



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal Target 14.b and its indicator 14.b.1

Guidance for Pacific Island countries



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Goal Target 14.b and its indicator 14.b.1**

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Methodology for reporting against Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.b.1	2
3. Guidance for answering the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries survey questions in the Pacific context	6
• Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries survey question 48:	8
• Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries survey question 49:	9
• Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries survey question 50:	26
Conclusion	26
References	27
Annex 1 – FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries survey questions that relate to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.b.1	28
Annex 2 – Scoring for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.b.1	29
Annex 3 – Pacific Community Coastal Fishery Report Card	31

1. Introduction

In 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consisting of 169 targets and 231 indicators. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is responsible globally as the custodian agency for four indicators under SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. One of these indicators is SDG 14.b.1 under SDG target 14.b.

1.1 Importance of SDG target 14.b

SDG 14.b (and its indicator 14.b.1) is the only target of the SDGs that focuses directly on small-scale fisheries, which continues to sustain livelihoods of many people in the Pacific, particularly through food security and nutrition, income generation and preservation of cultural traditions. It is therefore important that countries provide accurate information on progress towards achieving this target.

SDG 14.b aims to:

“Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”

The indicator associated with SDG 14.b is 14.b.1, which measures:

“Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries”

In May 2019, FAO conducted a workshop for the Pacific region (FAO, 2019) to raise awareness on SDG 14.b and the important linkages to relevant regional and global frameworks, as well as to help strengthen capacities of member countries to collect and compile relevant data and information for reporting on SDG indicator 14.b.1. The workshop recommended that further guidance is needed to assist Pacific Island Member Countries to better understand and to consequently improve reporting on the SDG 14.b.1 indicator.

The internationally agreed methodology for reporting on SDG indicator 14.b.1 is based on countries' responses to three questions found in the online FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) survey. This Guide is restricted to coverage of those parts of the CCRF survey that inform SDG indicator 14.b.1. It does not address the wider CCRF survey or its content, other than where necessary to provide context in relation to SDG indicator 14.b.1.

The purpose of this Guide is therefore to provide detailed, practical guidance in the context of the Pacific, on the process for responding to the FAO CCRF survey questions relating to SDG indicator 14.b.1, highlighting important links to relevant information including Pacific regional frameworks on coastal fisheries.

2. Methodology for reporting against SDG indicator 14.b.1

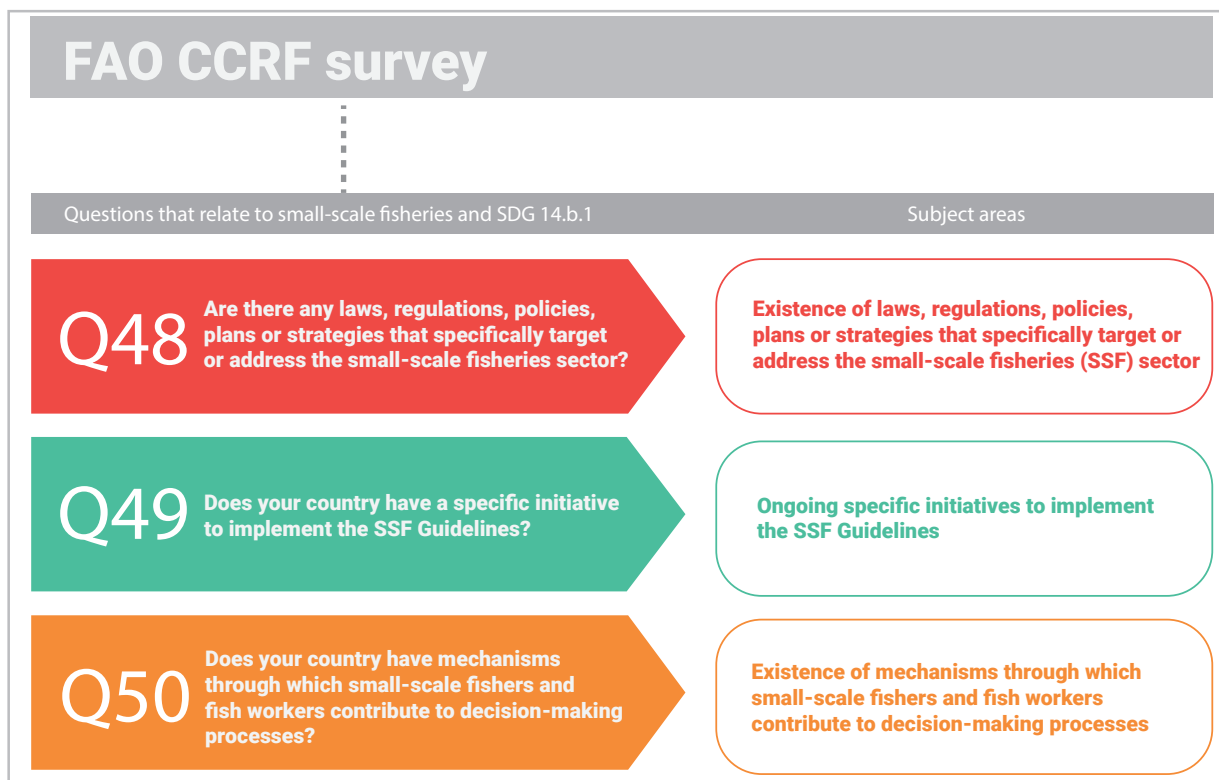
As custodian agency for indicator SDG 14.b.1, FAO is responsible for developing a methodology to assist countries in reporting on SDG 14.b.1 at the global level to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), which facilitates overall reporting on SDGs on behalf of Member Countries. The internationally agreed methodology for reporting on SDG indicator 14.b.1 is based on countries responses to three questions of the CCRF survey (Annex 1), which is made available electronically every two years to FAO Member Countries to monitor the implementation of the CCRF and related global instruments.

Based on the answers to the three questions, countries determine their overall score for SDG indicator 14.b.1. The scoring system for calculating the indicator is explained in Annex 2.

What are the advantages of this methodology to countries?

- ✓ It enables you to monitor and report “in one go” your progress towards implementing the CCRF and related instruments, and achieving SDG target 14.b, thus reducing reporting burden
- ✓ By monitoring your progress, it will also help you identify areas in need of support
- ✓ A global approach for reporting ensures that country data is internationally comparable

In the 2020 version of the CCRF survey, the three questions that relate to SDG 14.b.1 are questions 48, 49 and 50 as below (note that the numbering of these three questions may change from time to time):



Small-scale fisheries – Coastal fisheries

In the Pacific Islands context, ‘small-scale fisheries can be interpreted as coastal fisheries, as used in the work of the Pacific Community (SPC), and Pacific regional documents/reports on coastal fisheries.

Questions 48, 49 and 50 introduce the concept of ‘small-scale fisheries’ and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines); these are explained in the box below.

SSF Guidelines



The SSF Guidelines were developed through an international participatory process by FAO in collaboration with small-scale fisheries representatives and other stakeholders across the world. The text was negotiated by FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Members, including from the Pacific Islands region and endorsed by COFI in 2014. The SSF Guidelines were published by FAO in 2015 as:

“Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication”

The SSF Guidelines have been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). They were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries in support of the overall principles and provisions of the CCRF. They promote a human rights-based approach to guide and encourage governments, fishing communities and others involved in the sector to work together and ensure secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries for the benefit of small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities as well as for society at large.

The Guidelines are voluntary, global in scope and with a focus on the needs of developing countries. In addition, “All parties are encouraged to implement these Guidelines in accordance with national priorities and circumstances” (para 13.1).

2.1 The process for reporting on indicator 14.b.1 with suggested approaches for the Pacific

FAO provides specific support for countries to reporting on SDG Indicator 14.b.1, through an e-learning course, which consists of four ‘Lessons’ covering:

- **Lesson 1: Introduction**
- **Lesson 2: Creating an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale fisheries**
- **Lesson 3: Gathering data and compiling the 14.b indicator**
- **Lesson 4: Managing and using the estimated results of the 14.b indicator**

In Lesson 3, the course proposes a six-step process for reporting on indicator 14.b.1. This process is outlined below, with suggestions for how this might apply in the Pacific, i.e. for Small Island Developing States with small populations and limited government capacity.

Step 1 National governments nominate a national entity responsible for the collection of data for indicator 14.b.1.

Suggested approach: FAO holds an established relationship with national fisheries agencies in the Pacific, with Heads of Fisheries as the initial point of contact. For the CCRF survey, contact by FAO is currently made by emailing the CCRF survey to respective Heads of Fisheries. The following actions must therefore be considered:

- **Step 1.1:** Heads of Fisheries to nominate a national CCRF survey focal point, and inform him or her of SDG 14.b, indicator 14.b.1 and the related reporting process through the CCRF survey.
- **Step 1.2:** Head of Fisheries to also nominate a coastal fisheries focal point (coastal fisheries staff member), who would be responsible for collecting the relevant data and information needed to answer the three small-scale fisheries questions in the CCRF survey that are used to calculate indicator 14.b.1.

Step 2 A national expert carries out an assessment, to identify where in the regulatory framework, if at all, SSF is specifically addressed (this relates to question 48 of the CCRF survey, as explained in the next section).

Suggested approach: This could be delegated to the coastal fisheries focal point nominated in Step 1. As he or she collects relevant data and information in Step 1, this would also include identifying the regulatory framework of small-scale fisheries at the national level.

It would be very helpful if the coastal fisheries focal point for the CCRF survey is also the ‘focal point’ for answering the questionnaire for the SPC Coastal Fishery Report Card (Annex 3), and that good records are kept to (i) document the way questions are answered and (ii) assist subsequent staff in taking over the role.

Step 3 A national expert identifies government-led activities in support of SSF and ascertains if there is an institutional mechanism for the participation of small-scale fisheries organisations in relevant processes (this relates to questions 49 and 50 of the CCRF survey, as explained in the next section).

Suggested approach: It would be efficient for the coastal fisheries focal point nominated in Step 1 to also carry out this role. He or she is also encouraged to consult with other coastal fisheries staff in decentralised locations to ensure that it is a participatory process.

Step 4 A preliminary report of the assessment is discussed and reviewed with representatives of SSF organisations, prior to communicating to FAO.

Suggested approach: National fisheries agencies are encouraged to use a participatory process to validate the work in steps 1, 2 and 3, by consulting with representatives of local small-scale (coastal) fishers and other relevant stakeholders, where possible and as appropriate. The ‘report’ does not need to be a lengthy document, but should, at a minimum, include the proposed national responses to each question, and some rationale / evidence supporting the responses.

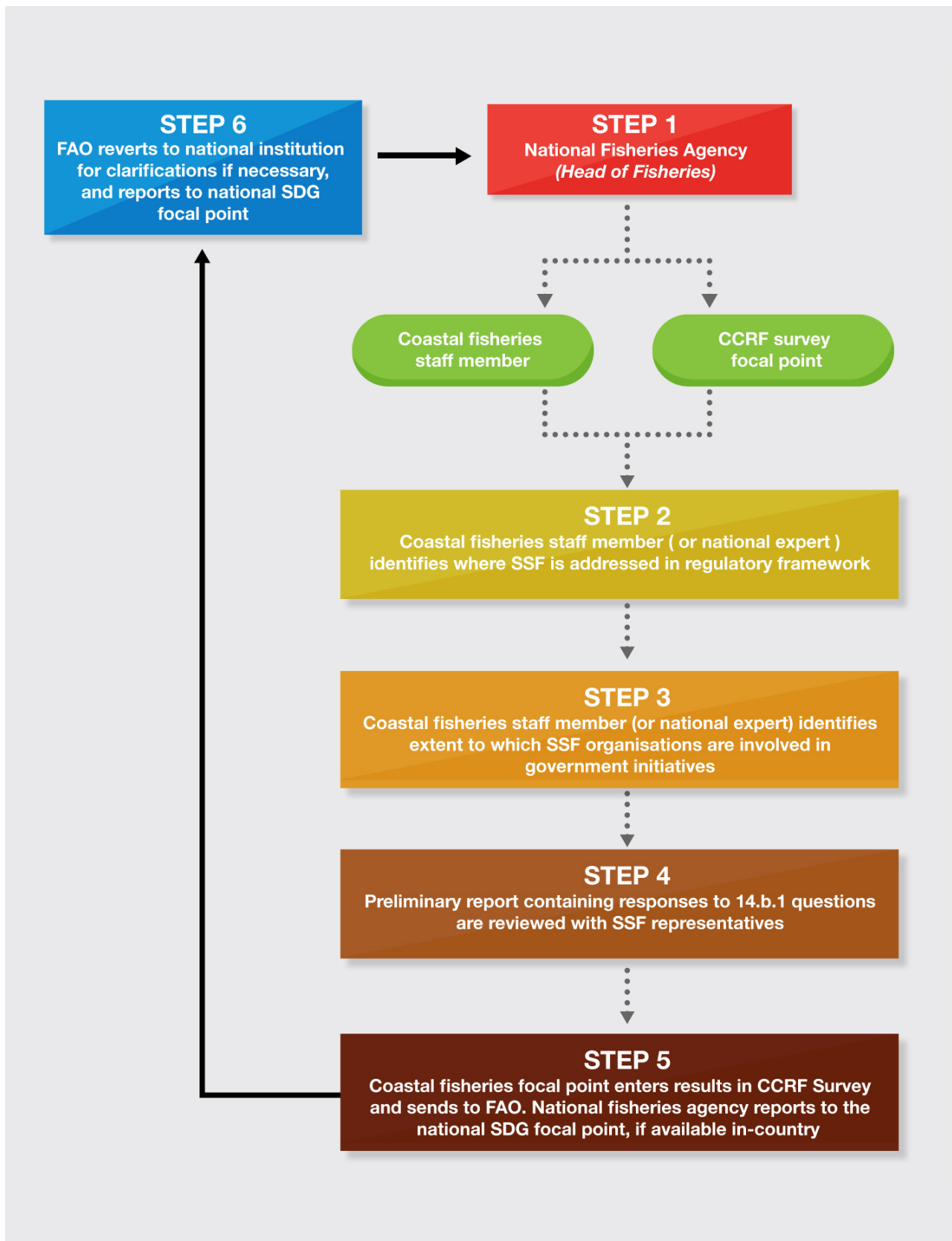
Step 5 After checking and validating the results, the relevant body communicates the results to FAO.

Suggested approach: Final results and answers to the three questions that relate to indicator 14.b.1 are entered into the CCRF survey by the coastal fisheries focal point and the CCRF survey is submitted online by the national CCRF focal point to FAO. The 14.b.1 indicator score is automatically calculated based on the answers to these questions, which then has to be validated by the country.

Step 6 Once it has received the submitted forms, FAO undertakes a quality check, and reverts to the relevant national institution if revisions are needed.

Suggested approach: FAO undertakes a quality check and will revert back to the national fisheries agencies if clarifications or revisions are needed. This highlights the importance of the ‘report’ noted in Step 4. Results should also be communicated by the national fisheries agency to the national SDG focal point, if available in-country.

These six steps can be summarised into the flow diagram below, which highlights recommended steps to be taken by each country for reporting on SDG 14.b.1 to FAO and back. It can be adjusted by each country, based on their own situation.



3. Guidance for answering the CCRF survey questions in the Pacific context

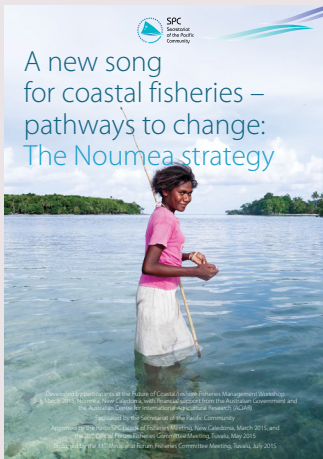
The questions in the CCRF survey (Q48, Q49 and Q50) that inform SDG indicator 14.b.1 mainly involve answering 'Yes' or 'No' in each case using a 'tick box' in the on-line survey form. In two instances 'other' responses may be entered in a text box (though this is not required).

In question 49, respondents are asked to review their national situation against a set of recommendations of the SSF Guidelines and to reply with 'Yes' or 'No' as to whether the conditions are met. In these cases, this Guide proposes that for Pacific Island countries:

The response should be the best national assessment, based on knowledge of, and evidence from national systems, validated through stakeholder consultations as appropriate to national circumstances.

Detailed guidance is provided below on each of the SDG Indicator 14.b.1 questions:

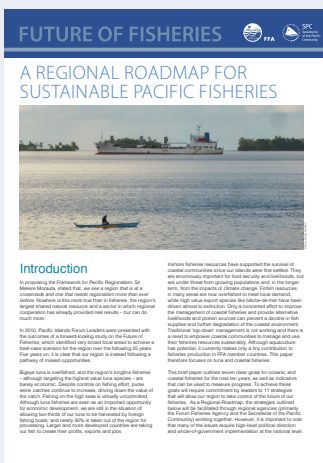
- Each question is identified by its CCRF survey question number (2020 version) and the question listed as it appears in the survey.
- Where relevant, text is also provided from the two key Pacific regional strategies ('Regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries' and 'New song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: the Noumea strategy') to provide regional context and highlight opportunities for synergies and consistencies in data collection processes and for ensuring consistency in reporting. Also, where relevant, text is provided from a 'meshing paper' entitled "Coastal fisheries policies - linkages between Pacific Islands and global policies" (forthcoming as at the time of preparing this Guidance).
- Where applicable, some examples of activities from the Pacific are provided as additional guidance (however they should not be interpreted as the only relevant examples).



A new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change: The Noumea strategy was developed by participants at a “Regional Workshop on the Future of Coastal/Inshore Fisheries Management” that was held in March 2015. The Workshop brought together representatives from fisheries and environment departments in 22 SPC Member Countries; coastal communities; four agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific; and non-governmental organisations.

The strategy is designed to provide direction and encourage coordination, cooperation and an effective use of regional and other support services in the development of coastal fisheries management.

The strategy was approved by the ninth SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting, held in Noumea, New Caledonia in March 2015, and the 93rd Official Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) Meeting, held in Funafuti, Tuvalu, in May 2015. It was endorsed by the 11th Ministerial FFC Meeting, held in Funafuti, Tuvalu, in July 2015.



Future of fisheries – A regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries was developed by SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2015.

The roadmap sets out goals and targets for Pacific regional tuna fisheries as well as coastal fisheries. The roadmap also provides for the production of an annual ‘fishery report card’ for both tuna and coastal fisheries (refer to Annex 3).



Coastal fisheries policies – Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies

This paper (forthcoming) describes the relationship between key Pacific documents (including the new song, and roadmap) and the SSF Guidelines. It provides a comprehensive analysis of common themes and gaps, and explains how the different strategies/guides mesh together (for this reason it is sometimes referred to as the ‘meshing paper’).

CCRF Survey question 48: Are there any laws, regulations, policies, plans or strategies that specifically target or address the small-scale fisheries sector?

Guidance - What to do:

- Note that each sub-question requires a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answer using the ‘tick box’ in the online CCRF survey.
- Review all relevant fisheries legal and policy frameworks that are currently enforced or approved that relate to coastal fisheries. Examples of each sub-question are:
 - Law: Fisheries Act, Marine Resources Act
 - Regulations: Coastal fisheries regulations
 - Policy: National policy for coastal fisheries
 - Plan/strategy: National or area-based management plan for sea cucumber
- Based on your review, select either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ for each of the sub-questions. Note that the question asks if there are ‘any’ laws etc. – so if there is a single example of even only one of the sub-questions, the overall answer is ‘Yes’.
- Select the “Other” if you have any laws, regulations, policies or plans that are currently in draft form at the time the CCRF survey was filled.

Important note: If you are also responding to the SPC Annual Coastal Fisheries Questionnaire on coastal fisheries’ legal and policy frameworks in a similar timeframe, please ensure that your answers to the FAO CCRF survey question 48 above, are consistent with your responses to the SPC Questionnaire (see relevant questions provided in Table 1 below).

Table 1: Questions in the SPC Coastal Fisheries Questionnaire that relate to coastal fisheries legal and policy frameworks

Policies and legislation		Comments – if yes, please provide details
a) Is there a current overall national coastal fisheries roadmap or strategy ?	Yes / No	
b) Are there any coastal fisheries management policies in need of drafting or revision?	Yes / No	
c) Is coastal fisheries management legislation in need of drafting or revision?	Yes / No	
d) Are there any coastal fisheries management regulations in need of drafting or revision?	Yes / No	
e) Is information collected on coastal fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement ?	Yes / No	

CCRF Survey Question 49: Does your country have a specific initiative to implement the SSF Guidelines?

Guidance - What to do: Review the content of the SSF Guidelines and answer 'Yes', 'No', or 'Unknown' using the 'tick box' in the on-line survey. It may be useful to look at the ten sub-questions (pages 10-26) first and if the answer is 'Yes' to any of the sub-questions then the answer to this overall question is 'Yes'. If you do not answer 'Yes' to any of the sub-questions, then decide whether this is because nothing is being done in relation to each sub-question in which the answer is 'No', or whether it is 'Unknown'.

Examples of specific initiatives are provided in the sub-questions below.

Important note: Although the question specifically asks for initiatives to implement the SSF Guidelines, you can address the question by looking at activities and initiatives that implement principles and/or recommendations of the SSF Guidelines (instead of dedicated projects for the SSF Guidelines' implementation only). The 'Guiding Principles' of the SSF Guidelines address:

- Human rights and dignity
- Respect of cultures
- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality and equity
- Equity and equality
- Consultation and participation
- Rule of law
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Economic, social and environmental sustainability
- Holistic and integrated approaches
- Social responsibility
- Feasibility and social and economic viability

To answer the ten sub-questions which follow, review each of the sub-variable questions that relate to the different chapters of the SSF Guidelines and indicate if any activities are being carried out in your country by ticking the 'tick-box' in the online survey, or leave it blank, meaning 'No'. It may be useful to read the related sections of the SSF Guidelines for a better understanding and to think how they relate to relevant Pacific regional strategies.

To assist with this process, the following sections provide a summary of the national actions encouraged in the SSF Guidelines for each sub-question. In each case, relevant aspects of the two key Pacific Regional Strategies are also included to provide Pacific context.

Sub-question 1: Improving tenure security for small-scale fishers and fish workers in accordance with SSF Guidelines, paragraphs 5.2 - 5.12

Chapter 5a of the SSF Guidelines – Responsible governance and tenure

- Recognise that responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests applicable in SSF is central for the realisation of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, economic growth and rural and social development.
- Ensure tenure rights for SSF are secure and culturally appropriate.
- Protect tenure rights for SSF (e.g. through laws), including customary rights.
- Recognise the role of SSF in co-management of ecosystems.
- Safeguard water/fisheries, recognising SSF.
- Grant SSF preferential access to fish, as appropriate.
- Facilitate equitable access to SSF.
- Ensure that legitimate SSF tenure rights are not extinguished or infringed, and are recognised in case of conflicts with other sectors.
- Consider the impacts on, and consult with, SSF communities prior to the implementation of large scale development projects.
- Provide 'affordable and effective' dispute resolution processes for SSF communities.
- Strive to restore access where SSF access has been removed, e.g. because of a natural disaster.
- Establish mechanisms to support fishing communities affected by grave human rights violations – including elimination of any form of discrimination against women in tenure practices.

Key words and concepts

'Tenure' refers to the rights the people have to ownership, use or access to property such as land, or in this case, fisheries. Tenure rights define how access is granted to rights to use, control, and transfer land/fisheries, as well as associated responsibilities and restraints. In simple terms, tenure systems determine who can use what resources – land and fishery – for how long, and under what conditions.

Related principles in Pacific Regional strategies

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 1: Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights.

Outcome area 5: Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

The roadmap provides strong support for clarifying the "user rights" of communities.

Goal 1: Empowerment

Within 10 years, all Forum Island Countries (FICs) will have put in place policies and legislation that provide for the involvement of coastal communities in the management of their fisheries resources. Supported by national controls on export commodities, communities will drive local management regimes with clear user rights.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

The meshing paper notes that:

There is strong coherence in principle on the topic of tenure as rights that enable access to the resources and may form the basis for community management action. The term ‘user rights’ is used in [Pacific Island] policy apparently aiming to encompass both traditional tenure mechanisms and places or communities without traditional tenure.

Pacific example of a relevant activity to report under SDG indicator 14.b.1:

- Communities are empowered under national law to manage fishing activities within their own coastal fishing areas (e.g. Community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management in Solomon Islands and elsewhere).

Sub-question 2: Supporting small-scale fisheries actors to take an active part in sustainable resource management in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 5.13 - 5.20

Chapter 5b of the SSF Guidelines – sustainable resource management

- Support conservation and sustainable use of fisheries, recognising SSF.
- Recognise that tenure rights are balanced by duties, including SSF role in sustainability of resources.
- Facilitate, train and support SSF communities to participate in managing resources.
- Ensure the establishment of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems suitable for SSF. SSF communities should support such MCS systems e.g. through providing information for management.
- Ensure roles and responsibilities for co-management are clarified, including SSF representation, paying specific attention to the need for equitable participation of women in all SSF sectors.
- Where there are trans-boundary issues, ensure SSF tenure rights are protected.
- Avoid measures that contribute to overcapacity/overexploitation of resources.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

There is a high level of coherence between the SSF Guidelines and all regional policies on the importance of sustainable resource management, integrated and ecosystem approaches and governance processes, especially community participation.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Vision: Sustainable well-managed inshore fisheries, underpinned by community-based approaches that provide food security, and long-term economic, social and ecological benefits to our communities.

The importance of taking an ecosystem approach, which considers a wide range of impacts on coastal ecosystems in addition to fishing, is clear and is being increasingly incorporated into management approaches.

Outcome area 4: Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management (CEAFM).

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 2: Resilience

Within 10 years, all Forum Island Countries (FICs) will be implementing strategies to manage the various threats to coastal ecosystems. Only by conserving fisheries habitats, controlling pollution and addressing damage from outside the fishing sector can we develop resilience to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

Strategy 4:

The new approach of empowering communities to manage their resources needs to be backed by strong and appropriate legislation, policies and plans. Strengthened enforcement will be needed, both by community authorised officers, fisheries and law enforcement officers and customs.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

The Noumea strategy (new song) in calling for “Strong and up-to-date management policy” as Outcome 5 specifies an intermediate outcome of “Illegal, unsustainable and unregulated fishing is minimised”. This in the context of other provisions in the Noumea strategy for co-management and participation would seem to equate to the intent of the SSF Guidelines.

The inclusion of other government ministries and sectors as well as NGO groups at national level is called for in regional policies and SPC has clear advantages in supporting this.

Pacific example of an activity:

- National fisheries agencies assisting local communities to develop management plans for their coastal fishing areas for community-based fisheries management objectives.

Sub-question 3: Promoting social development, employment and decent work in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 6.2 - 6.18

Chapter 6 of the SSF Guidelines - Social development, employment and decent work

- Consider integrated ecosystem and holistic approaches including empowerment of SSF communities.
- Promote investment in, and affordable access to, essential services including health, education, literacy, housing, sanitation etc for SSF communities.
- Promote social security for workers in SSF.
- Support access to other services for SSF communities (e.g. banking, insurance).
- Recognise the full SSF value chain and promote professional organisations for SSF workers.
- Promote decent work for all SSF workers.
- Take steps towards an adequate standard of living for SSF workers, including a fair return for labour.
- Support existing and develop complementary and alternative income generation for SSF communities.
- Create conditions for SSF communities to fish, free from crime, violence, sexual abuse, corruption and so on.
- Understand, recognise and respect the role of migrant SSF fishers and fish workers.
- Recognise and address causes of transboundary movement of fishers.
- Address occupational health and fair working conditions for SSF workers.
- Eradicate forced labour and debt-bondage of women, men and children.
- Provide and enable access to education and gainful employment of youth.
- Provide and enable access to schools and education facilities for SSF communities and recognise children's well being and education.
- Recognise the complexity of safety at sea issues and ensure the implementation of national laws and regulations, consistent with international guidelines (FAO, ILO and IMO).
- Recognise the benefits of coherent strategies for sea safety in SSF, and include appropriate legislation for sea safety in SSF.
- Protect the human rights and dignity of SSF stakeholders in situations of armed conflict.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

The new song includes high level focus on sustainable social and economic development, including empowered communities.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 6: Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence.

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Outcome area 8: Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes and contributing to improved fisheries management.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 3: Livelihoods

Within 10 years, all FICs will have adopted policies to develop alternative livelihoods for coastal communities that are impacted by declining fisheries resources. In most cases, overfishing occurs because coastal communities have no alternative. Aquaculture, water-based tourism and small-scale fishing for tuna provide options, but many solutions will lie outside the fisheries sector.

Strategy 5: Ensure equitable access to benefits and involvement in decision-making

Involving women, youth and disadvantaged groups in decision-making and access to the benefits of marine resource use is not only fair, it is necessary for success. Women and youth are closely involved in harvesting and selling marine resources, but are less likely to respect management measures on which they are not consulted.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

Consideration of the SSF Guidelines raises a number of areas that bear clarification in the context of the Noumea strategy implementation in Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) particularly in relation to developing legislative and policy support at national levels. Opportunities should be sought to advance discussion with relevant national government and community stakeholders along with advisers and technical agencies. Discussion and raising awareness should be the primary aims but ultimately guidelines for consideration in the implementation of the various outcomes of the Noumea strategy could be developed.

The topic of safety at sea is raised in the SSF Guidelines but not mentioned in the Noumea strategy or other regional policies. The omission of this from regional policy can be easily remedied by ensuring the actions of the existing regional policy on Safety at Sea and of the SSF Guidelines are incorporated into implementation of the Noumea strategy.

There is strong policy coherence between the SSF Guidelines and the Noumea strategy which specifically calls for actions to increase the participation of women, youth and marginalised groups in decision-making and planning. The roadmap adds weight to the regional policy in this regard.

Pacific examples of activities:

- Incorporate integrated, ecosystem-based approaches into national fisheries plans or community-based fisheries management plans.
- Establish and support of small-scale fishers associations and/or cooperatives.
- Awareness and capacity building on sea safety for fishers.
- Develop employment and livelihood opportunities for fishing communities.

Sub-question 4: Enhancing small-scale fisheries value chains, post-harvest operations and trade in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 7.1 - 7.10

Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines – Value chains, post-harvest and trade

- Recognise the central role of the SSF post-harvest sector.
- Recognise and support the role of women in the SSF post-harvest sector.
- Foster, provide and enable investments in infrastructure and capacity to support the SSF post-harvest sector.
- Recognise development of cooperatives, professional organisations and other structures for the SSF sector across all stages of the value chain.
- Avoid post-harvest losses and create value addition.
- Facilitate access to local, national, regional and international markets for SSF products.
- Ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production do not adversely affect the nutritional needs of people.
- Recognise that benefits from international trade should be fairly distributed.
- Adopt policies to ensure adverse impacts of international trade on SSF are equitably addressed.
- Enable access to relevant market and trade information for SSF stakeholders.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

The SSF Guidelines and new song have convergence on increasing the value of post-harvest and of diversifying within and outside the fisheries.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 6: Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence.

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 3: Livelihoods

Within 10 years, all FICs will have adopted policies to develop alternative livelihoods for coastal communities that are impacted by declining fisheries resources. In most cases, overfishing occurs because coastal communities have no alternative. Aquaculture, water-based tourism and small-scale fishing for tuna provide options, but many solutions will lie outside the fisheries sector.

Strategy 5: Ensure equitable access to benefits and involvement in decision-making

Involving women, youth and disadvantaged groups in decision-making and access to the benefits of marine resource use is not only fair, it is necessary for success. Women and youth are closely involved in harvesting and selling marine resources, but are less likely to respect management measures on which they are not consulted.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

The SSF Guidelines call for due consideration to the impact of international trade (7.7) and adoption of policies and procedures including environmental, social and other relevant assessments to address adverse impacts (7.9). Provision for social and environmental impact assessments on coastal living resources or on the broader environment were not explicitly considered during negotiations and studies for the recently concluded PACER+ trade agreement between Australia, New Zealand and the PICs, despite a baseline study specifically highlighting environmental concerns. FAO has a programme on Effective Fish Trade and Sustainable Development for SIDS and this may contribute to an area for which there is considerable desire but relatively little support.

Pacific examples of activities:

- Supporting access to local markets e.g. through refrigeration facilities and transport infrastructure.
- Capacity building for fishers (including women) for improvement in post-harvest and value-adding activities.

Sub-question 5: Ensuring gender equality in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 8.1 - 8.4

Guidance - What to do: review the relevant content of SFF guidelines (noting also the content of Pacific regional strategies) and respond either 'Yes' or 'No' using the 'tick box' in the on-line survey.

Chapter 8 of the SSF Guidelines – Gender equality

- Recognise that gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of SSF planning.
- Comply with their obligations under international human rights law, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Establish policies and legislation to realise gender equality.
- Encourage development of better technologies appropriate to women's work in SSF.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

Pacific regional strategies call for special or more attention to women and vulnerable groups.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Strategy 5: Ensure equitable access to benefits and involvement in decision-making

Involving women, youth and disadvantaged groups in decision-making and access to the benefits of marine resource use is not only fair, it is necessary for success. Women and youth are closely involved in harvesting and selling marine resources, but are less likely to respect management measures on which they are not consulted.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies ("meshing paper")

There is strong policy coherence between the SSF Guidelines and the Noumea strategy which specifically calls for actions to increase the participation of women, youth and marginalised groups in decision-making and planning. The roadmap adds weight to the regional policy in this regard (though not for tuna fisheries). How to constructively include gender in advice and support provided at national level by regional agencies bears considerable discussion, first within technical agencies and then with national gender experts before the best pathways for support of national transformational change may be determined.

Pacific example of an activity:

- Supporting women's participation through training in such areas as economic literacy and post-harvest processing techniques.

Sub-question 6: Addressing disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 9.1 - 9.9

Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines – Disaster risks and climate change

- Recognise that combating climate change, including for SSF, requires urgent and ambitious action.
- Recognise and take into account the differential impact of natural and human-induced disasters and climate change on small-scale fisheries. Special support should be given to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands where climate change may have particular implications for food security, nutrition, housing and livelihoods.
- Take steps to address issues such as pollution, coastal erosion and destruction of coastal habitats due to human-induced non-fisheries-related factors.
- Consider assisting and supporting SSF communities affected by climate change or natural and human-induced disasters, including through adaptation, mitigation and aid plans, where appropriate.
- In case of disasters caused by humans, impacting SSF, the responsible party should be held accountable.
- Take into account the impact that climate change and disasters may have on the post-harvest and trade subsector.
- Understand emergency response and disaster preparedness for SSF.
- Promote the role of SSF in efforts related to climate change and encourage and support energy efficiency in the subsector, including the whole value chain.
- Consider making available to SSF communities transparent access to adaptation funds, facilities and/or culturally appropriate technologies for climate change adaptation.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

Regional coastal fisheries policies, including the new song, focus on improving management systems, especially with an emphasis on ecosystem approaches to fisheries management as the priority response to climate change.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 6: Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence.

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Outcome area 8: Diverse livelihoods reducing pressure on fisheries resources, enhancing community incomes and contributing to improved fisheries management.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 2: Resilience

Within 10 years, all FICs will be implementing strategies to manage the various threats to coastal ecosystems. Only by conserving fisheries habitats, controlling pollution and addressing damage from outside the fishing sector can we develop resilience to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

Practical responses to climate change are provided by the core approaches to coastal fisheries management i.e. community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (CEAFM) and this should be developed and presented more clearly to regional and national donors and agencies. Fisheries agencies could be supported to develop and incorporate more explicit disaster-planning into fisheries policies and operations guides for fisheries agencies and communities.

Pacific example of an activity:

- Including climate change considerations in national fisheries management plans or community-based fisheries management plans.

Sub-question 7: Strengthening institutions in support of SSF and to promote policy coherence, coordination and collaboration in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 10.1 - 10.8

Chapter 10 of the SSF Guidelines - Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration

- Recognise the need for, and work towards, policy coherence with regard to national legislation, international human rights law and other international instruments.
- Develop and use spatial planning approaches which take due account of SSF interests, including through consultation.
- Adopt measures for harmonisation of marine and inland water bodies and ecosystems.
- Ensure that fisheries policy provides a long-term vision for sustainable SFF.
- Establish institutional linkages needed for policy coherence in the fisheries sector.
- Promote collaboration including through cooperatives and CSOs.
- Recognise and promote local governance structures which contribute to effective management of SSF.
- Promote enhanced international, regional and subregional cooperation in securing sustainable SSF.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

Pacific regional strategies strongly support stronger institutions and coordination at all levels. The need for capacity development emphasised in the SSF Guidelines is implicit in the new song and regional roadmap.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 4: Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by CEAFM.

Outcome area 6: Effective collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and key sectors of influence.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 2: Resilience

Within 10 years, all FICs will be implementing strategies to manage the various threats to coastal ecosystems. Only by conserving fisheries habitats, controlling pollution and addressing damage from outside the fishing sector can we develop resilience to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

Strategy 1: Provide relevant information to inform management and policy

The decisions of governments and community managers will be based on good information; science will be translated into simple and informative material to guide community management; and communities will be able to combine their traditional knowledge with scientific understanding.

Strategy 3: Ensure effective collaboration and coordination of stakeholders

There are many stakeholders with an interest in the management of coastal areas apart from fisheries departments. There is a need to coordinate the work of different government departments, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and donors – and to engage better with organisations that have good community outreach, such as faith-based organisations.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

Regional policies coalesce with the SSF Guidelines in seeking wider political recognition and material support including re-directing staff and resources into supporting community-based management. Potential partners for implementation could collaborate to their various strengths to ensure strong political recognition that leads to material and measurable support to sustain the vital role that coastal resources play in food security and sustainable development. Regional and international agencies have been active in raising the profile of coastal fisheries, and maintaining the pressure for action at a high level would be useful.

Pacific example of an activity:

- Including a long-term vision for coastal fisheries in national fisheries policy.

Sub-question 8: Improving information, research and communication on the contribution of SSF to food security and poverty eradication in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 11.1 - 11.11

Chapter 11 of the SSF Guidelines - Information, research and communication

- Establish ways of collecting data (biological, social, cultural and economic) relevant for management of SSF.
- Recognise the importance of communication and information for decision-making.
- Endeavour to prevent corruption, particularly through increasing transparency.
- Recognise SSF fishing communities as holders, providers and receivers of knowledge, and understand the need for SSF communities to access knowledge.
- Ensure that information is available to SSF including on IUU fishing.
- Ensure that the knowledge, culture, traditions and practices of SSF communities, including indigenous peoples, are recognised and supported. The specific knowledge of women fishers and fish workers must be recognised and supported.
- Provide support to SSF communities, including the technical and financial assistance to organise, maintain, exchange and improve traditional knowledge, and upgrade knowledge on aquatic ecosystems.
- Promote the availability, flow and exchange of information at all levels.
- Ensure that funds are available for small-scale fisheries research. Collaborative and participatory data collection and research should be encouraged.
- Promote research into the conditions of work, including health, education, and decision-making, to ensure equitable benefits for men and women in fisheries. Gender-sensitive indicators should be used to monitor and address inequalities.
- Promote the consumption of fish and fishery products, recognising the role of SSF in seafood production.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

Pacific regional strategies strongly support provision of information for decision-makers and coastal/community fisheries in particular, as well as educational curricula.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 2: Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy.

Outcome area 3: Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management on a national and sub-national scale.

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Strategy 1: The decisions of governments and community managers will be based on good information. Science will be translated into simple and informative material to guide community management and communities will be able to combine their traditional knowledge with scientific understanding.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

There is strong coherence on information and awareness, data collection, and traditional knowledge.

SSF Guidelines and the Noumea strategy place emphasis on ensuring that communities are aware and have access to information. Regional policies go into detail including improving understanding of status, biology and habitats of key species (in addition to existing local ecological knowledge) as a basis for improved community-based management. This is regarded as one of the fundamental bases for effective support of CEA FM and is a priority strategy.

Pacific example of an activity:

- Establishing comprehensive data collection processes for coastal fisheries, including appropriate reporting and feedback mechanisms for small-scale fishers and communities.

Sub-question 9: Implementing capacity development of fisheries organisations and other stakeholders in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 12.1 - 12.4

Chapter 12 of the SSF Guidelines – Capacity development

- Enhance the capacity of small-scale fishing communities in order to enable them, including women, to participate in decision-making processes.
- Provide capacity building, e.g. through development programmes, to allow small-scale fisheries to benefit from market opportunities.
- Recognise that capacity development should build on existing knowledge and skills.
- Develop knowledge and skills to support sustainable SSF development and successful co-management arrangements.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

Pacific regional strategies strongly support stronger institutions and coordination at all levels. The need for capacity development emphasised in the SSF Guidelines is implicit in the new song and regional roadmap.

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 1: Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights.

Outcome area 4: Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development underpinned by CEAFM.

Future of fisheries – a regional roadmap for sustainable Pacific fisheries

Goal 1: Empowerment:

Within 10 years, all FICs will have put in place policies and legislation that provide for the involvement of coastal communities in the management of their fisheries resources. Supported by national controls on export commodities, communities will drive local management regimes with clear user rights.

Pacific example of an activity:

- Working with donors to develop and implement projects to enhance capacity development for coastal fishers at national, sub-national level and community level.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

Capacity building and institutional strengthening are core to implementation of all the policies and can be considered to cut across all the areas. The regional fisheries policies are explicit in the mechanisms required to achieve sustainable coastal fisheries providing the basis for a capacity development agenda. In terms of formal education it is uncertain that the major regional and national capacity development institutions are currently guided by regional policy, let alone the SSF Guidelines.

Sub-question 10: Establishing or improving monitoring mechanisms and promoting SSF Guidelines implementation in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 13.1 - 13.6

Chapter 13 of the SSF Guidelines - Implementation support and monitoring

- Implement these Guidelines in accordance with national priorities and circumstances.
- Promote aid effectiveness and responsible use of financial resources, and support voluntary efforts to implement these Guidelines, including through South-South cooperation and transfer of technology.
- Create awareness of the Guidelines, also by disseminating simplified and translated versions for the benefit of those working in SSF.
- Recognise the importance of monitoring systems that allow their institutions to assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines.
- Facilitate the formation of national-level platforms, with cross-sectoral representation and with strong representation of CSOs, to oversee implementation of the Guidelines.

Related principles in Pacific regional strategies

A new song for coastal fisheries - pathways to change: The Noumea strategy

Outcome area 3: Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management on a national and sub-national scale.

Outcome area 7: More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups.

Coastal fisheries policies - Linkages between Pacific Island and global policies (“meshing paper”)

The Noumea strategy and SSF Guidelines conclude with sections on implementation mechanisms. SPC is tasked with building momentum for governments to commit to effective coastal fisheries management in line with the approaches outlined in the Noumea strategy. SPC committed to, and has already, initiated monitoring indicators for the regional coastal fisheries policies which cover all but two of the SSF Guideline headings (SPC Coastal Fisheries).

Pacific example of an activity:

- Incorporating monitoring provisions for SSF into coastal fisheries planning, budgeting and reporting.

CCRF Survey Question 50: Does your country have mechanisms through which small-scale fishers and fish workers contribute to decision-making processes?

Guidance - What to do: Answer 'Yes', 'No', or 'Unknown' using the 'tick box' in the on-line survey. It may be useful to look at the sub-questions first - if the answer is 'Yes' to any of the sub-questions, then the answer to this question is 'Yes'. If you do not answer 'Yes' to any of the sub-questions, then decide whether this is because nothing is being done in relation to each sub-question, in which the answer is 'No', or whether it is 'Unknown'.

If yes, please specify the nature of these mechanisms.

Examples of specific mechanisms are provided below:

- Existence of advisory/consultative body to the ministry/department of fisheries in which fishers/fishworkers participate (representation at national or provincial level).
- Involvement of small-scale fishers in fisheries management (representation at fishery level).
- Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in data collection and research.
- Involvement of fishers in monitoring, surveillance and control.
- Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in local development processes (e.g. councils).

Conclusion

Reporting against SDG target 14.b and its indicator 14.b.1 is particularly important for Pacific Island Countries, where small-scale fisheries continues to play a crucial role in the sustainable livelihoods of the Pacific people. The information in this Guidance is designed to assist Pacific Island Countries in reporting on SDG Indicator 14.b.1 through the FAO CCRF survey. While the survey itself is straightforward and relatively simple to complete, it is important to recognise the importance of the concepts and actions embedded in the SSF Guidelines.

The SSF Guidelines sets out a wide range of actions and considerations aimed at enhancing the sustainability of coastal fisheries and the economic and social contribution it makes to Pacific Island communities. Completing the survey not only contributes to the global monitoring of small-scale/coastal fisheries, but can also assist Pacific Island Countries in reporting more generally on coastal fisheries. The strong alignment between the SSF Guidelines and Pacific regional strategies underlines the benefits of considering regional, global and national reporting together using a common approach where possible, and ensuring consistency in reporting across different processes, and from year to year.

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Annex 1: FAO CCRF survey questions that relate to SDG indicator 14.b.1

Q48: Are there any laws, regulations, policies, plans or strategies that specifically target or address the small-scale fisheries sector?	
Law	Yes / No
Regulation	Yes / No
Policy	Yes / No
Plan/strategy	Yes / No
Other (please specify)	Yes / No
Q49: The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were endorsed by COFI in June 2014. Does your country have a specific initiative to implement the SSF Guidelines?	Yes / No / Unknown
If yes, please indicate what type of activities are included in the initiative:	
Improving tenure security for small-scale fishers and fish workers in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 5.2 - 5.12	Yes / No
Supporting small-scale fisheries actors to take an active part in sustainable resource management in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 5.13 - 5.20	Yes / No
Promoting social development, employment and decent work in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 6.2 - 6.18	Yes / No
Enhancing small-scale fisheries value chains, post-harvest operations and trade in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 7.1 - 7.10	Yes / No
Ensuring gender equality in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 8.1 - 8.4	Yes / No
Addressing disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 9.1 - 9.9	Yes / No
Strengthening institutions in support of SSF and to promote policy coherence, coordination and collaboration in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 10.1 - 10.8	Yes / No
Improving information, research and communication on the contribution of SSF to food security and poverty eradication in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 11.1 - 11.11	Yes / No
Implementing capacity development of fisheries organisations and other stakeholders in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 12.1 - 12.4	Yes / No
Establishing or improving monitoring mechanisms and promoting SSF Guidelines implementation in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 13.1 - 13.6	Yes / No
Other (please specify)	
Q50: Does your country have mechanisms through which small-scale fishers and fish workers contribute to decision-making processes ?	Yes / No / Unknown
If yes, please specify the nature of these mechanisms	
Existence of advisory/consultative body to the ministry/department of fisheries in which fishers/fishworkers participate (representation at national or provincial level)	Yes / No
Involvement of small-scale fishers in fisheries management (representation at fishery level)	Yes / No
Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in data collection and research	Yes / No
Involvement of fishers in monitoring, surveillance and control	Yes / No
Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in local development processes (e.g. councils)	Yes / No

Annex 2: Scoring for SDG indicator 14.b.1

A scoring methodology has been agreed internationally for rating country achievement of the SDG 14.b target using the SDG 14.b.1 indicator. Under the methodology, a rating between 0 and 1 (1 is the maximum score and 0 the minimum) is calculated by adding the scores for each of the three questions as indicated in the shaded areas below.

Q48: Are there any laws, regulations, policies, plans or strategies that specifically target or address the small-scale fisheries sector?	Scoring (Maximum 0.4)
Law	Add the total number of 'yes' responses in the blue shaded area and score: 1 'yes' = 0.1 2 'yes' = 0.2 3 'yes' = 0.3 4 or 5 'yes' = 0.4
Regulation	
Policy	
Plan/strategy	
Other (please specify)	

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were endorsed by COFI in June 2014. Q49: Does your country have a specific initiative to implement the SSF Guidelines?	Yes / No / Unknown	Scoring (Maximum 0.3)
If yes, please indicate what type of activities are included in the initiative:		
Improving tenure security for small-scale fishers and fish workers in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 5.2 - 5.12	Yes / No	Add the total number of 'yes' responses in the grey shaded area and score: 1 'yes' = .03 2 'yes' = .06 3 'yes' = .09 4 'yes' = .12 5 'yes' = .15 6 'yes' = .18 7 'yes' = .21 8 'yes' = .24 9 'yes' = .27 10 'yes' = .30 Note that the grey shaded box to the left (containing the words "Yes / No / Unknown") does not contribute to the score.
Supporting small-scale fisheries actors to take an active part in sustainable resource management in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 5.13 - 5.20	Yes / No	
Promoting social development, employment and decent work in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 6.2 - 6.18	Yes / No	
Enhancing small-scale fisheries value chains, post-harvest operations and trade in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 7.1 - 7.10	Yes / No	
Ensuring gender equality in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 8.1 - 8.4	Yes / No	
Addressing disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 9.1 - 9.9	Yes / No	
Strengthening institutions in support of SSF and to promote policy coherence, coordination and collaboration in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 10.1 - 10.8	Yes / No	
Improving information, research and communication on the contribution of SSF to food security and poverty eradication in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 11.1 - 11.11	Yes / No	
Implementing capacity development of fisheries organisations and other stakeholders in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 12.1 - 12.4	Yes / No	
Establishing or improving monitoring mechanisms and promoting SSF Guidelines implementation in accordance with SSF Guidelines paragraphs 13.1 - 13.6	Yes / No	

Q50: Does your country have mechanisms through which small-scale fishers and fish workers contribute to decision-making processes ?	Yes / No / Unknown	Scoring (Maximum 0.3)
If yes, please specify the nature of these mechanisms		
Existence of advisory/consultative body to the Ministry/Department of Fisheries in which fishers/fishworkers participate (representation at national or provincial level)	Yes / No	If the answer is 'Yes' in the grey shaded box to the left: score = 0.3 Any other response = 0 Note that the grey shaded boxes to the left (containing the words "Yes / No") do not contribute to the score.
Involvement of small-scale fishers in fisheries management (representation at fishery level)	Yes / No	
Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in data collection and research	Yes / No	
Involvement of fishers in monitoring, surveillance and control	Yes / No	
Involvement of fishers and fishworkers in local development processes (e.g.councils)	Yes / No	

Based on the responses to the above three questions, the scores for each of the three questions above are added together to calculate the country SDG 14.b achievement score. This composite score is then placed into the following bands to facilitate cross-country comparisons.

Score	Bands
>0 - <0.2	Band 1: Very low implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries
0.2 - <0.4	Band 2: Low implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries
0.4 - <0.6	Band 3: Medium implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries
0.6 - <0.8	Band 4: High implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries
0.8 - 1.0	Band 5: Very high implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries

The scoring methodology is explained fully in the FAO e-learning course (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=348>) – SDG Indicator 14.b.1 – Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Annex 3: SPC Coastal Fishery Report Card

FUTURE OF FISHERIES



COASTAL FISHERY REPORT CARD 2020



Abomama Island, Kiribati @SPC/Pauline Bossereille

Introduction

The Coastal Fishery Report Card (the Report Card) provides annual regional reporting on the current status of Pacific coastal fisheries in relation to the goals, indicators and strategies that have been adopted by Pacific leaders from both the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries*¹ and *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy*². The Report Card, which was initiated in 2015 and first produced in 2017, provides a snapshot that will enable fisheries stakeholders and political leaders to monitor progress on the implementing of regional commitments that relate to coastal fisheries.

Context

There are over 30,000 islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean, which are inhabited by over 10 million people. These islands are divided among 22 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), which are characterised by vast areas of ocean much greater than their land area. Coastal fisheries are fundamental to food security and livelihoods across the region, and represent significant economic, social and cultural benefits for communities. The region has extensive coral reefs that consist of 70 coral genera, over 4000 fish/invertebrate species and 30 mangrove species. These coastal resources are under increasing threat and, in many places, they are either fully- or over-exploited.

Method used to compile card information

The intentional alignment between the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries* and *A New Song for Coastal Fisheries Strategy* has enabled one single monitoring mechanism for both commitments. The publication of the 2017 Report Card was the first time that a single reporting mechanism was adopted for coastal fisheries in the region.

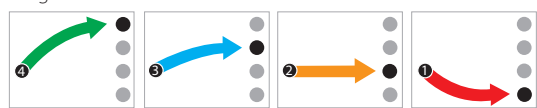
The indicators utilised in the Report Card were identified in consultation with partners, and feedback from the 10th SPC Heads of Fisheries and the 102nd FFC Officials Meeting.

Given the nature of coastal fisheries, reporting on progress itself remains a key challenge for implementing regional commitments. The limitations in data availability, resource constraints, data variability and validation mean that there is a lack of data for most outcome areas.

Information gaps are noted in the Report Card with a question mark symbol.



For outcomes where progress has been noted, the following ranges have been used:



Significant progress has been made
Some progress has been made
No overall progress has been made
Moving away from making progress towards this outcome

Abbreviations: CEAFM - community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management; FFC – Forum Fisheries Committee; HIES – household income and expenditure survey; SPC – Pacific Community.

¹ <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/xnc9f>
² <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/b8hvs>

Goal 1 – Empowerment



Informed, empowered coastal communities with clearly defined user rights



User rights defined in 15 PICTs

User rights and tenure systems in PICTs are most commonly recognised through constitutional arrangements, or national or sub-national legislation, such as island/village council acts, provincial acts or island state acts.



Access rights and empowerment

The ability of rights holders to claim and/or control the use of their rights is unknown at the regional level, as is the level of community awareness and community action to manage coastal resources.

Adequate and relevant information to inform management and policy makers



Ratio of extension officers to fishing households

The role of fisheries extension officers is varied, but commonly includes dissemination of information, development activities and providing advice to communities. Data from eight PICTs showed a total ratio of one extension officer to 658 households that participate in fisheries.



Extent to which information informs management and policy

The extent to which coastal fisheries management measures are informed by scientific evidence across the region is unknown at this time, as is the adequacy and accessibility of information that is being provided to communities.

Recognition of, and strong political commitment and support for, coastal fisheries management on a national and sub-national scale



National resource allocation

The median level of governments' financial commitment to coastal fisheries as a proportion of the total national budget was 0.3% (range 0.01% to 1.4%, n = 14 PICTs).

The median proportion of fisheries budgets allocated to coastal fisheries was 48% (range 15% to 100%, n = 20). The median proportion of fisheries staff working in coastal fisheries is 67% (range 12% to 100%, n = 18).

The average ratio of coastal fisheries staff members to households participating in fisheries was 1:354 (n = 8).



Increasing regional commitment

In 2016, Pacific leaders agreed to expand "fisheries" to include coastal fisheries. In the 2020 Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, the ministers endorsed the proposed mechanism for increasing the engagement of non-state actors in the regional coastal fisheries management.

Re-focused fisheries agencies that are transparent, accountable, and adequately resourced, supporting coastal fisheries management and sustainable development, underpinned by CEAFM



12 PICTs

reported that they annually publish financial statements for their national fisheries budget.



USD 43

is the total coastal fisheries' government budget per household that participate in fisheries across eight PICTs (total sum).



12 PICTs

have a current national coastal fisheries roadmap or strategy in place.



Goal 2 – Resilience



Strong and up-to-date management policy, legislation and planning

7 PICTs

have enacted new coastal fisheries management legislation since 2015.

9 PICTs

have current coastal fisheries management policies. Ten have policies in need of drafting or revision.

14 PICTs

have evidence of monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement of coastal fisheries management measures.

Effective collaboration and coordination between stakeholders and key sectors of influence

Projects implemented in partnership
Marine and coastal projects implemented in partnership (i.e. more than one agency) have reduced over time:

* Source: msp.csiro.au
Notes: Project start year. Insufficient data for 2006 and 2009

Level of effectiveness of partnerships
The level of effectiveness of partnerships, collaboration and coordination is unknown.

More equitable access to benefits and decision-making within communities, including women, youth and marginalised groups

BENEFITS

32%

of households participate in fishing.
Median across PICTs, range 12% to 80%

9%

of households sell fish.
Median across PICTs, range 3% to 30%

4%

of the labour force is in fisheries.
Median across PICTs, range 1% to 21%

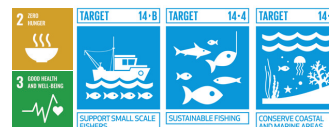
SHARING

Access to benefits and decision-making relating to household fishing and selling fish among women, young people and marginalised groups is unknown from HIES data.

Women's participation in fisheries is underestimated by HIES, which indicates that women are only 8% of the formal fisheries labour force, with one country estimate being that no women are employed in fisheries (range 0–30%).

Data source: Above data are based on current HIES that were available for 12 PICTs. The median value across the PICTs is used.

Goal 3 – Livelihoods and food security



Value added to GDP from coastal catch

Melanesia USD 167,845,755

Polynesia USD 81,646,533

Micronesia USD 55,505,021

Total USD 304,997,309

Coastal catch (estimated commercial and subsistence) added over USD 300 million to GDP in 2014.³ This suggests that the value to the region of coastal catches is comparable with local offshore catch, which added USD 323 million, and income from foreign license fees, which were valued at USD 325 million in 2014.

Keep harvests within sustainable limits and ensure coastal developments do not damage fish habitats

Key indicatives species



Giant clams:

Generally considered overfished region wide.

Sea cucumbers:

Most sea cucumber fisheries now closed due to overfishing.



Finfish indicator species:

Monitoring of five indicator species (*Naso lituratus*, *Naso unicornis*, *Lutjanus gibbus*, *Lethrinus obsoletus* and *Ctenochaetus striatus*) indicated mixed results across seven regional sites, where some locations showed overexploitation, while others showed appropriate exploitation. Data on most species are deficient as sites are not assessed.



Reefs and ecosystems

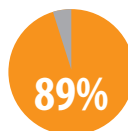
In 2011, 48% of reefs in the Pacific region were considered threatened.⁴ Since then, reefs in multiple PICTs have been severely affected by coral bleaching and tropical cyclones.



A case study in Solomon Islands found that 5% of coastal villages/communities practiced CEFM.⁵

Enhanced food security from sustainable fisheries, including the supply of tuna for domestic consumption

Per capita fresh fish consumption



89% of households consume fish or seafood weekly (median range 59% to 98%). Source: HIES data from 10 PICTs (2010–2016)

37 kg of fresh fish is consumed per person per annum (regional population weighted average, range 16 kg to 102 kg). Source: Older HIES data from 15 PICTs



Enhanced contribution to food security is unclear from available data, including food safety elements (i.e. levels of fish poisoning and contaminants).

Diversify the supply of fish, primarily through nearshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) and sustainable aquaculture



Using HIES data, the locations used by fishing households were as follows: inshore (66% of households), nearshore (62%), and offshore (33%). 6% of households reported using FADs (median values from seven PICTs).



7% of household food expenditure is on fish (median, range 2% to 8%, n = 10 PICTs, source: HIES).

Data notes

For further information on the regional coastal fisheries indicators utilised in this Report Card, including data sources and how figures were calculated, please contact Terry Opa (terryo@spc.int). Data from HIES were available for 10 PICTs (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau and Tuvalu). Figures presented are the median across these PICTs unless otherwise stated. Data from National Fisheries Offices on staff numbers and budget information were received from 13 PICTs in 2020 (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna), with some missing data. Earlier figures were used for other PICTs. The inclusion of data from additional PICTs each year means that figures are not directly comparable with previous Report Cards. It is hoped that data coverage across PICTs and data quality will continue to improve.

³ <http://purl.org/spc/digilib/doc/pvyuo>

⁴ https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/24292/2/24292_Chin_et_al_2011_front_pgs.pdf

⁵ <http://bit.ly/budgetstudy2015>

NOTES

This document provides guidance for FAO Pacific Islands member countries on how to follow and report on the internationally agreed methodology for reporting on SDG indicator 14.b.1 – “Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognises and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries”. It thus provides detailed, practical guidance in the context of the Pacific to help countries better understand and respond to the three questions in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) survey that relates to the indicator. It also importantly highlights key linkages to relevant Pacific regional frameworks and policies on small-scale fisheries.