

areas of interest in relation to integrated watershed management.

**Example D:**

A small community relies on reef resources for their daily subsistence needs. A local dive tour operator is also using the same reef to support his commercial dive operations. He is concerned that the growth of his business is threatened by the fishing activity of the local community on the reef they share.

A local non-government organisation has undertaken baseline surveys of reef resources, documented fishing activities and completed a socio-economic profile of the community.

A pilot project supported by the IWP could be designed to supplement the work undertaken by the local non-government organisation to promote shared benefits for the use of the reef.

The pilot project might seek ways to integrate the local community fishing activities with the tour dive operations. Any loss of access to fisheries resources, in an effort to preserve the appeal of the reefs to divers, is compensated for by improved income generation through improved association with the dive tour operator.

**WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SELECTING AND STARTING A PILOT PROJECT?**

The selection of pilot projects will involve participating countries describing their priority environmental concerns and identifying the main or root causes for degradation to their international waters.

This may be achieved through established structures and processes, such as the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS), the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) initiatives or through the establishment of a IWP National Task Force.

To accommodate the consultative processes underpinning the IWP, all potential stakeholders will need to be involved in discussions on the selection of focal area or areas to be addressed by the national pilot project and, eventually, the pilot project implementation.

Stakeholders will include a broad selection of representatives from government departments and agencies, locally active development assistance agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organisations, national and international non-government organisations, the private sector and the local community including church, youth and women's groups.

**THE STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF THE PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**WHAT ARE INTERNATIONAL WATERS?**

International Waters is one of four focal areas of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF was created in 1994 to fulfill a unique niche - that of providing financing for programmes and projects to achieve global environment benefits in four focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, and ozone layer depletion – and in land degradation as it relates to these focal areas.

International Waters include oceans, large marine ecosystems, enclosed or semi-enclosed seas and estuaries as well as rivers, lakes, groundwater systems, and wetlands with trans-boundary drainage basins or common borders involving two or more countries. The ecosystems and habitats associated with these waters are essential parts of the system.

International Waters extend far inland and far out to sea. This is because the global hydrological cycle links watersheds, air sheds, estuaries, and coastal and marine waters through transboundary movement of water, pollutants and living resources.

**WHAT IS THE IWP?**

The International Waters Programme (IWP) is a five year programme for 14 participating Pacific island countries. It is funded by the GEF.

**WHICH ISLAND COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE?**

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE IWP?**

The IWP has two main components.

**Oceanic**

The oceanic component focuses on the management and conservation of tuna stocks in the western central Pacific.

**Coastal**

The coastal component's focus is on integrated coastal watershed management. It involves the implementation of 14 pilot projects that address sustainable resource management and conservation issues in the coastal zone.

**WHAT IS THE IWP VISION?**

**The vision for the Programme as a whole is:**

Sustainably managed and effectively conserved coastal and marine resources and habitats in the Pacific islands region.

**For the oceanic component it is:**

Strengthened collaborative mechanisms for the sustainable management and conservation of the western central Pacific tuna resource.

**and for the coastal component, it is:**

Improved local community capacity and processes for the design and implementation of sustainable resource management and conservation programmes in the Pacific islands region. A motto for the pilot project components might be "learning by doing".

**WHAT IS THE LIFE OF THE IWP?**

Although the programme officially started in February 2000, activities did not commence until the third quarter of 2000 with the recruitment of the Project Manager and the start of the Inception Phase.

Financial support from the GEF is available for five years for the coastal component.

The oceanic component will be supported for three years.

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE IWP?**

**The oceanic component:**

The stated objective for the oceanic component is "to enable conservation and sustainable yield of ocean living resources".

What does this mean?

The IWP aims to strengthen existing efforts by participating countries to secure long-term sustainable benefit from the tuna resource resident in the western central Pacific.

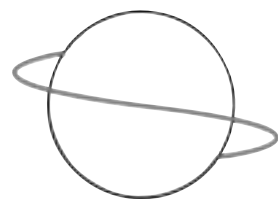
This is being done through a coordinated programme involving the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The Programme will provide improved information on the exploitation of the tuna resource in this region, the environment in which it is

**WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE IWP?**

**More information is available from:**

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IWP is funded by the GEF, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).



found and options for improving the sustainable benefits from its exploitation.

The main focus during the early stages of implementation of the IWP oceanic component is on providing support to participating countries in their efforts to establish new collaborative arrangements for management of the region's tuna resource. This is pursued through the Multilateral High-Level Conference (MHLC) on the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the western central Pacific, and the preparatory meetings to establish a new regional tuna commission.

### The coastal component:

The stated objective of the coastal component is to “address root causes of the degradation of international waters in coastal regions through a programme focused on improved integrated coastal and watershed management”.

What does this mean?

It means action at the community level to address priority environmental concerns within participating countries relating to:

- ◆ Marine and freshwater quality;
- ◆ Habitat and community modification and degradation; and
- ◆ Unsustainable use of living marine resources.

To achieve this, the IWP will support the establishment of 14 pilot projects, one in each of the participating countries. Each project will seek to strengthen capacity and provide lessons for best practice and appropriate methodologies for sustainable resource management and conservation in four focal areas relating to:

- ◆ Marine protected areas (4 projects);
- ◆ Sustainable coastal fisheries (3 projects);
- ◆ The protection of freshwater resources (4 projects); and
- ◆ Community-based waste reduction (3 projects).

### Together:

Both the oceanic and coastal components will seek to generate lessons for best practice and methodologies for the design and implementation of sustainable resource management and conservation activities. For the coastal component this will focus on local communities.

### WHO ARE IWP PARTNERS?

For the oceanic component, the IWP partners are SPC, FFA and their shared membership of the 14 participating governments.

For the coastal component, project partners are principally the 14 participating governments. Pilot project partners may include a large selection of government departments and agencies, community groups, non-

government organisations and the private sector.

Other Pacific regional organisations, such as The University of the South Pacific, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat will also be important partners on numerous aspects of the IWP.

Efforts will also be made to link other intergovernmental and non-government organisations with IWP activities.

### WHAT ARE THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS?

The GEF will provide US\$12 million over five years to support IWP activities.

US\$3.5 million is reserved for the oceanic component.

US\$8.5 million is reserved for the coastal component and programme management. Approximately 85 per cent of the budget to support pilot projects is reserved for national activities within the participating countries.

SPC, FFA and SPREP have each committed additional funds to support IWP-related activities so that the total programme budget for the scheduled five years of the Programme will be US\$20 million.

### HOW IS THE IWP ADMINISTERED?

The Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) based at SPREP is responsible for overall administration of the Programme.

SPC and FFA administer their respective oceanic components. They report through the PCU to UNDP.

Arrangements for the administration of national pilot projects will be the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be set up between SPREP and each participating government.

### WHAT IS THE PCU?

The Programme Coordination Unit manages the coastal programme and provides overall IWP coordination, within SPREP and with the IWP's programme partners.

The PCU has four staff: a Project Manager, a Community Communications Specialist, a Community Assessment and Participation Specialist and a Project Secretary.

### HOW IS REGIONAL COORDINATION ACHIEVED?

A Programme Technical Advisory Group (PTAG) has been established to provide advice to the PCU on technical issues associated with the implementation of the IWP.

Reports on IWP activities will also be presented to the governing committees of the other participating regional organisations and to the SPREP Meeting.

In addition, the 14 participating governments will meet annually with the SPREP Secretariat, UNDP and the PCU in a Tripartite Review of financial and administrative issues associated with the implementation of the IWP.

### WHAT ARE PARTICIPATING COUNTRY ARRANGEMENTS FOR IWP PILOT PROJECTS?

Participating countries will designate a lead agency to be the primary contact for all national IWP-related activities. The lead agency may take responsibility for all administrative and management activities associated with pilot project implementation.

However, the local implementing agency may not necessarily be the lead agency. Participating countries may choose to delegate the responsibility for pilot project implementation to a non-government organisation, for example.

The IWP will support the appointment of a full time National Coordinator in each of the 14 participating countries. In addition to serving as the ambassador for the IWP nationally, National Coordinators will also take responsibility for the day-to-day management of pilot project activities.

Participating countries will also establish a National Task Force (NTF) to oversee national components of the IWP.

The selection of the focal area to be addressed by the pilot project in each participating country, and the pilot project implementation, will be the responsibility of the NTF.

Local Project Committees comprising a range of key stakeholders may also be established to facilitate implementation at pilot project sites.

### WHAT ARE THE BROAD CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING A PILOT PROJECT?

A pilot project is intended to be a small-scale, issues-based project designed to demonstrate best practices and methodologies offering the greatest potential for replication across the region - perhaps in follow-up larger projects.

A pilot project will focus on coordination and cooperation. It could be an entirely new project or a project in partnership with an existing programme or project whereby the IWP input aims to strengthen a specific aspect of that project to assist towards demonstrating best practices in one of the IWP focal areas.

Reflecting a community-based focus, pilot projects will encourage the active participation of all stakeholders.

Due to the wide physical, cultural and geographical differences among the 14 participating countries, and the four focal areas to be addressed by the IWP, there is considerable flexibility in the type of pilot project that could be considered for selection, and the focus of actual targeted

actions in order to address the root causes of threats to international waters of the Pacific region.

While it may prove that individual pilot projects focus on only one of the four focal areas, it is also possible that pilot projects will address two or more focal issues. So what types of pilot projects are possible under the IWP?

### WHAT TYPES OF PILOT PROJECTS ARE POSSIBLE?

#### Example A:

A rural community of 250 residents live on an atoll. The residents obtain their water from a lens that is at risk of major contamination from disposal of the community's sewerage, including that from farmed animals such as pigs.

A pilot project could be designed to attempt to address the root cause for water contamination through a variety of different strategies with the ultimate objective of improving drinking water quality.

This pilot project would integrate two focal areas of interest to the IWP – the preservation of freshwater resources and the management of community waste.

#### Example B:

Beche-de-mer resources in a coastal lagoon are subject to unsustainable levels of fishing for export markets. Catches of the most valuable species have been reduced to low levels and fishermen are now targeting large volumes of relatively low value species. The local fisheries department is considering a total closure for the fishery for an indefinite period of time.

It may be possible to design a pilot project to develop a sustainable fishery for beche-de-mer. This could be achieved by establishing a marine protected area as one of the resource management tools to re-establish the beche-de-mer resource at viable levels.

Such a pilot project would integrate two focal areas for the IWP – sustainable coastal fisheries and marine protected areas.

#### Example C:

A small community in a high rainfall valley has granted access to their timber resources to a logging firm. As a result, sedimentation of local streams has increased significantly adversely impacting on the quality of water available to downstream users and resulting in a high sedimentation of nearby coastal reefs.

A pilot project to reduce the root cause of deterioration of downstream water quality and high sediment loads could be established to work with upstream communities to improve the management of access to their forest resources and reduce the adverse impact on local streams.

A pilot project to reduce stream sedimentation and improve the management of local forest resources would address IWP