



COMMISSION
Twenty-Second Regular Session
1-5 December 2025
Manila, Philippines (Hybrid)

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

WCPFC22-2025-DP10
1 November 2025

Submitted by the European Union



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

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

Updates on Year 7 of the PEUMP Programme

November 2025

1. BACKGROUND

2. MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING YEAR 7

- 2.1. Maritime Boundary Delimitation*
- 2.2. Scientific and Management Advice for Oceanic Fisheries*
- 2.3. Economic Benefits from Sustainable Tuna Fishing*
- 2.4. Sustainable Management of Coastal Fisheries*
- 2.5. Reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*
- 2.6. Sustainable Utilisation of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity*
- 2.7. Capacity built through education, training and research and development*
- 2.8 Cross-cutting issues: Gender, Human Rights, and Poverty Reduction*

3. NEXT STEPS: PHASE II of PEUMP

WCPFC REPORT

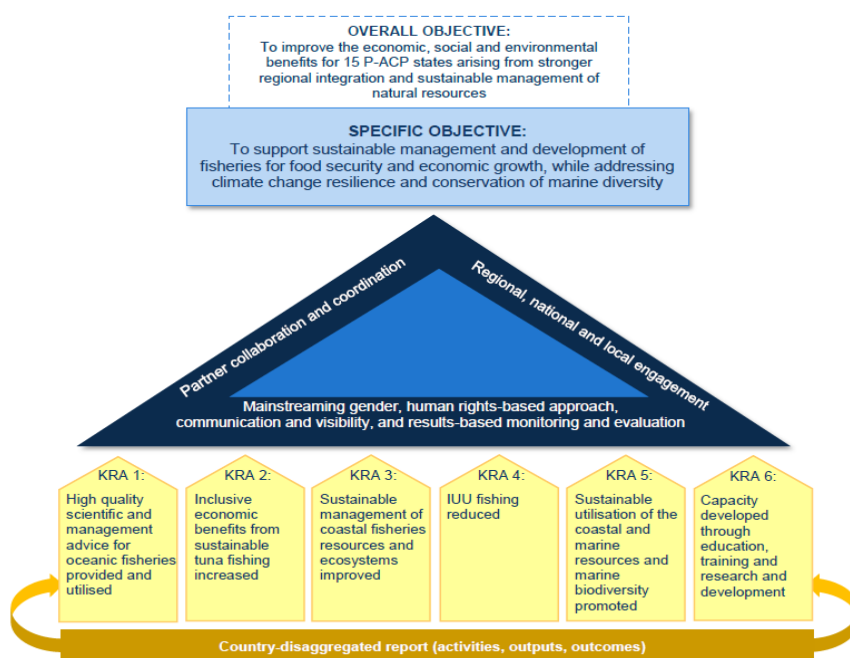
The Pacific European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)

1. Background

The **Pacific – EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme** is the flagship ocean initiative funded by the European Union (EU) to promote a healthy Pacific Ocean and a strong governance of marine and coastal resources to improve sustainable and inclusive growth within the region.

The Programme - jointly financed by the EU and the government of Sweden for a total amount of EUR 45 M over seven years - is a clear sign of EU's and its Member States' commitment to promote sustainable, responsible and transparent management of the marine resources in the Pacific Ocean.

The programme's six **Key Result Areas (KRA)** are structured as follows:



The first five KRAs are implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). KRA 6 is implemented by the University of the South Pacific (USP).

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) was established within the leading agency (SPC) to coordinates with partners and implements the Human Rights and Gender component, the Communication component and the Maritime Boundaries component.

The Programme has concluded its seventh and final year of implementation. This report covers the achievements of all Key Result Areas (KRA 0 – KRA 6) during Year 7 (1 July 2024 to 31 August 2025) and are summarised below. The activities official ended in August 2025 and the closure phase (September – December 2025) is currently ongoing.

2. MAIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING YEAR 7 OF IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Delimitation of maritime boundaries (KRA 0 - SPC lead)

- **Maritime Boundaries** - Advanced national maritime boundary processes and strengthened Pacific leadership through joint Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) submissions and technical support for legal and policy reforms in Fiji, Vanuatu, RMI, PNG and Solomon Islands.
- **Regional and International advocacy** – Efforts on a regional and international level continued included coordination with UN-DOALOS, developing the regional Maritime Boundaries Advocacy and Engagement Strategy and upgrading to regional data tools such as the Maritime Boundaries Dashboard.

2.2 Scientific and management advice for oceanic fisheries (KRA 1 - SPC lead)

- **Scientific evidence informing sustainable management** - Research and analysis in Year 7 expanded knowledge on tuna stocks, bycatch and the wider Pacific marine ecosystem. Four new national bycatch reports and updated regional estimates, along with biological and genetic research, are providing Pacific Island countries and the WCPFC's Scientific Committee with stronger evidence to guide sustainable tuna management and protect associated species.
- **Capacity building across the region** - The programme strengthened national and regional skills through training fisheries observers, scientists and technical staff in areas such as tuna prey identification, electronic monitoring systems and data handling. Workshops in Samoa, Kiribati, Tonga and other locations equipped participants with practical knowledge to support fisheries monitoring and management.
- **Improved tools and methods for stock assessments** - Advances in how tuna abundance is measured included refining fishing effort metrics, improving data models, and updating length–weight relationships for key species. These improvements are making stock assessments more accurate, transparent and reliable, ensuring fisheries decisions are based on the best available science.

2.3. Economic benefits from sustainable tuna (FFA lead - KRA 2)

- **Practical tools for market access** - The programme developed and finalised the [*EU Market Access Guide for Fish and Fishery Products*](#) and the [*FFA EU Sanitary Requirements for Vessels Guide*](#), providing clear, up-to-date guidance to help Pacific Island countries meet sanitary and market access requirements.
- **Stronger skills and capacity across the region** - In Year 7, 285 people (110 women, 175 men) from 14 P-ACP countries took part in trainings, workshops and expos funded by the programme, building expertise in fish inspection, traceability, thermal processing, leadership and compliance with international standards.
- **Support to comply with conservation and labour standards** - Seven P-ACP countries (Fiji, FSM, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) received in-country support to implement WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures, including labour standards and climate change considerations, fostering collaboration between administrations, enforcement agencies and industry.
- **Fishing industry engagement and growth** - The programme worked with fishing industry associations and SMEs in Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, supporting

organisational strengthening, development of social policies, participation in major seafood expos, and the procurement of equipment such as ice-making machines.

- **Regional coordination and policy support** - P-ACP countries were supported to update or implement policies and strategies related to sustainable fishing, including work on the FFA Regional MCS Strategy 2024–2029. Regional meetings and planning workshops provided a platform for aligning national priorities and sharing solutions across the region

2.4. Sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources (SPC lead - KRA3)

- **Communities leading coastal fisheries management across the Pacific** – In Year 7, 12 Pacific ACP countries advanced community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (CEAFM), with new or updated local plans in Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu. These plans were shaped through inclusive community consultations, ensuring that traditional knowledge and local priorities guide fishing rules, habitat protection and climate adaptation measures.
- **Building skills and science-based monitoring capacity** – A total of 512 people (240 women and 272 men) from across the Pacific were trained in coastal monitoring, data collection, information sharing and CEAFM. Participants included community members, fisheries officers and NGOs from Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Training combined practical skills such as habitat surveys and catch monitoring with tools for sharing data that can inform both community decisions and national policies.
- **Using research and value chain analysis to guide action** – Gender in fisheries analyses and fisheries value chain assessments were completed in multiple countries, helping identify where women and men participate in the sector and how economic benefits can be more equitably shared. These findings are now feeding into community plans and national strategies to improve livelihoods while sustaining coastal resources.
- **Supporting local action through grants to NGOs and CBOs** – NGOs and community-based organisations in Pacific countries received targeted grants and technical guidance to strengthen their role in coastal fisheries management. These funds supported activities such as local awareness campaigns, enforcement of community fishing rules, livelihood diversification and the integration of gender and climate considerations into fisheries planning.
- **Raising awareness and sharing lessons regionally** – Information and outreach campaigns across the 12 participating countries used radio, community meetings, school activities and printed materials to promote sustainable fishing practices, respect for management rules and protection of vulnerable species. At the regional level, officers, community leaders and NGOs came together at events such as the Pacific Community-Based Fisheries Management Forum in March 2025 to share practical experiences and strengthen cooperation.
- **Linking science and local decision-making** – Stock assessments, habitat mapping and other research were shared directly with communities in Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga, ensuring that local management decisions are grounded in evidence. This science-community link is helping plans remain responsive to changing environmental conditions and emerging threats to food security.

2.5. Reducing IUU fishing through enhanced MCS (FFA lead - KRA 4)

- **National legislation and IUU action plans strengthened** - Reviews of the IUU National Plans of Action for Nauru and Tuvalu were completed, and a legislative review in Solomon Islands advanced the implementation of its own plan. This work, alongside updates to governance frameworks, is helping countries align with international principles and strengthen their fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
- **Expanded capacity to address IUU fishing and enforcement** - In Year 7, at least 34 fisheries, legal and enforcement personnel (12 women, 22 men) from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu were trained in areas such as port state controls, prosecutions, sanctions, digital catch reconciliation and high-level fisheries negotiations.
- **New technologies deployed to improve monitoring and control** - Four major MCS innovations were trialled or implemented: real-time e-reporting for longline vessels in six countries using OLLO and Starlink units; the Fiji Fisheries Operations Centre digital upgrade; integration of the Noro e-Port system with the regional e-PSM system in Solomon Islands; and Fiji's new Catch Accountancy System for reconciling offshore landings.
- **Improved systems and standards for compliance and traceability** - Regional and national training on e-reporting, e-debriefing and observer tools, together with the development of EM standards, supported the adoption of digital systems. Integration of catch documentation processes, such as e-PSM and e-Port, is making compliance more efficient and reliable.
- **Strengthened operational capacity of MCS officers** - At least 51 MCS officers (12 women, 39 men) from Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu received training through activities such as Operation Island Chief, observer e-reporting, and fisheries monitoring technology workshops, equipping them to enforce port state controls and fisheries regulations more effectively.

2.6. Sustainable utilization of the coastal and marine biodiversity (SPREP lead - KRA5)

- **First Pacific-wide marine turtle extinction risk report released** – In July 2025, the first-ever regional report on the extinction risk of Pacific marine turtles was published, drawing on years of turtle surveys, DNA studies and data analysis. The findings were discussed at national workshops in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga earlier in the year, and shared widely through a regional awareness campaign.
- **Marine Spatial Planning milestones reached in Fiji and Solomon Islands** – Year 7 marked the completion of work to help both countries put in place national plans for using and protecting their ocean spaces. The final plans were approved in early 2025, with national teams now taking them forward.
- **Stronger national and community plans for marine species** – New and updated national action plans for turtles, sharks, seabirds and crocodiles were launched in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Vanuatu also introduced its first community turtle management plans, while coastal communities in Fiji and Vanuatu completed locally driven plans that combine climate change adaptation with protecting marine life.
- **Reducing by-catch and building skills across the region** – Practical steps to cut accidental capture of endangered species included training Fiji's longline fishers to use hookpods, coastal monitoring in Vanuatu and a new management plan for wedge-tailed shearwater seabirds. Regional gatherings - the Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Forum in

April 2025 and the Community Turtle Ranger Exchange in May 2025 - brought together governments, experts and community rangers to share knowledge and plan joint action.

- **Better processes for protecting and trading marine species** – Year 7 saw progress on meeting CITES requirements, with Fiji completing assessments for coral species, Tonga updating assessments for sea cucumbers and giant clams, Papua New Guinea reviewing its crocodile trade laws, and Vanuatu launching a new plan covering sharks, seabirds and turtles. These steps will help ensure marine species are managed and traded sustainably.

2.7. Education, Research and Capacity Development (USP lead – KRA 6)

- **Access to fisheries and marine education and training** - The following trainings delivered by the PEUMP project in Year 7:
 - 3 regional cohorts of Certificate training program
 - 7 micro-qualifications country programs
 - 1 massive open online course (MOOC)
 - 3 community financial literacy trainings
- **Increased in-region capacity** - A total of 398 individuals were supported to undertake the training programmes related to coastal fisheries and marine sustainable development during Year 7 including Certificate Programmes, Micro-qualification and other training programmes such as the ANZ Financial Literacy Training, the Boat Master Class License training and Canoe Boat Building and Traditional Sailing.
- **Increased capacity to start or improve businesses** - 105 successfully completed the micro-qualifications in Establishing a Seafood Business. The Financial Literacy Training in Money Minded and Business Basics programs that are carried out in coastal communities also create awareness of coastal communities on opportunities to establish businesses.
- **Enhanced marine research collaboration** – a number a few collaboration agreements between USP were signed during year 7 including with the Vanuatu Institute of Technology, the *Uto ni Yalo* Trust, the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies and the College of Marshall Islands (CMI).
- **Increased access for women to training programmes** - A total of 156 (40%) women were trained in this reporting period in an accredited training program related to coastal fisheries or marine sustainable development.

2.8 Cross-cutting elements: Gender and Social Inclusion

- **Advanced gender and human rights integration** – the objectives is to amplify women's voices in regional fisheries and climate policy. During year 7 gender and fisheries research was conducted for Kiribati and Tuvalu, a regional Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in fisheries research framework was developed, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) principles were streamlined into training and governance processes, and tools such as 16 fact sheets and the *Stars to Sail By* podcast series to support inclusive policy and practice were developed.

3. Next Steps: Phase II of the PEUMP programme

With a budget of EUR 20 million, the second phase of the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme builds on Phase 1 achievements, maintaining focused support to strengthen ocean governance, contribute to sustainable oceanic and coastal fisheries management, and the integration of GESI-responsive and human rights-based approaches. It prioritises reinforcing legal and institutional frameworks, enhancing monitoring, compliance and surveillance, adding value across fisheries value chains and expanding inclusive community-based fisheries management of coastal resources.

The **overall objective** is to advance the environmental, climate-resilient, economic and social development of Pacific communities while ensuring the sustainability of the marine resources and ecosystems. The Key Result Areas will focus on the following specific objectives:

1. Strengthen ocean governance.
2. Enhance capacities in oceanic fisheries.
3. Community-based, inclusive, sustainable, and climate-smart co-management of the coastal blue economy is strengthened.
4. Enhance marine and coastal ecosystem resilience in the context of climate change.
5. Improve knowledge and expertise in the ocean–fisheries–climate nexus.

Contract preparations are ongoing with the main regional implementing partners: SPC, FFA, SPREP and USP, in collaboration with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC). Activities are due to start in January 2026.