

SPC/ Fisheries 22/WP.37  
6 August 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION**

**TWENTY-SECOND REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 6 - 10 August 1990)**

**USAID - STATEMENT**

**USAID/RDO/SP ASSISTANCE FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

22nd Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries  
Noumea, New Caledonia: August 6-10, 1990.

USAID STATEMENT:

USAID/RDO/SP Assistance for Fisheries Development  
in the South Pacific.

Summary:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides assistance for fisheries development in ten South Pacific countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa) through a number of programs:

- . the South Pacific Fisheries Development Project (SPFD);
- . the South Pacific Fisheries Treaty Program (FTP);
- . the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Project (PIMR)

South Pacific Fisheries Development (AID 879-0009):

In late 1986, A.I.D approved US\$5 million under SPFD for a four year period to support fisheries activities in ten Pacific countries. The disbursement of funds under SPFD was made through bilateral project grant agreements with governments. A unilateral grant agreement was also signed with FFA, which provided funding to support specific fisheries activities in the countries as well as FFA project management costs. SPFD also provided small fisheries grants for the South Pacific Commission (SPC), International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), University of the South Pacific (USP) and University of Hawaii(UH).

From 1986-1990, the activities funded under SPFD included infrastructure development, provision of fishing vessels, gear and equipment, fisheries research, computer systems, technical services and training (attachments and workshops). To-date, RDO/SP has allocated all funds under the project for fisheries activities in the participating countries.

USAID's involvement with SPFD during the past four years has led to good working relations with the governments of the participating countries and the regional fisheries organizations including a better understanding of the problems facing the development of marine resources in the region. The experience acquired has led USAID to formulate and adopt a new development strategy for supporting fisheries development initiatives by governments of the Pacific countries in the 1990s.

Fisheries Treaty Program (AID 879-0011):

The FTP provides US Government (USG) cash grants of US\$10 million annually, for a period of five years, to the Treaty Administrator (FFA) as payments under the "Treaty on Fisheries between the Government of the United States and Governments of Certain Pacific Islands States". The \$9 million is distributed as cash payments among the Pacific islands parties (PIP) in accordance with the distribution criteria provided in the "Internal Agreement" between PIP and \$1 million is granted for an economic development fund (EDF) managed by FFA for economic development project proposals from PIP.

To-date, USAID/RDO/SP has granted US\$30 million to FFA as grants under FTP for the treaty periods 1988/1989, 1989/1990 and 1990/1991. The majority of the 54 approved activities under the treaty EDF are for fisheries development and included large multi-year projects in several countries.

Pacific Islands Marine Resources Project (AID 879-0020):

Following USAID's earlier involvement with SPFD, a new Pacific Islands Marine Resources Project (PIMR) was designed in mid 1989. Subsequently, PIMR was authorized by A.I.D in Washington in July, 1990 for a five year period (1990 to 1995) with a project budget of US\$12.5 million.

PIMR will support specific marine resources activities in five Pacific countries:

- i). Cook Islands - black pearl culture development in the northern Cook Islands;
- ii). Tonga - development of small-scale tuna longline fishing in Vava'u;
- iii). Tuvalu - development of small-scale bottomfish fishing;
- iv). Kiribati - resource assessment and management of Tarawa lagoon;
- v). Papua New Guinea - development of small-scale fisheries and marketing in three sites.

In addition, PIMR has a regional component to support the transfer of technology and information to the region including countries not involved with the project. As part of this regional component, PIMR will be providing some support for SPC's Tuna and Billfish Assessment Program.

FA:E.PITA:7/30/90 DOC: RTMF.22

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