

## **REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

Please complete each section below.

### **1. Contact Details**

Please provide the following contact details:

<b>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</b>	The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
<b>Name and position of primary contact</b>	Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Colint@spc.int">Colint@spc.int</a>
<b>Alternate email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Patriciasc@spc.int">Patriciasc@spc.int</a>
<b>Phone number</b>	(+687) 26 01 24
<b>Fax number</b>	(+687) 26 20 00
<b>Mailing address</b>	SPC, B. P. D5 – 98848, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

### **2. Name of Initiative**

A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change

### **3. Background and Rationale**

*You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?*

**Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.**

Inshore fisheries provide the primary or secondary source of income for up to fifty per cent of households in the Pacific region. Amongst rural populations, 50–90% of the animal-sourced protein consumed comes from fish. At the national level, coastal fisheries carry significant cultural and economic value. They are estimated to contribute 49% of the total fisheries contribution to GDP, demonstrating that they are central to the Pacific way of life. The populations of many Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs) are growing but coastal fisheries resources are declining. This

is causing the gap between the amount of fish required for food security and sustainable harvests from coastal fisheries to widen. Within 15 years, it has been estimated that an additional 115,000 tonnes of fish will be needed across the region for good nutrition<sup>1</sup>. PICTs face many challenges in dealing with their changing physical and social environments but unless the food gap is minimised and filled there will be significant negative impacts on the traditions, health and wellbeing of Pacific Island communities. If correct, this bleak conclusion adds to the broader global narrative about the future of fish<sup>2</sup> and should have profound policy and development assistance consequences.

In order to avoid this projected supply deficit, sources of fish need to diversify and the management of coastal fisheries will need to improve. Many PICTs own large tuna resources, and bringing tuna to rural communities may play a major role in alleviating the fish shortages<sup>3</sup>. While policies and natural resource management strategies that aim to substitute the unsustainable harvest of reef fish with an increased domestic supply of currently plentiful tuna are appealing, they would require profound structural changes to tuna value chains. Such changes may include landing a greater proportion of the oceanic commercial catch and also changes in processing and marketing of tuna. Diversifying catches from nearshore resources, and better management of those resources, must remain a central policy prescription for improving the food security of rural communities in the short-medium term

Pacific Island leaders have recognised the importance of coastal fisheries. The Vava'u Declaration in 2007 calls for effective management of coastal fisheries to support food security and sustainable livelihoods. The Apia Policy was then forged to help harness the benefits of coastal fisheries. Similar themes are embodied in the Joint Forum Fisheries Agency/Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) report *The Future of Pacific Island Fisheries*; the International Union of Conservation of Nature's call for action; the strategic plan of SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME); the outcomes from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; the Melanesian Spearhead Group's *Roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2014–2023*; the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape*; and the 2014 Palau Declaration: *The Ocean: Life and Future*.

These documents collectively call on PICTs to implement integrated coastal resource management arrangements, drawing on the strengths and traditions of community, district, provincial and national levels of government to achieve sustainable island life.

## Description

*Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?*

**Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.**

**A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change** - Initiative was developed by participants at a regional workshop on the future of coastal/inshore fisheries management that was held in March 2015 for just over a hundred participants, representing fisheries and environment departments in 22 SPC member countries; coastal communities; four agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific; and non-governmental organisations. The new song for coastal fisheries has a vision for coastal fisheries which is:

*"Sustainable well-managed inshore fisheries, underpinned by community-based approaches that provide food security, long-term economic, social and ecological benefits to our communities".*

To give effect to this broad vision, the new song for coastal fisheries has two overarching outcomes and eight outcome areas along with a number of intermediate outcomes, activities and responsibilities.

<sup>1</sup> Bell JD, Johnson JE and Hobday AJ (2011) Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia

<sup>2</sup> Hall SJ, Hilborn R, Andrew NL, Allison EH (2013) Innovations in capture fisheries are an imperative for nutrition security in the developing world. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 110: 8393–8398.

<sup>3</sup> Bell JD, Kronen M, Vunisea A, Nash WJ, Keeble G, et al. (2009) Planning the use of fish for food security in the Pacific. *Marine Policy* 33: 64–76

#### overarching outcomes

- Improved wellbeing of coastal communities
- Productive and healthy ecosystems and fish stocks

#### Key outcome areas

In order to reach these long-term overarching outcomes, progress will be needed in the eight medium-term outcome areas:

- Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights;
- Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy;
- Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management on a national and sub-national scale;
- Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by CEAFM;
- Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning;
- Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence;
- More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups;
- Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes and contributing to improved fisheries management

The new song for coastal fisheries:

- i. is an innovative approach to dealing with declines in coastal fisheries resources and related ecosystems. It enhances and builds on the strengths of the now expired Pacific Islands Regional Coastal Fisheries Management Policy and Strategic Actions (Apia Policy), which was forged to harness the benefits of coastal fisheries in response to the Pacific Island leaders' recognition of the importance of coastal fisheries through the Vava'u Declaration in 2007;
- ii. calls for an enhanced focus on coastal fisheries management and related development activities in the Pacific region. Its 'Pathways to change framework' outlines actions that national governments and all other stakeholders will need to commit to in order to provide substantial support for this community-driven approach; and,
- iii. is designed to provide direction and encourage coordination, cooperation and an effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management. At the regional level, it brings together initiatives and stakeholders with a shared vision of coastal fisheries management and a strong, coordinated approach. At the national and sub-national level, it seeks political recognition of the value of coastal fisheries to food security and rural development.

To be successful, implementing the 'new song' initiative will require a coordinated approach – communities and fisheries agencies working together with stakeholders from a range of other sectors, including health, environment and agriculture. The Pacific Community, through the Secretariat, will:

- i. be responsible for building momentum for the 'new song' at the regional level and will implement an effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework to identify and address critical issues in a timely manner;
- ii. assess progress, support and facilitate implementation, taking into account the dynamic nature of coastal communities and ecosystems;
- iii. report to Pacific leaders on coastal fisheries, including under the FFA/SPC future of Pacific Island fisheries initiative;
- iv. promote endorsement of the 'new song' through relevant regional forums in a sequenced and logical fashion.

The suggested implementation approach seeks to be non-prescriptive. It is designed to provide direction and encourage coordination, cooperation and an effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management. It is of necessity broad in nature and it is expected that, if endorsed by leaders, more detailed pathways to change will be developed and/or implemented at sub-regional and/or national levels.

For the 'new song' to be effective, it is vital to monitor progress and identify and address critical issues in a timely manner and take account of the dynamic nature of coastal communities and ecosystems. Monitoring the 'new song' will provide an opportunity for the region to report to Pacific leaders on coastal fisheries, including under the FFA/SPC future of Pacific Island fisheries initiative. The implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation framework will be a key task for SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division as implementation of the 'new song' progresses.

#### **4. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives**

*Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.*

**Please limit your response to no more than 500 words**

*“The ocean is the next frontier in the pursuit of sustainable development. While we have failed to protect our land and atmospheric environments from our human demands we must make sure that the ocean does not meet with the same fate...”* - President Anote Tong of Kiribati, sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Pacific Ocean is vital to the health of Pacific communities and Pacific economies. Fisheries represent the most important ocean resource for livelihoods, employment, nutrition and economic opportunity. Despite the high productivity of coastal ecosystems, fishing communities are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable in their countries. Sustained production of fish for food and income is exposed to many trends and shocks, notably globalization of trade, poor governance and planning in contested coastal zones, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The food system of the Pacific region is undergoing profound changes that will be felt for generations to come. Nutritional security is being challenged by rapid population growth and urbanization, shortages of arable land, and cheap, low-quality food imports from burgeoning global trade. Great paradox of a region that exports 2.8 million tons of the highest quality of fish yet carries the economic, social and personal burdens of diminished lives from double burden of malnutrition. The rise of NCDs has major implications for economic growth, aid policy and development. Clearly, the nutrition transition underway in the region cannot be addressed by conventional sectoral interventions.

In seeking a broader integration of fish into regional development, the new song for coastal fisheries addresses priorities in a number of regional strategies and policies: Vava’u Declaration (2007), Apia Policy (2008), FFA/SPC Future of Fisheries (2010), and the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries (2013). Most importantly, the new song provides support to SPC’s initiative in coastal fisheries.

The vision of the new song for coastal fisheries aligns perfectly and the vision set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and enhances the values and objectives. The growing disparity in food security, livelihood, and access to social opportunities in the Pacific region not only threatens social stability but is also a key constraint to the community economic dynamism. The new song for coastal fisheries vision filters and distills the Pacific Regionalism vision, values and objectives down to focusing on food security, long-term economic, social and ecological benefits to our local communities.

## **5. Additional Information**

*Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.*

Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages. **The new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change - framework**

**Outcome # 1:** Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Informed and empowered communities – robust awareness and communication programmes</b>	Community leaders, fisheries authorities, stakeholders, NGOs, women, churches, faith-based groups, youth, fishers, ministries of education, other government departments, CEAFM networks.	Awareness surveys # of communities practising CBNRM Compliance rates
<b>Coastal fisheries management and marine ecosystems included in school curricula</b>	Ministries of education, heads of fisheries, regional organisations (SPC, SPREP)	Curricula # of schools using curricula
<b>Legal and regulatory frameworks recognising community empowerment</b>	Heads of state, government ministers, attorneys general, fisheries agencies, traditional leaders and communities, SPC and SPREP, NGOs, government departments	# national and sub-national laws updated and supporting community-based management # national and sub-national policies and strategies guiding coastal fisheries management # community-based management or action plans being implemented
<b>Community management programmes</b>	Traditional leaders / council / community fisheries agencies, networks, private sector, NGOs	Community management plans legally recognised # of traditional management practices supported
<b>Strong partnerships at all levels</b>	Traditional leaders / council / community, fisheries agencies, networks, private sector, NGOs, provincial government/equivalent	# of joint partnership programmes # of MOUs Evidence of active and strong partnerships

**Outcome # 2:** Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Government and community managers have good quality information to inform decisions</b>	Fishers, managers (village chiefs, local fisheries administrators), networks, scientists, skilled data collectors	# of active databases, disaggregated by social factors # of fishers/communities providing high quality data # of trained data collectors, including in social and economic methods # of appropriate surveys and assessments completed Evidence that data is being used to inform decisions
<b>Science is translated into simple and informative material to guide community management</b>	Community members and fisheries staff with resource management people, academics, networks, capacity providers (SPC, FFA, MPI, NGOs), scientists	Management plans guided by data # of resources available to the community # of fisheries programmes integrated into school curricula # of evidence-based decisions Curricula

<b>Communities have a greater understanding of status, biology and habitats of key species (in addition to existing local ecological knowledge)</b>	Communities (traditional knowledge), managers, networks, government, research institutes, extension staff	# of extension staff Data easily accessible # communities receiving feedback # relevant publications being produced Incorporation of coastal fisheries management in school curricula # of schools with above curricula
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**Outcome #3:** Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management at a national and sub-national scale

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Informed and supportive politicians at the national and sub-national levels</b>	Permanent secretaries, directors (primary) community leaders/voters, faith-based organisations, NGOs	Change in budget allocation # of policies, statements, MOUs # of workshops and training for members of parliament
<b>Raised public support of coastal fisheries through engaging awareness campaigns with consistent and community-relevant messaging and creative information-sharing tactics (e.g. use of celebrities, role models, etc.)</b>	Communication organisations, fisheries working groups, media, spokespersons (celebrities, etc.)	# of media materials and activities produced related to coast # of people reached by media campaigns relating to coastal fisheries
<b>Coastal fisheries management is a permanent agenda item at regional meetings (e.g. MSG, SPC, SPREP, FFA)</b>	Heads of fisheries, CROP agencies, FTAC, SPREP	# of agenda items relating to coastal fisheries # of decisions taken at regional meetings

**Outcome #4:** Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEAFM

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Coastal fisheries management is adequately resourced</b>	Ministers, heads of fisheries, SPC, planning departments, donors, ministries of finance	\$ assigned to coastal fisheries management # of people assigned to coastal fisheries management # of staff with appropriate skills (social, gender, economic, ecological)
<b>Documented coastal fisheries management activities, which are regularly reviewed</b>	Heads of fisheries and other relevant agencies, SPC, planning departments, donors, communities, NGOs	# of documented activities Outcomes of review
<b>Coastal fisheries management activities are integrated and coordinated with other relevant stakeholders</b>	Heads of fisheries and other relevant agencies SPC, donors, communities, NGOs	# of plans demonstrating integrated and coordinated partnerships
<b>Reviewed and integrated coastal fisheries management activities</b>	Fisheries agencies, ministers, NGOs	# of reviews

<b>Coastal fisheries staff conducting effective CEAFM activities</b>	Donors, regional training organisations (e.g. SPC), fisheries agencies	# of trainees training including appropriate range of topic areas, (including social ecological, economic)
<b>Raised community awareness of coastal fisheries</b>	Media, fisheries agencies, regional organisations, communities	# of published materials

**Outcome # 5:** Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Coastal fisheries policy guiding management</b>	All resource owners/users along with agencies in charge of natural resources (fisheries, environment, etc.), SPC	# of policies guiding coastal management # of countries with up-to-date policy
<b>Updated legislation that allows policy to be implemented and empowers communities</b>	Attorneys general, fisheries and other national agencies, regional organisations, SPC, parliaments	# of pieces of legislation guiding coastal management # of countries with sufficient legislation for effective management Compliance rates
<b>Effective policy implementation through plans, monitoring and evaluation</b>	Policy makers, fisheries agencies	# of updated plans # of references to regional inshore fisheries strategy
<b>Illegal, unsustainable and unregulated fishing is minimised</b>	Law enforcement services, community authorised officers, customs	# of prosecutions # of infringements recorded

**Outcome # 6:** Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Coastal fisheries management is included in broader development processes</b>	Ministries of strategic planning and finance, development NGOs, donors, communities	# of development programmes that include CEAFM activities
<b>National forums are coordinating and providing cross-sector advice relevant to coastal fisheries management</b>	Governments, NGOs, churches, faith-based organisations, private sector	# of forums Frequency of meetings # of meaningful decisions relevant to coastal fisheries
<b>Church groups are integrated into coastal fisheries management activities</b>	Churches, communities, faith-based organisations	Evidence of religious leaders advocating for good fisheries management
<b>Private sector, finance providers and land-based organisations are involved in CEAFM</b>	Cooperatives, financial institutions, donors, wholesalers, fishermen's associations, land,-based organisations (e.g. forestry, agriculture), finance providers	Active participation of private sector on advisory committees # of instances of private sector providing investment in support of sustainable fisheries services # of private sector investors # of communities provided with financial support # of land-based experts participating in dialogues
<b>Regional and national coordination of policy</b>	Regional organisations, donors, national governments	Regional commitments embedded in national policies and plans

<b>Increased spread and quality of CEAFM among communities</b>	Sub-national governments, communities, NGOs, CEAFM networks	Collaboration and learning among communities and practitioners Country-specific indicators of spread
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**Outcome # 7:** More equitable access to benefits and decision making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Equitable access to the resource and benefits from coastal fisheries within communities</b>	Communities, champions for change, gender researchers	# of gender-differentiated studies # of community action plans in which access to benefits for women, youth and marginalised groups are improved Indicators of wellbeing are gender-differentiated and socially disaggregated Engagement of women and youth in fisheries activities
<b>Greater inclusivity of decision-making while acknowledging cultural norms and traditional values</b>	All demographic and social groups within a community, including village leaders	# of women, youth, others involved in decision making forums New stakeholder groupings are developed in decision-making forums
<b>Decision-making processes are transparent and the roles of government and traditional authorities are clear</b>	Communities, leaders	# of community members aware of decisions and decision-making processes
<b>Plans take account of equity issues, especially those involving gender and youth</b>	Communities, leaders, women and youth	# of plans that explicitly address equity issues

**Outcome # 8:** Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes, and contributing to improved fisheries management

Intermediate outcomes	Key players	Indicators
<b>Diverse livelihoods, contribute to coastal fisheries management</b>	Communities, private sector, fisheries agencies	Healthy stocks Diversity of livelihoods Proportion of income from coastal fisheries
<b>Enhance value of wild-caught fisheries</b>	Fishers, private sector	Total household income
<b>Aquaculture, tourism and inshore FADs cost effectively contribute to sustainable livelihoods</b>	National departments, private sector, communities, SPC and NGOs	Household income Status of fish stocks

## 6. Uploading initiatives to the Forum Secretariat website

*In line with the process outlined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, please note that all initiatives will be uploaded to the Forum Secretariat website at the close of the call for initiatives, i.e. 12 June 2015.*

## 7. Contact Details

*For further information on completing this template, consult the submissions guideline or contact:*

Email: [FPR@forumsec.org](mailto:FPR@forumsec.org)

Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324