

STDF WORKING GROUP PROJECT STATUS REPORT

STDF 133	Capacity building in the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool in the Pacific
Date of Working Group approval	16-17 October 2006 (officially communicated to SPC on 28 November 2006)
Date of start of implementation / supervision activities	1 August 2007
Overall status report	<p>Describe the current status of implementation in comparison with the activities, timetable and budget set out in the project document.</p> <p>National evaluation was conducted in Niue and the outstanding modules in Fiji were completed since the last status report in September 2008.</p> <p>These brought the number of countries that have had their national phytosanitary capacity evaluations completed or partially completed to nine. These are the six selected countries of PNG, Solomon Islands, Palau, Kiribati, Cook Islands and Samoa, and additional three countries of Fiji, Tuvalu and Niue. If resources permit we hope to complete the remaining five countries in the region and possibly assist the dependent territories in undertaking their national evaluations.</p> <p>The IPPC Secretariat was scheduled to undertake a supervisory visit in November 2008 however this did not occur to due unavailability of technical staff at the IPPC Secretariat.</p> <p>Mr Melvin Spreij of the STDF Secretariat undertook a monitoring and evaluation visit in 30-31 October 2008. The detail of his visit is given elsewhere in this brief. An article on the progress of the project including Mr Spreij's visit was published in the SPC-LRD quarterly newsletter.</p> <p>With the exception of the supervisory visit from the IPPC Secretariat the implementation of the project is on schedule as per project document.</p> <p>The project budget was slightly over expended due to the increased airfares and cost of business in the region but the shortfalls accounted for by the SPC.</p> <p>SPC has received the third tranche (15 %) of funding for the project amount to USD 26, 850 from the STDF Secretariat on 29 December 2008.</p> <p>SPC has compiled the PCE results of the 9 countries that have undertaken their national evaluations. SPC also undertook an analysis of the PCE results which will be used as a guide for better targeting its interventions in its Member countries and territories.</p> <p>The issue regarding the confidentiality of the individual country PCE results and their use remain matter to be sorted between the countries and SPC. The SPC is free to use the results for its purposes as mandated by its Governing Council (Countries and Territories of the Pacific Community) but sharing this information with third parties may not be possible.</p>

Describe project activities in the past six months and any relevant outputs.

A SPC Land Resources Division team consisting of Roy Masamdu, Nacanieli Waqa and Angeline Goundar conducted the Niue PC evaluation in November 2008.

Roy Masamdu assisted Fiji in completing their outstanding PCE modules in December and thus bringing the total number of countries who have had the PCE done to nine.

The Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation (BAFT) Adviser attended the STDF/OECD workshop on good practices in SPS related technical cooperation in Geneva on 6th October 2008, which was followed by the informal and formal SPS Committee meetings of 7 to 9 October 2008. The BATF Adviser and representatives from Fiji and Samoa (who were in WTO-Geneva attending the specialised course on SPS) met with independent STDF evaluator to discuss the benefits of the project and our interaction with the STDF. Whilst in Geneva the BATF Adviser also took the opportunity discuss the progress of the project with STDF Secretariat staff and informed them of the unavailability of technical staff at the IPPC Secretariat to undertake the scheduled supervisory visit in November 2008.

Mr Melvin Spreij of the WTO STDF Secretariat undertook a project monitoring and evaluation visit to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Suva office on 30th October 2008. He met with project team and the BATF Adviser briefed him on the process of the project and discussed the preliminary analysis of the PCE results undertaken by SPC. He also discussed use the results in developing potential projects for the future.

Mr Spreij also did presentation on the WTO and STDF on afternoon of the 30th at the Media Conference at the SPC campus. The seminar was attended by invited participants from SPC and Fiji including representatives from private sector, NGOs and various Government agencies. An article on Mr Spreij's presentation was published in the fourth quarter edition of the SPC-LRD newsletter which is distributed to all stakeholders in the region and elsewhere in electronic and print forms.

SPC in collaboration with the Fiji Ministry of Primary Industries organised a field trip for Mr Spreij on 31st October 2008. Mr Spreij was shown how Fiji practices systems approach to production of fruit fly host commodities (papaya, mango, eggplant, breadfruit) for exports.

The BATF Adviser attended the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)'s open-ended working group (OEWG) on technical capacity building in early (8-12) December 2008, held at the FAO headquarters in Rome. He mentioned the PCE project and how its outcomes would be used to focus phytosanitary and Biosecurity related interventions in the region. One of the outcomes of the working group is the possibility of developing a mentoring scheme (similar the SPS scheme) for the IPPC. Therefore the prioritisation of gaps identified for each country as part of the PCE evaluations can be put to good use by the countries in selecting areas for help (mentoring) once the mentoring scheme is established.

<p>Achievements / Impact</p>	<p>Outline any impact which the project may be having. Impact can be quantitatively measured or qualitatively judged</p> <p>National phytosanitary capacity evaluations have been completed in Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu have completed the evaluations on all modules whilst Papua New Guinea has completed most modules and is working internally to complete the remaining modules.</p> <p>The evaluation undertaken by the WTO-STDF Secretariat in October 2008 showed the project was on target and delivering the activities as per project document milestones.</p> <p>The results of the evaluations and in particular the evaluation of the legal framework did contribute in part to Cook Islands and Fiji Governments' decision in enacting the national Biosecurity bill into Law late last year. Both countries identified gaps in the legal framework as very high in the prioritisation.</p> <p>The results for the evaluations have been compiled and summarised by SPC and will form the baseline phytosanitary capacity status for each country evaluated. It is anticipated that SPC and development partners will use these baseline data in designing and delivering target technical capacity building activities in these countries.</p> <p>The outcomes of the project were discussed in general terms at various national, regional and international for during the reporting period.</p>
<p>End date</p>	<p>31 July 2009</p>