Monitoring Report

Monitoring reference	MR-145063.01
Report date	01/10/2012
Project title	Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (SCICOFish)

I. Intervention data

Status	FINAL
Report final date	02/10/2012
Report finalised by user	CABALLERO ELENA
Monitoring Report Type	Ongoing
Aid Modality	Project approach
Project	Multi Country / Regional Project - Consolidated/Horizontal Report
Project Management	Project managed by the Delegatio
Financed via a thematic budget line	No
CRIS Number	D-021370
Project Title according to Financing Agreement/Financing Decision	Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (SciCOFish)
Domain	European Development Fund
DAC - CRS Sector	-
Additional DAC - CRS code	31310 - Fishing policy and administrative management
Geographical zone	Pacific Region
Keyword (for innovative interventions)	
Date Financing Agreement/Financing Decision/Contract signed	03/03/2010
Person responsible at HQ	
Person responsible at Delegation	CATTEAU THIERRY
Monitor	MACIAS Javier
Project Authority	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
Type of implementing partner	Regional bodies (MERCOSUR, SADEC, ASEAN, etc)
Start date - planned	03/03/2010
End date - planned	03/03/2014
Start date - actual	03/03/2010
End date - likely	03/03/2014
Monitoring visit date	from 27/08/2012 to 10/09/2012

II. Financial data

Primary commitment (EC funding)	9,000,000
Budget allocated for TA	0
Secondary commitment (funds contracted of EC contribution)	8,655,765
Other funding (government and/or other donors)	0
Total budget of operation	9,000,000
Total EC funds disbursed	6,216,112
Financial data on	01/10/2012

III. Grading

Relevance and quality of design	B
Efficiency of Implementation to date	A
Effectiveness to date	B
Impact prospects	A
Potential sustainability	B

IV. Summary of conclusions

Relevance and quality of design

The project is highly relevant to the effective management and conservation of oceanic and coastal resources, considered to be overfished or fully exploited in the region. The strategy clearly addresses the problem in a logical way: by providing scientific advice and training, fisheries management capacities will be improved and that will eventually have an impact on the overall objective (OO): conservation and sustainable use of coastal and oceanic fisheries. However, for coastal fisheries, the project is overambitious considering time, budget, number of countries and differences in institutional development and technical capacities. The intervention is in line with sector policy, the EU strategy for a strengthened partnership with the Pacific Islands and the Regional lndicative Programme for the 10th EDF. The project is also in line with the Paris Declaration and other agreements relating to development strategies. Both project results: 1) provision of scientific data, modelling and advice to support oceanic fisheries management and 2) improving of governments, private sector and communities technical capacity to provide scientific advice to inform management decisions (costal fisheries) can be achieved but there are not activities intended to fully develop capacities in order to allow national institutions to provide self-produced scientific advice. Lessons learned from two EDF previous interventions (SCIFish for oceanic fisheries and Procfish for coastal fisheries) and requests from P-ACP countries were taken into consideration, but the high number of participating countries made it difficult to ensure enough involvement and the project was, in fact, designed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) staff. Regarding appropriation, representatives of the 12 P-ACP countries participate actively in the Steering Committee. There is not a special implementing unit in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), but the project coordinator handles much of the administrative work, leaving other staff to concentrate on technical issues. In terms of coordination, management and financing arrangements, SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) roles are clearly defined and both organisations and the project are supporting decisions made by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The project is well integrated into SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP).

Efficiency of Implementation to date

Inputs have been made available on time following a detailed work plan and activities are in general implemented as scheduled and in accordance with the LFW. Project is efficiently implemented following a continuous monitoring system and EU standard procedures. Financial inputs from EU and human/physical resources from the SPC have been available on time and participants from the countries have taken part in training and other project activities. There are no significant delays or difficulties that might affect efficiency and no important differences between expected and real expenditures have been found. As per 31 July 2012 (after 27 months, or 59% of the total project duration), expenditure stood at 4 055 874 Euros (47% of total budget). All activities are being executed according to the program and planned outputs have been delivered to date. Project is being efficiently implemented following a continuous monitoring system (6 month internal reports) and, in general, the quality of outputs seems to be in accordance with quality requirements. Participants at the annual Steering Committee meetings receive an overview of the SciCOFish activities, approve the work plan for the next year, and make specific proposals and requests. Communication between SPC, FFA and WCPFC as well as with EU Delegation and partner countries is fluent and satisfactory. The project specifically addresses environmental issues and governance. Other cross-cutting issues like gender and donor coordination are mentioned in the design but without corresponding indicators. However, this problem was solved during the first year when activities and indicators were suggested such as a gender analysis study.

Effectiveness to date

Achievement of the PP ("to provide a reliable and improved scientific basis for management advice") is highly likely as both results and most of the activities consist of scientific advice and training, and this is under the responsibility of the SPC. The 4 expected regional assessments have already been conducted (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore) in 2011 and presented to the WCPFC Scientific Committee, that

used the results of all assessments in formulating its scientific advice. Observer coverage of purse seiners in 2010 was close to 100% (target for 2012); however, delays in data transmission and limited resources for data processing have meant that the coverage of processed data available at SPC in the region is of 50% as of December 2011. For coastal fisheries (target of 5 countries adopting proposed management measures), management plans for sea cucumber fishery has been produced for Tonga and in Marshall Islands it is being finalized. Management advice and recommendations are to be provided to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands once sufficient data is collected and analyzed. However, for coastal fisheries, the adoption of recommended management measures by the countries is external to the project. Concerning the results, for oceanic fisheries (Result 1): national tuna fisheries databases are available (although not operational in all countries); 2 tuna data audits conducted (10 expected); 153 observers trained (300), 10 observer trainers (10) and 20 observer debriefers operational (10); all P-ACP's report data sent to WCPFC; 6 region-wide stock assessments for key tuna species (10); 3 national reports providing bio economic modelling advice (10); 4,000 tune tagged (5,000). Concerning coastal fisheries: 7 Country specific needs have been prioritised (14 P-ACPs), 5 assessments and management recommendations have been given. Finally, with regard to the Result 3 (shared project activities), a gender analysis study has been finished and currently another consultant in gender equity is developing appropriate training tools, lesson plans for observers and a brochure on work opportunities in the tuna processing facilities. There are important differences between countries, depending on institutional development and technical capacities in their respective fisheries departments, and it is unlikely that most of them will be fully equipped to monitor coastal fisheries and to provide advice; as a consequence they will have to rely on external assistance from SPC or other research institutions. According to the opinions of some of the beneficiaries, the quality of the services received is very good.

Impact prospects

Improvement of a scientific basis is required and it will eventually contribute to a better use of the fisheries resources in the region. However, the impact on conservation and sustainability depends on the commitment of national administrations to translate scientific advice into management action and to maintain in-country data collection and monitoring. The project has strengthened SPC's capacity and enhanced its status as the major scientific advisory organization to the regional tuna industry and national governments. In any case maintaining this level of expertise will continue to require considerable financial support from external sources. Use of SEAPODYM Program to estimate the response at regional and national levels to exploitation, management intervention and environmental variability can be extended (subject to data availability) to the analysis of pelagic species other than tuna and it is also a valuable tool for the estimation of economical and political consequences of the climate change.

Potential sustainability

For oceanic fisheries, conservation and sustainable use of resources can only be achieved and sustained through P-ACP collaboration and long-term funding will rely on further external financing. Regarding coastal fisheries, some of the countries could afford some services, but that depends on political commitment and institutional capacities. It is likely that many of the results will be maintained by SPC through its core support services, although much of the technical skills and analytical capacity of this institution will remain dependent on donors support. Scientific background of this institution, including data bases is the result of several long-term project financed by different donors. National capacities have been developed, although in different degrees depending on the country. Some countries demand higher participation, not only in providing data but also in the analysis, which in some cases they want to make locally. Other countries are "clients" of the SPC and they do not have yet human resources with an adequate level to make an effective use of project results.

Key observations and recommendations

(1) SPC: i) In order to improve ownership and capacity building, in countries with better institutional capacity, participation of local staff in all phases of research, not only in data provision, should be encouraged; ii) On-the-job training is very important for ownership and sustainability. In terms of efficiency and effectiveness, countries with similar capacities and, when possible not far from each other, could be put into groups (different speeds approach) under the responsibility of one member of the SPC staff and iii) Reinforcement of actions aimed at improving communication with participating countries and also to ensure the maximum dissemination among all stakeholders (not just those involved in scientific activities).

(2) EU: A Mid-term evaluation should be conducted as soon as possible.

(3) SPC/EU: i) Long-term commitment is necessary to effectively tackle fisheries management issues in the region and ii) Scientific advice must address socioeconomic concerns from the perspective of individual P-

ACP countries.