

Bêche-de-mer Industry Development

The committee reviewed the background, justification and objectives of this programme.

In view of the particular interest of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and the stated lack of interest by other territories it was agreed after discussion to re-define the justification, objectives and work programme to bring them more into line with the specific requirements of the two interested territories.

The principal requirement being a definitive handbook covering identification, collection, processing, packaging and marketing to permit the efficient exploitation of an existing resource.

In addition the Committee recommended that

- (i) the field work should be concentrated in the two named territories on the assumption that results would be of general application elsewhere in the Pacific;
- (ii) the qualifications of the biologist should include general experience in marketing and underwater photography;
- (iii) the use of market research consultants should be considered to assess the potential and economics of the industry.

The amended draft programme is appended as annexure ().