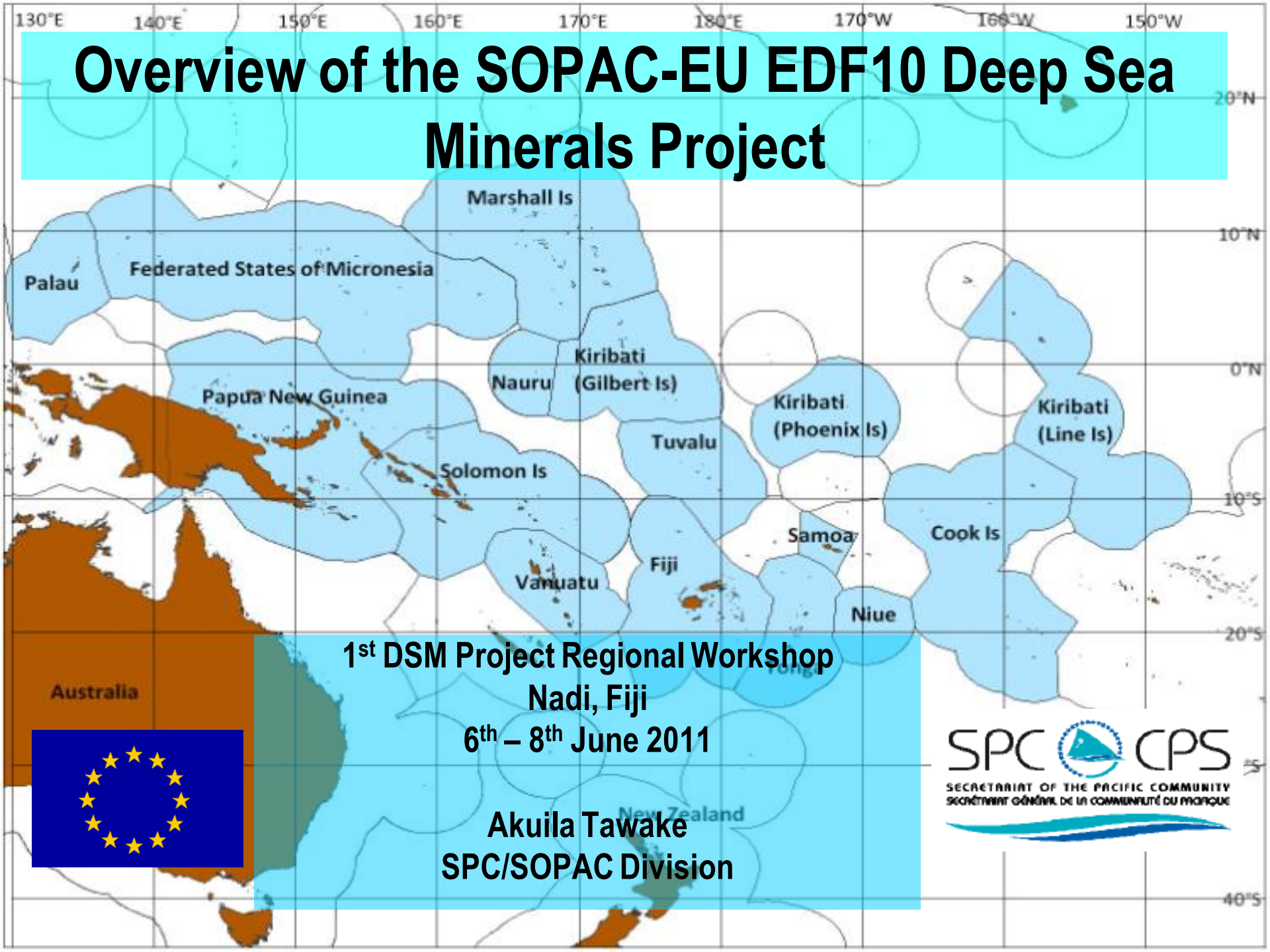


Overview of the SOPAC-EU EDF10 Deep Sea Minerals Project



1st DSM Project Regional Workshop
Nadi, Fiji
6th – 8th June 2011

Akuila Tawake
SPC/SOPAC Division



Regional Approach Concept

- The regional approach concept was necessary based on the following:
- Request for assistance by PICs to SPC/SOPAC Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;
- Recent upsurge in offshore minerals exploration within the EEZ of PICs;
- Lack of specific policy, legislation and regulations for the governance of deep sea mineral resources;
- The need for harmonised legal and fiscal regimes for the management of offshore mineral resources in the region;
- The need for a common platform (i.e. a regional framework) from which national offshore minerals policy, legislation and regulations can be developed.

Project Funding and Implementation

- EU has agreed to provide 4.7 million Euro to support the implementation of the project in 15 PICs;
- The Financing Agreement was signed by the EU and SPC in August 2010;
- The DSM Project is to be implemented by the SOPAC Division for a period of 4 years (i.e. 2011 – 2014);
- Project Staff recruitment has been completed with the recent appointment of the Legal Adviser and Project Assistant.

Project Objectives...

- **Overall objective:** to expand the economic resource base of Pacific ACP States by facilitating the development of a viable and sustainable marine minerals industry.
- **Specific objective:** to strengthen the system of governance and capacity of Pacific ACP States in the management of deep-sea minerals through the development and implementation of sound and regionally integrated legal frameworks, improved human and technical capacity and effective monitoring systems.

Key Result Areas

The project has four Key Result Areas:

- (1) Regional legislative and regulatory framework (RLRF) for offshore minerals exploration and mining;
- (2) National policy, legislation and regulations;
- (3) Building national capacities – supporting active participation of PICs nationals in the offshore mining industry; and
- (4) Effective management and monitoring of offshore exploration and mining operations.

Result Area 1 – Regional Framework

- Regional consultation workshop to:
 - launch the DSM Project;
 - provide relevant information to participating countries;
 - consult stakeholders for a regionally integrated project implementation strategy;
- Develop the Regional Legislative and Regulatory Framework (RLRF) in consultation with partners and participating countries;
- Review of the RLRF:
 - key stakeholders (national / regional / international agencies, NGOs, etc)
 - a consultant (if necessary),
 - 2nd regional workshop.
- Finalise and distribute the RLRF to member countries to be used for the development of national legislative instruments.

Result Area 2 – National Legislative Instruments

- Convene national stakeholder consultation meetings to facilitate the process of developing offshore policy, legislation and regulations;
- Establish National Offshore Minerals Committee (NOMC) with representation of all stakeholders;
- In collaboration with NOMC, formulate national offshore minerals policy and legislation based on the RLRf;
- Provide guidance and support for public consultation on the draft national offshore policy and legislation;

Result Area 2 (cont)

- DSM Project support for the review of national seabed minerals policy and legislation, regulations:
 - Stakeholder (public) consultations;
 - Submission to cabinet / parliamentary sub-committee;
 - Finalise national legislative instruments;
 - Submit policy and legislation to parliament through cabinet for enactment.
- Partnership with NOMC and national agencies is expected in all these activities.

Result Area 3 – Capacity Building

- Establish a process for assessing Marine Scientific Research, offshore mineral exploration and mining;
- Establish a regional marine minerals database;
- Rapid institutional assessment of relevant national agencies to determine priority areas and develop a project capacity building program;
- In consultation with government, identify suitable candidates for capacity building opportunities;

Result Area 3 (cont)

- Facilitate and support formal and informal training of relevant technical professionals in PICs;
- In collaboration with partners, strengthen the government legal and fiscal agencies through short-term training;
- Assess the effectiveness of capacity building initiatives and take corrective measures.



Result Area 4 – Environmental Management

- In collaboration with partners, develop a regional environmental management and monitoring framework and guideline (under the SPC-UNEP/GRID-Arendal Agreement);
- When the opportunity arises, collaborate with key stakeholders in monitoring the environmental impacts of offshore mining operations;
- Identify and engage suitable candidates to participate in environmental monitoring as part of the on-the-job training;
- Support the dissemination of information to key in-country stakeholders (i.e. 6 monthly update, information brochures, press releases, etc).
- Encourage and support the participation of potentially impacted local communities in the environmental monitoring;

Result Area 4 (cont)

- Support NOMC and the NSAs in conducting awareness programs to potentially impacted local communities;
- Carry out a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) of deep sea mining:

High costs of deep sea mining and the potential impacts on the marine living resources

against

Profit derive from a mining operation due to high commodity prices and the decrease in land metal reserves

- Consultants will be contracted on short-term basis to assist in policy and legislation review, capacity building, environmental management initiatives.

Project Implementation Calendar

Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5 & 6	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Project Team Recruitment	■																	
Workshop and develop work plans		■	■															
Develop TOR and formulate RLRf		■	■	■	■													
Review and finalise RLRf						■	■											
Consultations and establish NOMC			■	■	■	■					■					■		
Formulate and review policies and legislation						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
Finalise policies and legislation														■	■	■	■	
Institutional Assessment			■	■	■	■												
Ongoing training and review of training programs					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
Establish Marine Minerals Database								■	■									
Formulate and finalise Monitoring Framework and Guidelines								■	■	■								
Stakeholder awareness and support potential environment monitoring										■	■	■	■	■	■			
Complete project reports and increase visibility and showcasing														■	■	■	■	
Closure phase																		■

Key:

■	Result Area 1	■	Result Area 2	■	Result Area 3	■	Result Area 4	■	Closure phase
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DSM Project Beneficiaries

- Two main beneficiaries:

(1) National governments: relevant government agencies particularly those that deal with mining, fisheries, environment, law, and fiscal matters;

(2) Local Communities: particularly those that are most likely to be impacted by activities relating to offshore mining / exploration;

- Other beneficiaries: Private sector, NSA, and regional and international research agencies.

Implementing Partners

- **Relevant government agencies of the 15 Participating Countries:**
 - Mining; - Fisheries;
 - Environment; - Labour;
 - Finance
 - Office of the Attorney General
- **Regional Organizations:**
 - Other Divisions of the SPC, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS),
 - Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- **Other Organisations:**
 - UNEP/GRID-Arendal,
 - Commonwealth Secretariat,
 - Geoscience Australia,
 - International Seabed Authority, - World Bank, etc;
- Local Communities;
- **Non-State Actors:**
 - IUCN;
 - WWF;
 - Minerals Policy Institute (MPI).

Expected Project Outputs and Outcomes

- RLRf and Pacific seabed minerals assessment products (under the SPC-UNEP/GRID-Arendal Agreement) completed and used by P-ACP Countries;
- National offshore minerals policy, legislation and regulations established in **70%** of P-ACP Countries;
- Increasing number of P-ACP nationals participating in all aspects of the offshore mining industry;
- Regional marine minerals database operational;

Expected Project Outputs and Outcomes

- A regional environmental management framework and guideline completed and distributed to stakeholders;
- Benefit Cost Analysis completed and distributed to stakeholders;
- Relevant information and data disseminated to stakeholders.
- Increase investment on seabed minerals exploration and mining in the region.