

**FFA**

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING

*Virtual***11 - 14 May 2021**

Agenda Item:	
Paper Number:	FFC118-INFO.16ii
Title:	PEUMP – FFA Activities update

Summary:

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on activities implemented through the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in line with KRA 2 (Tuna Fishery Development – Economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing and regional competent authority support unit) and KRA 4 (Oceanic Fisheries - Reducing IUU and enhancing MCS in oceanic and coastal fisheries) of the PEUMP Programme.

Recommendations:

The Committee is invited to:

- i. Note the progress made in the implementation of activities relating to KRA 2 and KRA 4 of the PEUMP Programme to date, as well as the implementation challenges that have come about due to international border closures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the impact on implementation of in-country missions and capacity building activities; and
- ii. Note the remedial measures that have been put forward to PEUMP Programme donors - through PEUMP Programme Addendum #1, and a proposed Addendum #2 - to improve the effective delivery of the PEUMP Programme.

Introduction:

1. The Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Programme was officially launched in September 2018 with the signing of a PAGoDA Co-Delegation Agreement between the Heads of four CROP Agencies (SPC, FFA, SPREP, and USP) and representatives of the EU Delegation in the Pacific at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting held in Yaren, Nauru. FFA, as a Co-Delegatee of the PAGoDA, is responsible for the implementation and management of two Key Results Areas (KRAs) of the PEUMP Programme:
 - KRA 2 – Tuna fishery development: Economic benefits from sustainable tuna fishing and regional competent authority support unit; and,
 - KRA 4 – Oceanic fisheries: IUU fishing reduced and enhanced MCS in oceanic and coastal fisheries.
2. The PEUMP programme is currently in its third year of a four-year activities' implementation period.

Background:

3. As the implementing partner responsible for KRA 2 and KRA 4 of the PEUMP Programme, the FFA PEUMP focus for Year 2 (2019/20) was to rectify implementation delays from the previous year. Progress in activities' implementation to date for both KRAs is outlined in **Attachment 1**.
4. The implementation delays, exacerbated further by COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, led to a proposal from FFA PEUMP to reprogramme budget and activities under Article 11 of the PEUMP Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement (PAGoDA) General Conditions - which outlines provisions governing amendments to the Agreement - to effectively utilise the resources and funding available to FFA through the PEUMP Programme. The proposal to re-programme the FFA PEUMP budget allocations to address areas of concern included:
 - i. re-allocation of funds from operational budget areas that remain untouched, into other activities budget allocation;
 - ii. additional funding allocated to activities that have been found to require additional funding resources for effective implementation;
 - iii. additional human resources within the FFA PEUMP team to boost key activities that require focussed implementation to achieve the objectives of the Programme; and,
 - iv. re-allocation responsibility for implementation of one activity (KRA Activity 4.7 - *Development of tools and systems to combat IUU fishing activities into coastal waters*) to SPC FAME Coastal Fisheries Programme (i.e. KRA 3) to improve alignment with the mandate of the responsible PEUMP Programme Co-Delegatee.
5. The resulting PEUMP Programme-wide addendum request was endorsed in December 2020, and will come into effect when all PEUMP Co-Delegatee signatures have been received and accepted by the EU. Changes to the FFA PEUMP Activities workplan following the endorsement of PEUMP Programme Addendum #1 are also shown in **Attachment 1**.

Key Issues:

6. Key issues in relation to PEUMP are:

- i. **Implementation issues arising from COVID-19 pandemic international border closures:** As with other PEUMP Programme Co-Delegates, FFA experienced serious implementation challenges with the onset of travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of capacity building and in-country activities remain on hold until either:
 - a. Local subject matter experts can be identified and engaged to carry out the activity without requiring international travel;
 - b. International travel restrictions are relaxed, allowing for easier – and safe - access to countries.
- ii. **Proposal for a No-Cost Extension request to be submitted to PEUMP Programme donors:** Given the ongoing international travel restrictions and their impacts on implementation of in-country missions and capacity-building activities, the SPC PEUMP Programme Management Unit (PMU) have advised PEUMP Co-Delegates that work has commenced to develop a second addendum request to be submitted by July/August 2021. The No-Cost Extension request will be for a two-year extension of activities implementation, potentially taking the PEUMP Programme implementation period to April 2025.

Attachment 1 – FFA PEUMP Activities List and Progress Status

PEUMP Activity	Activities implemented to date	Activity changes endorsed through PEUMP Programme Addendum #1
PEUMP KRA 2 - Tuna fishery development		
2.1: Establishment of a regional competent authority support unit to assist P-ACP government agencies meet sanitary market access requirements	<u>Note:</u> Following consultations with FFA Member Countries at FFC110, a shift away from the previous Regional Competent Authority Support (RECAS) programme to a focus on national level development of Competent Authorities, was preferred. Additionally, rather than the planned 36-month placement of the PEUMP Market Access Adviser (MAA) in FSM (and RMI, from Year 2) a Phased Approach of a series of shorter in-country assistance missions with the FSM CA, while remaining Honiara-based, is being implemented. FSM: In May 2019, technical support and guidance was provided to the FSM CA in the form of a 1-month placement of the FFA Trade Development Adviser with the CA. The placement was the first of a planned phased support programme that FFA PEUMP is engaging in with FSM as that country goes through the process of establishing its CA and completing the process of attaining EU market access certification for its tuna exports. National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA) requested further assistance in July 2019 stemming from increased interest from the FSM fishing industry to access EU markets. In response, the FFA team (Trade Development Advisor and the PEUMP Market Access Advisor) conducted the following: • an in-country evaluation on the status of the FSM competent authority (CA) and identified areas for improvements; • a review of the CA schedule activities on accessing EU markets with the easiest route possible; • progressed tasks from the post-Phase 1 checklist with the FSM CA team. Based on the team's findings, recommendations aimed at strengthening the functionality and independence of seafood exports CA in FSM, were made.	The phased approach to provision of technical advice and training for the fledgling CAs in FSM and RMI will continue to be coordinated from FFA HQ. A second FFA PEUMP Market Access Adviser will not be recruited, with implementation of this activity in both FSM and RMI being the responsibility of the existing FFA PEUMP Market Access Adviser role working as part of the FFA Market Access unit.

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	RMI: The FFA Market Access Team Leader is liaising with the RMI CA Technical Adviser to ascertain the level of assistance that the RMI CA will need in order to begin the process of seeking certification to export to EU markets. In 2021, the FFA Market Access Team Leader continues to work remotely with the FSM and RMI CAs, providing remote assistance and advice as needed to maintain their progress towards meeting sanitary market access requirements while international borders remain shut.	
2.2: Support for sanitary and IUU competent authorities to comply with applicable legislation allowing for market access	Regional: The FFA Regional Fish Inspectors' Training Workshop took place from 8-26 April 2019 in Suva, Fiji. The training course was aimed at upskilling established Competent Authorities and industry officials as more countries in the region work towards attaining European Union (EU) certification for tuna fish products. A total of 16 participants (M=7; F=9) from the fishing industry and 17 national Competent Authorities of FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu completed the three-week training course. Fiji: A Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Refresher and HACCP Desk Top Audit Training for the Fiji CA in 2019 saw participants trained in developing HACCP plans, carry out desktop audits, and review the CA official control documents. Support was also provided to fishing industry companies with discussions centred on understanding the US market requirements. Solomon Islands: A Traceability training was conducted from 16 - 20 September 2019 that developed the key competencies in traceability of representatives from the Solomon Islands CA, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the fishing industry. The training strengthened understanding in benefits and regulatory requirements associated with traceability. Vanuatu: A capacity building exercise was conducted from the 30 July - 2 August 2019 to gauge status of the national CA development. Four	Additional funding resources moved to this activity to support regional meetings and workshop in support of national CAs work with the fishing industry to meet/maintain market access requirements. The original funding allocation for this component included funding to cover costs associated with implementing two (2) regional CA capacity-building activities over the four-year PEUMP Programme implementation period. The funding transferred to this allocation will allow for additional CA capacity-building activities, given the high volume of interest expressed by FFA member countries for such trainings/workshops to improve the capacity of national CAs in the execution of their role, as well as to improve and/or maintain certification status for export market access.

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	local staff (3 female, 1 male) from the CA Unit were involved in the exercise.	
2.3: Assistance with fisheries development and national policies	Solomon Islands: A MFMR Stakeholder FAD Management Plan development workshop was held in Munda from 2-4 December 2020. The workshop was the first in a series that will culminate in the development of a Solomon Islands National FAD Management Plan that will provide the enabling framework for Solomon Islands to implement the PNA FAD management, monitoring and tracking programme. Samoa: The development process for a National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Samoa saw two (2) workshops held in November 2020 and February 2021. The first workshop was a 1-day internal Issues Identification Workshop for Samoa Fisheries Division Staff (F-11; M-22) that was held on 12 November 2020; the second workshop was held from 17-19 February 2021, with the objective being for Samoa Fisheries Division Senior Management (F-8; M-10) to develop the policy framework and agree to a draft policy timeframe and outline.	1. Additional funding moved to this activity to support meetings/workshops/consultations for fisheries development and national policies activities. The initial funding allocated for meetings and workshops for this activity would not allow for sufficient and effective consultations in a national policy development process, particularly when considering stakeholder consultations that may be required to take place in multiple locations. 2. A PEUMP Fisheries Development Policy Adviser will be recruited to lead FFA PEUMP Fisheries Development policy work (including KRA Activity 2.5). Experience from the first 2 years of implementation of the Programme has shown that each aspect of this dual role - technical (Fisheries Policy Specialist), and project management (Team Leader) - warrants a FTE commitment to effectively implement and fulfil the responsibilities of each aspect. The key results areas and key activities of the Fisheries Policy Specialist aspect of the current role have not been fully achieved as intended to date, with Project Management responsibilities taking precedence during the first half of Programme implementation. The rationale behind splitting the role into its two component parts is to optimise effective execution of each element part. The funding for activities associated with each component remains the same, thus the division of the dual role into two roles ensures dedicated human resources for focussed attention in the execution of those activities.
2.4: Annual policy dialogue with the EU	Regional: The first FFA P-ACP Policy Dialogue with the EU took place on 21 June 2019 in Pohnpei, FSM. The dialogue was an exchange of views between the FFA membership and representatives from the EU DG Mare Directorate and EU Delegation to the Pacific. The format of the Policy Dialogue comprised of an Open Session, followed by a Restricted Session where participation was limited to FFA members, the EU Delegation, FFA Secretariat, PNAO, SPC, PIFS, and WCPFC Secretariat.	No Change

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	1. The timing of the Policy Dialogue proved to be a challenge. FFA Members and Secretariat acknowledge that scheduling the dialogue to take place immediately after the annual FFC Ministerial meeting and the Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, is not ideal given the different nature of the meetings. 2. Objectives, format and agenda of future FFA Policy Dialogues with the EU should be reviewed to ensure clarity and consensus amongst all parties on the purpose and expected outcomes of future Dialogues. A focus on technical fisheries issues may be more suited to discussion later in the year in the weeks leading up to the WCPFC Annual Meeting. 3. Ongoing discussions between FFA and the EU relating to ineligible expenses arising from an ex-post audit of past EU-funded projects has impacted FFA Members' perceptions of the purpose and utility of an annual policy dialogue.	
2.5: Assistance to P-ACP to comply with WCPFC Conservation Management Measures (CMMs) and to implement checklist identified priorities	Support was provided to a number of FFA Member representatives to participate at the Regional Fisheries Negotiations Training Course, held in Honiara from 9-13 September 2019.	Additional funding for in-country activities supporting P-ACP countries on WCPFC CMMs work. Requests from countries relating to CCMs compliance work have included national workshops, for which funding under this activity was not sufficient to effectively meet the needs identified by FFA Member countries.
2.6: Building the capacity and engagement of the regional tuna industry association	An initial 4-month Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between FFA PEUMP and the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association (PITIA) was signed in March 2019 to cover Y1 activities. As part of the undertakings of this service contract, the 2019 PITIA AGM was held in Nadi, Fiji on 6 July 2019. The main outcome of the AGM was that PITIA board members committed to strengthening the organization's institutional structure and increasing the membership numbers. The Y2 FFA PEUMP-PITIA service contract was signed on 11 September, effective from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020. The contract entailed a mutually-agreed workplan (in-country visits to boost PITIA membership, national industry consultations to identify priority issues from the private sector to be raised at the regional level, etc) to be implemented by PITIA through engagement with national fishing industry associations and other industry stakeholders.	No change

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	However, Implementation of the FFA PEUMP-PITIA service contract has faced significant challenges following the resignation of the PITIA Executive Secretary in January 2020. The resignation has led to prolonged delays in PITIA reporting to FFA PEUMP under the terms of the service contract. Consultations with PITIA, and internally within FFA programmes and projects, have been productive in identifying potential pathways for moving forward for the remainder of PEUMP Programme implementation.	
2.7: Pilot projects and technical assistance for small and medium enterprises in the sector	Regional: A Tuna Industry consultation – comprising of PITIA members – took place in Nadi, Fiji on 5 July, 2019. The consultation focused on the objective, utility and purpose of PITIA, and whether the organization is of benefit to national industry associations. Ultimately, industry representatives (Fiji, Niue, PNG, and Solomon Islands) agreed that PITIA continue to coordinate industry priorities at the regional level, while also tasking PITIA with improving its engagement with the fishing industry across the region. National fishing industry private sector support: FSM: Work was completed for the MSC Certification Pre-assessment of Caroline Fishing Company (CFC) in FSM, a consultant contract that was carried out by Lloyd's Register in 2019. Fiji: In January 2020, the Fiji Fishing Industry Association (FFIA) submitted a proposal for support seeking extension of the MSC certification process to include an additional tuna species. The programme collaborated with FFIA to procure the services of a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) to carry out the assessment, which was completed in October 2020. PNG: • A representative from the PNG Fishing Industry Association participated in a consultation on the Implementation of interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) at the 7th Meeting of iEPA Trade Committee, 29th September - 4th October 2019, Suva, Fiji.	No change

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	• A PNG NFA Observers/PNG FIA Coordinators Training for Monitoring MSC Certified Tuna was held in Lae at the end of July 2020. The training was aimed at enabling NFA Observers and FIA to develop and align their respective standard operating procedures (SOP) regarding traceability requirements of the MSC standard, following the achievement of MSC Certification of the PNG FIA purse seine Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna fishery in May 2020. • FFA PEUMP provided funding resources to support participation of PNG-FIA and NFA personnel in a virtual SA8000 Social Accountability Standards training workshop from 15-20 March 2021. Tuvalu: In November 2019, part of PEUMP support for the Fishers of Funafuti Association (FOFA), enabled the procurement of a refrigeration unit (ice machine) that will be installed at the new Funafuti fish market.	
2.8: Communications and visibility - KRAs 2 and 4	PNG: A training for PNG media personnel took place from 9-11 September 2019 in Port Moresby, PNG. The objective of the workshop was to familiarize local media with fisheries issues that would be discussed at the Seventh Pacific Tuna Forum, which was held on 12 & 13 September 2019.	1. Additional funding for FFA/Project staff travel to support PEUMP activities communications and visibility work. Funding transferred to this budget line will enable FFA/Project staff to cover in-country activities and improve visibility of FFA PEUMP activities across both FFA KRAs of the PEUMP Programme, in line with the PEUMP Programme Communications and Visibility Strategy. 2. Additional funding for meetings and workshop relating to communications and visibility work. Requests from FFA Members for training for media personnel to improve reporting of fisheries issues form the basis for increasing this budget allocation. The funding transferred to this budget line will allow for up to two (2) additional media trainings in-country, particularly in the lead up to major fisheries meetings (e.g., FFC meetings, the Pacific Tuna Forum, WCPFC meetings etc), to improve media coverage of such events, the technical issues discussed, and the resulting outcomes.

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		3. A FFA PEUMP Administration and Communications Assistant will be recruited to lead implementation of the programme communications and visibility plan for FFA-based activities, ensure project outputs are communicated effectively to interested stakeholders, and prepare media releases for FFA PEUMP as required.
PEUMP KRA 4 - IUU fishing reduced and enhanced MCS in oceanic and coastal fisheries		
4.1: Support for the review of national legislation in line with international principles as well as the implementation of IUU national plans of action	Regional: Engagement of a consultant to undertake a review and update of the IUU National Plan of Action template and format for selected FFA Member countries (Solomon Islands, Nauru, Vanuatu, Kiribati) is underway and expected to be completed by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Kiribati: FFA PEUMP support made it possible for the FFA Legal Counsel to travel to Kiribati from 14-18 May 2019 to provide advice and technical assistance in-country on legislative assistance to address its EU Yellow Card issue.	Additional funding moved to this activity to support FFA Legal Team in-country technical support, and FFA Fisheries Operations Division development, review and updating of national IUU-NPOAs
4.2 National follow-up of suspected IUU incidents and assistance with prosecutions and sanctions	The FFA Regional Fisheries Prosecutions Training, which was to have been held from 10-14 February 2020 in Honiara and supported through FFA PEUMP funding, was postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The training workshop was eventually held via virtual means in February 2021.	No change
4.3 Trials of new technology to assist national and regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) efforts	Regional: Acquisition of high-resolution radar-satellite imagery in support of FFA regional surveillance exercises - Purchase of the specified imagery was actioned in April 2019, and in July 2020. Marshall Islands: A trial four (4) different models of digitised crane scales for monitoring of transshipment activities was undertaken in Majuro port with the assistance of a consultant and logistical support from Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).	No change to the activity. A FFA PEUMP Emerging Technologies Adviser will be recruited to lead implementation of this Activity, which has a budget allocation of €815,000. The purpose of this role is to track new and emerging technologies relevant to MCS efforts, analyse applicability to FFA Member countries' capacities and capabilities, conduct trials and provide recommendations based on the outcomes of those trials, as well as provide investment options for FFA Member countries looking to adopt those new technologies into national MCS programmes/activities. Given the scope of responsibilities that are

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	Niue: Trials took place in Niue from 2-16 September 2019 on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV; drones) and hydrophones in detecting IUU fishing.	entailed in effectively implementing KRA Activity 4.3, the creation of a role within the FFA PEUMP Team that is focused primarily on that activity, while also working with the FFA technical Divisions to ensure compatibility of new MCS-related technologies with existing efforts, is warranted.
4.4 Technical assistance with catch documentation systems, electronic monitoring and electronic reporting	Regional: A Training Workshop for Observer Debriefers from non-PNA Countries was held in Nadi, Fiji from 12-19 August. The workshop was aimed at familiarizing participants with the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) software programme, including use of the e-Reporting application.	No change
4.5 International outreach and advocacy on IUU and control of high seas fisheries	The first FFA PEUMP-WWF Pacific Programme Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was finalised in April 2019/August 2019. The MoA covered activities that WWF is implementing through an agreed work plan, including towards: i. Enhancing awareness of IUU fishing issues ii. Supporting conditions for eco-labelling This collaboration enabled WWF to organise and conduct the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standards and MSC Chain of Custody (CoC)/Traceability in Fiji's Longline Tuna Industry from 29-31 May 2019. A further MoA for the remaining PEUMP Programme implementation period is currently under discussion, with a view to be finalised by June 2021.	No change
4.6 Capacity building and training of MCS officers with emphasis on the enforcement of port state controls and coastal fisheries regulations.	Note: This activity is largely targeted at costs associated for FFA Members participation in capacity building such as the MCS Certificate IV course from 2020 onwards. Regional – The development (and delivery) of a Level 4 First Line Management (FLM) course adapted to a fisheries context – implemented through a consultant contract – was supported from FFA PEUMP resources. The consultant contract was signed in Y2Q4 and will continue through to Y4Q1. Regional – A consultant was engaged to develop learning materials for a Diploma in Fisheries Investigation course in late 2020.	

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4.7 Development of tools and systems to combat IUU fishing activities into coastal waters.	-	This activity (and budget allocation) has been transferred from the FFA PEUMP workplan and implementation responsibilities, to that of SPC FAME Coastal Fisheries Programme (PEUMP KRA3) to facilitate more effective implementation aligned with PEUMP Co-Delegatee mandates.