



**COMMISSION  
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION**  
Electronic Meeting  
8 – 15 December 2020

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**UPDATED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN**

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**WCPFC17-2020-10  
18 November 2020**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the updated Strategic Investment Plan for consideration by the Commission. A brief report on implementation of the Plan is also provided.

**Background**

2. The Strategic Investment Plan was approved by the Commission in December 2018. Its stated purpose is “to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies.” The Commission agreed that the Plan would be updated annually by the Secretariat for approval by the Commission and that the Secretariat would report to the Commission on implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan each year.
3. In December 2019, during the WCPFC16 meeting, FFA members requested that when preparing future Strategic Investment Plan updates, that further detail be provided on how and whether specific requests were met, including how the Secretariat assisted with any administrative support, where relevant (WCPFC16 Summary Report, paragraph 134 - 135). The agreed outcome was “The Commission approved the Updated 2019 Strategic Investment Plan (Attachment G\*) and tasked the Secretariat to provide additional information and context to the revisions and updates made to the Strategic Investment Plan.” (WCPFC16 Summary Report, paragraph 136)

**Overview of updates made to the Plan**

4. In adopting the Strategic Investment Plan, the Commission agreed “to make any capacity assistance needs identified in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report and in Part 2 reports (as may be agreed by TCC each year to be contained in the Executive Summary of the Provisional Compliance Monitoring Report), public domain data that will inform annual updates of the Strategic Investment Plan.” The Secretariat has incorporated updates that consider the outcomes from consideration of capacity assistance needs and as was identified

in the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report adopted by TCC16 and in the 2020 Part 2 reports (**Attachment 1**). Considering the WCPFC16 outcome, this year the TCC provided additional commentary about each Capacity Assistance Need and whether the specific requests are on track to being met, and this has also been incorporated into the proposed revisions to the Strategic Investment Plan.

## Report on Implementation

5. Since early 2019, the Commission has maintained an *Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention* webpage at this link:- <https://www.wcpfc.int/implementation-article-30-convention>. 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;
  - 2013-06 template and assessments to date<sup>1</sup>; and
  - Reports by CCMs on implementation of 2013-07.
6. A copy of the CMM 2013-07 reports from CCMs have been posted to the Article 30 webpage, as well as to WCPFC17 meeting page as **WCPFC17-2020-IP01**.
7. A list of activities that have been funded under the SRF, Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and the Chinese Taipei Trust Funds (CTTF) can be found in the Finance and Administrative Committee (FAC14) paper Report on the Status of Other Funds (**WCPFC16-2019-FAC14-07**). In respect of the SRF, there were approved request at the start of the year for travel to meetings and workshops but those travel plans were canceled due to COVID. Besides those travel requests, there were no other requests for the use of the SRF this year.
8. Generally, COVID has affected the implementation of other activities that were proposed to be funded from the WCPFC budget as well as from other funding sources in 2020. For example, some projects may not have been started/completed particularly where training/attendance at events required travel and could not be substituted by new or wider use of on-line training packages or support materials. Investment funds would be underspent for 2020 with an uncertain ability on the level of use possible in 2021. COVID circumstances are expected to continue to affect CCMs ability to plan and use the funding sources underpinning the delivery of the proposed strategic investments, and in turn, affecting the Secretariat's ability to deliver against the plan in the shorter term.

## Recommendation

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| 9. WCPFC17 is invited to note the report and approve the updated Strategic Investment Plan ( <b>Attachment 1</b> ). |
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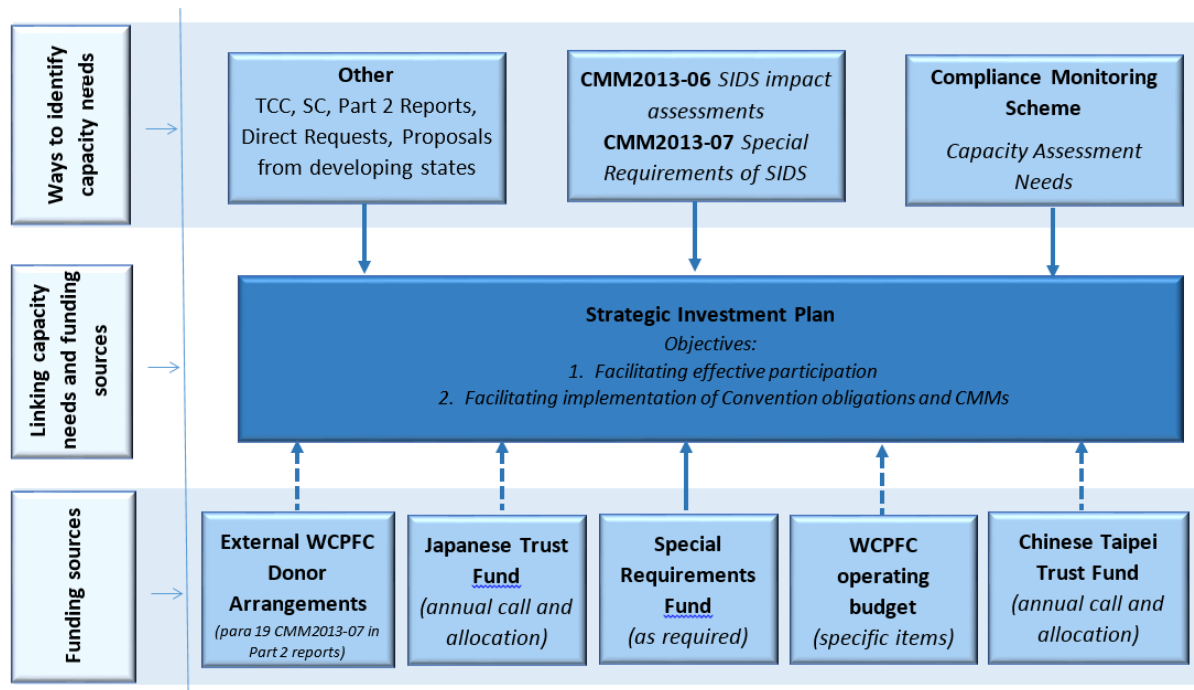
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<sup>1</sup> This section is a work in progress with some historical submissions to be included

## 2019-2020 Strategic Investment Plan

### Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14<sup>th</sup> 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 and 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 members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

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

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC16<sup>5</sup> in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

<p><b>Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC13</p>	<p><u>TCC noted that a report on progress was submitted by Indonesia to TCC16 that confirms that due to COVID-19 there were some delays in the anticipated timeframe and assistance delivery set out in the Capacity Development Plan. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met. The revised Capacity Development Plan would indicate that implementation would be completed at the end of 2020 or early 2021. Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC</u></p>
<p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</b></p>	<p><u>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2019)</u></p>	<p><u>TCC noted that Indonesia’s capacity assistance needed for the reporting obligation in CMM 2011-04, paragraph 3 and the implementation obligation in CMM 2013-08, paragraph 3 were related to its existing Capacity Development Plan. The identified reporting gap for silky sharks in particular is linked to COVID-19 preventing delivery of capacity assistance. This is to be incorporated into its CDP for RY 2019. TCC16 expects Indonesia to be meet this obligation in 2021.</u></p>
<p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</b></p>	<p><u>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2019)</u></p>	
<p><b>Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC15</p>	<p><u>TCC noted that a written report was received from the Philippines on progress on its Capacity Development Plan which provided a schedule for implementation to progressively increase observer coverage in Philippine waters over 2020 to 2023. TCC noted that for RY 2019 Philippine’s capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met. Assistance and funding is being sought</u></p>

6. ——— The following prior Capacity Assistance Need areas were noted to have been completed by TCC15 in the Compliance Monitoring Report:

<b>Kiribati for 5% ROP observer Coverage</b>	Capacity Development Plan (CDP) submitted to TCC14	Assistance and funding is being sought from SPC
<b>New Caledonia for VMS assistance</b>	CDP submitted to TCC14	<del>WCPFC technical assistance in country will be provided to New Caledonia in first quarter of 2019.</del> New Caledonia has requested to attend a FFA VMS training, this has not been arranged as of yet.

### Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

7.6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2018 and are understood to be continuing capacity assistance needs in RY 2019 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2020. These areas identified in paragraph 33-28 of the provisional Compliance Monitoring Report:

CMM	Notes about types of assistance requested	CCM
<b>2017-03 03-06, 11, 12 Observer Safety CMM</b>	Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes	Cook Islands
<b>2013-07 04-05 Capacity development for personnel</b>	Additional training is needed in the following areas: 1. Prosecution 2. Data analysis 3. MCS	Fiji
<b>2013-07 10-11 Capacity development for MCS activities</b>	Assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage	Kiribati

### Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

8.7. 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.

9.8. 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 A**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

10.9. 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.

<b>Title:</b> Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC
<b>Obligation:</b> Article 30
<b>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</b> 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

ATTACHMENT A

<b>Thematic capacity needs</b>	<b>Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority</b>	<b>Funding support available (see Attachment B for recipients)</b>
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, <a href="#">Japan</a> , 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
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

**ATTACHMENT B**

<b>Donor/program</b>	<b>Eligible Recipients</b>
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 (ABNJ project)	WCPFC, PNA, FFA
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