



# Sixth SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

13–17 November 2023



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## Outcomes and actions report from the 6<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture

SPC FAME Secretariat

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### *Background*

1. The **6<sup>th</sup> SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6)**, along with the **3<sup>rd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD3)**, was held on 13 to 17 November 2023 at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.
2. The RTMCFA6 was an in-person meeting and brought together coastal fisheries officers, scientists, technical experts and partners in the Pacific to share experiences and to discuss priority coastal fisheries and aquaculture technical needs, challenges and opportunities.
3. The overarching theme of RTMCFA6 was to discuss and address some of the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better evidence-based resource management, equitable access to resources and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and nearshore livelihoods.
4. The meeting focused on a range of areas, including assessing aquaculture feasibility, reviewing coastal fisheries, aquaculture and biosecurity legislation, identifying the challenges to aquaculture development, supporting the delivery of data for management through innovative technologies, developing coastal fisheries livelihoods, and understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
5. RTMCFA6 was the third meeting to include the CBFD, run over two days, where representatives from fishing communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs) provided input and shared their experiences on key issues and challenges, offering solutions on inclusivity, communication, and collaboration in community-driven coastal fisheries management.
6. The meeting was attended in-person by delegates from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, USA, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. Over 96 participants (60 male, 36 female) attended from SPC member countries and territories, as well as observers, CSOs, non-government organisations (NGOs) and other NSAs, with more than 35 registered online to stream the plenary proceedings.
7. RTMCFA6 was chaired by New Caledonia, under the guidance of Mr. Manuel Ducrocq, Head of the Fisheries Department, Government of New Caledonia. Mr. Ducrocq opened the meeting emphasising the historical importance of the fishing activities for communities' livelihoods and highlighting the lack of attractiveness of the fishing sector for the next generations. In the same way, he also emphasised that the emerging sector of aquaculture is also facing a wide range of difficulties. He reminded the delegates that this meeting's themes, encompassing regulation, biosecurity, coastal fisheries development and data management, are intrinsically linked to food security and social well-being, issues that have become increasingly urgent in the face of climate change.
8. The meeting was opened by Mr. Neville Smith, Director, SPC Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME).

9. The opening prayer was given by Su'a Ulusapeti Tiitii from Samoa.
10. This report outlines the outcomes and action points of consensus among delegates, that the meeting felt necessary to document in order to highlight priority issues and needs to be actioned by SPC members. It also provides guidance to SPC FAME's Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP) and identifies key recommendations to be taken to the 16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries (HoF) Meeting in late April 2024.

### *Formulation of topics for the coastal fisheries and aquaculture sessions*

11. SPC FAME identified a range of possible priority topics for the meeting's technical sessions by reviewing the outcomes of the 15<sup>th</sup> HoF Meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Fisheries Ministers Meetings, the 5<sup>th</sup> RTMCFA, the Regional Aquaculture Assessment Report<sup>1</sup>, and SPC Member requests to SPC FAME during 2023. SPC members were asked to prioritise the proposed topics based on their national priorities. While only nine responses were received, the identified priorities were closely aligned and shaped the agenda, informing the focus of the meeting's technical sessions.
12. The meeting *encourages* members to respond to future SPC FAME communications and surveys to assist with the planning of future RTMCFA meeting agendas.

### *Progress update on the RTMCFA5 Outcomes and actions*

13. The meeting *noted* and *acknowledged* the progress made in implementing the action items from the 5<sup>th</sup> RTMCFA. It also *noted* SPC FAME's ongoing work in supporting members by providing critical information on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) procedures, including the criteria for conducting a non-detriment finding (NDF) and a legal acquisition finding (LAF). The meeting *noted* that there was an expectation that the scientific authority that validates the NDF is the fisheries agency. However, this is not always the case in the region.

### *Member priorities*

14. Prior to RTMCFA6, SPC member Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) were sent a presentation template to capture their current national priority technical needs, issues and challenges in coastal fisheries and aquaculture management and any actions taken since the previous RTMCFA5. SPC Member PICTs presented these to the meeting.
15. The members' presentations highlighted critical priority areas for the sustainable development of the region's coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The common priorities included:
  - a. Strengthening data management: Enhance data collection, analysis, and utilisation to support evidence-based decision-making and the development of effective management plans.
  - b. Empowering fisheries agencies: Build the capacity and capabilities of fisheries agencies through technical training and support, in particular, enhance monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities.
  - c. Exploring supplementary and alternative livelihoods: Investigate fisheries development, supplementary and alternative livelihood opportunities to enhance economic resilience and food security.

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<sup>1</sup> HoF 14: Information Paper 12 Assessment of the aquaculture needs, priorities and future direction in the Pacific Islands region. Draft final report, 8 May 2022. Available at: <https://fame.spc.int/events/hof14>

- d. Policy and legislation review and development: Review and update, or draft new policies, legislation and regulations relevant to fisheries and aquaculture.
- e. Human resources and technical skills: Invest in developing appropriate human resources and technical skills within the coastal fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- f. Strengthening Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Special Management Areas (SMAs) monitoring: Enhance the effectiveness of monitoring MPAs and SMAs.
- g. Value adding, post-harvest processing and improved marketing: Focus on value adding in fisheries products, optimizing post-harvest processing to maximise economic benefits, including through enhanced marketing channels.
- h. Resilience to climate change: Evaluate and address climate change impacts through reef monitoring, expanding ecosystems knowledge and impacts on fish distribution and behaviour and assessing the impacts of natural disasters.
- i. Enhancing aquaculture: Enhance aquaculture through improved infrastructure, brood stocks, local feed processing, hatcheries and market access. This includes conducting feasibility studies in seaweed, milkfish cage culture, among others, as well as feed production and cultivation of species (e.g. trochus, sea cucumber, giant clams and oysters).

### *Introduction to accessing information and knowledge products on the new SPC FAME website*

16. SPC presented the new SPC FAME website (<https://fame.spc.int/>), updated to improve access to information, resources and tools. A brief introduction to the new website and a short tour of the important new features were given to help users access available information and knowledge products. One of the highlights was the new platform for CBFM knowledge: Echoes of Oceania (<https://cbfm.spc.int/>).

## Aquaculture technical sessions

### *Assessing aquaculture feasibility: technical, economic and social factors*

17. Case studies from New Caledonia and Fiji, implemented with SPC FAME, were presented, demonstrating the incorporation of technical, economic and social factors into aquaculture feasibility assessments that enhanced the sustainability and investment in aquaculture development.
18. The meeting *agreed* on the following actions to strengthen the capacity and capability of PICTs in conducting integrated feasibility studies in the context of sustainable aquaculture development:
- a. The meeting *encourages* member PICTs to identify, with the support of SPC FAME, their priority species that could be assessed in a feasibility study.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to help train staff from member PICTs to conduct feasibility studies, taking into consideration lessons learned from past successes and failures.
  - c. The meeting *requests* that SPC FAME support PICTs in developing economic models at the national level for decision making.

### *Update on progress of the Pacific regional aquaculture strategy*

19. SPC FAME updated members on the next steps in the development of a new *Pacific regional aquaculture strategy* and the mid-term review of the *Regional framework on aquatic biosecurity*. The process will

include three sub-regional virtual workshops and one regional workshop in the first half of 2024. Invitations for the sub-regional virtual workshops to be sent to PICT members during December 2023.

### *Review of aquaculture and biosecurity legislation: findings and recommendations*

20. SPC FAME provided an update on the progress made in reviewing the current status of legal frameworks for aquatic biosecurity in PICTs against international standards. The review examined five key areas: authority, aquaculture, disease control, fish movement and pest management. It revealed that, while primary legislation generally addresses critical biosecurity concerns and allows for the establishment of specific regulations on aquatic biosecurity, effective implementation still hinges on the precise delegation of powers to relevant agencies. SPC members and partners were requested to discuss the findings of the review in breakout groups and identify national and regional priorities. This comprehensive analysis will inform the update of the *Aquatic biosecurity framework* and contribute to the development of the *Pacific regional aquaculture strategy*.
21. The meeting agreed on the following actions to improve national legal frameworks on aquatic biosecurity on both institutional and regulatory levels:
  - a. The meeting *notes* the progress made in reviewing the current status of legal frameworks for aquatic biosecurity in the region, including the findings and recommendations provided in Working Paper 2 and Information Paper 7, and a draft policy brief on aquatic biosecurity legislation.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide legal and technical assistance with the preparation of specific regulations and adequate procedures in the following areas: listing and identification of aquatic diseases, aquatic disease surveillance, quarantine and import risk analysis for aquatic species. Other priority areas in need of regulation include aquatic disease zoning, domestic transfers of aquatic species and introductions of pests from ships (ballast waters and biofouling).
22. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:
  - a. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage member PICTs to clarify roles and responsibilities of competent authorities and government services and to improve decision-making processes, including through memoranda of understanding and delegation of authority, based on actual institutional capacity for management and surveillance of aquatic species.
  - b. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to discuss and action the development of a legal study on ballast waters and biofouling to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on marine ecosystems and aquaculture, involving collaboration between SPC FAME and the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Divisions and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

### *Increased effectiveness of mariculture hatchery systems*

23. SPC FAME presented the operational requirements needed by Pacific mariculture hatcheries, including the need for expertise in biological management, aquaculture engineering, personnel and financial management. These requirements are further emphasised by supply chain vulnerabilities and tropical climate effects on infrastructure. Despite these needs, mariculture hatcheries offer promising

opportunities for efficient genetic improvements to address issues like disease susceptibility and promotion of desirable traits like rapid growth.

24. The meeting *agreed* on the following actions to increase effectiveness of mariculture hatchery systems in the Pacific.

- a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to work with members and private sector organisations to address bottlenecks, risks or problems identified in the meeting which include:
  - i. Training of staff in mariculture hatchery methods and operations.
  - ii. Economic analysis of small-scale mariculture hatcheries.
  - iii. Advice for maintaining biosecurity, so the disease-free status of Pacific mariculture industries can be promoted.
  - iv. Analysis of the high cost of freight for both the import of feed and import of seedstock.
  - v. Advice concerning imported feed component substitution, as locally produced feed still requires imported ingredients.
  - vi. Analysis of the cost of production for existing, compared to previously trialled domestic mariculture production.
  - vii. Advice for species that require low capital investment.
  - viii. Communication with overseas markets to understand their preferences for different types of mariculture products and volumes.
  - ix. Strategies to improve access to laboratories to identify pathogens efficiently and promptly, as suitable laboratories are rare in the region.
  - x. Assisting with management strategies for wild harvested mariculture species.
- b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to support members in enhancing their capacity and capability of mariculture operation to:
  - i. examine the viability of producing native species, such as some aquarium fish.
  - ii. examine sea cucumber production as an iconic Pacific taxon that could be developed by the region.
  - iii. communicate the development of mariculture hatchery methodologies to produce high value species for the region.

### *Addressing challenges to aquaculture development*

25. SPC FAME presented on the common worldwide challenges affecting aquaculture development, that encompass market access, sustainable feed sources, disease control, regulatory and tenure complexities, financial capital access, environmental impact oversight, labour availability, water quality management, supply of juveniles, species domestication, technology uptake, and competition for land and water

resources. A prime illustration of these interdependencies is the impediment posed by inadequate regulation and complex marine tenure restricting access to formal financial channels.

26. To address these challenges faced by governments and the aquaculture private sector, the meeting *agreed* on following actions:

- a. The meeting *encourages* members to consider these challenges in developing or updating their aquaculture development plans.
- b. The meeting *encourages* members to ensure laws and regulations enable aquaculture development, while ensuring environmental conservation (e.g. unfed and restorative aquaculture).
- c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to work with members and private sector organisations to undertake community surveys to determine areas that are suitable for aquaculture development to guide the establishment of appropriate aquaculture systems.
- d. The meeting *emphasises* that a regional mariculture hatchery would be of use to improve supply chain issues for both seedstock and engineering components, that currently are difficult to source in the region.
- e. The meeting *emphasises* that a variety of species and commodities remain of interest to members, and the consolidation of species for regional production remains a nascent idea, but sea cucumbers may be one group that the region may associate with its regional identity.

27. Recommendations to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HOF16 to discuss and endorse the development of a preliminary feasibility study to design and develop a budget for a regional mariculture hatchery, principally to provide training for their managers and technicians to support the development of mariculture production in their own facilities.
- b. The meeting *requests* HOF16 to consider undertaking a study for the development of model small-scale hatcheries adapted to the context of PICTs.

## Coastal fisheries technical sessions

### *How technology is supporting the delivery of better data for informed management of coastal fisheries*

28. SPC FAME presented updates on the advancements made by SPC's Science and Database teams in developing e-data tools for enhanced collection and management of coastal fisheries data. The meeting also provided an opportunity for members to share their experience and discuss utilisation of these tools, and to introduce upcoming capabilities being integrated into the system.

29. The meeting *agreed* on the following actions to further enhance the development and scale-up the rollout of the tools:



- a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to continue with the support to members in coastal fisheries data collection, analysis and interpretation.
- b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to scale-up and deliver support in using the e-data tools to enhance collection and management of coastal fisheries data.
- c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to consider facilitating knowledge sharing among countries using fisheries management tools, such as Ikasavea. This exchange should focus on challenges, successes, complementarity and compatibility of different tools, and best practices to enhance collective learning.
- d. The meeting *recognises* the need to continually improve monitoring and data availability to assess and manage coastal fisheries in the region.
- e. The meeting *requests* further support from SPC FAME in the areas of data analysis and interpretation using data collected through Ikasavea, and further information on analytical tools as mentioned during the session.

30. Recommendations to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HOF16 to *task* SPC FAME to develop and implement annual Coastal Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshops (CSAW) and Coastal Fisheries Data Workshops (CFDW) to address capacity and capability gaps in data collection, analysis, utilisation and reporting in the region.
- b. The meeting *requests* HOF16 to *task* SPC FAME to convene a peer-to-peer exchange that aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, share experiences and lessons among PICTs in data collection, analysis, and utilisation.

*Coastal fisheries management – Reviewing and updating legislation and policy.*

31. SPC FAME emphasised the role of sound fisheries management in ensuring the economic prosperity of Pacific Island communities that rely on marine resources. Recognising the critical nature of policy and legislation in the sustainable development of small-scale coastal fisheries, SPC FAME pledges its continued support to PICTs through comprehensive guidance on regulations, management plans, and fisheries law and policy training.

32. The meeting *agreed* on the following actions:

- a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to continue supporting members in reviewing and updating coastal fisheries policy and legislation, through provision of advice and drafting support, but also through regional and specific in-country trainings, short-term attachments to SPC and shared internships between SPC and PICTs fisheries agencies.
- b. The meeting *notes* the launch of the SPC *Legal guide to enabling coastal fisheries co-management in the Pacific* and the availability of law and policy resources on the SPC REEFLEX database.
- c. The meeting *recommends* that SPC FAME develop a toolbox for training on coastal fisheries law and policy for PICTs fisheries agencies, covering all relevant topics and bringing together fisheries and legal experts.



- d. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to consider offering policy and legal trainings in English and French to allow more effective participation by all SPC members.
- e. The meeting *requests* SPC to explore the opportunity of a dedicated workshop on the development and review of fisheries management plans.

33. Recommendations to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to identify dedicated staff within their fisheries agencies to manage each formal request for SPC FAME assistance on coastal fisheries policy or legislation. These appointed representatives will serve as the primary focal point of contact with SPC FAME on coastal fisheries policy or legislation and will benefit from tailored training and mentorship opportunities, including short-term attachment for hands-on experience.
- b. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to recruit an in-house lawyer for each PICT fisheries agency who would work jointly with technical staff to promote the timely development and adoption of policy and legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture management.
- c. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to promote the inclusion of law and policy modules in fisheries management courses and programmes offered by universities and training centres in the region.

*Coastal fisheries livelihoods – diversification and food security*

34. SPC FAME presented the latest publications on nearshore fishing techniques, and fishing techniques training videos, and briefed the meeting on past livelihood diversification and food security activities. While small-scale fisheries projects in PICTs have achieved remarkable successes with the support of international and regional organisations, NGOs, and donors, the lack of comprehensive data has hampered in-depth analysis of the factors contributing to the success or failure of some livelihood diversification initiatives.
35. The meeting recognised the limitations faced by SPC FAME in providing comprehensive development, livelihood, social, and economic support due to staffing constraints and lack of funding for continued support to PICTs. The meeting considered livelihood opportunities across three key dimensions: marine-based extractive alternatives, non-extractive alternatives in the coastal/marine sector, and land-based alternatives. PICTs shared livelihood diversification trials and ongoing activities to enhance food security, income sources and to alleviate pressure on vulnerable habitats and species.
36. The meeting *agreed* on the following actions:
- a. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to continue supporting members with specific focus on all aspects of anchored fish aggregating devices (FADs), nearshore fishing techniques for tuna and associated species, including alternative underutilised resources (such as flying fish and squid), and for postharvest and value adding training in underutilised resources and for tuna and associated species.
  - b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to develop methodologies for countries and territories to develop their FAD programmes and management plans and provide support in the development of FAD management plans.

- c. The meeting *recognises* the significance of diversifying livelihoods to ensure food security and economic stability, *noting* the limited capacity of SPC FAME to provide fisheries development, livelihoods, social and economic support.

37. Recommendation to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage SPC FAME to explore funding opportunities to support capacity enhancement in nearshore fisheries development and livelihoods diversification, especially for post-harvest and value-adding support.
- b. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to prioritise the collection of essential data to facilitate comprehensive feasibility and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for livelihood diversification initiatives.

*Coastal fisheries livelihoods – Anchored FADs and nearshore small-scale fisheries*

38. SPC FAME presented on *Coastal Fisheries livelihoods – Anchored FADs supporting nearshore small-scale fisheries* highlighting a significant demand from member countries for comprehensive support in enhancing coastal fisheries livelihoods and food security. Key areas of focus include the deployment of traditional and highly-instrumented/smart anchored fish aggregation devices (HI-FADs), specialised training for artisanal fishers, diversification of livelihoods, ensuring maritime safety. The need to address critical data gaps in new fisheries development, conduct thorough cost-benefit analyses, and provide broader support to fishers was also emphasised.

39. The meeting *agreed* on following actions:

- a. The meeting *notes* the importance of anchored FAD initiatives as a strategy in the development of nearshore small-scale fisheries in the region and the accompanied challenges that are needed to be addressed such as inadequate data collection, lack of management plans, limited maintenance, absence of adequate documentation on FAD longevity, depredation, competition between sectors, environmental impacts, catches, performance, and overall usefulness.
- b. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to further investigate biodegradable materials for FAD construction, noting that some components of anchored FADs cannot currently be made from biodegradable materials.
- c. The meeting *acknowledges* the continued support of regional organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and donor partners that has led to significant programmes and substantial funding being allocated to support FAD development in the region.
- d. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to investigate and consider organising a regional technical workshop on FADs every 18 months or every 2 years to share lessons and experiences amongst PICTs and ensure that best practice prevails.

40. Recommendations to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to consider establishing and securing consistent national funding sources to complement external support to ensure the long-term sustainability of national FAD programmes and their benefits to fishers and coastal communities.

## Cross-cutting sessions

### *Coastal fisheries and aquaculture climate change vulnerability*

41. SPC FAME presented an update on the *Vulnerability of tropical Pacific fisheries and aquaculture to climate change* assessment, emphasising the urgent need to understand the evolving impacts of climate change. Employing a 'cascade of effects' framework, the assessment will encompass all 22 PICTs, aiming to map out the direct and indirect consequences of climate change on various habitats and the fisheries they sustain, along with freshwater and marine aquaculture. It will project how these ecological shifts might impact blue food systems, livelihoods, and economic revenue in the face of current and future climate scenarios. The final report and relevant products will be available at the end of 2024.
42. The meeting *encourages* members to include climate change consideration in coastal fisheries management plans and to look into climate change impacts specific to species or groups of species supporting a fishery.

### *Value of understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture*

43. SPC FAME presented on '*The value of understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture*', highlighting interconnectedness of biological, socio-economic, and commercial factors in the sustainability of coastal fisheries and aquaculture, the meeting underscored the imperative of balancing ecological conservation with the food security and well-being of dependent communities. Members emphasised the critical role of economic and socio-economic analyses, such as cost-benefit and value chain analyses, in driving evidence-based policy development.
44. The meeting agreed on the following actions to enhance understanding of social aspects and economics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture management:
  - a. The meeting *recognises* the importance of social and economic data to inform and guide decisions in coastal fisheries and aquaculture.
  - b. The meeting *recognises* the creation of the Socioeconomic Community of Practice in the Pacific region.
  - c. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to support member PICTs on cost-benefit analysis and to facilitate the collection of data, especially through application-based tools.
  - d. The meeting *requests* SPC FAME to provide trainings on business management and on economic and social data analyses and interpretation.
45. Recommendations to the SPC Heads of Fisheries:
  - a. The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to institutionalise socioeconomics in national fisheries and aquaculture plans and strategies and to include fisheries-related socio-economic data in their national census and household income and expenditure surveys.

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Community-based Fisheries Dialogue report to RTMCFA6*

46. The third meeting of the CBFD (CBFD3) was convened by, and focused on, CSO and other NSAs participation, as a 'meeting-within-a-meeting'. Mr. Eugene Joseph from Pohnpei, FSM served as Convenor.
47. The purpose of the CBFD is to give the CSO and other NSA communities an opportunity to provide information and advice on key needs, through the RTMCFA, to the Heads of Fisheries to assist with informing the Fisheries Ministers and then Pacific Leaders on priority issues associated with the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources. The CBFD also provides an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt from community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems and their associated fisheries resources that are critical to the wellbeing of coastal communities, and fostering dialogue with government and other partners on the management of coastal fisheries in the region.
48. The convenor presented the CBFD Outcome report (annex 1) to the RTMCFA6, and the meeting *acknowledged* the following actions:
  - a. The CBFD3 country and territory participants are requested to send SPC the full contact details of the national focal point (organisation / network).
49. CBFD3 recommendations to SPC Heads of Fisheries:
  - a. The CBFD3 *acknowledges* the efforts by national fisheries agencies to increase support and resourcing to community-based fisheries and *requests* HoF16 to provide an update on progress since this request was endorsed at HoF15 and RFMM4 and on plans for sustained support.
  - b. The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable and implement meaningful participation of fishers in developing and reviewing national regulations and rules. This should take into consideration the fishers' need to fish for income and food.
  - c. The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.
  - d. The CBFD3 *acknowledges* progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. CBFD3 requests HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally.

### *Observer statements*

50. During the meeting, three observers presented their experience and valuable insights into sustainable coastal fisheries management. C20's presentation focused on a regional management framework, highlighting the use of historical datasets and emphasising the need for data-driven management. LMMA discussed the expansion of community-based fisheries management in Melanesia, emphasising the importance of accessible information for communities. OurFish OurFuture project illustrated their approach to enhancing coastal fisheries management through monitoring, control, surveillance, and private sector partnerships.

### *Summary of the key recommendations for the 16<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting*

51. The meeting provided SPC with an opportunity to update its members on a range of priority activities implemented in support of management of sustainable coastal fisheries and aquaculture in PICTs. Members were invited to discuss how to improve SPC's assistance in these broad areas and *agreed* to make the following recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries for SPC members to consider and action:

*Aquaculture: "Review of aquaculture and biosecurity legislation: findings and recommendations"*

**Recommendation 22 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage member PICTs to clarify roles and responsibilities of competent authorities and government services and to improve decision-making processes, including through memoranda of understanding and delegation of authority, based on actual institutional capacity for management and surveillance of aquatic species.

**Recommendation 22 (b).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to discuss and action the development of a legal study on ballast waters and biofouling to prevent and mitigate negative impacts on marine ecosystems and aquaculture, involving collaboration between SPC FAME and the Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Divisions and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

*Aquaculture: "Addressing challenges to aquaculture development"*

**Recommendation 27 (a).** The meeting *requests* HOF16 to discuss and endorse the development of a preliminary feasibility study to design and develop a budget for a regional mariculture hatchery, principally to provide training for their managers and technicians to support the development of mariculture production in their own facilities.

**Recommendation 27 (b).** The meeting *requests* HOF16 to consider undertaking a study for the development of model small-scale hatcheries adapted to the context of PICTs.

*Coastal Fisheries: "How technology is supporting the delivery of better data for informed management of coastal fisheries"*

**Recommendation 30 (a).** The meeting *requests* HOF16 to *task* SPC FAME to develop and implement annual Coastal Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshops (CSAW) and Coastal Fisheries Data Workshops (CFDW) to address capacity and capability gaps in data collection, analysis, utilisation and reporting in the region.

**Recommendation 30 (b).** The meeting *requests* HOF16 to *task* SPC FAME to convene a peer-to-peer exchange that aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, share experiences and lessons among PICTs in data collection, analysis, and utilisation.

*Coastal Fisheries: "Coastal fisheries management – Reviewing and updating legislation and policy"*

**Recommendation 33 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to identify dedicated staff within their fisheries agencies to manage each formal request for SPC FAME assistance on coastal fisheries policy or legislation. These appointed representatives will serve as the primary focal point of contact with SPC FAME on coastal fisheries policy or legislation and will benefit from tailored training and mentorship opportunities, including short-term attachment for hands-on experience.

**Recommendation 33 (b).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to recruit an in-house lawyer for each PICT fisheries agency who would work jointly with technical staff to promote the timely development and adoption of policy and legislation for coastal fisheries and aquaculture management.

**Recommendation 33 (c).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to promote the inclusion of law and policy modules in fisheries management courses and programmes offered by universities and training centres in the region.

*Coastal Fisheries: “Coastal fisheries livelihoods – diversification and food security”*

**Recommendation 37 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage SPC FAME to explore funding opportunities to support capacity enhancement in nearshore fisheries development and livelihoods diversification, especially for post-harvest and value-adding support.

**Recommendation 37 (b).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to prioritise the collection of essential data to facilitate comprehensive feasibility and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for livelihood diversification initiatives.

*Coastal Fisheries: “Coastal fisheries livelihoods – Anchored FADs and nearshore small-scale fisheries”*

**Recommendation 40 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to consider establishing and securing consistent national funding sources to complement external support to ensure the long-term sustainability of national FAD programmes and their benefits to fishers and coastal communities.

*Cross-cutting: “Value of understanding economics and socioeconomics in coastal fisheries and aquaculture”*

**Recommendation 45 (a).** The meeting *requests* HoF16 to encourage members to institutionalise socioeconomics in national fisheries and aquaculture plans and strategies and to include fisheries-related socio-economic data in their national census and household income and expenditure surveys.

*Community-based Fisheries Dialogue*

**Recommendation 49 (a).** The CBFD3 *acknowledges* the efforts by national fisheries agencies to increase support and resourcing to community-based fisheries and *requests* HoF16 to provide an update on progress since this request was endorsed at HoF15 and RFMM4 and on plans for sustained support.

**Recommendation 49 (b).** The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable and implement meaningful participation of fishers in developing and reviewing national regulations and rules. This should take into consideration the fishers’ need to fish for income and food.

**Recommendation 49 (c).** The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.

**Recommendation 49 (d).** The CBFD3 *acknowledges* progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally.

*Closing*

52. The meeting adopted the **Outcomes and actions report** from the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture.
53. The closing remarks were made by Ms Maria Fuata, Deputy Director-General (Operations and Integration), SPC
54. The closing prayer was given by Mr Paul Tua from Solomon Islands.
55. The chair, Mr. Manuel Ducrocq, warmly thank the CBF3 Convenor, Mr. Eugene Joseph, all the participants, and SPC support staff, SPC FAME staff for a successful RTMCFA6, and closed the meeting.



## Annex 1: Third Community-based Fisheries Dialogue outcomes report



# Third Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

14-15 November 2023

Original: English

## Outcomes and actions report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

CBFD3

# Outcomes and actions report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue

## *Background*

1. In August 2020, the First Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM1) endorsed a regional mechanism aimed at enhancing the engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (para 16, Statement of Outcomes from RFMM1) to give effect to the decision of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders', made in September 2016, concerning coastal fisheries (as stated paragraph 10, 47<sup>th</sup> Leaders Communique).
2. The new mechanism involves convening a two-day dialogue on community-based fisheries (CBF) within the Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA). The dialogue, known as the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD), serves a primary objective:
  - a. Providing the CSOs and other NSAs actively involved in community-based fisheries in the region, the platform to provide advice on key needs and issues associated coastal fisheries resources across the Pacific Island region. This is done through the RTMCFA to the Heads of Fisheries, to assist with informing regional fisheries ministers and Pacific leaders about priority issues associated with the sustainable access and use of coastal fisheries resources.
  - b. An avenue for CSOs and NSAs actively involved in community-based fisheries in the region to exchange experiences and lessons from Community-based initiatives to strengthen efforts to maintain productive and healthy ecosystems, and their associated fisheries resources, which are critical to the wellbeing of over 10,000 coastal communities in the Pacific Island countries and territories.
  - c. Fostering a dialogue with government and other partners on the management of coastal fisheries in the region.
3. The first CBFD (CBFD1) in 2021 focused on establishing an appropriate administrative foundation for future dialogues through the consideration of the provisional CBFD Terms of Reference (ToR). The Pacific Community (SPC) 14<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries meeting (HoF14) considered and endorsed the agreed ToR, which include the appointment of a Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Convenor and Vice-Convenor to work with the Pacific Community's (SPC) Division of Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) and the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) in organising logistics for future CBFDs and the facilitation of CBFDs.
4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD2) was convened in hybrid in October 2022 at the SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, with the dialogue being held in association with the 5th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA5). The CBFD2 focused on engaging and hearing the voices of CSOs and other NSAs through identification of important community-based fisheries issues that are common across the region or sub-regions and discussed ways to address or enhance them. The CBFD2 participants also expressed their hopes and expectations for future CBFD process.

### *Third Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD3)*

5. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue (CBFD3) was held on 14-15 November 2023 at the SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, as a meeting within the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA6).
6. The dialogue was chaired by Mr Eugene Joseph from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Vice Convenors, Ms Delvene Boso and Ms Aydah Akao from the Solomon Islands.
7. The CBFD3 focused on hearing the voice of the CSOs and NSAs, defining and adopting the selection criteria for CBFD participants, identifying national focal points and process, establishing the selection process for the Convenor and Vice-Convenor. The session was delivered in the broader context of scaling-up community-based fisheries management (CBFM) guided by the Pacific Framework for action on scaling-up CBFM, through discussions on strategic information, awareness and communication, and gender and social inclusion. The final session was on gathering Pacific voice to inform the planning and shaping of the Global Small-Scale Fisheries Summit 2024.
8. This report outlines the outcomes and action points of consensus among CBFD3 participants highlighting priority issues and needs to be actioned by CSOs and other NSAs, SPC members, provide guidance to SPC's Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme (CFAP), and identify key recommendations to be taken to the 16<sup>th</sup> Heads of Fisheries Meeting in April 2024.

### *Session 1 and 2: CBF Dialogue: Hearing the voice of the CSOs/NSAs*

9. The Deputy Director for Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem (FAME) division (Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture officially opened the CBFD3.
10. The CBFD3 noted and acknowledged the outstanding work carried out by the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (CBFD-AG) in directing SPC, as the secretariat, on:
  - a. The identification and selection of the CBFD3 participants.
  - b. The identification and selection of the CBFD3 Convenor and Vice-Convenors and
  - c. The development of the CBFD3 agenda.
11. The CBFD3 acknowledged the reporting and endorsement process on the CBFD2 Outcomes and Action report to the SPC Fifteen Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF15) and the Fourth Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM4).
12. The CSO/NSA participants proposed CBF issues of importance or interest that are common across the region or sub-regions, and worked to identify the top three priority issues to discuss later in Breakout Groups. In brief, the main issues proposed were:
  - a. Improving monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCS&E) through the integration of local enforcement within community-based approaches.

- b. Strengthening and expand partnership mechanisms to engage with government agencies, ensuring the coexistence of traditional governance systems alongside formal governance systems.
  - c. Promoting the inclusion of women and marginalised groups in local governance and decision-making processes.
  - d. Strengthening community engagement and participation in data collection, information provision, and resourcing support to address fisheries management issues such as destructive fishing practices (night fishing, nets), climate change impacts, and adverse effects from mining, poaching, and tourism.
  - e. The need for long term coherent and sustained resourcing and support to CSOs and NSAs.
13. From the listed issues of importance, the CBFD participants identified three common CBF issues across the region for further discussion:
- a. Improving local enforcement through integrating Community-based enforcement.
  - b. Addressing emerging disruptions and pressures to fisheries management such as destructive fishing techniques as night fishing, use of nets with small mesh size, effects of climate change and other external cumulative stresses.
  - c. Integrating traditional governance systems to formal governance systems.
14. CBFD participants considered the following three common CBF issues identified earlier for discussion in breakout groups. The main points from those breakout groups were:
- a. Integrate and strengthen community-based fisheries compliance and enforcement.
    - i. The CBFD3 recognised the work carried out by CSOs and relevant government agencies in addressing enforcement at the country level.
    - ii. At the regional level, the CBFD3 recognised the need to:
      - a) Discuss and developed long-term support mechanisms, systems or initiatives to strengthen enforcement of coastal fisheries laws and rules.
      - b) Coordinate donor investments to ensure the money and efforts are spent in the priority areas of coastal fisheries management, especially enforcement.
      - c) Ensure that fisheries awareness messaging needs to be about sustainable use of the fisheries resources to support livelihood and not about banning fishing.
      - d) Fisheries violations need to be considered as a serious offense.
      - e) Fines need to make sense and appropriate to the context of coastal fisheries.

- f) Communities need to understand the meaning of enforcement, and this requires awareness on rules, its existence and how enforcement is meant to help sustain fisheries.
- b. Addressing emerging disruptions/pressures to management – destructive fishing (night fishing, nets)
  - i. The CBFD3 recognised the work carried out by CSOs and relevant government agencies in addressing emerging disruptions or pressure to coastal fisheries management at the country level.
  - ii. At the regional level, the CBFD3 recognised the need to:
    - a) Provide platforms, forum, dialogues to discuss and input feedback from fishers to provide their opinion on legislation rules and regulations and reasons why some rules and regulations are not fit for purpose provide feedback loop from community to government.
    - b) Coordinate donor investments to ensure the money and efforts are spent in the much-needed area of coastal fisheries management, especially enforcement.
    - c) Stop allowing importation of illegal equipment such as small mesh nets.
    - d) Do awareness on the impact of destructive fishing methods and other external stressors to the fishery.
- c. Traditional governance systems functioning next to formal governance systems - how to find synergies?
  - i. The CBFD3 recognised the work carried out by CSOs and relevant government agencies in addressing the integration of traditional governance and knowledge in supporting fisheries management.
  - ii. At the regional level, the CBFD3 agreed on the need to:
    - a) Encourage and recognise traditional decision making and systems through all levels and bringing experiences from different countries together on how traditional systems are integrated in different contexts.
    - b) Government, NGOs and CSOs need to work on strengthening traditional governance especially on leadership training and strengthening of traditional roles.
  - iii. The CBFD3 request HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.
  - iv. The CBFD3 acknowledges progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. CBFD3 requests HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial

partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally.

### *Session 3 and 4: CBFD governance*

15. The CBFD3 discussed and agreed upon the following criteria to be use in future CBF dialogue for the selection of the Convenor and Vice-Convenor:
  - a. A Pacific islander based in the region.
  - b. Have extensive experience in dealing with coastal fisheries issues and challenges across the regions, with demonstrated skills in:
    - i. grounded community-based fisheries facilitation
    - ii. proven leadership
    - iii. mediating, communication and/or deliberating at national or regional fora.
  - c. Have affiliation to national, regional or international CSOs who have offices based in the region.
  - d. Candidates should not be from government (no current direct employment with government and/or politics), but preferably with experience in actively working cooperatively with government(s) is important.
16. The CBFD3 discussed and agreed upon the following criteria to be used in future CBF dialogue for the selection of CBFD participants:
  - a. A non-government individual from a local civil society organisation, a non-state actors and community-based organisation or entity involved in the management of community fishing area and or fish business at the community and subnational level.
  - b. Have experience at presentations or speaking at national, regional, or international audiences.
  - c. Active as a leader or activist at community, subnational or national levels.
  - d. Be a Pacific Island national or Pacific Islanders residing in their country of representation.
  - e. Gender balance representation.
  - f. At least 3 years involvement in CBFM processes.
17. The CBFD3 recommended the following to establish a national focal point that will facilitate proper coordination of CSO participants at CBFD;



- a. recognised differences in context by countries and or subregions and therefore consider tailored approaches to establishing national focal points.
  - b. For some countries national focal points were identified:
    - i. Fiji – Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network
    - ii. Solomon Islands – Community-Based Resource Management practitioners’ network.
    - iii. Vanuatu – Vanua-Tai Resource Monitoring Network
    - iv. Marshall Islands: Marshall Islands Conservation Society
    - v. Federated States of Micronesia: Conservation Society Pohnpei and Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organisation
    - vi. Kiribati: Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Division
    - vii. Palau: One Reef
    - viii. Cook Islands: Te Ipukarea Society
18. The CBFD discussed and agreed for the following subregional representative as new members of the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Advisory Group (CBFD-AG);
- a. Melanesia – Mr Laitia Tamata, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network, Fiji
  - b. Polynesia – Mr Niegel Rozet, KUA Network, Hawaii
  - c. Micronesia – Mr Dua Rudolph, Marshall Island Conservation Society, Republic of Marshall Islands.

*Session 5: From Facebook to Talk Radio to DIY champions: tapping strategic communication to upscale CBFM*

19. The CBFD3 noted the implementation progress of the Regional framework for action in the Pacific.
20. The CBFD3 raised the concern of having prolonged process for development and endorsement of national fisheries policy and management plans for implementation in coastal communities to safeguard important coastal marine resources such as sea cucumber.
21. SPC FAME clarified its role in assisting member countries particularly in capacity development and support to develop national fisheries policies and informed CBFD3 that the process of endorsement is led by the national governments.

22. The CBFD3 noted the importance of communication mechanisms such as radio, news media, television broadcast and social media platforms to convey information in and between communities.
23. The CBFD3 emphasised the challenges encountered in accessing information and creating dialogues;
  - a. Limitation of funds to procure new communication equipment and infrastructure, and to have enough staff to disseminate information.
  - b. Poor network coverage in some communities and outer islands to access internet and stay in contact with community facilitators.
  - c. Facebook is a common platform used. However not all communities have internet access and some elderly people do not use Facebook.
24. The CBFD3 identified the following to address the issues raised above.
  - a. The importance of forging partnerships to share CBFM information through faith-based organisations, networks, women's groups and the government ministries.
  - b. The CBFD3 noted the need to collaborate with the government where necessary to set up radio programmes and TV broadcast to raise issues from the communities.
  - c. The dissemination and use of CBFM self-facilitated tool kits for countries that have them.
  - d. The newly available Starlink satellite internet capacity could be a viable solution to address the current challenges associated with poor internet connectivity.
25. The CBFD3 emphasised that the content and messaging of fisheries information in English, French and Pacific vernaculars in the media must be simple for the audience to understand.
26. CBFD3 encouraged the use of available CBFM tools and information in the Echoes of Oceania online platform.
27. The CBFD3 encouraged the use of other information tools and platforms available on the internet such as weather apps to share information, biodiversity apps to get identification of unknown species, YouTube channels to share videos, and use of Google groups for people that prefer not to use Facebook.

### *Session 6: Casting nets of inclusion on CBFM*

28. The CBFD3 acknowledged the challenge of achieving equal representation of marginalised groups and considering women's voices in decision-making for fisheries resource management.

29. The CBFD3 acknowledged the role of women in fisheries management advocacy, as they play a crucial role as teachers in their families and communities, influencers in local women's groups, and leaders in the communities.
30. The CBFD3 noted and agreed on the following:
- a. The need to include marginalised community groups in fisheries management committees, to empower them to actively participate and to contribute to the decision-making process.
  - b. The inclusion of women enforcement officers to encourage reporting of offences committed by women and other marginalised groups.
  - c. Conducting more awareness and capacity development training on gender and social inclusion in the communities including targeted empowerment initiatives for GESI advocates and champions in the communities.
  - d. Encouraging more women and youth champions to advocate for fisheries resource management.
  - e. Encouraging programs in communities for livelihood diversification and supplementation to increase resilience and ensure equal benefit sharing among women, youths, and people with special needs with a special interest to reduce poverty and hardship for people relying heavily on marine-based livelihoods.
31. All sub-regions noted small progress had been achieved in some communities because of long-term efforts from early women advocates but it is important to recognise that many challenges remain still faced along the way by these advocates.
32. Although progress has been achieved in some communities, overall, it is limited in the region. Representatives from all Pacific sub-regions talked about the difficulties for women and other marginalised groups to fully participate in CBFM and especially in CBFM decision-making.
33. Community representatives from all sub-regions stated that most progress on inclusion in CBFM had been achieved through inviting women to provide their inputs during meetings but challenges still remain to ensure their voices and their inputs were heard and acknowledged.
34. As CBFM scaling-up accelerates, those limited achievements in inclusion of women and other marginalised groups in CBFM decision-making processes continue to risk exacerbating existing inequalities and limit regional achievements on gender equity.

### *Session 7: Small-Scale Fisheries Summit 2024 – The Pacific Voice*

35. The CBFD3 noted the background of Small-scale fisheries (SSF) summit.
36. The following list of CBFM issues was identified for the SSF summit in 2024:

- a. The need for sharing of lessons learned to highlight the Pacific Islands regions and the efforts being undertaken and having the opportunity to learn from experiences in other regions.
  - b. Address the problems of inclusion within traditional governance systems and the need for better enforcement practices in communities with support from appropriate national government agencies.
  - c. Address destructive fishing practices.
  - d. Improve the post-harvest, preservation, reduction of waste and value-adding of harvested marine resources and improving market access.
  - e. Recognise and supporting the importance of gender equality and social inclusion.
  - f. Align global policies with regional policies and down to the community level.
37. The CBFD agreed that the following would be the process for Pacific representation at SSF Summit in 2024:
- a. Accepted in principle the proposed Objectives and Outcomes of 2<sup>nd</sup> SSF Summit.
  - b. Agreed that the CBFD is an appropriate entity to nominate participants to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> SSF Summit, noting that gender equity should prevail in the selection of both men and women from the sub-regions to attend with a minimum of two people per sub-region.
  - c. Supported the development of a funding proposal for the support of Pacific Island participants to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> SSF Summit.

### *Session 8: CBFD4 agenda*

38. The CBFD noted the activities to address CBFM issues to improve community enforcement, management, governance, sustainable support mechanism, inclusion of gender and marginalized groups in CBFM as:
- a. Improving local enforcement.
    - i. Develop and deliver training modules and toolkit for community enforcement.
    - ii. Appointment of community enforcement officers with recognised powers.
    - iii. Having equipment to assist with enforcement operations in the communities.
    - iv. Clear demarcation of boundaries for enforcement.
  - b. Ensuring long term continuity in support and resourcing mechanism for CBFM.
    - i. Provide more opportunities on financial literacy.

- ii. Improve and facilitate accessibility to funding.
- c. Inclusion of gender and marginalised groups in local governance and decision making for equality and equity.
  - i. Engage in more storytelling and talanoa to share stories.
  - ii. Promote more women and youth programs.
  - iii. Promote youth engagement campaign for CBFM.
  - iv. Establish and formalise women in fisheries associations.
- d. Governance
  - i. Create mechanisms to engage with government agencies through partnerships.
  - ii. Merging local governance and decision-making systems.
- e. Management
  - i. Participation of communities in data collection for monitoring the effects of climate change.
  - ii. Building capacity of communities to lobby against external drivers such as mining and tourism which is beyond their control.
  - iii. Ensuring adequate information provision to increase awareness in primary school education, knowledge of legal frameworks, rules and regulations and science information for fisheries management.

56.

#### *CBFD3 actions:*

39. The CBFD agreed on the following action:

- b. The CBFD3 country participants are requested to send to SPC the full contact details of the national focal point (organisation / network).

#### *The 16<sup>th</sup> SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting:*

40. Recommendations to the Heads of Fisheries:

- a. The CBFD3 *acknowledges* the efforts by national fisheries agencies to increase support and resourcing to community-based fisheries and *requests* HoF16 to provide an update on progress since this request was endorsed at HoF15 and RFMM4 and on plans for sustained support.



- b. The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable and implement meaningful participation of fishers in developing and reviewing national regulations and rules. This should take into consideration the fishers' need to fish for income and food.
- c. The CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to enable recognition of community level governance systems in national legal frameworks where appropriate.
- d. The CBFD3 *acknowledges* progress by member country governments on establishing dialogue with CSO and NSA groups. CBFD3 *requests* HoF16 to encourage national agencies to develop and/or foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with civil society groups and networks, towards strengthening CBFM nationally.

### *Session 9: Closing*

41. The Convenor, Mr Eugene Joseph, warmly thanked all the participants of the CBFD3, the CBFD-AG and SPC FAME for a successful CBFD3 and closed the meeting.