

**FFA****FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE****ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING***Virtual***11 - 14 May 2021**

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| <b>Agenda Item:</b>  |                                                                  |
| <b>Paper Number:</b> | <b><i>FFC118-INFO.16i</i></b>                                    |
| <b>Title:</b>        | Update on FFA Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) |

**Summary:**

The Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) is a World Bank funded program implemented by FFA since 2015. The program has a total funding of up to USD6.16m over a six-year period from 2015 to 2021. The project is due to end in September 2021 after an extension from its original end date of September 2020. The 1 year no-cost extension to the project's end date is due to COVID-19's impact on implementation. With the upcoming closure, the World Bank has indicated interest in a future partnership with FFA and that is currently under discussion.

**Recommendations:**

FFC is invited to note:

- i. That the current PROP is ending in September 2021.
- ii. That the World Bank has indicated interest to support a new partnership with FFA and this is currently in early the stages of discussions.

## Update on FFA Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) funded by the World Bank

### Introduction:

1. This paper outlines key project updates and also presents a list of key activities and reports produced by the project since the start of implementation. Detailed information on any item presented can be received from the PROP Project Support Unit within FFA.

### Background:

2. FFA entered into a Grant Funding Agreement with the World Bank in 2015 for the implementation of PROP.
3. The project is aimed at achieving sustainable management of oceanic, coastal fisheries management and in supporting the sustainable financing of the conservation of critical fishery habitats.
4. The overarching goal (Project Development Objective – PDO) of the project is *to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries and the critical habitats upon which they depend.*
5. The project's total funding is up to USD6.16M (a combination of IDA and GEF funding) over 6 years from 2015 to September 2021.
6. The GEF funded components (2 and 3) of the project were closed in September 2020 with the PROP original closing date. A GEF completion note review of the 2 components was completed in September 2020 and the report is available.
7. The IDA funded components (1 and 4) have been extended for implementation until September 2021.
8. Under Component 1, FFA is implementing activities to achieve the sustainable management of oceanic fisheries with our PROP member countries<sup>1</sup> through activities aimed at combating IUU and supporting the needs for countries to collaborate to ensure compliance with the VDS and to build and support a network of compliance experts. Refer to Annex A for a list of activities implemented under Component 1.
9. Under Component 2, FFA entered into an agreement with SPC to implement activities aimed at achieving improved regional management of *beche de mer* (BDM) for the MSG and PROP countries. This includes TA to support the formation of a regional or sub-regional BDM fishery group. This component ended in September 2020 and an independent review of this component was completed in September 2020. A list of activities and reports produced under this component is outlined in Annex A.
10. Under Component 3, FFA worked in partnership with PIFS/OPOC to implement activities aimed at supporting the sustainable financing of the conservation of critical fishery habitats. The key outputs for this component are – a) to establish financing mechanisms to support large marine protected areas, b) establish a regional ocean finance and governance program for PICS and c) design a regional ocean finance and governance program. This component also closed in September 2020. A list of publications commissioned under this component is as per Annex A and can be accessed on <https://opocbluepacific.net/publications/#pacific-ocean-finance-reports>.
11. Component 4 is the Project's Support Unit which sits within the FFA. The role of the PSU is to support the management and implementation of the project's activities and is composed of two full time staff (Project Coordinator and Finance officer) and short-term inputs for

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<sup>1</sup> All PICs except Cook Islands, Niue and PNG are PROP eligible countries.

communications and safeguards. As the project is due to end in September this year, other short term inputs (M&E and procurement) have been ended.

12. The final evaluation of the project is scheduled over April to June 2021.
13. The World Bank has indicated interest to support a new partnership with initial discussions having taken place on 22 March 2021.

**Annex A: List of FFA PROP Key Activities and Reports****Component 1 - Sustainable Management of Oceanic Fisheries - Implemented by FFA***Workshop and Trainings:*

|                                                                                                             |
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| PNAO/FFA observer safety training of trainers workshop                                                      |
| Production of a safety at sea video for observers                                                           |
| Regional MCS risk assessment workshop                                                                       |
| Training of observers and observers trainers                                                                |
| Electronic monitoring process standard workshop                                                             |
| Persons of Interest workshops (2)                                                                           |
| Observer insurance workshop                                                                                 |
| MCS training-certificate IV fisheries enforcement 2 cohorts                                                 |
| Fisheries License Officers workshop (FLOW)                                                                  |
| Niue Treaty Information System (NTIS) training                                                              |
| Observer training (IFOMC Vigo Conference)                                                                   |
| Certificate IV - Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance Assessment                                            |
| International negotiation workshop                                                                          |
| Observers endorsement Training                                                                              |
| Review and update of the FFA Boarding Guidelines                                                            |
| Dockside boarding and inspection workshop (IDA)                                                             |
| (Three trainings have been delivered for Palau,Tonga and SI)                                                |
| VMS & Monitoring compliance training (IDA) - delivered for SI                                               |
| Capacity building in fisheries related economics analysis                                                   |
| (Three trainings have been delivered already for FSM, Kiribati and Samoa)                                   |
| FSM Compliance attachment with FFA                                                                          |
| Support for legal advice in trainings                                                                       |
| Funding of new conferencing facilities for the FFA Secretariat                                              |
| Funding of boarding and inspection cameras to support the training of the new regional boarding guidelines. |
| Investigation and evidence training delivered for SI MFMR                                                   |

**Component 2 - Sustainable Management of Coastal Fisheries - Implemented in partnership with SPC***Key activities/reports:*

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Solomon Islands sea cucumber minimum harvest, purchase and export sizes                          |
| Towards producing a standard identification guide for BDM in SI                                  |
| Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries address sea cucumber fisheries management                |
| Review of FSM sea cucumber fisheries management                                                  |
| Review of Marshall Islands sea cucumber fisheries management                                     |
| Sea cucumber fishery management workshop for WB PROP countries recipients (FSM, RMI, Tuvalu, SI) |
| A review of sea cucumber fisheries and management in Melanesia                                   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Urgent step required for increasing and sustainable contribution of coastal fisheries to our communities                                      |
| Convention of the international trade in endangered species                                                                                   |
| 2018 market update for beche-de-mer in melanesian countries                                                                                   |
| Economic and other benefits of enforcing size limits in melanesian sea cucumber fisheries                                                     |
| <b>PROP Component 3 - Sustainable Management of the Conservation of Critical Fishery Habitats - Implemented in partnership with PIFS/OPOC</b> |
| <i>Key reports/activities</i>                                                                                                                 |
| Funding Marine Protection at Scale: The current status and future development of financing for Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas             |
| Analysis and development of a replicable community managed marine area finance mechanism                                                      |
| Analysis and development of a Pacific ocean bond                                                                                              |
| Analysis and development of a Pacific ocean finance insurance                                                                                 |
| Analysis and development of taxes and subsidies relevant to Pacific ocean health                                                              |
| Pacific ocean finance fellowship program                                                                                                      |
| Pacific ocean finance conference - November 2019                                                                                              |
| Development of the Tonga ocean finance profile (in progress due for completion in June 2021)                                                  |