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**REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON ARTICLE 30 OF THE CONVENTION AND
RESOLUTION 2008-01 OF WCPFC**

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Paper by the European Union

Report of the European Union on Article 30 of the Convention and Resolution 2008-01 of WCPFC

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The main EU source of support to the Pacific region is the European Development Fund (EDF).

Under the EDF10 some 18 million EUR have been allocated for two regional fisheries projects in the Pacific, SCICOFISH and DEVFISH2, to pursue the double objective of promoting sustainable management and ensuring maximum economic benefits for the region from these resources.

Both projects have been completed and a summary of the results of the project are presented hereunder. For exhaustive information on the implementation, activities and results of the project, both at the regional and national levels, please refer to final reports issued by SPC and FFA.

Both regional projects funded by the EU were implemented by two regional agencies: Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and directly benefit the work of WCPFC.

Under the EDF11, is currently formulating the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme.

The Communication 'Towards a renewed EU-Pacific development partnership' published in 2012 highlighted the importance of cooperation on fisheries. With a strong focus on adaptation to Climate Change, the Communication puts the focus on the need to step up political cooperation and pursue a coherent agenda in terms of development assistance, sustainable exploitation of national resources and trade.

The definition of the priorities and the implementation take into account the needs of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

11th EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

As indicated above, under the Regional Indicative Programme of the 11th EDF, the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme is being currently formulated. A Commission Decision adopting the PEUMP Programme is expected to be taken towards mid-2017.

The project will be implemented by relevant members of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROPS), such as SPC, FFA, SPREP and USP, with the collaboration of other international, regional and national organizations as well as relevant NGOs.

The total estimated cost of the programme will be at the tune of EUR 35 million. Within the framework of the new Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region 2016-2021, the Government of Sweden is considering the possibility to co-finance the Programme with additional funding.

The overall objective of the Programme will be 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.

The programme purpose will be to support improved sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity.

10th EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

I/ SCICOFISH

The SciCOFish project, «Scientific support, for the management of coastal and oceanic fisheries in the Pacific Islands region», implemented through a Contribution Agreement between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and European Union was planned for execution from the 17th of April 2010 to the 3rd of March 2014, with a budget of €8,655,765.

An addendum to the Contribution Agreement was approved and the project extended its implementation phase to 27 August 2015 and the budget increased to €9,453,765.

Its overall objective was the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic fisheries resources in the P-ACP region.

The project purpose was to provide a reliable and improved scientific basis for management and decision making in oceanic and coastal fisheries. The project provided the P-ACP countries with the means to develop efficient management measures, the skills to monitor their effectiveness, and some important tools to combat IUU fishing.

Main Results

In working towards the above-mentioned overall object and project purpose, the SciCOFish project had two key results areas. These were:

Result 1: P-ACP governments, the FFA and the WCPFC are provided with scientific data, modelling, and advice to underpin their management decision making and strategic positioning.

Result 2: P-ACP governments, private sector and communities are equipped to monitor coastal fisheries to provide scientific advice in support of sustainable management of these resources P-ACP governments, private sector and communities will be provided with technical methods and training to monitor coastal fisheries, scientific advice to inform management decisions, and development of in-country capacity to evaluate their effectiveness.

Oceanic Component	
Observer training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 670 observers trained, and 13 operational observer trainers and 52 operational observer debriefers from P-ACP countries

Integrated tuna fisheries databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuna Fisheries Data Management System (TUFMAN or TUFMAN 2) installed in all P-ACP countries ▪ Data audits completed for 10 countries (22 total audits) ▪ 13 out of 14 P-ACP countries met WCPFC reporting deadlines in 2015 ▪ Web-based reporting tool 'Dorado' developed and used by countries for WCPFC reporting obligations
Bioeconomic modeling and national advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 region-wide stock assessments completed for key tuna species between 2010-2013 ▪ Regional bioeconomic developed and updated ▪ Multiple sets of Issue Specific National Reports (INSRs) completed for all countries (42 reports total) ▪ 2 scientific papers written using bioeconomic modelling
Ecosystem modeling of management and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 regional report and national reports completed for all P-ACP countries providing advice on tuna resource vulnerability to environmental variability including climate change
Validate key model parameters through tagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tagging targets exceeded (10,103 tuna tagged, 97% bigeye) and tagging data successfully incorporated into SEAPODYM modelling
Coastal Component	
Conduct stakeholder consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and management needs assessed and prioritised for P-ACP countries

<p>Develop local capacity to implement field monitoring protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring protocols implemented and sustained in 10 P-ACP countries, these being for; marine invertebrates in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Cook Islands; finfish in Tuvalu and Marshall Islands; biological sampling in Marshall Islands, Tonga and Palau; and, creel and market surveys in Tonga, Palau and PNG ▪ Training activities undertaken in all P-ACP countries except East Timor: - Invertebrate assessment training in 13 countries (all except PNG and East Timor) - Creel and market survey training in 6 countries (PNG, Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji) - Finfish in-water assessment and biological sampling training in 4 countries (Tonga, Nauru, PNG and Kiribati) ▪ The development of a Creel and Market Survey Manual, along with identification guide for 300 species was begun under this project. Currently with editors, it will be printed in 2016
<p>Develop and implement secondary data collection protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Database training undertaken with all P-ACP countries ▪ National data provided by 8 countries ▪ CITES export database developed and installed in 9 P-ACPs ▪ Market and creel database established in 3 countries ▪ Digital library implemented for online document management ▪ Servers installed in all P-ACP countries for meet data storage ▪ GIS training undertaken with 8 countries ▪ Prototype of water quality database for Cook Islands has been installed. To be finalised ▪ An e-learning app for tablets is currently in development for commercial and aquarium fish species

Develop management advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessments and management advice provided to 4 countries for finfish (Kiribati, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Fiji) and to 10 countries for invertebrates (Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Niue) ▪ Attachment training provided to 10 countries on using data to develop management arrangements (Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Palau, Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Pohnpei FSM, and Nauru) ▪ Information materials produced on management measures (29 information sheets, 6 posters, 3 brochures and 1 guidebooklet)
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I/ DEVFISH2

The Financing Agreement between the European Union and the ACP States of the Pacific Region represented by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Regional Authorising Officer, for the «Development of Sustainable Tuna Fisheries in the Pacific ACP countries Phase II» (DEVFISH2 Project) has an estimated total cost of EUR 8,718,000.

The project was implemented through two Contribution Agreements. The Contribution Agreement between the EU and the SPC was planned for execution from the 16 November 2010 to the 2 of March 2016, with a budget of EUR 2,730,854. The Contribution Agreement between the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency was planned for execution from the 20 November 2010 to the 2 of March 2016, with a budget of EUR 5,491,146.

The overall objective of the programme was to increase the contribution from the sustainable use of highly migratory marine resources, particularly tuna, to the alleviation of poverty in P-ACP states, including Timor Leste.

The project purpose was to reduce constraints to domestic tuna industry development. These arose from economic and environment vulnerabilities, including lack of capacity to manage and support the tuna industry; and IUU fishing activities which divert economic benefits and threaten efforts to sustainably manage the resource.

Support was provided to develop the domestic tuna capacity in a number of countries with the focus to improve market access conditions through the establishment or effective operation of Competent Authorities and compliance with EU IUU regulation.

Key activities, mainly at the regional level, are summarised in the following table. For a detailed list of activities both at national and regional level, please refer to the final report.

Tuna Industry Development

<p><i>Technical assistance to Competent Authorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support provided to competent authorities of countries already exporting fish and fishery products to Europe to maintain its status. One additional country (Kiribati) has officially requested to be included in the list of countries allowed to export fish and fisheries products to Europe ▪ Fish Inspectors Course for officials responsible for ensuring that fisheries products meet the relevant quality and sanitary standards developed ▪ A proposal for a Regional Competent Authority Support (RECAS) unit to develop the options for Pacific micro-states to meet sanitary standards for export of fisheries products to Europe adopted by FFA and submitted to EU relevant services.
<p><i>Fishery Development Strategies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuna management and development plans developed for 6 FFA member counties ▪ Support for the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) as the sole agency representing and advocating for the locally based tuna industry in regional processes ▪ Technical assistance provided to assist in the facilitation of domestic tuna processing opportunities in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands ▪ Support for two Pacific Tuna Forums – an important biennial event which brings together industry players from within and beyond the region ▪ Regional Study of Transshipment which provided a comprehensive review of the pattern of port use for tuna transshipment and identifies economic benefits and opportunities completed

<p><i>Artisanal tuna fishing operations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening of national tuna associations and artisanal fishermen representation in these associations or relevant meetings ▪ A number of new technologies trialled to try to improve the economic viability of small-scale fishers, through reducing operational costs ▪ Training of artisanal fishermen on a range of topics, from industrial tuna processing procedures and thermal processing to outboard motor repairs, as well as on rigging and deployment of FADs, FAD fishing skills and the use of sea safety equipment by artisanal fishermen
<p><i>Technical assistance and training for fishing companies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding for Marine Stewardship Council certification of suitable tuna fisheries, allowing local industry to use this well-recognised eco-label ▪ Energy audits of vessels and processing plants to identify cost effective options to reduce energy consumption ▪ Social accountability audits of fish processing plants (SA8000) to assess working conditions for the predominantly female workforce ▪ Competency based training for female processing workers to improve their prospects for career advancement ▪ Industry attachments for some tertiary students to shore based tuna processing facilities ▪ Development of a ‘best practice’ manual to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve fresh water in the tuna industry
<p><i>Conduct pilot projects introducing new technologies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trials of the ‘Traceall’ bar-coding at sea system to improve traceability to meet requirements of the most demanding markets
<p><i>IUU Fishing Deterrence</i></p>	
<p><i>Improved capacity at the national and regional level to monitor and combat IUU fishing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic support to MCS IUU detection operations and coordination ongoing throughout project duration ▪ Support several FFA members in the revision of their fisheries legal framework ▪ Support several FFA members in the preparation and completion of National Plans of Actions against IUU fishing

<p><i>Identify and Remedy Technical, Legal and Capacity Shortfalls</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Officers training course, which is now offered as an accredited certificate programme by the University of the South Pacific ▪ Observer debriefer and assessor training provided, particularly developing the competency based standards needed to ensure that the region's observer programmes continue to meet a high and consistent standard ▪ A detailed study towards the quantification of IUU fishing in the Pacific Islands region was undertaken. The study provides the first ever 'bottom-up' assessment of the extent and nature of IUU fishing on tuna resources in the Western and Central Pacific. ▪ Fisheries surveillance aerial patrol study completed. Feasibility, costs and benefits were analysed to propose an appropriate model for a regional fisheries aerial surveillance programme
<p><i>Conduct pilot projects introducing new technologies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trials of electronic monitoring (essentially using on-board video cameras to record fishing operations) undertaken ▪ An electronic tool for use by enforcement officers during boarding and inspection of fishing vessels was developed ▪ Trials of integrating oceanographic data into the regional surveillance picture, to link the satellite tracking of fishing boats with conditions on the water were implemented
<p><i>Integrated Assessment of Enforcement and Fisheries Databases</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for national Information Management Systems to help countries integrate data on fishing operations from various sources