



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**
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**WPEA PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
(August 2016 – July 2017)**

WCPFC-SC13-2017/RP-WPEA-01

Secretariat, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam

I. BACKGROUND

1. The second GEF-funded, a 3-year UNDP project, called *Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas*, commenced on 28 October 2014, continued during 2016-2017. The project participating countries are Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. Though there have been some delays in implementing the project in Indonesia and Viet Nam due to internal approval process, several activities are still on schedule.

II. SUMMARY OF KEY WPEA ACTIVITIES IN 2016-2017

2. Along with annual work plans developed to reach the targets in the Project Document, several activities have been implemented in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, and because of similar activities applied to each participating country, information and activity results from each country were mutually shared among the three countries. Once a year, a three-country workshop is planned to promote information sharing among the three countries and cost-effective utilization of technical expertise on specific topics from invited international experts. During the last three years, the three-country workshop covered issues related with tuna stock assessments at national, sub-regional and regional level; introduction to harvest strategy framework, the impacts of climate change on tuna fisheries, and application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management to tuna fisheries. Invited experts were from SPC in Noumea, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries in Japan, CLS from France, and Department of Fisheries, Perth, Western Australia.

3. During 2016 – 2017, the Secretariat implemented the following activities in the three countries:

- a) Development of detailed annual work plans and budget for the following year;
- b) Review and endorsement of over 40 project activity proposals;
- c) Reporting the progress of WPEA project to GEF through UNDP;
- d) Preparation of Project Board meetings and UNDP's Mid-term Review by an independent consultant;
- e) Supporting and supervision of national project coordinators for their coordination and implementation of WPEA project activities at national level;
- f) Together with national project coordinators, convene *ad hoc* consultation meetings with the

three countries to review the progress of project activities, develop terms of references for domestic consultancies, and supervise and facilitate coordination of such consultancy contracts together with UNDP;

- g) Development of a WPEA website portal with PEMSEA;
- h) Supporting and coordinating participation of the three country representatives in SPC's Tuna Data Workshop, SC and TCC meetings;
- i) Supervision tuna catch data collection through port sampling, and convening data review and annual catch estimates workshops supported by SPC;
- j) Supervising prior study consultancies and subsequent review workshops on the consultancy outputs regarding climate change and tuna fisheries, tuna supply chain analysis, eco-labelling and certification scheme, reference points and harvest control rules, application of EAFM to tuna fisheries; etc.

4. Subject to the need of each country, other activities at each country include:

Indonesia

- a) Logbook awareness workshop in tuna landing ports with vessel captains to improve the accuracy and return rate;
- b) Development of a harvest strategy framework for the archipelagic tuna fisheries;
- c) Authorisation and training for trainer of regional observer program with WCPFC; and
- d) Implementation of an EAFM pilot study to reduce juvenile catch of yellowfin and bigeye tuna as well as a trial for pole-and-line observer program.

Philippines

- a) Extension of observer data collection, observer debriefing workshop, and VMS workshop;
- b) Updating *Operational Guide for Filipino Fishermen*;
- c) Convening Annual Tuna Catch Estimates and Review Workshops;
- d) Convening preliminary workshops on EAFM, Harvest strategy, Certification & Eco-labelling;
- e) Review of national fisheries laws and regulations in compliance with WCPFC requirements; and
- f) Updating the *National Tuna Management Plan*.

Viet Nam

- a) Reconstruction of catch histories prior to year 2000;
- b) Translation of the WCPFC 2015 CMMs into Vietnamese;
- c) Convening workshops to discuss feasibilities of developing a harvest strategy framework for tuna fisheries in Viet Nam.
- d) Coordinating publication of a fish book, *Classification Atlas of Common Coral Reef Fish in Vietnam*, with the National Research Institute for Marine Fisheries.
- e) Convening a workshop to develop EAFM guidelines for a pilot application to selected tuna fishery in Viet Nam

5. WCPFC is working with Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) to develop a WPEA website portal under the PEMSEA Resource Facility and cooperating in knowledge sharing area.

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN 2017-2018

6. The fourth Project Board meeting was held on 5th of May 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where the Board agreed to a no-cost extension of the project for 15 months (by the end of January 2019). The

5th Project Board meeting is scheduled in October 2017. Future work plan until the end of 2018 includes:

Three-country workshop

- a) The 2016 Three-country workshop adopted several specific areas for sub-regional cooperation in the future. The 2017 workshop will review the intersessional activities related to the progress of those specific areas.

Indonesia

- a) Workshops for the development of a harvest strategy framework for archipelagic tuna fisheries as well as candidate harvest strategies for skipjack and yellowfin tuna;
- b) Development of guidelines to adaptively manage tuna fisheries against the impact of climate change;
- c) Continuing Observer training workshops focusing on longline and pole-and-line fisheries;
- d) Development of tuna supply chain analysis;
- e) Pilot application of EAFM to tuna fisheries in Sikka Maumere;
- f) Continuing data collection through port sampling program and audit and supervision of the process;

Philippines

- a) Consultancies on developing guidelines for climate change adaptation, review of FAD management policy, development of an approach to incorporate EAFM to tuna fisheries, tuna supply chain analysis and certification;
- b) Updating of *Operational Guide for Filipino Fishermen*;
- c) Conduct of Annual Tuna Catch Estimates and Data Review Workshops
- d) Conduct of harvest strategy and risk assessment workshops.

Viet Nam

- a) Continue to collect tuna fisheries data at coastal provinces of Viet Nam;
- b) Workshops for the review of prior studies on climate change, tuna supply chain analysis, eco-labeling and certification system;
- c) Continue to develop two guidelines for adaptive management of tuna fisheries in Viet Nam;
- d) Prior study and a review workshop on developing reference points and harvest control rules;
- e) Pilot application of EAFM to tuna fisheries in Binh Dinh province;
- f) Update of Viet Nam's tuna fisheries profile;
- g) Review of legal, policy and institutional arrangements to recommend suitable reforms into national legislation;
- h) Review of national tuna fisheries management plan to integrate reference point, harvest control rule, climate change issues, EAFM, market-based approach into the tuna management plan;
- i) Conduct a workshop to review of national tuna fisheries management plan;
- j) Development/translation of shark identification guidelines for a sustainable fishing practices; and
- k) Conduct a stakeholder workshop on sustainable fishing practices.