



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Regional workshop report

Towards a Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up
Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021–2025



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Noumea, New Caledonia, 2021

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Original text: English

Pacific Community Cataloguing-in-publication data

Regional workshop report: towards a Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021-2025

1. Fishery management – Oceania.
3. Fishery resources – Oceania.
4. Fisheries — Oceania.
5. Fisheries – Monitoring — Oceania.
6. Fishery policy — Oceania.

I. Title II. Pacific Community

338.37270995

AACR2

ISBN: 978-982-00-1419-0

Prepared for publication and printed at SPC's headquarters,
B.P. D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia, 2021

www.spc.int

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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Government of Sweden.
Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Government of Sweden.

Background

Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) have agreed through regional and subregional policies to scale up coastal fisheries management incorporating community-based fisheries management (CBFM) approaches. CBFM is taken to mean fisheries management approaches that are community-driven and encompass an ecosystem approach that will sustain livelihoods and ensure resilient island communities. As described in *A new song for coastal fisheries*, the scaling-up challenge consists of moving from small pockets of effective coastal fisheries management to a meaningful proportion of the coastal environment to meet domestic development aspirations, with appropriate national and regional support.

The 12th Heads of Fisheries Meeting¹, supported by the First Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting², called for an assessment of CBFM and scaling-up approaches in the region. In response, the Pacific Community (SPC) organised a series of CBFM scaling-up workshops to assist SPC members develop and implement effective approaches that are appropriate for specific contexts.

Guidance came from the vision of *A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea Strategy*³, the high-level lead of *Future of Fisheries: A regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries*⁴ and subregional strategies such as the *Melanesian Spearhead Group's roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development*⁵, as well as the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. An information paper⁶ was developed from these to help frame principles for scaling up CBFM that are both regionally appropriate and nationally useful as a reference point for participants in their discussions.

Process

Prior to the workshops, a questionnaire was circulated to focal points of national fisheries agencies. Bilateral exchanges were conducted as needed to clarify and confirm results from the questionnaires. The preliminary results were provided to workshop participants, along with the information paper.

A participatory but virtual approach was taken given the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Workshops were designed to span five days but required only two and half hours per day in order to facilitate work across time zones and also allow the attendance of staff juggling other duties and not always able to attend full-time workshops.

A consortium of facilitators drawn from SPC staff, regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academia led a series of virtual CBFM workshops between January and March 2021. A one-week subregional workshop was organised for Polynesia (26–29 January and 2 February 2021), Micronesia (8–12 February 2021) and Melanesia (15–19 February 2021). Participants logged into Zoom meeting portals for the different virtual subregional workshops, bringing together more than 200 representatives from national fisheries agencies, community groups (traditional leaders, youth and women's groups), local civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs, regional and international organisations, academic institutions and other development partners.

The subregional workshops enabled countries from the same area, with a similar cultural background, to share what has been accomplished locally and discuss ways to significantly scale up CBFM and make coastal fisheries sustainable nationally. The workshop participants had the opportunity to discuss and assess national CBFM scaling-up status, shared approaches, experiences, lessons learned and opportunities in implementing CBFM. With the guidance of the CBFM scaling-up information paper, workshop participants also identified potential strategies for scaling up CBFM in each country or territory. All subregional workshop agendas, presentations, participants and workshop outcomes are publicly available online at <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/255>

The outcomes of the subregional workshops informed discussions at a combined regional workshop held on 2–4 March 2021, bringing together more than 150 participants around the region. The regional workshop consolidated findings from across the different subregions, considered lessons from national implementation experience relevant to scaling up CBFM, and worked on developing and refining an advanced draft of a framework for action. The workshop participants were further consulted to review the draft framework before presentation to the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF13) in June 2021 for their consideration and at the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting (RFMM2) in August 2021 for high-level endorsement.

¹ Twelfth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting outcomes (outcome 24d).

² First Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting outcomes (outcome 10).

³ <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/b8hvs>

⁴ <https://fame1.spc.int/fr/publications/roadmap-a-report-cards>

⁵ <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/mgrfs>

⁶ <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/cc937>

Workshop outcomes

The agendas, participants and results of the subregional and regional CBFM scaling-up workshops including this report are publicly available online.⁷ The final outcome of the workshop series is the first regional policy focusing on implementation of CBFM in the coastal areas of Pacific island countries and territories, the *Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up CBFM: 2021–2025*⁸ (*Framework for Action*), which was subsequently reviewed by the HoF13 meeting⁹ and endorsed at RFMM2.¹⁰ At this meeting, the Regional Fisheries Ministers recognised the importance of coastal fisheries management underpinned by CBFM and endorsed the framework.¹¹

This report provides the outcomes of the final regional workshop and also captures the HoF13 and RFMM2 outcomes/discussions, namely:

- Framing the need for direct action as well enabling conditions to scale up CBFM
- Status and needs for scaling up CBFM from the subregional workshops
- Lessons learned and recommendations from national implementation of scaling up CBFM from the regional workshop
- Evaluation of the virtual workshop approach used for developing regional policies
- List of outcomes and links to the final documents
- Feedback and submissions from HoF13 and RFMM2 consultation

Framing strategic approaches to scaling up CBFM

A wide range of tools and approaches for implementing and scaling up CBFM have been proposed in regional policies, but specific actions and activities need to be tailored to local contexts, national policies and institutions, and overall CBFM progress.

Differences in geography, logistics and available resources mean that while in some PICTs it is possible to engage a major proportion of coastal communities, in many others, strategic decisions will be needed to tailor support to a meaningful proportion of coastal communities.

Given the shortage of financial resources and staffing, and the fact that different communities have differing needs, the adoption of a strategic approach is vital for sustainable coastal fisheries management and benefit sharing within each PICT.

Status and needs for scaling up CBFM from the subregions

Strategic approaches need to ensure implementation of **direct CBFM actions** at a number of institutional and geographic scales that are supported by adequate **enabling conditions for CBFM**. Such national approaches have to balance the necessary high coverage/low-intensity enabling interventions with the high intensity/higher cost local-action interventions (Figure 1).

Workshop participants considered the status and needs of direct actions and the enabling environment in their subregions:

- **Strategic direct actions:** Direct CBFM actions whereby agencies work directly with or directly targeting stakeholders, including operational actions (i.e., activities that need to be done with fisheries stakeholders and need to continue to be done).
- **Strategic enabling actions:** Factors relating to the enabling environment that indirectly support CBFM and make it possible. These need to be in place and may occasionally be checked and reviewed.

⁷ <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/255>

⁸ <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/yr5yv>

⁹ <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/254>

¹⁰ https://www.ffa.int/system/files/2021%20RFMM2%20Statement%20of%20Outcomes_FINAL.pdf

¹¹ Feedback and submissions relating to the 13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting and the 2nd Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting are presented in Appendix 1.

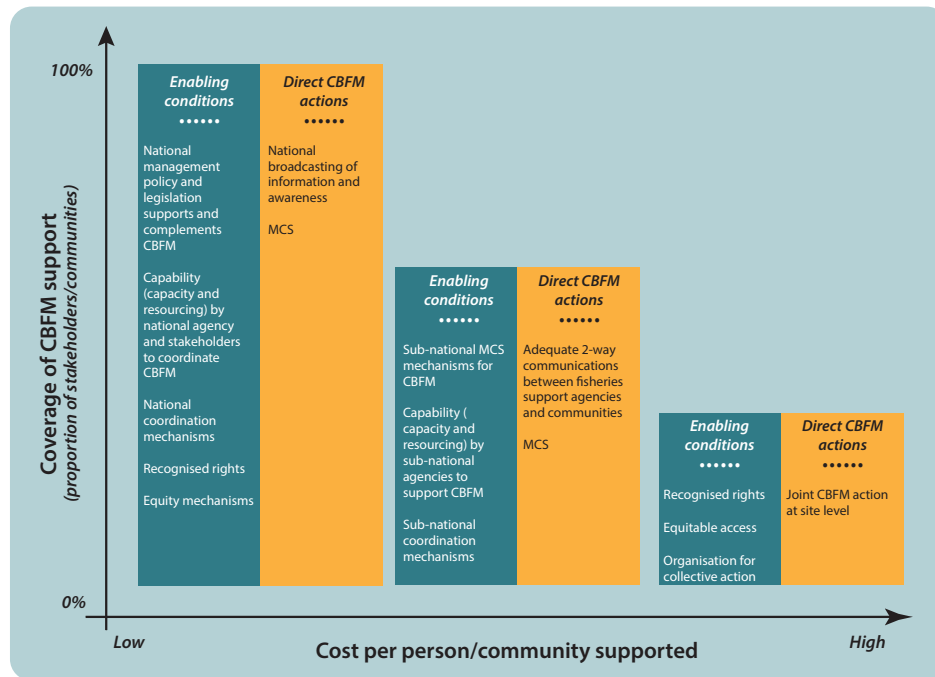


Figure 1: Graphical representation of the potential trade-offs between coverage and cost of implementing various enabling conditions and direct actions to scale up CBFM.

Strategic direct actions

Current status and needs assessed by workshop participants from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia.

STRATEGIC DIRECT ACTIONS	Status			Needs	
	POLYNESIA	MICRONESIA	MELANESIA	POLYNESIA	MELANESIA
A. Informing and awareness (1-way broadcasting) <i>All coastal communities and stakeholders adequately informed.</i>	Broad variety of experiences	Broad variety of experiences but inconsistent use	Broad variety of experiences; radio, social media and video increasingly popular but no information strategies	Review, develop and implement strategic approaches for messaging, coverage and regularity – information strategy	Review, develop and implement strategic approaches for messaging, coverage and regularity – information strategy Emphasis on radio, social media and video
	All: Issues with coverage, regularity, continuity and timelines				
B. Interactive consultation (2-way communication) <i>Community leaders, fishers and others have appropriate feedback mechanisms with government and each other.</i>	Well established government-to-community systems	Well established government-to-community systems but feedback from government/representation not so effective	Established government-to-community systems need improvement, particularly as feedback/representation not so effective	Improvements in feedback and representation mechanisms from communities, between communities and with other relevant agencies can be developed through existing mechanisms	Strategize and formalise feedback and representation mechanisms where needed – from communities, between communities and with other relevant agencies
	25–50% site-based CBFM support	0–25% site-based CBFM support except Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Some marine protected areas (MPAs) may not be serving (adequately) as CBFM tools	Site-based CBFM support is currently challenged to reach a significant proportion of communities in most of these large countries. Sites are chosen on request and subject to opportunity and resources	Strategy for determining priority sites, striving to include all villages equally vs. other possible interventions e.g., prioritising most in need or monitoring compliance, surveillance and enforcement	Increase engagement with subnational levels of administration, strategically use available and new partnerships and develop novel engagement processes
C. Joint action in communities and with stakeholders <i>Communities with most need are directly supported to sustainably manage and develop marine resources.</i>					

Strategic enabling actions

Current status and needs assessed by workshop participants from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia.

STRATEGIC ENABLING ACTION	Status			Needs		
	POLYNESIA	MICRONESIA	MELANESIA	POLYNESIA	MICRONESIA	MELANESIA
Supportive legislation, policy and operational plans that:	Supportive legislation broadly exists, although rights and roles need defining (Wallis and Futuna, Cook Islands, French Polynesia)	Supportive legislation broadly exists	Supporting legislation and policy is broadly adequate, but enforcement and implementation are challenging	CBFM strategy, where required, supportive legislation to define roles and rights	Develop CBFM strategy (national or state level) Implement/enforce and refine legislation to support CBFM mandate	Increase support for subnational/provincial approaches Increase monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of high value species
1. provide for clear user rights and CBFM mandate;						
2. control export commodities/high value commercial fishery products; and						
3. adequately support local and national monitoring and enforcement relevant to CBFM.						
Fisheries agency capability (national and subnational)	Capacity and duties need improvement and defining Some major budget and staffing inadequacies Coordination with non-state actors could be improved	Capacity development in CBFM and MCS Some major budget and staffing inadequacies	Major budget and staffing inadequacies, including at provincial levels Strong reliance on NGOs	Highlight need for increased government budgetary and staff support to CBFM Define CBFM strategies	Highlight need for increased government budgetary and staff support to CBFM Capacity development of staff and stakeholders Define CBFM strategies Address political will needed to support CBFM	Address need for increased government budgetary and staff support to CBFM Funding and capacity development at subnational level
1. Re-focused to CBFM (or coastal and management at least)						
2. Adequately resourced (recurrent budget and staff)						
3. Transparent and accountable						
4. Adequate coordination with non-state actors (NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, private sector, institutions, etc.)						
Ecosystem approaches (to coastal ecosystems from sources outside community waters)	Wider environmental planning mechanisms, but communities, fishers and inter-agency collaboration may need improvement	Wider environmental planning mechanisms exist and generally function Some destructive fishing and pressure on high value species	Wider environmental planning mechanisms are inadequate Some destructive fishing and pressure on high value species	Consider improving involvement of communities in mechanisms for environmental impact assessments (EIAs) Enhance programs community awareness. Need improved post-disaster responses and profile for the coastal fisheries sector	Improve enforcement mechanisms Enhance community awareness and education	Improve development planning, EIA and particularly enforcement mechanisms Enhance community awareness and education
1. Threats (most common) identified (environment vs. non-environment)						
2. Engage relevant agencies and political will						
3. Strategies to manage the threats implemented	All: Poor inclusion of coastal fisheries in post-disaster responses					
Equitable access to benefits and decision-making for women, men, youth and marginalised groups	Good progress in gender equity Marginalised groups issues unclear	Good progress in inclusivity (gender, youth, other groups)	Progress in inclusivity (gender, youth, other groups)	Assessment of marginalised groups and equity required	Assessment of potentially overlooked marginalised groups e.g., foreign workers and immigrants	Continue improving processes to include marginalised groups

Lessons learned and recommendations for scaling-up approaches from PICTs

Participants took into consideration the lessons they had learned in their countries and communities and the discussions and analysis of the workshops to highlight lessons learned for scaling-up approaches. Recommendations were framed with the intention of improving or ensuring sustainable coastal fisheries that would most likely benefit all communities in countries by 2030. A major challenge that was assumed was that existing budgets would be maintained or only slightly increased (i.e., business as usual [BAU]). The lessons learned are summarised in the following table.

Improving	Recommendations
Village/site-based management planning (facilitated by fisheries agencies and/or NGOs)	<p>Refine or limit field visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit/reduce costly field visits from capital • Refine complicated or expensive site-based processes • Restrict and select sites or projects to those that have genuine interest or need (e.g., upon request and assessment – feasibility study) • Coordinate between projects/organisations and reduce duplication <p>Cost-effective scaling-up strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster coordination between different projects and organisations • Utilise fisheries or even other agency extension offices (i.e., island, provincial, state offices) • Coordinate with other locally present agencies to share logistics or messaging • Use community champions and local facilitators • Use authorised officers (including community members or officers from other government agencies or NGOs) where appropriate • Explore subnational, provincial or island-wide approaches <p>Improve site-based models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and align approaches under government lead • Ensure dependencies are not created – establish exit strategies • Ensure local and traditional knowledge is fully integrated (reducing reliance on external data and research) • Ensure projects respond to communities' real needs (as lead and identified by the communities) • Ensure representation of non-indigenous and marginalised groups • Ensure resource owners, clans or rights-holding tribes (indigenous) are involved <p>Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound) objectives and improve indicators for CBFM • Ensure results of monitoring are available for community decision-making
Information (1-way, 2-way)	<p>Messaging and materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure messages are evidence-based, clear (or in local language), practical/applied, and are agreed or approved in a coordinated way • Develop new materials for CBFM as needed, taking advantage of appropriate cost-effective media and new technologies (e.g., social media) • Develop toolkits or packages that can be used widely in-country • Clarify targets and appropriate messages (e.g., chiefs, women, fishers, youth, marginalised groups, etc.) <p>Communications and media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use new and emerging technologies where appropriate (e.g., internet, mobile phone, social media, apps) • Ensure regular broadcasting <p>Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the use of extension mobile apps and other innovations to share and monitor/get feedback • Ensure that communities receive results of monitoring and information that they have provided • Explore new ways to allow communities to provide feedback <p>Networking and sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the experience and knowledge generated by communities among each other and among islands • Strengthen government and NGO relationships as well as relationships between government departments <p>Specific research or messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual cash or other value and benefits of marine resource management • Ensure timely and thorough information on regulatory changes (e.g., new rules, opening of a fishery) • Research and data gathering that supports or evaluates the regulations

Improving	Recommendations
Enabling environment	<p>Data and stock assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess stocks of most targeted/commercially pressured resources Improve collection of key fisheries statistics from the perspective of scaling up CBFM Ensure systems exist and function to process data for decision-making <p>Legal and institutional issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify community rights (where needed) Determine impact of recreational fishers and address if appropriate Review and improve support for authorised officers and local enforcement Advance or review certain or key regulations Ensure CBFM strategic document is adequate and up-to-date for scaling up Ensure fisher representation is adequate and management committees are supported Ensure fishers are represented in policy processes Promote integrated approach with other departments to coordinate meaningfully on cross-sector issues (livelihoods, food security, ecosystems) Ensure that provision is made for budgetary support for all those involved in scaling up (sectors and new bodies and mechanisms) Ensure that processes are supportive of people-centred approaches and human rights processes, including free prior informed consent (FPIC)¹²

¹² As expected under International Human Rights Law. Graham A. and D'Andrea A. 2021. Gender and human rights in coastal fisheries and aquaculture. A comparative analysis of legislation in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community. 108 pp. Available at: https://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/Reports/Graham_21_legal_study_human_right.html



Lessons learned for future CBFM workshops

The virtual workshop approach used Zoom and represented challenges and opportunities for policy development. Participants completed a feedback survey¹³ and all aspects received very high ratings, particularly the use of Zoom breakout groups for discussions. Almost all participants stated they had gained new knowledge and understanding of different aspects of scaling up CBFM and the status of CBFM in their country. Time constraints were frequently mentioned as was the desirability of including a wider variety of stakeholders. Owing to the diversity of situations and progress in countries, there was strong positive feedback on taking a subregional approach.

From the point of view of the organising team, the workshops presented a new challenge, but the objectives were amply met. The following considerations, in addition to the broader feedback from participants, should be taken into account for future workshops of this type:

Time issues

Participants engaged across several time zones, which was one reason for not programming full-day workshops. The relatively short duration of the daily sessions (2–3 hours) reduced workshop fatigue and avoided clashes with meal times. However, many participants did feel that more time for breakout group discussion would be useful. Also, ensuring efficient use of the available time, including in the plenary sessions, requires concerted effort from the facilitators, particularly when participants intervene for lengthy periods.

Facilitation

Facilitators and note-takers met before and during the sessions for briefings and feedback. The note-takers, and in some cases observers, were important as stand-ins on the occasions that facilitators suffered connection problems. Several participants commented that facilitators, particularly those in charge of plenary sessions, might benefit from training on how to handle or cut short participants that take up undue amounts of time.

Workshop materials

The workshops were grounded in the information paper, daily presentations on the relevant concepts, and case studies or country experiences. Breakout group sessions were based on guiding questions and matrices to order and capture inputs. Some of the matrices were too long, and simpler ones or simple guiding questions tended to perform better. Once the broad concepts had been grasped in preceding days and workshops, use of the simple lessons-learned evaluation tool ‘start, stop, continue’ was very effective; however, it would not have been as useful if deployed earlier in the workshops, before concepts were well understood. Questions, whether in matrices or not, need to be clearly framed to avoid errors in interpretation.

Suggestions for future workshops

Consideration should be given to providing more logistical support for a national venue with appropriate facilities for each country. This would assist in broadening participation to other national stakeholders and community members and extended breakout sessions.

The design and chairing of the plenary sessions may be tightened up to reduce the likelihood that they are used for national statements when this is not the intention. The balance between attaining the objective of the workshop and allowing an open floor bears thinking about, especially as a lengthy intervention from one participant or country reduces the amount of participation time available to the other countries.

The subregional approach was highly appreciated and appropriate. This could be used in other workshops, but there is also the opportunity to form subregional taskforces or workgroups to share specific issues and coordinate implementation of the framework moving forward.

The full report on the workshop participant feedback survey is provided in Appendix 2.

¹³ The feedback survey report is provided in Appendix 2.

Results of the workshops and surveys

The outcomes of the workshop and survey were captured in separate reports and also formed the draft *Framework for Action on Scaling up CBFM*.

Subregional workshop reports

The subregional workshop summary reports and country matrices are available online at <https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/255>



Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management 2021–2025

The final endorsed version of the *Framework for Action*¹⁴ can be accessed in English and French, below:

- English: <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/yr5yv>
- French: <https://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/5fgmk>



¹⁴ https://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/FAME/InfoBull/FishNews/165/FishNews165_18_Lalavanua.pdf



Appendix 1: High-level meeting feedback and submissions

13th SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting

The following represents a summary of the comments and submissions made by PICT representatives at this meeting. All contributions acknowledged the effort put into the process and endorsed the output. Additional points are captured below.

American Samoa:

- American Samoa would like to be involved in this kind of process in the future and would like to share their CBFM issues.

Australia:

- Australia reaffirmed continued support and commitment to CBFM in the region and will continue to provide funding for CBFM in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu over the next four years. Australia is joining efforts with New Zealand in supporting coastal fisheries and aquaculture over the next five years.
- Australia endorsed the *Framework for Action* in principle as significant progress in advocating for more attention and resources for coastal fisheries management. Australia suggested further work is required to refine the framework:
 - Unpack the relationship between scaling out CBFM and how this will lead to resource sustainability at an environmental scale.
 - Provide guidance on ‘meaningful proportion of communities’ practicing CBFM in order to achieve an impact on sustainability of coastal resources, and what level of impact is anticipated.
 - Provide guidance on additional reporting (beyond ‘number and area of communities engaged’) to show the evidence (and extent) of change to coastal fisheries resources (e.g., increased fish stock and improved habitat) which is critical in providing a persuasive argument for investment on CBFM by national financing agencies.

Such a discussion should be led by the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) division of SPC and involve national fisheries agencies, scientists, CBFM practitioners, fisheries management experts and community representatives. It could be addressed either at or outside of the CBFM session of the 4th Regional Technical Meeting for Coastal Fisheries (RTMCF) and be supported with investment from Australia.

Federated States of Micronesia:

- FSM proposed that support is needed from offshore fisheries to support communities i.e., tuna to support livelihoods of communities and possible support for artisanal fishers in fishing for tuna.
- FSM highlighted that an advantage of CBFM is that one doesn’t have to wait for data to implement management.

Fiji:

- Fiji highlighted the need to be mindful of immediate threats (pandemic, natural disasters) that impact on efforts when scaling up.
- Fiji proposed that objective 5 explicitly state the impacts of COVID as it impacts the use of coastal fisheries i.e., livelihood sustainability during COVID. At the end of the meeting, the Head of Fisheries (HoF) agreed to provide written feedback to SPC with regards to any specific changes or review to the draft framework.

Nauru:

- Nauru emphasized their need for a legal model framework/regulation to support CBFM. The experience/successes/lessons learned from countries who have invested in CBFM will be useful.
- There is a need to get funds down to the community level to directly support them to implement resource management.
- Nauru thanked Australia for continuous support on CBFM and called upon other donors to consider this.

New Zealand:

- New Zealand stated that the framework is a useful starting point for addressing this important issue. In particular, a high-value part of the framework is that it helps pull together all different strings of work and means there is a clear point for all regional agencies, all members and all donors to engage on CBFM and align their support and the support for SPC.
- New Zealand stands ready to continue work with the members on this important issue.

Samoa:

- Samoa acknowledged the amount of work that FAME has put into this work and particularly that the framework takes everybody on board as different countries have different perspectives of scaling up and the framework addresses this.
- Samoa suggested merging the livelihoods programme into supporting community-based (CB) programmes, and that upscaling is about how we can reward communities that have participated and have benefited from their programme, especially looking into alternatives to management.
- Samoa called for consideration of how traditional management merges with science and how this can be scaled up in terms of implementation.
- Samoa called for a coordinated approach between Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies (e.g., FAME, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme [SPREP]) as they all target communities. Some of these approaches can be alternatives to fishing or complement fisheries management.

Solomon Islands:

- Solomon Islands have their national framework finalised and are just waiting for the regional framework to be finalised in order to have a more aligned framework.
- Country implementation is important, and Solomon Islands are looking forward to more technical assistance from SPC on this.

Tokelau:

- Tokelau emphasised that the framework should be seen as a guide because of the differences between members, which all have their unique characteristics.
- Tokelau does not need to scale up CBFM as all territorial seas are managed by communities; 100% of territorial seas are managed by the communities already and those rights are clearly specified – always have been and always will be. The communities have been managing those fisheries very, very well and are outstandingly good.
- Tokelau's main concern is that the framework may be used for monitoring how well each of the countries are doing in CBFM. Many of the components of the framework do not apply to Tokelau and the worry is being judged by a set of standards with a strong Western orientation imposed from outside.

Tonga:

- Tonga highlighted the need to fund CBFM, including a monitoring programme and enforcement to support communities.
- Tonga will provide the outcome report of their national special management area (SMA) report to SPC as the theme of their workshop was on scaling up of SMA.

United States of America (USAID):

- USAID supports scaling up of CBFM through USAID grants (5 years) in Melanesia and Micronesia.
- USAID support and activities are aligned or parallel with the framework and it is good to see that coastal fisheries is getting attention.
- Getting support to the community level, especially through coastal fisheries, is well noted and is an important consideration for USAID.

Vanuatu:

- Vanuatu highlighted the work and collaborations that have long been in process nationally to address resource sustainability and management, as well as some of the key partners, including Australia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- In view of the continued decline of coastal resources, Vanuatu called for a move from talk on CBFM to more action and more to be done to assess the political, social and economic context.
- Vanuatu highlighted that scaling up CBFM doesn't mean increasing small pockets of tabu areas or protected areas to bigger ones, and to ensure considerations that when moving from smaller areas to bigger areas, more food is taken away from the people.
- Vanuatu further called for:
 - Subregional support for CBFM (e.g., a fisheries office at the Melanesian Spearhead Group's Secretariat).
 - Emphasis on sustainable management and food security and the appropriate indicators and data collection for decision-making and gauging the impact of scaling up.
 - Additional investment for habitat mapping, aquaculture, stock assessment, etc.
 - Funding arrangements from SPC should go directly to government, and government (fisheries) to choose the partners on the ground to work with.
 - Funding the whole package when funding CBFM (i.e., stock assessment, hatchery, CBFM, fishing technologies, boats).

2nd Regional Fisheries Ministerial meeting

The Second Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting (RFMM2) endorsed the *Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021–2025* with the following additional contributions.

11. Ministers stressed the importance of sustainable coastal fisheries management for the Pacific Islands region and the need to scale up community-based fisheries management (CBFM) using approaches appropriate to each member's context.

12. Ministers endorsed the *Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management: 2021–2025* that acknowledges members' sovereignty over coastal fisheries and Pacific diversity, and noted the proposed development of the related CBFM scaling-up policy brief.

13. In endorsing the regional framework, ministers emphasised the importance of coastal fisheries resources to their people and communities, essential during the pandemic, and key to a sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

During the discussions, individual PICT contributions included the following:

New Zealand

Scaling up CBFM is the key priority. With the current COVID-19 situation and inability to move around, communicating with families back home is through social media. New Zealand is interested in determining the three key messages to share with the diaspora population so that they can be communicating these to their families back home. New Zealand would like to establish what results should be expected during the period 2021–2025.

Niue

Progress in Niue includes a ridge-to-reef approach and the establishment of a 100% exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with a compliance strategy. Forty per cent of the EEZ is a large-scale protected area, one of the largest in the world, and exceeds global targets. Niue is exploring more sustainable approaches to financing. Over the last 12 months, Niue has been working inshore 0–3 NM, where communities have day-to-day access to food security and livelihoods to develop management plans for each community. Scaling up will empower Niue's people and promote resilience. Niue acknowledged New Zealand and Australia.

Solomon Islands

The framework is considered an appropriate tool to improve support for CBFM in the communities. Scaling up is important to maintain sustainability of nearshore fisheries. National policy will provide the platform for implementation, including community awareness, training, government and capacity building, implementation of livelihoods and climate change adaptation programmes. It was noted that 90% of women are involved in inshore fisheries. The limited resources combined with impacts of COVID-19 could affect the implementation of this regional policy. Solomon Islands call on development partners to strengthen resourcing. Solomon Islands acknowledged ongoing support from New Zealand and other partners with regard to CBFM and look forward to continuing partnering with other stakeholders, including NGOs.

Papua New Guinea

PNG endorsed the framework for action for scaling up and was launching its own strategy plan in August.

Cook Islands

In endorsing the framework, Cook Islands reaffirmed that scaling up CBFM is important in their context. The need to scale up will be tied to the work on the Marae Moana as Cook Islands continually increases resources on coastal work. CBFM will empower communities to be both responsible and accountable. Cook Islands is looking to implement national coastal fisheries policies for the management of certain fisheries resources. Cook Islands welcomed New Zealand and Australian support. Cook Islands agreed with others that they too experience a lot of pressure from friends and family overseas. The diaspora is five times the population in Cook Islands and controlling exports could be necessary.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

RMI endorsed the framework and underlined the importance of national commitment. RMI cautioned that one size does not fit all. The Micronesia Conservation Trust continues to assist as does the Micronesian Challenge and other NGOs. The SPC office in Pohnpei could refocus to equip national government to support community members.

Appendix 2: Scaling up CBFM subregional workshop participant feedback survey results

SCALING UP CBFM SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

Snapshot:

- The use of Zoom breakout groups for discussions received the highest rating (4.73 out of 5).
- Ninety-six per cent of the survey participants mentioned they gained new knowledge about the scaling-up of CBFM, with 93% stating they understood the different aspects of scaling up CBFM, and 98% stating they understood the status of CBFM in their country after the breakout sessions.
- Inclusion of a variety of stakeholders and allowing more time were reoccurring suggestions for improvement from participants.
- Session 2 on information and awareness received the highest rating (4.6 out of 5) from participants for usefulness.



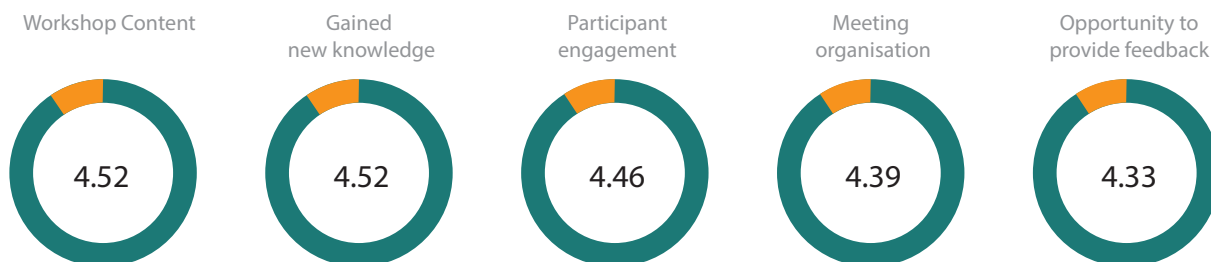
Introduction

The workshop on scaling up CBFM was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, using Zoom. The participant feedback survey received 46 responses. Further detailed information on the demographics (regional and country representation as well as type of employment) can be found in the annex.

Participants were asked to rate the workshop's organisation, use of Zoom as an online platform, content of the workshop and whether they learned something new from the workshop. All assessed aspects were scored very positively. Particularly, the use of Zoom breakout groups, which received the highest rating (4.73 out of 5).



Training content & participation



Most useful: All sessions received high ratings from participants, with an average score of 4.5 out of 5. The highest-scoring session was session 2, Information and Awareness, with a rating of 4.6. Responses to the open-ended question showed that participants found sharing experiences and holding discussions highly useful. In addition, the Zoom breakout groups were very well received.

Least useful: Even though the participants were asked to rate the least useful aspect of the workshop, over half of the responses mentioned that everything was useful to them. Some respondents mentioned aspects of two-way communication and that some remote island resources need to be updated.

"The experience of filling in the spreadsheets live was useful for presenting to other countries during the workshop the local (FP) initiatives, issues and potential solutions. However, it would have been interesting to have respective country groups work on finalizing these spreadsheets afterwards."

"All sessions were very useful to the scaling -up system, but Thursday session was least useful
– Establishing and/or strengthening 2-way communication. This topic is also useful but if I have to prioritize it. We'll have to leave this to the last part."

"Breakout group discussion were helpful especially for FSM to know a little about the other 3 states' fisheries policies. Plenary discussions were highly informative in getting one familiarized with what is being done in other countries within the region."

"The opportunity for discussion both within the sub regional and country groups. Many success stories and CBFM improvement schemes were shared and identical."



Overall ratings

Overall, the participants found the workshop relevant for gaining further knowledge on CBFM and scaling up. Ninety-six per cent of participants said they have gained new knowledge about the scaling-up of CBFM, 93% understood the *different aspects of scaling-up CBFM*, and 98% understood the *status of CBFM in their country after the breakout sessions*.

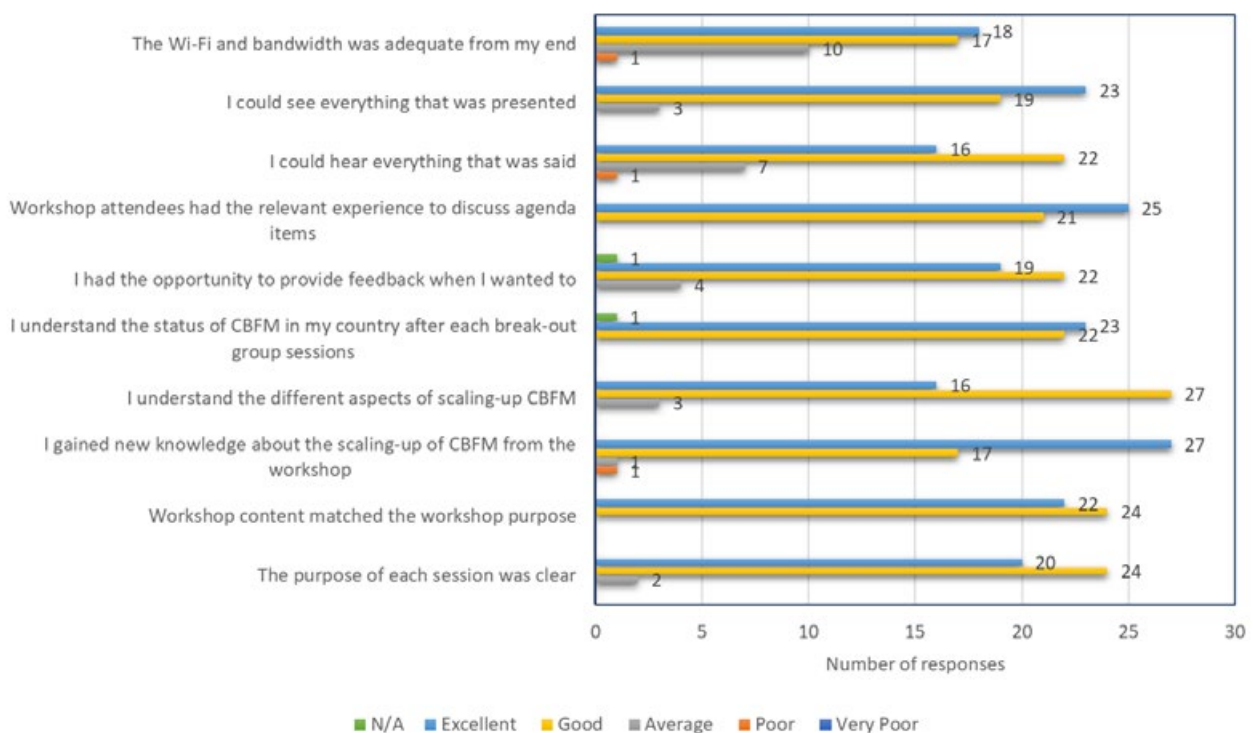


Figure 1: Participant feedback on meeting content



Suggestions for improvement

Forty-six participants responded to the survey and 40 completed this section. Some of the suggestions were:

- ▶ **Inclusion of different stakeholders (6 comments):** Participants mentioned that the inclusion of different stakeholders would be beneficial. For example, participants referred to involving members of the community, legal authorities and local people.
- ▶ **More time (6 comments):** Participants felt that more time could be allocated to certain aspects of the workshop, particularly for discussions and the breakout sessions.
- ▶ **Face-to-face (2 comments):** Some participants mentioned that they would prefer to have the workshop done face-to-face.
- ▶ **Other suggestions:** Some other suggestions made by participants included: add the agenda to the meeting documents, add a session on new and emerging innovative approaches, send the spreadsheet prior to the workshop, and facilitate a discussion on what different NGOs and agencies consider as CBFM.

“Increase more time for discussion and involved members and representatives of communities to be present during workshops. Other countries need to involve community representatives”



Other comments

Participants were asked if they would like to provide other comments to contribute to the workshop and scaling up of CBFM in the Pacific.

- ▶ **More emphasis on climate change (2 comments):** Some participants recognised the effect of climate change on the Pacific region and would like to have a more extensive focus on issues surrounding climate change and CBFM, and the effect it has on CBFM.
- ▶ **Strengthening of network (1 comment):** It was mentioned that it is necessary to strengthen networks.
- ▶ **More enforcement (1 comment):** One participant mentioned that one of the biggest challenges to scaling up is the lack of enforcement of regulations.
- ▶ **Preparation for COVID-19 impact (1 comment):** One participant addressed the importance to communities of the impact of COVID-19 and other future impacts.

Annex: Result tables

Q2. Please rate the following aspects of sub-regional CBFM scaling-up workshop	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Workshop content	0	0	3	16	27	0	46	4.52
Opportunity to provide feedback	0	0	6	16	24	0	46	4.39
Participants engagement	0	0	4	17	25	0	46	4.46
Time allocated for sessions	0	2	5	21	17	0	45	4.18
Meeting organisation (virtual)	0	0	6	16	24	0	46	4.39
Break-out groups	0	0	0	12	33	1	46	4.73
Use of Zoom	0	0	2	20	24	0	46	4.48

Q3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
The purpose of each session was clear	0	0	2	24	20	0	46	4.39
Workshop content matched the workshop purpose	0	0	0	24	22	0	46	4.48
I gained new knowledge about the scaling-up of CBFM from the workshop	0	1	1	17	27	0	46	4.52
I understand the different aspects of scaling-up CBFM	0	0	3	27	16	0	46	4.28
I understand the status of CBFM in my country after each break-out group session	0	0	0	22	23	1	46	4.51
I had the opportunity to provide feedback when I wanted to	0	0	4	22	19	1	46	4.33
Workshop attendees had the relevant experience to discuss agenda times	0	0	0	21	25	0	46	4.54
I could hear everything that was said	0	1	7	22	16	0	46	4.15
I could see everything that was presented	0	0	3	19	23	0	45	4.44
The Wi-Fi and bandwidth were adequate from my end	0	1	10	17	18	0	46	4.13

Q4. Please rate the following CBFM workshop sessions	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Session 1: Scaling-up CBFM in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories	0	0	4	21	19	2	46	4.34
Session 2: Information and Awareness	0	0	2	13	30	1	46	4.62
Session 3: Establishing and /or strengthening 2-way communication	0	0	1	17	26	0	44	4.57
Session 4: Enabling conditions to support/empower local communities	0	1	2	14	29	0	46	4.54
Session 5: Emerging/Cross-cutting issues	0	1	5	19	20	0	45	4.29

Q9. Which of the following groups do you represent?	Responses
National Fisheries Agencies	21
Local CSOs/NGOs/CBOs	17
Academic Institutions	1
International/Regional Organisation	0
SPC	0
Observer	2

Q1. Which CBFM sub-region workshop did you attend?	Responses
Polynesia	23
Micronesia	16
Melanesia	7

Q10. Which country were you representing at the CBFM workshop?	Responses
Nauru	2
Fiji	3
Vanuatu	2
Papua New Guinea	1
Solomon Islands	1
Kiribati	1
RMI	3
FSM	9
Kosrae	1
French Polynesia	3
Samoa	13
Tonga	4
Wallis and Futuna	1
Cook Islands	1

For further information on this feedback,
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ISBN 978-982-00-1419-0



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