project, to demonstrate that the project had met 80% or more of its objectives to qualify for the development of second successor project.

26. Following a query from Jose Padilla (UNDP/GEF) on the benefits of this project to WCPFC, John Hampton (SPC) and Peter Williams (SPC) explained that data, previously unavailable to the Commission from the countries concerned, is very quickly assimilated in stock assessments, and in turn reduces uncertainty in the regional assessments, since data issues in Indonesia and Philippines in particular had been key ongoing sources of uncertainty in these assessments. Noting that the assessments are regional, these data are important because they represent a very high proportion of the catch. Catches of bigeye had previously been overestimated, and corrected estimates have had an impact on the reported status of bigeye tuna stocks. UNDP suggested that this important contribution of the project be reflected in project reports and elsewhere.

8.1 Annual work plan for 2011

27. The Project Manager presented the status of the annual work plan and a detailed budget schedule for year 2 of the project. He confirmed that the 2012 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and budget would be ready by the end of 2011 and should be accepted by early 2012, noting that approximately 80% of the work-plan comprises ongoing activities carried over from the previous year.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Proposals for a Second WPEA Project

28. Dr Jose Padilla (UNDP/GEF) explained that there could be a second project as a follow-up to the ongoing project. The proposal could be submitted after submission of a draft terminal evaluation report of the current project. The evaluation could start as soon as 80% of the project outcomes have been achieved. Plans and provisions should be made to undertake this evaluation in 2012 at which time the Project Manager has anticipated that 80% of project outcomes have been achieved.

29. Against a background of \$400 million budgeted by GEF for projects in the International Water focal area over 4 years from 2010 to 2014, and the uncertainty of future donor contributions in the current global economic climate, the 'second project', for which a draft PIF has already been drafted, is in the UNDP pipeline for a potential submission in late 2013 or early 2014 or earlier depending on the completion of the terminal evaluation. It was indicated that if a second project would push through, it should be 'linked' with other GEF funded initiatives, and specific reference was made to the FFA/SPC OFM project.

10. ADOPTION OF REPORT

30. A provisional PSC meeting report was submitted to SC7 Data and Statistics Theme session and a final draft was adopted during the SC plenary.

11. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

31. The Chair closed the two-hour meeting.