



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the Pacific Small Island Developing States

GEF ID#: 530, PIMS ID#: 990

Project Status: Completed



Key results:

1. A detailed work plan was developed for the region-wide implementation of the SAP, with funding, reporting, technical advisory, monitoring and evaluation arrangements established.
2. Thirteen participating countries were fully engaged in implementing community based pilot projects that addressed SAP focal issues and their root causes.
3. New institutional arrangements were established for the conservation and management of transboundary fish stocks, including stock assessment refinement and progress made towards creating a regional tuna fisheries commission.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The long term objective of this project was to conserve and sustainably manage the coastal and ocean resources in the Pacific Region. Targeted actions encompassed two linked consultative contexts: Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management (ICWM) and Oceanic Fisheries Management (OFM).

ICWM actions focused on freshwater supplies including groundwater, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) enhancement and development, sustainable coastal fisheries, integrated coastal management including tourism development, and activities to demonstrate waste reduction strategies. The Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management (ICWM) Component was an initiative of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Pressing concerns related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely biodiversity, vulnerability to climate change and land degradation were addressed. The project provided working examples of economies of scale in environmental management.

The OFM component targeted the Western Pacific Warm Pool ecosystem, whose boundaries correspond almost precisely to the Western Pacific tuna fishery. The OFM component was an initiative of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and targeted the following outcomes: sustainable ocean fisheries; improved national and regional management capability; stock and by-catch monitoring and research; and enhanced national and regional management links.

The project involved 14 independent Pacific Island States: Cook Islands; Federated States of Micronesia; Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Nauru; Niue; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR #1: Effective project implementation support established. [*Target: A detailed work plan developed for the region-wide implementation of the SAP; a communications strategy developed, including education and awareness.*]

A Project Coordination Unit was fully operational with funding and reporting arrangements to support in-country project-related activities designed and established. Technical advisory and backstopping services were in place and working effectively. Monitoring and evaluation plans were in place and being used by all participating countries on a regular basis.

INDICATOR #2: Enhanced transboundary management. [*Target: Formal memorandum of understanding executed by participating countries; stakeholder participation plans developed and implemented.*]

Memorandums of Understanding were executed with all 13 countries participating in the implementation of the ICWM component. Stakeholder analysis, participation plans and communications strategies have all been completed. Multi-partite reviews have been held annually. National Task Forces were active in all participating countries and meeting on a regular basis.

INDICATOR #3: Strengthened processes supporting conservation and sustainable use of coastal and watershed resources and community-based stakeholder participation. [*Target: National and regional project related strategies developed in the following areas: communication, social assessment, community participation, and economics.*]

Regional and national communication strategies were prepared. All participating countries had prepared stakeholder analysis and participation strategies. Most countries had undertaken participatory consultations with key stakeholders to identify root causes and solutions and a few prepared plans for

stakeholder participation in these activities. Four countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu) undertook economic valuation /assessments of solution options to address root causes of focal issues.

INDICATOR #4: National and regional pilot projects implemented. [*Target: Guidelines developed for the design, implementation and monitoring of project related community based pilot activities. 50% of participating countries support community based activities of relevance to SAP focal issue environmental concerns.*]

Guidelines were developed on project planning and design; social assessment and community participation strategy, and economic strategy. 13 of 14 participating countries were fully engaged in implementing community based pilots that address SAP focal issues and their root causes.

INDICATOR #5: Establishment of new institutional arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary fish stocks and associated national capacities. [*Target: Technical assistance and support provided to the FFA to build project related capacity nationally and regionally and to devise and implement project-related management arrangements with participating countries.*]

Country participants attended meetings of the Preparatory Conference and the Multilateral High Level Conference on establishing a regional tuna commission, as well as other regional fisheries management organizations (IOTC, IATTC). A Scientific Monitoring Supervisor position was established, and conducted regional and national observer training courses, port sampling training and data evaluation exercises, manuals and other materials to guide observers. Tuna management plans were developed and/or reviewed. Regional stock assessments were refined and stock assessment methodology subjected to rigorous simulation testing.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- 1) Prepare a succinct Project Document and thorough Logical Framework over a shorter, continuous process of research, consulting, planning and drafting, with continuity of leadership from SAP to Project planning and implementing.
- 2) Allow sufficient time and process for key stakeholder participation to adequately explore and express perspectives on priorities, problems to be tackled, causes and effects, possible solutions and alternative ways of implementing solutions.
- 3) Set only the broad framework, main strategies and essential principles; avoid detailed prescriptions; allow project implementation to be a continual process of pilot exercises, formative evaluation, adaptive management and learning.

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