

TCP/RAS/3101(A)3208(D)

Sustainable aquaculture development in Pacific Micronesia

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The project TCP/RAS/3101(A) 28 Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Pacific Micronesia was approved in January 2006. The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to Micronesian countries in the Pacific region (i.e., Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau) (FAO 20061). The project was intended to run for 18 months, from January 2006 to July 2007. The implementation of the project continued to advance according to the plan. However, local political changes (i.e., change of the local State Government administration) occurred which made continuation of project activities impossible or delayed. The project was therefore extended until February 2009/

Almost all planned activities were conducted with highly encouraging achievements in cooperation with the Bureau of Marine Resources and the Ngatpang State Government in Palau. These include:

- organization of a workshop on sustainable aquaculture development and a workshop on health management in July 2006;
- study and stakeholder consultations on national aquaculture development strategy;
- study on development of aquaculture farms in the Peleliu State, Palau;
- assistance in developing aquaculture farm in the Ngatpang State, Palau; and
- procurement of equipment and supplies for assisting field activities in the Ngatpang State aquaculture farm, Palau.

To facilitate completion of the final project activities and to ensure that the targeted outputs and outcomes of the project are achieved, formulation of a second phase of the project TCP/RAS/3101 was necessary and planned in early 2009. The project TCP/RAS/3208(D) (Phase II of the project TCP/RAS/3101) was approved in April 2009 with its budget of USD131,783. Under the Phase II, the following planned final activities were completed.

- design of an expert system on risk analysis
- organization of a national workshop on aquaculture strategy for Palau
- organization of a project terminal sub-regional workshop

For the development of expert systems, Google Maps API was integrated into the AAPQIS system (Aquaculture Animal Pathogen and Quarantine Information System E-Governance) to facilitate the plotting and display of GIS data, and AAPQIS guidelines were developed for the design, formatting, display, and archiving of relevant GIS data. A user-friendly form-based front-end for the flexible input and layout of the overlays were developed and region/country specific front-ends were created (visit www.aapqis.org).

The National Workshop on Aquaculture Strategy (9-10 June 2009) was conducted in Koror, Palau, back-to-back with the Project Terminal Sub-regional Workshop (11-13 June 2009). A total of 44 participants attended the two workshops including representatives from relevant national government authorities (Bureau of Marine Resources, Division of



Project Terminal Sub-Regional Workshop, Koror, Palau, 11-13 June 2009

Environmental Health, Palau Community College), state governments, NGOs and the private sector in Palau, Representatives from Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (one participant each from the FSM National Government, Kosrae State Government, Pohnpei State Government and Yap State Government) and the FAO Project Team staff.

During the National Workshop, the important elements for formulating a national aquaculture strategy for Palau were discussed, including purpose, methods and processes, consistency with national and international principles and agreements, state priorities for aquaculture, a draft strategy document and action plans for implementation. During the Project Terminal Sub-regional Workshop, participants discussed the following: (i) status of aquaculture development in Micronesian countries, (ii) development of a national aquaculture strategy: experience from Palau; (iii) salient issues on aquaculture development in Micronesia; (iv) trans-boundary aquatic animal diseases (TAADs); (v) risk assessment and management in aquaculture, and (vi) the way forward.

The above workshops recommended for FAO to continue its assistance in sustainable aquaculture development in the countries, particularly in small-scale aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity (FAO, 20082), and in reviewing aquaculture legislation/regulations. FAO technical assistance in strengthening coastal fisheries legislation was undertaken in the

Micronesian countries under the sub-regional TCP/RAS/2907-3104, 2003-2008. For further technical assistance in finalizing a draft fisheries legislation including aquaculture for Palau, the project TCP/PAL/3201 was approved on 30 September 2009.

Through joint efforts among the Ngatpang State Government, the Government of Palau (Bureau of Marine Resources) and the FAO over four years since the project planning, the project TCP/RAS/3101-3208 was completed in July 2009. Before and during the implementation of the project, many difficulties were faced. Despite these, the Ngatpang State Aquaculture Farm now produces and sells about 3,000 lbs of fresh milkfish and vacuum-packed boneless milkfish (at the average of 1 lb/pc) at the market in Koror on a bi-weekly basis (every Thursday), delivers 200 lbs of fresh milkfish directly to a local supermarket every Monday, and continues bait fish trials in cooperation with the local fishing industry.

¹FAO. 2006. TCP/RAS/3101(A): Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Pacific Micronesia, FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 35, p. 45.

²FAO. 2008. FAO and Aquatic Animal Biosecurity in the Pacific Islands, FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 40, pp 18-19.