



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



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**COMMON
OCEANS**
PROGRAM



Tuna project

MAY 2023

Common Oceans Tuna Project 2022-2027

The Project “Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction” is a continuation of an earlier project (2014-2019) with the same name (“ABNJ Tuna Project”). The Project objective is to achieve responsible, efficient, and sustainable tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ in face of a changing environment. This is a GEF-funded project, implemented by FAO and executed by the IOTC through a Project Management Unit.

Activities with a focus in the Indian Ocean region:

1. Conservation International, in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC), and Mercator Oceans International will model the effects of climate change on tuna distribution in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
2. WWF Pakistan will carry out a pilot trial conversion of 10 fishing vessels from gillnet to longline gear in the Pakistani gillnet fleet.
3. IOTC will carry out two additional surveys (e.g. India and Indonesia TBD) to estimate abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear in addition to the three already carried out under the first phase targeting identified priority fisheries.
4. The International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) will improve the socio-economic performance of one-by-one tuna fisheries and provide proof of concept including the supply chain of premium quality tuna. This will include a pilot study on the benefits from converting gillnet fishers to one-by-one tuna fishing techniques.



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5. The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) will develop a Certificate IV Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance qualification program for MCS officers with a focus on the Atlantic Ocean and/or Indian Ocean. This will include the identification of educational institutions for accreditation and potential development partners for delivery.
6. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) will assess cetacean bycatch and data gaps across the Indian Ocean, build regional capacity and awareness on cetacean bycatch and available solutions, and collaboratively develop recommendations to address cetacean bycatch for consideration by the IOTC.
7. Activities led by Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) targeting IOTC CPCs who are also CCSBT members (Australia, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, South Africa) to enhance education, outreach, and capacity building for the monitoring and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, as well as an update of the 2016 global seabird risk assessment.

Activities with a global focus including the Indian Ocean region:

8. Three joint tuna RFMO Working Groups will be convened on topics of global relevance to be decided by the tuna RFMOs, where ICCAT will take the lead in organizing these events with support from FAO.
9. Continued support to the Tuna Compliance Network through the International MCS Network, which brings together compliance officers from the five tuna RFMOs, to review monitoring processes for compliance in tuna and non-tuna RFMOs to identify drivers of compliance rates and measures to improve compliance.
10. The Ocean Foundation will support capacity building in Harvest Strategies/Management Strategy Evaluation in tuna RFMOs through technical support, developing e-learning courses and interactive tools, hosting quarterly webinars, and producing supporting outreach materials.
11. The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) will continue efforts in bycatch mitigation such as: a) develop and promote biodegradable/ non-entangling FADs; b) hold skippers' workshops to adopt best practices; c) develop acoustic technology; and d) produce and disseminate a policy paper for holistic bycatch management that considers the impact of different fishing gears.
12. World Wildlife Fund (US) will develop and promote a training guide/toolkit to address technical and financial barriers in developing countries for the implementation of electronic monitoring in tuna fisheries.



The Common Oceans Tuna project brings together a global partnership dedicated to sustainable tuna fisheries aiming to advance responsible tuna fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), it works in collaboration with five regional tuna fisheries management organizations, national agencies and intergovernmental organizations and initiatives, the private sector, civil society and academia.

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