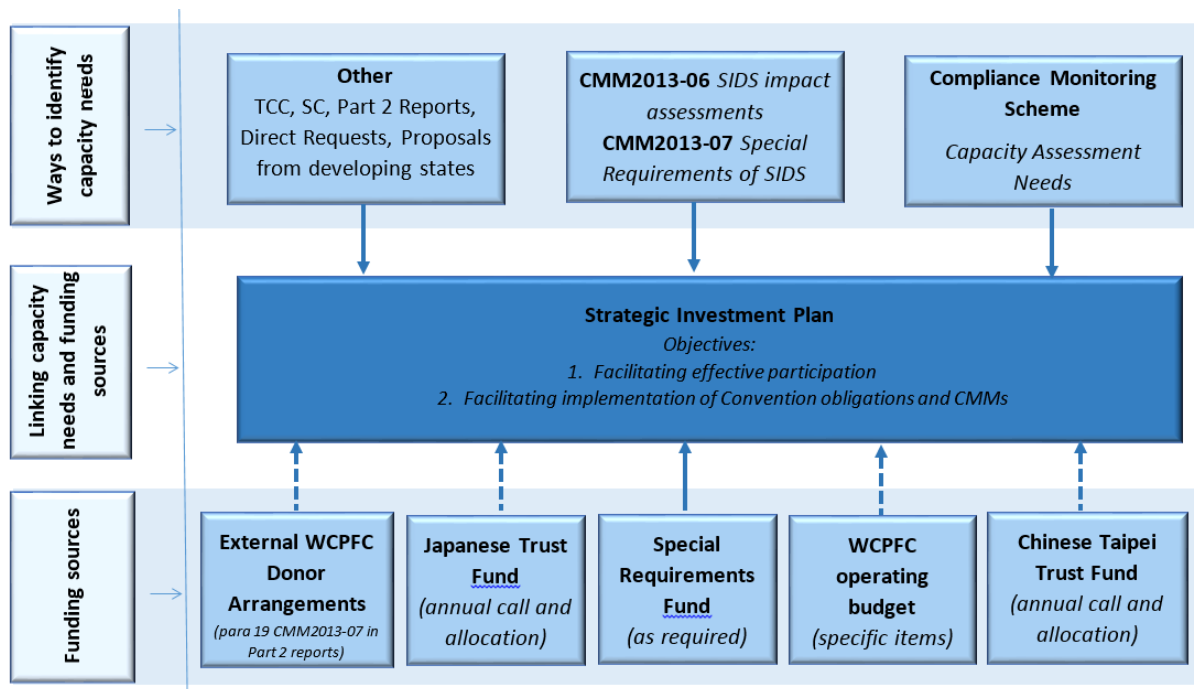




## 2024 Strategic Investment Plan

### Introduction

1. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Manila, Philippines, agreed to the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.
  
2. The purpose of the Strategic Investment Plan is to match capacity and capability requirements of developing states and territories with appropriate investment strategies as outlined in the following diagram:



## Objectives

3. The objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan are to support:
- effective input and participation of member developing states and territories in the meetings of the Commission; and
  - development of management and technical capability and capacity in developing states and territories to enable them to implement obligations under the WCPFC Convention and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

## Funding

4. Funding options are illustrated in the diagram above and the WCPFC Secretariat has a role in ensuring capacity needs identified in this Strategic Investment Plan are addressed over the coming year. This includes provision of information to developing state and territory members on how to access funds and notification to members when funds are needed. This will assist the Commission as a whole, meet the requirements of Article 30 of the Convention<sup>1</sup>.

## Capacity needs recommended by the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)

5. The following Capacity Assistance Need areas were recommended by TCC20 in the Compliance Monitoring Report covering 2023 activities:

<p><b>Indonesia for Scientific data provision (SciData03)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2016, RY2017, RY2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that it continued to face challenges in submitting all the required data to SPC, noting that they are at 96% of operational data provision but still need additional time to get to 100%. TCC noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their Capacity Development Plan were not yet met and maintained the CAN status</p>
<p><b>Vanuatu for requirements in the event of unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, including incident reporting requirements (CMM 2011-03 paragraph 2)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to unintentional encircling of cetaceans in the purse seine net, were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and</p>

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 2000

		<p>capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for this and other obligations due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu’s legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.</p>
<p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of oceanic whitetip sharks (CMM 2011-04 paragraph 3)</b></p> <p><b>Indonesia for annual report on estimated number of releases and status upon release of silky sharks (CMM 2013-08 paragraph 3)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported that there was some progress in meeting the shark catch reporting requirements. It reports catch to Commission in aggregate of total numbers of those species and since 2022 the catches of sharks and its status (release, dead, alive) were partly provided in its Annual Report Part 1. Data on by-catches of sharks by species by gear is still challenging for Indonesia to provide. Additional assistance is needed to improve data collection, including through the holding of a further SPC workshop. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia’s capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.</p>

<p><b>Fiji for implementation of requirements to ensure that fishing vessels comply with Commission standards including being fitted with ALC/MTU that meet WCPFC VMS requirements</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (RY2023)</p>	<p>Fiji reported that they have had a substantial turnover of officers responsible for undertaking/implementing this obligation. The current gap in capacity is expected to be addressed through the identification of suitable personnel, equipping the officer with appropriate equipment and training the officers in-house. Additionally, there is a need to have the officer undergo training and work attachment with the WCPFC Secretariat to allow for specific training on the implementation and reporting of the CMM. The estimated cost is around USD 15,000 and will cover for national training needs and travel and DSA cost for any work attachments that will either be done at the WCPFC Secretariat or FFA Secretariat.</p>
<p><b>Fiji for reporting of required ALC/MTU data in accordance with WCPFC VMS requirements</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Indonesia for 100% purse seine coverage: specific rules for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under its national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 35/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)</p>	<p>Indonesia reported ongoing issues with regard to human resources and the number of available observers to meet the 100% observer coverage in national waters. However, it had made progress. When it first had a Capacity Development Plan, Indonesia had no observer coverage in the EEZ and high seas. It increased its coverage to 40-50% coverage, and in recent years to about 80%. TCC20 noted its expectation that the CAN Plan would be updated with the timeframe for completion of the 100% observer coverage. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Indonesia's capacity assistance needs in their</p>

		CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
<b>Philippines for 100% purse seine observer coverage for vessels fishing exclusively in areas under national jurisdiction (CMM 2018-01 paragraph 5/CMM 2021-01 paragraph 33)</b>	Capacity Assistance Needed (RY 2018, RY2019, RY2020, RY2021, RY2022, RY2023)	The Philippines reported that it did not have enough observers for 100% coverage and were in discussion with industry on the cost of deployment. It reported that on the Pacific side of the Philippines EEZ, observer coverage was about 60%. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 Philippine's capacity assistance needs in their CDP were not yet met and maintained the CAN status.
<b>French Polynesia for CCMs to require longline vessels to carry and use line cutters and de-hookers to handle and promptly release sea turtles, as well as dip-nets where appropriate (CMM 2018-04 paragraph 6)</b>	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2020, RY2021, RY2022)  Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)	French Polynesia reported that it had regulations and best practice guidelines in place for mitigation, handling and safe release of turtles. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 French Polynesia its capacity assistance needs had been met.
<b>Vanuatu for report in regard to their implementation of the requirement to achieve 5% coverage of the effort in each fishery under the jurisdiction of the Commission</b>	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)	Vanuatu reported that a high observer turnover occurred during and post COVID-19 period. To meet 5% ROP observer coverage on longline vessels technical assistance in training new observers is required. A legislative and policy framework review is also necessary to ensure targeted observer coverage rates can be met. The total estimated budget for technical assistance with legislative and policy framework and for observer training is about USD40,000 - USD60,000.
<b>Fiji for report in regard to submission by a Member to WCPFC of a list of all vessels on national record in previous year, noting FISHED or DID NOT FISH for each vessel</b>	Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2023)	This capacity assistance need is related to the VMS-related capacity needs ( <i>see comments above</i> )

<p><b>Vanuatu for report to describe, where applicable, any alternative measures from those in CMM 2019-04 SHARKS which are applied by CCMs in areas under national jurisdiction (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 5)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i></p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of measures necessary to require all sharks retained on board their vessels are fully utilized and ensure the prohibition of finning (provide in Part 2 Annual Report) - including consideration of paragraph 10 endorsed alternative measures (CMM 2019-04 paragraphs 7-10)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	<p>For the various CMM 2019-04 obligations, Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to the shark measure were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for obligations in the shark measure due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu’s legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.</p>
<p><b>Vanuatu for annual report on shark fins attached/alternative measures and meeting of deadline (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 11)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i></p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of measures to prevent fishing vessels from retaining on board (including for crew consumption), transshipping and landing any fins harvested in contravention of CMM 2019-04 (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 12)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to take measures necessary to ensure carcasses and their corresponding fins are landed or transshipped together, in a manner that allows inspectors to verify (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 13)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	

<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to implement at least one option to minimize bycatch of sharks in longline fisheries, and notify choice and whenever the selected option is changed (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 14-15)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for CCMs to develop and report their management plans for longline fisheries targetting sharks in their Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 16)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023) – <i>TCC also clarified that this obligation is not applicable</i></p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to ensure that sharks that are caught but are not to be retained, are hauled alongside the vessel in order to facilitate species identification (only applicable where observer or EM camera is present, and where safe for crew and observers) (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 18)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing oceanic whitetip &amp; silky sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(01))</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that to release oceanic whitetip &amp; silky sharks asap (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(02))</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	

<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirement that if oceanic whitetip &amp; silky sharks caught, must be given to government or discarded (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 20(03))</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of prohibition for purse seine setting on whale sharks, retaining/transshipping/landing of whale sharks (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 21(01 - 07))</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for report on Implementation of CMM 2019-04 Sharks (Part 2 Annual Report (CMM 2019-04 paragraph 23)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	
<p><b>Vanuatu for implementation of requirements to prohibit retaining/transshipping/storing/landing mobulid rays (CMM 2019-05 paragraphs 04-06, 08,10)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021, RY2022)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that the requirements relating to the mobulid measure were being implemented through general provisions in their fisheries legislation and licence terms and conditions, pending the development of more specific regulations. On this basis the obligations are being met and capacity assistance is no longer required. TCC20 noted that Vanuatu had sought CAN status at TCC19 for obligations in the mobulid measure due to an understanding that its fisheries legislation was not sufficiently specific. As Vanuatu's legislation, licence terms and conditions, and monitoring and control are now considered sufficient, CAN status is no longer required.</p>



<p><b>Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 5)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	<p>Vanuatu reported that its required reports under the Pacific bluefin tuna measure had been submitted. TCC20 noted that for RY 2022 and RY2023 Vanuatu its capacity assistance needs had been met.</p>
<p><b>Vanuatu for Pacific bluefin required report on implementation (CMM 2020-02 paragraph 11)</b></p>	<p>Capacity Assistance Needed (CMR RY2021)</p> <p>Capacity Assistance Completed (CMR RY2023)</p>	

Capacity needs identified through WCPFC Annual Report Part 2

6. The following areas of capacity assistance were identified by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 RY2023 that were outside the scope of the list of obligations to be assessed in the CMS in 2024. Some capacity assistance needs were initially reported in RY 2018 and are continuing in RY2023 (#).

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 01-03</b> General Provisions</p>	<p><b>FSM</b> is a small island developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistances.</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> is included in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) partnership was officially announced at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. As a committed partner, Indonesia has actively participated in several multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives aimed at supporting SIDS. Notably, Indonesia has been instrumental in the Coral Triangle Initiative, which is operational in several SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This collaboration underscores Indonesia's dedication to fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation in small island nations. For further details on these initiatives, you can visit the following links:  <a href="http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219">http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=219</a>  <a href="http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238">http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships/countries/?country=238"</a></p> <p>In mid-2020, Indonesia strongly advocated for the mobilization of adequate resources and support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during a high-level discussion. The discussion focused on mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action, and exploring new pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway for SIDS. Indonesia's call underscores its commitment to supporting the sustainable development and resilience of small island nations, highlighting the need for global cooperation to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS.</p> <p>Indonesia unequivocally reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the sustainable development and advancement of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the 4th</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>SIDS Conference on May 28th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by these nations and enhancing partnerships based on mutual interests, Indonesia aims to foster significant progress and shared prosperity.</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> is one of the SIDS countries that depend much on assistance from regional and sub-regional agencies such as WCPFC, FFA and PNA including donor partners.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> will continue to implement this measure where possible through FSMA and other arrangements</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p><b>PNG:</b> fully recognizes the SIDS and territories special requirements in the Convention Area in implementing this measure and other applicable measures and shall request assistance if and when required.</p> <p><b>Samoa</b> as a SIDS have not sought or requested any assistance in accordance with this CMM in the reported year</p> <p><b>Tonga</b> one of the SIDS countries but it cooperates with regional and sub-regional initiatives to support the development of SIDS fisheries. Tonga is the recipient of the non-SIDS country assistance.</p> <p><b>Vanuatu</b> cooperates with other SIDS+T and non-SIDS directly and through the Commission to assist SIDS+T develop our fisheries. Example is the work on SPA, through the SPG group, FFA and through the WCPFC SPA IWG.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 04-05</b> Capacity development for personnel</p>	<p><b>FSM</b> is a small developing state and SIDS are the recipients of such assistance. FSM has received capacity development assistance provided through regional and sub-regional programs.</p> <p><b>Fiji</b> did not make a submission for 2024; however Fiji needs training and attachments in the following areas: 1. WCPFC MCS data analysis; 2. Training on Commission VMS; 3. CMR</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> is a SIDS.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> will continue to support this measure and implement where possible such as FMSA arrangement and other arrangements</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p><b>PNG</b> has identified and seek assistance to facilitate workshops on Compliance Case File Management.</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> As mentioned earlier, requests have been submitted for assistance on observer EM related training and support.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 06-07</b> Assistance with technology transfers</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> Collaborating with other SIDS on the development of technology including EM/ER and other digital transformation.</p> <p><b>Fiji</b> has progressed with initial training and implementation towards 100% vessel coverage on e-reporting and continues to work with SPC that provide the backend support in-country issues experienced during the phase of implementation.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (<i>as per above response for 01-03</i>)</p> <p><b>Kiribati</b> as small island developing states depend much on technology assistance from regional agencies and development partners.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>PNG</b> is yet to identify technology needs and request for assistance. (Labor Standards / Electronic Reporting)</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> supports the transferring of fisheries technology to accelerate the social and economic development of SIDS/</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p><b>Samoa</b> has not provided or requested for any assistance as per CMM 2013-07 19 in the reported year, however, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations when assistance is needed</p> <p><b>Vanuatu:</b> welcomes assistance relating to fisheries science and technology and with the aim of accelerating the social and economic development of VU. Anticipating more capacity assistance on other areas to ensure CCM personnel are well versed with obligations and related requirements. This includes training of personnel on VMS and E-PSMA requirements. Given the broader definition of Technology Transfers, it would be more on the intellectual side, whereby Secretariat provides capacity assistance, enhancing capabilities such as understanding E-PSMA, Bio-economics, VMS gaps etc. The FFA Secretariat also provided technological support work relating to data, VMS and other related matters.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 08-09</b> Assistance in areas of fisheries conservation and management</p>	<p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> is one of the SIDS countries depending on assistance from non-SIDS countries.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> will continue to support this measure and assist SIDS where possible to implement their Commission obligations and ensure the collection and analysis of fisheries data</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p><b>PNG:</b> Adopted CMMs that are applicable and consistent to the national obligations and existing fishery.</p> <p><b>Samoa</b> is considered as SIDS Country and did not utilize any assistance for this CMM however, Samoa plans to liaise with relevant organisations to seek assistance</p> <p><b>Tonga</b> one of the SIDS countries although our current national capacity does not provide Tonga the ability to assist capacity development of other SIDS. Tonga is the recipient of capacity development assistance.</p> <p><b>Vanuatu</b> has received capacity assistance on this and also has the opportunity to still assist SIDS, territories on areas such as data sharing, verification through TUFFMAN 2 systems in accordance with data sharing requirements as per relevant instruments and participate in MCS operations, surveillance and monitoring.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 paragraphs 10-11</b> Assistance in the areas of</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> participation in regional/sub-regional fora on MCS. FSM's joint cooperation efforts amongst the FFA membership in maritime surveillance. FSM's participation in implementations of new CMM's, bilateral arrangements to implement ROP, transshipment monitoring, CDS, EM/ER, PSM, FAD tracking and sharing MCS data when necessary.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
Monitoring, Control and surveillance	<p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>Kiribati:</b> As small island state with only one patrol boat to monitor three separated EEZ. Kiribati greatly need assistance from developed partners to assist in both aerial and surface surveillance coverage.</p> <p><b>RMI</b> is a SIDS with limited capacity and we expect continued cooperation and assistance from non-SIDS CCMs in our ongoing capacity building needs and efforts</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> will continue to support this measure and ensuring SIDS/T participates in regional and sub-regional MCS activities through FFA and PNA programs</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p><b>PNG:</b> cooperates with international, regional, sub regional and bilateral arrangements to ensure effective MCS and Enforcement activities within the region such as FAO, FFA under regional surveillance programs, Ship Rider Agreement and other bilateral Arrangements including MCS exchange programs.</p> <p><b>Samoa</b> is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance if needed.</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> participates in sea monitoring control and surveillance and also enforcement activities through bilateral arrangements with territories in the Convention area. Tonga was involved in regional surveillance patrol operation Ika Moana, Kurukuru by providing Navy support Unit Voea Ngahau Koula. The National Monitoring Control Committee (MCC), includes the Port Authority, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Department, Police Department, Customs Department, and the Navy. The MCC Centre is established by the committee and is housed at Navy Station. MCC conducts a national monitoring within our EEZ once per quarter. Aerial surveillance was provided by FFA in all quarters during the reporting period, and no offenses were reported. The New Zealand Government has a bilateral agreement with Tonga on Aerial Surveillance during the Tuimoana Operation through the NTSA System. During the reporting period, Tonga participated in SPC/FFA regional training for observers, observers refresh training, and newly recruited 10 observers on board, SPC conducted bio-sampling training with observers and staff. Few staff join Certificate IV on Coastal and Aquaculture, Diploma on Investigation and Prosecution Cert, Certificate Level IV on Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance, and Law of the Seas Courses. SPC also conducted training on e-reporting basically for data collection through OLLO, Onboard, and onshore, TAILS, and Close Kin Mark Recapture Sampling training, and SPC also conducted training the Science Division on stock assessment for sea cucumbers. FFA financially supported Tonga in conducting the e-PSM training and Tonga was the first country to implement the e-PSM, Dockside Boarding, NTSA training, and Aerial Surveillance Training.</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p><b>Vanuatu</b> actively participated in numerous regional operations on surveillance and monitoring, both assets and personnel as required by mandate of such engagements. This includes MCS operations coordinated by the FFA RFSC. - Seeking further capacity assistance in this area to ensure its personnel and line agencies respond and operate more efficiently whenever needed.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2013-07 Paragraphs 12-18</b> Support for the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries related businesses and market access</p>	<p><b>FSM:</b> PNA Market related initiatives like the development of MSC processes currently in place, implementation of CDS and PSM, and FSM's collaboration with importing CCM's.</p> <p><b>Fiji</b> has a 100% domestic tuna sector. As such, 2023 was focused on getting our fleets and processing plants back to full operation. As part of Fiji's 2023 support towards the tuna sector, Government allocated 90,000 USD to support markets access for MSC certification. Additionally, to boost and streamline fish processing, Fiji has begun work digitalise vessel arrivals and catch verification to support catch verification process and market demands. There is also a assessment and review of internal processors to ensure that appropriate activities are developed to support Fiji's domestic industry.</p> <p><b>French Polynesia:</b> FP is a developing territory.</p> <p><b>Indonesia</b> (as per above response for 01-03)</p> <p><b>RMI</b> No additional assistance required at this time however, the RMI may seek further assistance with onshore developments and market access requirements.</p> <p><b>Nauru</b> will continue to support and implement this measure through the FSMA arrangement and where possible and appropriate.</p> <p><b>New Caledonia</b> is one of the SIDS and territories and has received no assistance in this category in 2023. New Caledonia neither received any request in this regard in 2023.</p> <p><b>Samoa</b> is a SIDS country. However, when assistance is needed regarding this audit point, Samoa will liaise with the relevant organizations to request support and assistance.</p> <p><b>Tonga:</b> To support the Domestic Fisheries Sector and Tuna-fisheries businesses and market access, Tonga implemented it under the Fisheries Management Act 2002, Section 7, Sub-section 36, Fishing Vessels License Term and Condition, Fishing Agreement and Access Agreement with the Fishing Company and Tuna Fisheries Management Plan.</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries established a Development Scheme for the Fisheries Sector to improve the business climate and reduce the cost of doing business a Fishing Consumer Tax Exemption was approved in June 2013 exempting imported fishing gear, bait, and essential supplies from customs tariffs. In 2013 the operation of the Tu'imatamoana fish market and Processing Facilities was transferred under an MOU to the National Fisheries Committee (Fishing Industries Committee). In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries established a Soft Loan Scheme known Fisheries Development and Export Fund (FDEF) to support the sector market Access. Not only that but the Ministry assisted the Fishing Companies in developing and improving their business</p>

Obligation	Capacity assistance requested by CCMs in their Annual Report Part 2 covering 2023 reporting year
	<p>planning and management, and offered a comprehensive training and capacity development program.</p> <p>In 2020, Tonga ratified the PACER Plus Agreement is a Regional Development-Centre Trade Agreement designed to support Tonga in regional and Global Trade. Tonga exports fish to international markets (Australia, NZ, USA, Fiji, Pago Pago, Hawaii, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore). The compliance Division inspects 100% of every export before handing the Export Permit to the companies, and entry the export data into the system and reports every quarter.</p> <p><b>Vanuatu</b> is a SIDS that definitely needs capacity assistance for both domestic and international markets. CCM sees the importance in having such assistance as it will boost domestic and international market standards as well. CCM needs capacity assistance on international market access given the rise and interest in foreign investments in fisheries.</p>
<p><b>CMM 2017-03 paragraphs 03-06, 11, 12</b> Observer Safety CMM</p>	<p><b>Cook Islands:</b> Assistance from FFA with this and other measures that require legislation changes #</p>

### Capacity needs identified through the SRF Intersessional Working Group process

7. An analysis of conceptual capacity needs to meet the objectives of the Strategic Investment Plan (see paragraph 3 above) was conducted and WCPFC members were asked to rank these needs in terms of priority.

8. Current development assistance was identified from open source data and assessed against each capacity need area. A summary of the findings is provided at **Attachment 1**. The broad conclusion was that nearly all capacity needs have a funding stream associated.

9. The main gap identified was an explicit mechanism to support effective participation. The following proposal is included in the Strategic Investment Plan to fill this void.

<p><b>Title:</b> Enabling effective participation in the WCPFC</p>
<p><b>Obligation:</b> Article 30</p>
<p><b>Capacity Building Assistance Needed:</b></p> <p>Support to effectively input and participate in meetings of the WCPFC. This includes support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• travel to the Science Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and/or the main meeting of the Commission, and</li> <li>• in-country capacity building prior to and post WCPFC meetings to help build capacity to engage and to institutionalise outcomes of the meetings (existing Secretariat support built into WCPFC budget).</li> </ul>



It is noted that the level of assistance required will vary between members, so should remain flexible to the needs of the country. This will depend on the sovereign interests of the member, including the scale of WCPFC fishery interests, the capacity of the administration to engage in the program and the priority afforded to this over other interests.

Parameters around accessing the program will include:

- limit to one participant per country per meeting (or as funding allows) – this is in addition to the one participant already funded for each meeting from the WCPFC operational budget

**Timeframe:** Ongoing, annual calls by the Secretariat for participation in the funded program

**Cost:** up to USD300,000 annually

### Capacity assistance delivered by FFA/SPC that were funded through the Regional Capacity Building Workshop budget item in the WCPFC core budget

10. Each year since 2015, the Commission has included under Sub-item 2.3 Technical & Compliance Programme an annual budget line for Regional Capacity Building Workshops which FFA/SPC are to advise on the activities to be supported. The following are the activities that have been funded annually:

<b>2016: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers</b>	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: <b>\$126,268</b>
<b>2017: WCPFC support to FFA for cohort 2 Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance study programme through USP for Pacific Fisheries and Surveillance Officers</b>	To build competencies for Members' MCS practitioners to ensure proficiency in application of required knowledge and skills	Cost: <b>\$55,000</b>
<b>2017: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop</b>	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: <b>\$75,000</b>
<b>2018: WCPFC support towards FFA capacity building workshops</b>	Two regional workshops were held (April and November) on allocation processes. Several opportunities were taken during the year to engage members on the development of a regional longline strategy with a dedicated workshop held in November. A dedicated workshop to discuss the south Pacific albacore	Cost: <b>\$72,558</b>



	target reference point, and development of the roadmap was held in November.	
<b>2018: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop</b>	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: <b>\$57,442</b>
<b>2019: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop</b>	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: <b>\$71,625</b>
<b>2021: WCPFC support to sea safety training for selected observers from several FFA member's national observer programmes (NOPs).</b>	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for the FFA Members' national observer programmes to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: <b>\$223,374</b>
<b>2022: Observer sea safety training project proposal for WCPFC Regional Capacity Building Workshops Funding</b>	Funds are to be used to facilitate Sea Safety Training for Nauru's national fisheries observer programme to ensure their observers have valid sea safety certificates.	Cost: <b>\$124,887</b>
<b>2023: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop</b>	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity, and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: <b>\$108,640</b>
<b>2023: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC20</b>	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC20 meeting.	Cost: <b>\$21,360</b>
<b>2024: WCPFC support towards SPC Tuna Data Workshop</b>	The regional Tuna Data Workshop is conducted on an annual basis for SPC member countries to improve their scientific tuna monitoring and data management capacity and satisfy their data reporting obligations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).	Cost: <b>\$93,816</b>
<b>2024: WCPFC contribution to costs of FFA preparatory meeting in advance of WCPFC21</b>	Funds are to be used to facilitate preparations by FFA member countries in advance of WCPFC21 meeting.	Cost: <b>\$36,184</b>

## ATTACHMENT 1

Thematic capacity needs	Rank 1 = highest; 18 = lowest priority	Funding support available (see Attachment 2 for recipients)
17. Disproportionate burden & economic development	1	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
3. Capacity to understand, evaluate and implement harvest strategies	2	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US, the SRF and SPC
11. Capacity to collect data and meet reporting obligations	3	All donors
16. Capacity to establish and implement other MCS & enforcement measures	4	All donors
18. Additional capacity building needs	5	All donors – except meeting support
2. Capacity to implement legal and policy aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing & related issues	6	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
4. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce tropical tuna measures	7	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
15. Capacity to establish, implement and enforce port State measures	8	All donors
1. Capacity to understand and effectively implement technical & operational aspects of managing fishing authorisations/licensing and related requirements	9	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, Japan, NZ, PROP, US and the SRF
5. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules related to albacore and Pacific Bluefin tuna	10	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
13. Capacity to regulate, monitor and enforce rules relating to transshipment	11	All donors
14. Capacity needs relating to the administration, training, provision and work of observers, including in relation to the Regional Observer Program (ROP).	12	All donors
9. Purse seine rules relating to non-target species	13	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
12. Capacity to implement and use vessel monitoring system	13	All donors
8. Capacity to implement rules relating to other non-target species	15	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
7. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce rules relating to sharks	16	Australia, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
6. Capacity to implement rules relating to billfish species	17	Australia, the EU, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF
10. Capacity to regulate, implement, monitor and enforce fishing gear restrictions	18	Australia, CTF, the EU, ABNJ project, FFA, OFMP2, NZ, PROP and the SRF

## ATTACHMENT 2

<b>Donor/program</b>	<b>Eligible Recipients</b>
<b>Australia: various programs</b>	Pacific island countries and Pacific regional
<b>WCPFC Chinese Taipei Trust Fund</b>	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
<b>European Union: Pacific-EU Marine Partnership (PEUMP)</b>	PACP countries and Pacific regional
<b>FAO GEF: Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (Common Oceans Tuna project 2022 - 2027)</b>	WCPFC, FFA, SPC
<b>FFA: various programs</b>	Pacific island FFA members
<b>GEF/UNDP/FAO Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project II (OFMP 2)</b>	FFA, SPC, MSG, Pacific SIDS, PITIA, WWF
<b>WCPFC Japanese Trust Fund</b>	Developing states party to the WCPFC Convention, in particular SIDS
<b>New Zealand: various programs</b>	Pacific SIDS, PICTs, FFA, SPC; Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam through WCPFC
<b>World Bank/GEF: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)</b>	FSM, RMI, SI, Tuvalu, FFA
<b>US: various programs</b>	All WCPFC members