Sustainability Strategy for the Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities (GMC) Project

15 March 2021

# **Introduction**

The exit or sustainability strategy is a project management tool that identifies the means to replicate and sustain the work of a given project or initiative. The sustainability strategy describes the concrete actions that the project will take during the implementation period to ensure that once project implementation concludes, relevant stakeholders are equipped with the knowledge, skills and mechanisms to secure funding if necessary, and to continue managing the established structures or on-going activities that the project initiated.

The Sustainability Strategy for the Global Marine Commodities (GMC) Project describes the unique actions that each United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Team, fisheries authorities (national, regional, local) as well as the International Project Coordination Unit (IPCU) and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) will take to ensure that the Sustainable Marine Commodity Platforms and project-supported Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) established by the project will function effectively in the mid- to long-term.

Specifically, this document presents exit strategy/sustainability options framed around the following needs:

* The need to sustain the functioning of the Sustainable Marine Commodity Platforms (SMCPs) and/or Technical Working Groups (TWGs);
* The need to agree on how to transfer the specific GMC Project responsibilities to the SMCPs/TWGs;
* The need to ensure adequate funding for the implementation, monitoring and periodic update of the national fishery action and management plans;
* The need to devise strategies for Fishery Improvement Projects to bridge financial and technical gaps after the GMC Project concludes.
* In the final section, actions are presented for the overall sustainability of all project components.

# **Project Background**

The Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities Project (GMC) is an interregional initiative implemented by Ministries and Bureaus of Fisheries and Planning of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and Philippines, with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), facilitated by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The GMC Project objective is to contribute to the transformation of the seafood market by mainstreaming sustainability in the value chain of important seafood commodities from developing countries, improving emerging tools such as corporate sustainable purchasing policies and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), driving changes in national fisheries policy for improved fisheries administration, and generating learnings to be shared worldwide.

The Project allocates Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources strategically to:

1. Engage major seafood buyers in the main world markets (EU, Japan, US) in responsible sourcing, providing tools to prepare and implement sustainable seafood sourcing policies.
2. Adapt the concept of Sustainable Commodities Platforms (currently facilitated by UNDP in the agricultural sector) to the seafood value chain and establish sustainable marine commodities platforms in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and the Philippines.
3. Support the development and implementation of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) to help improve the sustainability of target fisheries,
4. Update and improve existing information platforms to help value chain stakeholders access reliable information on the sustainability status of global fisheries to support sound seafood sourcing decision making; and capture, document and disseminate the lessons learned via project implementation.

The Project operates in the previously mentioned four countries and has an International Project Coordination Unit (IPCU) composed of staff from the UNDP and facilitating partner, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP). Table 1 describes key information associated with Project activities in each of the four countries and for the International Project Coordination Unit.

**Table 1: Core information by country/facilitating agency**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country/Facilitating Agency** | **Contract Modality** | **National Authority/ Implementing Partner** | **Date of ProDoc Signature** | **End of Project Date** |
| Costa Rica | National Implementation Modality (NIM) with UNDP Support | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MAG) | May 2016 | December 2018 |
| Ecuador | NIM with UNDP Support | Ministry of Production, Export Industry, Investment and Fisheries (MPCEIP) | September 2017 | September 2020 |
| Philippines | NIM with UNDP Support | Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Philippines (BFAR) | March 2017 | March 2021 |
| Indonesia | Full NIM (funding managed by the national government) | Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) | March 2018 | December 2021 |
| IPCU | DIM | UNDP and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership | September 2017 | January 2021 |

The Project has four components and six distinct outcomes (See Table 2).

**Table 2: Project Components, Outcomes and Facilitating Partners**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Component | Outcome | Facilitating Partner |
| **Component 1.** Promotion of global demand for sustainable marine commodities | Outcome 1. Increased global market demand for sustainable certified marine commodities and associated reduction of IUU fisheries. | SFP |
| Outcome 2. Increased pressure on RFMOs and their Contracting Parties to adopt more sustainable and science-based practices for shark and tuna conservation and management measures through engagement of international value chains. | SFP |
| **Component 2**. Enabling environments for sustainable marine commodities supply chains | Outcome 3. Increased synergy and involvement of national and international players (i.e., retailers, traders, processors, fishermen and fisheries authorities) in sustainable seafood value chains. | UNDP |
| **Component 3.** Demonstration fisheries improvement projects (FIP) | Outcome 4. Increased sustainability scores of marine commodities purchased from project fisheries. | SFP |
| **Component 4.** Sustainable marine commodities information and knowledge management systems | Outcome 5. Reliable and verifiable information of target marine commodities is publicly available and is used by value chain stakeholders for decision making and engagement in fishery improvement projects. | SFP |
| Outcome 6. Better knowledge management on mainstreaming sustainability into seafood value chains | UNDP |

SFP facilitates component 1 (outcome 1 and 2), component 3 (outcome 4) and component 4 (outcome 5). UNDP is responsible for component 2 (outcome 3) and component 4 (outcome 6). Component 2 is implemented at the national level by each government authority implementing partner with facilitation and technical support from the UNDP. The IPCU is responsible for overseeing and improving coordination between the four national components, as well as the international component and SFP-led activities.

The Project also has strategic alliances with three US-based organizations that actively contribute to advancing sustainable seafood production and demand: the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the National Fisheries Institute Crab Council, and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). As strategic partners of the GMC Project, these groups are represented on the Project’s Technical Advisory Committee. The National Fisheries Institute Crab Council provides funding to support the Blue Swimming Crab FIPs in Indonesia and the Philippines, the Monterey Bay Aquarium collaborates through its ongoing work in building the demand for sustainable seafood, and the Marine Stewardship Council provides training on sustainable seafood certification and MSC standards for sustainable fishing and chain of custody to national industry representative in the Project’s four countries.

The Project aims to make improvements in the management and sustainability of nine distinct fisheries through direct and indirect support to FIPs and their associated five Sustainable Marine Commodity Platforms (SMCP)/Technical Working Groups (TWG) (See Table 3).

Table 3: Project supported Fisheries, FIPs and associated Sustainable Marine Commodity Platform/Technical Working Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FIP Name | Country | **FIP STAGE** | | **FIP RATING** | | Landings (Mt)2018 | FIP launch date | Certifying entity |  |
| FIP Stage  (Nov. 2017) | FIP Stage  (Dec. 2020) | **FIP Rating Project start** (Nov. 2017) | **FIP Rating**  (Dec. 2020) | Associated SMCP |
| Mahi-Mahi  Longline | ECU | 5 | 5 | **B** | **Completed** | 9,672 | Jan 2010 | MSC | Large Pelagic Platform |
| Yellowfin & Skipjack Tuna  Pole and Line | ECU | n/a | n/a | **n/a** | **n/a** | (360) | Not yet listed | Fair Trade | Large Pelagic Platform |
| Small Pelagic Fish  Purse Seine | ECU | n/a | n/a | **n/a** | **B** | 160,000 | Not yet listed | IFFO RS | [Small Pelagic Platform](http://pesqueriassostenibles.produccion.gob.ec/en/home/) |
| Blue Swimming Crab  Bottom-set gillnet and box trap | PHI | 4 | 4 | **B** | **A** | 13,000 | May 2015 | MSC | [Blue Swimming Crab Technical Working Group](https://globalmarinecommodities.org/en/philipines/) |
| Octopus | PHI | n/a |  | **n/a** | **n/a** | (4000) | Not yet listed | To be determined | [Octopus Technical Working Group](https://globalmarinecommodities.org/en/philipines/) |
| Yellowfin Tuna  Pole and Line | IND | 4 | 4 | **n/a** | **A**  **Full MSC assessment** | 28,000 | Nov. 2017 | MSC | [Multi-stakeholder Platform for Sustainable Fisheries](https://www.apri.or.id/launching-multistakeholder-platform-for-sustainable-fisheries-jakarta-july-25-2019/) |
| Skipjack Tuna  Pole & Line | IND | 4 | 4 | **n/a** | **A**  **Full MSC assessment** | 28,000 | Nov. 2017 | MSC | [Multi-stakeholder Platform for Sustainable Fisheries](https://www.apri.or.id/launching-multistakeholder-platform-for-sustainable-fisheries-jakarta-july-25-2019/) |
| Blue Swimming Crab  Gillnet/trap | IND | 4 | 5 | **A** | **A** | 78,200 | Oct. 2016 | MSC | [Multi-stakeholder Platform for Sustainable Fisheries](https://www.apri.or.id/launching-multistakeholder-platform-for-sustainable-fisheries-jakarta-july-25-2019/) |
| Large Pelagic Fish  Longline | CR | n/a | 3 | **n/a** | **C** | 3,935 | April 2019 | MSC | [Large Pelagic Platform](http://www.pelagicoscr.org/en) |
| Longline tuna Atli | IN | n/a | 3 | **n/a** | **C** | 7,851 | Dec. 2019 | MSC |  |
| Indonesia Banda Sea yellowfin tuna – handline | IN | n/a | 5 | **n/a** | **Completed**  **Full MSC Assessment** | 334 | Dec 2015 | MSC |  |

Each Project-supported FIP and SMCP operates under distinct country-specific conditions, which is why unique sustainability strategies are needed to best align with national legal frameworks and institutional landscapes as well as with priorities of local and national government authorities and private sector stakeholders. For this reason, the GMC Project Platform Coordinators and SFP consultants and coordinator were consulted in the development of appropriate sustainability strategies that align with country and fishery-specific contexts.

In addition, and in response to the GMC Project’s Midterm Review Recommendation #7, the IPCU has prepared a simple template for an MOU that can be adapted and utilized by the GMC Project to formalize commitment from National Authorities to assume responsibility for the continued functioning of the platforms/TWGs established or facilitated by the GMC Project (See Annex 1). This template can be adjusted to better fit each national context and should be signed by both the national authority and the UNDP Country Office Representative and submitted to the IPCU prior to Project closure in each country. However, depending on the national context, should the MOU mechanism not be the most appropriate tool to achieve the desired outcome of ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the dialogue platform/TWG, a different formal mechanism can be used to provide evidence that national authorities will assume responsibility of the consultative structure after GMC Project completion (i.e., signed meeting minutes, a ministerial decree, or other approved and officialized legal instruments).

The following sections of this document are divided by GMC country and SFP components.

# **GMC-Costa Rica Sustainability Strategy**

* 1. **Country Situation**

Costa Rica is home to 6.5% of the planet's biodiversity, considered one out of 20 countries with the greatest diversity of species worldwide. It has a land area of approximately 51,100 km2 and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 10 times larger, which extends 589,682.99 km2. It is a country without an army since 1948 and is considered the second fullest democracy in Latin America, ranking globally in 19th position. Additionally, public spending is equivalent to approximately 20% of the PIB, with 26% allocated to education and health, respectively, and 0% to the military. There is a consolidated public institutional framework that, unlike other Latin American countries, has a low turnover of public servants.

The country's interest in its marine and fisheries resources has increased over the past 15 years. Costa Rica plays an important role in international conservation and fisheries forums and has been key in promoting international measures in marine species conservation and fisheries management. It was a founding member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in 1949 and belongs to the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA). The Costa Rican delegation at IATTC has been advocating for research on pelagic species such as dolphinfish and sharks, having been key to establishing the dolphinfish working group. Likewise, at OSPESCA, it coordinates the Shark and Highly Migratory Species Working Group and has promoted the development of standardized forms for data collection in longline and pelagic fisheries in the region. The country is the only one in Central America that has 100% of its pelagic landings inspected.

Similarly, environmental organizations and the Environment Ministry have played an active role in the inclusion of shark species in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and in promoting marine management initiatives in the Tropical Pacific Ocean such as the Corridor of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (CMAR).

This context presents numerous opportunities while at the same time a conflict over different visions of conservation and sustainable development. There is a lack of a common position between ministries both nationally and internationally and no consultation or participation of the fisheries sector.

The volume of fresh large pelagic fish (from domestic longline fisheries) is not high compared to other countries in the region, but its quality and safety is highly recognized by United States (US) markets. Likewise, the country presents unique opportunities to strengthen a greater demand for Costa Rican seafood products and potentially seek out niches in sustainable markets. Among these opportunities is being recognized for the effort carried out to manage this fishery, the increased positioning of government entities such as the Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX) and the Foreign Trade Promoter (PROCOMER) in promoting the export of seafood with a great and unique value that distinguishes it and Costa Rica's international image as a country committed to the environment.

The social, economic and trade dynamics of this fishery are complex and are key in the dynamization of the economies of coastal communities. Additionally, there is a lack of updated statistics in this regard, and the data is not broken down by sex and gender. The role of women in this sector is invisible despite the fact that they play fundamental roles as business women and leaders in the fishing sector.

Responding to this context, Costa Rica was the first country in the world to establish a fisheries Platform in the UNDP Green Commodities Programme (GCP) and the GMC Project in 2017, with the participation of more than 100 key stakeholders from the supply chain, academia and civil society.

The Project focused on large pelagic fish such as tuna, dolphinfish, and swordfish. It was led by the government by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) and the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA), with the active support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX) and the technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A high-level institutional Project Steering Committee and a multisectoral Platform Steering Committee were established. It was the first national forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue in the pelagic fishery. Four working groups were established to develop the action plan: sustainable production and precision fisheries; effective public-private sector management; market development, and fisheries improvement projects. Technical groups on specific topics were set up such as the design of an observer program, the elaboration of a manual and joint action protocol for illegal fishing, traceability and use of the Oceanographic Information System for Fishing, integrating the traditional and ecological local knowledge of the fishers.

As a result of the two-year process, a National Action Plan for Large Pelagic Fisheries 2019-2029 (NAP) was developed and presented in November 2018, and the government publicly committed to its officialization.

At the same time, based on the work done since 2004 in the country on issues of bycatch mitigation in this fishery and the greater relevance of pelagic fishing for INCOPESCA, the first Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) was established in the country and the first multi-gear and multi-species FIP in Central America. This FIP was integrated into components 2 and 3 of the GMC Project and has been coordinated from the country under the Platform scheme and with a public-private partnership approach facilitated by the UNDP. SFP provided funding and consultants for the pre-assessment and development of the work plan.

The integration with component 1, to increase the interest of the global market in products from FIPs, was weak and not fully consolidated. Greater integration would have been key to taking advantage of the country's interest in promoting fish exports and fisheries in the process of improving sustainability.

It is worth mentioning that the project managed to insert in its last stages a gender approach to give more relevance and visibility to the role of fisherwomen, heads of household, entrepreneurs, sea workers, and professionals from government institutions and researchers, whose participation was fundamental within the Platform. As said by Jose Vicente Troya, UNDP Resident Representative in Costa Rica, "The only way to use the oceans sustainably is to bring to the table all the actors who have interests, positions and of course decisions to make within the processes of building sustainable fisheries, so analyzing the success factors, limitations and opportunities to scale up activities like these in other fisheries in the world is very important".

* 1. **Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework**

The governance structure of the Platform was established as set out in the project document (ProDoc) and the GCP guidelines.

The project was led by MAG as the responsible for the fishing sector in the country and with MINAE as the GEF focal point, which are the entities with ministerial rank. In addition, INCOPESCA was part of both committees because it is the entity in charge of managing, regulating and promoting the development of the fishing and aquaculture sector.

MAG assigned an advisor to the minister to be the project director and later another advisor who became an advisor to INCOPESCA. In the process of transition and change of administration, INCOPESCA took a greater role in monitoring the project and particularly the FIP.

In Costa Rica, there are laws, decrees and agreements of INCOPESCA's Board of Directors as a legal framework for the regulation and management of fishing. Additionally, public policies develop their respective action plans. Because the country does not have a National Fishing Policy, both the establishment of the Platform and the development of the Action Plan created a new space for dialogue but was not inserted into existing structures. Likewise, because there was no previous figure to establish the governance structure of the Platform and its groups in Costa Rica, all the coordination figures were established within the framework of the project but it was ensured that they had representation from the departments and governing entities in each topic and from the private, academic, and civil society sectors, through the accreditation of assigned persons.

A draft decree was prepared to establish a multi-institutional monitoring committee, including the institutions and sectors of the Project and Platform Steering Committees and adding other relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Economy and Industry (MEIC), National Learning Institute (INA), and COMEX, in addition to the private sector.

* 1. **Project turn-over and sustainability**
* In 2019, a workshop was held with key actors to reflect on the lessons learned from the project. The identification of lessons learned involved analyzing aspects such as the participation of different value chain actors, the incorporation of traditional knowledge of sea people in the formulation of the Action Plan, and opportunities in national and international markets for Costa Rica's innovative supply of responsible seafood products. The Platform created a space for dialogue among actors that did not exist previously and in which the underrepresented producer sectors had a voice to communicate their vision from the perspective of those who make their living from fishing.
* During the project, a draft decree was prepared for the establishment of an inter-institutional and inter-sectoral monitoring committee that was initially seen as a positive initiative. In 2019, there was a change of administration and no follow-up to the decree took place.
* The National Action Plan (NAP) and the FIP were presented to INCOPESCA's Board of Directors, which issued two agreements (AJDIP/223-2018 and 062A-2019) instructing the institution's Directorates to incorporate their actions into the institutional operational plans (POI) and the national development plan (PND), and to provide technical support depending on the availability of resources and in accordance with the operational plans and to seek the budgetary content. The activities integrated in the POI and PND have a budget allocation from the institution.
* The FIP Committee was a working group in the Platform project, so at the end of the project it has been necessary to develop a new governance with a new collaboration and work agreement between the parties. The FIP established a committee with the participation of INCOPESCA, the producer and exporter sector and coordinated by a consulting company specialized in fisheries. Some activities have been financed by buyers, SFP and by the sector itself and the consulting company. Agreements are being created to involve various buyers and the private sector in contributing to the FIP.
* The increase in conflict between the government and the longline sector has not allowed for the consolidation of agreed actions of the NAP. After the end of the project in Costa Rica, three national dialogues and roundtables have been held, facilitated by the Presidential House, the United Nations and the Ombudsman's Office, at different times, in which the sector has requested the officialization of the NAP, among other issues. All the dialogues were broken and at the moment, it has not been made official but many actions are promoted within the FIP and through other projects managed by the institutions. For example, PROCOMER (*Promotora de Comercio Exterior de**Costa Rica*)is currently developing a strategy for a business model to promote the commercialization of pelagic products nationally and internationally.

# **GMC-Ecuador Sustainability Strategy**

* 1. **Country Situation**

In Ecuador, the small pelagic fishery in economic terms is the second most important after the tuna fishery (Alcívar, 2017). The fishery data begins in the 1960s (French & Menz, 1983), and was developed in the 1970s (Aguilar F, 1993). This fishery was prioritized by the National Fishery Authority (Subsecretaría de Recursos Pesqueros – SRP) in Ecuador for the implementation of the GMC Project in the country due to the productive chain generated at the national level and its biological importance.

The principal issues that were identified for this fishery in the Root Cause Analysis are the low State prioritization of the fishery sector and the lack of dialogue among actors in the fishery (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, 2018). Some of the factors that influence the complexity of the small pelagic fishery include: an increase in the capture fleet over the past few years; fishing in restricted areas; capture of juvenile fish; disrespect for current standards; the socioeconomic vulnerability of fishing communities; and illegal processing (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, 2018).

The small pelagic fishery in Ecuador is made up of a diversity of actors, from small artisanal fishers (purse seine network), to the industrial fleet and industrial processing, which implies the necessity to implement dialogue processes at all levels of the supply chain. The National Fishery Authority leads a process to implement a platform dialogue for small pelagic fish with the technical assistance and accompaniment of the national component of the GMC Project. The platform consists of three instances to function (plenary, management committee and dialogue roundtables) with the goal of being a coordination space between the private and public sectors to address fisheries problems and solutions as well as propose management tools (national action and management plan) for the fishery based on available scientific information.

Parallel to the design of the dialogue, a public private alliance between the Small Pelagic Fish Fishery Improvement Project (SPF FIP), GMC and the Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources was formed to undertake a stock evaluation of these resources. The results of this evaluation serve as a scientific input for the design and discussion of management strategies and capture control rules, in the context of the dialogue roundtables.

* 1. **Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework**

The GMC Project is implemented in Ecuador through the Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources of the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, as established in the Project Document (ProDoc). The implementation of the dialogue platform is led by the Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources with scientific advice from the National Public Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (IPIAP using its Spanish acronym).

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, in Article 406, establishes “The State will regulate the conservation, management and sustainable use, restoration and limitations of dominium of fragile and threatened ecosystems; among others, paramos, wetlands, cloud forests, dry and humid tropical forests and mangroves, marine and coastal marine ecosystems.”

Currently, Ecuador has a new Organic Law for the Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries enacted on April 21st, 2020, which contemplates in the application of legislation the principle of governance: “Create legislative and regulatory frameworks, draft policies in the short and long term through conventional forms of administration or through modern methods with participatory processes for the adoption of decisions, connecting the government with civil society, harmonizing individual, sectoral and social perspectives…” Additionally, the Law recognizes that management plans are means of fishery planning under the principle of sustainable governance.

This new Law is an important milestone for Ecuador, strengthening the management of the national fisheries authority in processes that are promoted through the Project.

The Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources, through the Ministerial Accord No. MPCEIP-SRP-2020-0054-A, issued on May 4th, 2020, officially recognizes the Small Pelagic Fish (SPF) Dialogue Roundtable as a coordination instrument between the public and private sector, in topics related to conservation, management, planning and sustainable use of the fishery, which will have its headquarters in the city of Manta, without limiting valid sessions in other cities. Through this Ministerial Accord, the national authority establishes the functioning and guidelines for implementation of the dialogue roundtable.

* 1. **Project turn-over and sustainability**

For the sustainability of the SPF Dialogue Platform, the GMC Project has contemplated the following activities:

* Officialization of the dialogue roundtable through the Ministerial Agreement No. MPECIP-SRP-2020-0054-A, a legal tool that sustains the dialogue space.
* Requirements for participation delegations per seat from the private sector through the Ministerial Accord No. MPECIP-SRP-2020-0054-A.
* Official designation of a national authority focal point as a permanent member of the dialogue roundtable.
* Official designation of a national coordinator for the dialogue roundtable (in progress).
* Activities included in the National Action and Management Plan for the fishery were designed in accordance with the competencies and activities currently undertaken by the authorities (Undersecretary of Fisheries Resources and IPIAP), in this way maintaining a permanent line of action with the budget assigned by the State.
* Strengthening capacities of investigators of the IPIAP Small Pelagic Fish Programme through the support of the project, with the goal of improving and maintaining scientific data analysis and information of these resources.
* Officialization of the National Fishery Action and Management Plan by the authority (Ministerial Agreement No. MPCEIP-SRP-2021-0073-A).

It should be noted that the National Fishery Action and Management Plan establishes a roadmap for the implementation of activities during a five-year timeframe, including for the dialogue roundtable. It includes actions that will continue after the GMC Project closure. The national fisheries authority in Ecuador is responsible for the implementation of these activities. In addition, the dialogue roundtable actors contribute to the follow-up and formulation of fishery management mechanisms.

# **GMC-Indonesia Sustainability Strategy**

* 1. **Country Situation**

Indonesia is widely acknowledged as one of the big players in global fisheries with production as of 6,109,783 tons in marine capture fisheries, the second largest after China (FAO, 2018). Indonesia is also playing important roles in several Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), mainly in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Fisheries management in Indonesia, which is also a vast archipelagic nation, is not just complex in terms of ecological and biological characteristics, it also has social, economic, and governance complexity. For instance, fisheries themselves play significant and multiple roles including as an indicator for ecosystem health, in strengthening national sovereignty, as a mover of the national economy, in revenue generation, as a source of protein, and in maintaining national culture.

Fisheries governance in Indonesia has been through a series of evolutions from a directorate general within the Department of Agriculture in 1980s to a significant shift to the ministerial level as the Department of Fisheries and Ocean Exploration in 1998 and then changed into the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in 2000. From a regulation perspective, the fisheries reform has also been shifted from a production approach (Law No 9/1985) to a management approach (Law No 31/2004 j.o Law No 49/2009). Nevertheless, more inclusive fisheries management in Indonesia is still needed. Following the success of Indonesia in combating illegal fishing, stakeholders recognize the need to strengthen the sustainable economy of fisheries, through an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach.

The implementation of the GMC Project in Indonesia is led by the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), under the Directorate of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, which is in charge of the coordination, formulation and implementation of policy, and monitoring and evaluation of national development planning in the marine and fisheries sector.

With support from the GMC Project, BAPPENAS initiated the establishment of a national level multi-stakeholder platform for fisheries to assist the coordination of the national effort to achieve the five-year National Development Planning target. In addition, the GMC Project supports acceleration of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) with model fisheries in tuna and blue swimming crab aiming to create best practices in promoting sustainability in fishery commodities. Lessons learned from these model FIPs will be provided to the multi stakeholder platform to develop policy guidance for scale up and replication.

* 1. **Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework**

The philosophical basis for the Multi-stakeholder Fisheries Platform is in the context of carrying out the mandate of Article 33 paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution which states that the national economy is organized based on economic democracy with the principles of togetherness, fair efficiency, environmental insight, independence, and by maintaining a balance of progress and national economic unity. This means that the Multi-stakeholder Fisheries Platform supports an environmentally sound economy. This is because the Multi-stakeholder Fisheries Platform is focused on realizing sustainable development in marine areas. In other words, Article 33 paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution is a philosophical foundation in the formation of a Fishery Multi-stakeholder Platform regulation, because it aims to realize fisheries sustainability.

The juridical basis for the formation of the Fisheries Multi-stakeholder Platform regulation is the implementation of statutory regulations, namely:

a. Law No 31/ 2004 on Fisheries which has been revised by Fisheries Law No 45/ 2009, stating that the Fisheries Management Area or FMA (WPP in Bahasa Indonesia)) of Indonesia for capture and aquaculture comprises Indonesian Waters, EEZ, and other potential areas in the territory of Indonesia. This FMA must be managed under several principles including togetherness, partnership, integrative, transparent, efficient, as well as sustainable development.

b.Presidential Regulation No 59/2017 on the Implementation and Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals established the mechanism to coordinate, plan, monitor, evaluate, and report SDG implementation that is coordinated by the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS). One of the Working Groups created by this regulation is the Working Group for Goal 14 that is chaired by the Directorate of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in BAPPENAS, with members from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, industry, fisher groups, academics, and civil society groups. The Government of Indonesia in its roadmap, Goal 14: Life Below Water, will be achieved through implementation of the FMA approach as the main approach to meet the target of sustainable development in the marine and fisheries sector.

c. Presidential Regulation No. 18/2020 concerning the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), identified the establishment of a Management Body for Fisheries Management Areas as an important issue to meet the targets of the RPJMN. It states that one of the issues faced in fisheries and marine management is the need to strengthen the management and institutionalization of Fishery Management Areas (FMAs). The implementation of a FMA as a basis for fisheries development is expected to boost fisheries productivity which in turn plays a role in sectoral and regional growth, in accordance with the elaboration of the 2020-2024 RPJMN for the next five years, which focuses on increasing economic resilience demonstrated by the ability to manage and use economic resources, producing high value-added goods and services to fulfill domestic and export markets. An integrated development through FMAs, that focuses on optimizing the strength of the marine and fisheries sector in each region, is expected to encourage inclusive and quality growth that is supported by the sustainability and carrying capacity of economic resources to improve welfare in a just and equitable manner. Therefore, the RPJMN states that a strategy to improve maritime, fishery and marine management is needed, one of which is to make FMAs a spatial basis for sustainable fisheries development, transformation of FMAs institutions and functions, improving the quality of FMAs management, and spatial management and marine and coastal zoning plans.

d. Ministerial Regulation of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) Number No. 18/ PERMEN-KP 2014 defines FMAs as a management area for fishing, aquaculture, conservation, research and fisheries development which includes inland waters, archipelago waters, territorial seas, additional zones, and Indonesia's exclusive economic zone. It regulates that there are 11 FMAs within Indonesia which are delineated based on resource characteristics and the biophysical environment.

e. Ministerial Regulation of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 17 / PERMEN-KP / 2020 concerns the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries for 2020-2024. Operationalizing Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) is a main output for fisheries management. The indicator for 2020-2024 is the number of operationalized fisheries management Areas which is 11 units, and the number of management body of FMA which is three units (2020), five units (2021), seven units (2022), nine units (2023), and 11 units (2024).

f. Ministerial Regulation of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 33 / PERMEN-KP / 2019 Concerning Organization and Work Procedure of Fisheries Management Institutions in the Fisheries Management Area of ​​the Republic of Indonesia. Based on Article 2, the Management Body of FMAs is formed to improve efficiency, optimization, and coordination of the implementation of fisheries management in the FMAs. This regulation initiated the establishment of marine capture-based FMAs which detailed institutional arrangements of the FMAs Management Body aiming to increase efficiency, optimization, and coordination in implementing FMAs management in the marine capture according to respective management based on the Fisheries Management Plan for each FMA.

* 1. **Project turn-over and sustainability**

The type of actions in the National Action Plan (NAP) will vary from coordination, policy development, capacity building, data collection, implementation of management or conservation measures, to procurement of related infrastructure. These actions, as well as the cost, will be executed according to each stakeholder’s role respectively. As part of the mechanism of SDGs monitoring, the NAP will be monitored accordingly.

1. Multi Stakeholder Sustainable Fisheries Platform

Various studies have identified a lack of inter- and cross-sectoral coordination as one of the main barriers for effective fisheries management in Indonesia (Pomeroy et al, 2019; Satria and Matsuda, 2004; Muawanah, et al 2018).

Prior to 2018, MMAF through Ministerial Decree No 994/Kpts/Ik.150/9/99 issued in 1999, established a coordinating forum for fisheries management (Forum Koordinasi Pengelolaan Pemanfaatan Sumberdaya Ikan, or FKPPS). There is one FKPPS at the central level, and one in each of nine fisheries management areas (before expanding into eleven in 2014). This forum identified the need to develop fisheries management plans, and to improve the accuracy of catch data and estimates of fish abundance, identification of fisheries potential, coordination of research and enforcement, and the permit system.

However, when the GMC Project started in early 2018, the FKPPS was not around anymore, and there was no well-organized or institutionalized mechanism for stakeholder participation, including coordination among levels of management authority (district, provincial, national). The coordination was mostly conducted through an ad-hoc setting, such as during the development of the annual workplan and budget, where once a year MMAF presented their plan in the consultation meeting for the upcoming financial or program year. Discussions at such meetings have tended to just confirm well-known problems and have not yet advanced to the point of developing and proposing constructive fisheries management proposals.

There is effort to transform or continue evolution of the FKPPS by embedding the forum into the management council of FMAs. For instance, the MMAF Ministerial Regulation No 33/2019, including the two panels, namely the scientific panel and consultative panel, into the governance arrangement of each FMAs management council. However, the role of FKPPS and its arrangement is missing at the national level.

As the lead implementing agency of the GMC Project activities in Indonesia, the Ministry of National Development Planning/ BAPPENAS has been coordinating/leading the facilitation of cross sectoral coordination in the fisheries and marine sector to date, with technical and financial assistance from the GMC Project.

The facilitation of cross sectoral coordination in the fisheries and marine sector is conducted through the framework of Working Group for Goal 14 of the National Implementation Team for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is chaired by the Directorate of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, as regulated by Ministry of National Development Planning/ BAPPENAS regulation No 7/2018 as an implementing regulation of Presidential Regulation No 59/ 2017 on Sustainable Development Goals. The Working Group for Goal 14 will play a role in facilitating and promoting the establishment of an agile cross-sectoral coordination for the marine and fisheries sector, while also playing a transitioning role as a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism until the new mechanism is established or agreed.

Utilizing existing mechanisms of the Working Group for Goal 14 is strategically relevant for the GMC Project. Firstly, the working group is government led and has been fully internalized under the government system, which is similar to the expected platform that must be government led and with full ownership of government. Government provides resources and funding, mainly through state and local government budgets, for the activities of the working group, including ensuring availability of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the Working Group. Secondly, the focus of the Working Group is aligned and shared with the focus of fisheries management in Indonesia, which is effective implementation of sustainable fisheries through the framework of FMAs. Lastly, the composition of members in the Working Group of Goal 14 is very relevant to the expected representation for a multi stakeholder platform for fisheries.

In conclusion, by approaching the output to establish a cross-sectoral coordination or platform through the Working Group of Goal 14, the GMC Project will strategically be able to ensure sustainability, both funding resources as well as substance, of the cross-sectoral coordination.

1. Fisheries Management Plans

As regulated by Ministerial Regulation of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 29 / PERMEN-KP / 2012l, the Fisheries Management Plan is a directive for central and local government in implementing management of fisheries resources. All the eleven FMAs have the fishery management plans in place and ready for implementation of the action plan, with mandatory updates every five years. To govern the implementation of the Management Plans, 11 fishery management councils will be established to manage fishery resources throughout Indonesian water. The role of partners, such as NGOs, are welcomed in this institution, although mainly the FMA governance will be funded by the Indonesian national budget, particularly MMAF.

Besides the FMA-based Fisheries Management Plan, the government also develops specific fishery or commodity-based management plans which are also subject for mandatory review every five years. For instance, the Fisheries Management Plan for Blue Swimming Crab, and the Fisheries Management Plan for Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, and Neritic Tuna.

**In the tuna fisheries**, through the GMC Project, BAPPENAS provides support to the updating of the Fisheries Management Plan for Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, and Neritic Tuna, which is led by the MMAF. The management plan was due at the end of 2019. Starting in February 2020, a fisheries consultant was hired by GMC project to assist MMAF to update the data and information based on available data on the status of fish stocks based on the available evidence, and social, economic, and environmental conditions. Follow up meetings were conducted to evaluate the implementation of the previous management plans, and then determine management issues for the next five-year period for each Fisheries Management Area of Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, and Neritic Tuna. The management of Tuna, and Skipjack Tuna is divided into two competence areas which are three FMAs under IOTC competence area, and three FMAs under WCPFC competence area, while neritic tuna is divided into the eleven FMAs.

Later in August 2019, a three-day session was conducted to develop a detailed action plan according to the respective FMAs division for Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, and Neritic Tuna with stakeholders from tuna industry association, including the purse seine tuna association (HNPN), longline tuna association (ATLI), pole and line and handline tuna association (AP2HI) and two other multi gear associations (ASTUIN and ASPERTADU). Participation also came from NGOs that work in the tuna fisheries, including WWF Indonesia, MDPI foundation, and The Nature Conservation Fisheries Program. Results from this session were followed up by the MMAF to then become the final draft for the Fisheries Management Plan.

In September 2020, after the stagnation due to COVID-19, a public consultation was conducted to seek more input from stakeholders, through an online platform, and opening written submission through email. Two additional focus group discussions were conducted with industries and academics to provide more detailed inputs to the draft. A consignment is planned in 16-18 December 2020 to consolidate all the inputs and finalize the draft before submission for the Ministry's signing.

In terms of sustainability, as the main directive for fisheries management, implementation of the management plan will be funded mainly by the State Budget (APBN) allocated for the MMAF, and also Regional Budget (APBD) allocated by the local government. Possible support will also come from the private sector, as some of the actions in the management plan are directly related to the improvement by the industry, either through fishery improvement projects or other means.

**In Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) fisheries**, the Fisheries Management Plan is due at the end of 2021. Thus, the GMC project instead supported the development of the Harvest Strategy for the BSC as an implementing tool for the management plan. Starting at the end of 2018, GMC provided funding support to the Indonesian BSC Industry Association (APRI) to strengthen and complete data collection of catch data as part of their Fishery Improvement Project. Support from GMC is especially focused on collecting data from Madura Island of Java Sea, one of main sources of BSC production in Indonesia. Early in 2019, GMC also provided support to the MMAF to hold a session with stakeholders, which resulted in an agreement on the fishery specific objective for the harvest strategy, which is to maintain and/or improve the Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) of BSC to a level that enables sustainability of stock. After several iteration meetings involving local government, researchers from fisheries research centers, NGOs and industry, all stakeholders agreed to utilize data from APRI as a basis for determining reference points for SPR for the harvest strategy. At the end of February 2020, the MMAF launched the Blue Swimming Crab Harvest Strategy in FMA 712.

Similar to the tuna fishery, in terms of sustainability, as the main implementing tool for the BSC fishery, implementation of the harvest strategy will be funded mainly by the State Budget (APBN) allocated for the MMAF, and also the Regional Budget (APBD) allocated by the local government. Possible support will also come from private sectors, as effort to ensure catch not impairing the SPR is directly related to the practice and efforts of the industry. For instance, as the fishery is under improvement projects the industry must maintain the SPR below the limit. There is a catch data collection scheme called control document that has been established by APRI which also piloted through support from GMC project.

# **GMC-Philippines Sustainability Strategy**

* 1. **Country situation**

In the case of the Philippines, while its government has been active in participating in international development initiatives for fishery sustainability, and despite having a strong national government-led drive for sustainable marine commodity production, it has generally abstained from international development activities or committees under the purview of global industry-to-industry collaboration. These international groups, and their interaction with national industry, often center on funding or co-financing private-sector-led initiatives addressing global development issues (e.g., global supply chain roundtables, the National Fisheries Institute's (NFI) – crab council meetings).

While the pursuit of parallel initiatives showcases a united national acceptance of prevailing problems and gaps towards achieving sustainable fisheries management, the varying independent initiatives of government and industry – especially pertaining to profiling and stock assessment – reveals a dissonance in the approach to addressing sustainability issues. This situation may have very well already resulted in lost opportunities to ensure efficient use of both limited government and industry resources in implementing development initiatives. The harmonization of goals may be one of the keys to addressing this problem.

International development organizations, among other groups, have the potential to serve as a platform for broadening opportunities for public-private partnership in maximizing benefits from international buyer groups. By bringing key private sector actors into discussions regarding co-financing government processes to encourage sustainable fisheries management, these organizations can at the same time help tailor government initiatives to respond to global and local industry needs that incentivize demand and support for sustainable seafood.

**National Component of GMC.** The national component (Component 2 of GMC) develops the local fisheries institutional landscape, covering all national supply chain stakeholders (e.g., industry and government), to maximize the benefits from opportunities provided by the work being done under project components 1, 3 and 4 at the international level. This component centers on the creation and initial support to public-private marine commodity platforms to encourage the improved management of the Blue Swimming Crab and the Octopus marine commodities. The marine commodity platforms (or technical working groups - TWGs as they are called in the Philippines) are oriented to provide a multi-stakeholder consultative mechanism to inform the creation of consensus-based Fishery Management Plans.

**Global and National Integration.** Apart from obvious avenues for collaboration, as Project partners are implementing their activities under the same project framework, the Project design provides several strategic support mechanisms to further strengthen global and national components’ integration. This integration was achieved primarily through a “learning-by-doing” approach.

Particularly, the SFP provides a national fisheries consultant as the chief representative of SFP and its in-country components, where the primary support provided is directed to the existing Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) FIP, and to the creation of the new Octopus FIP. The SFP, through the GMC Project, has identified, in collaboration with the two GMC-supported TWGs, the scientific needs throughout the NMP development process, and preparation for implementation, leaving key capacities installed in government institutions for future data collection, analysis, and monitoring.

It is important to note that: (i) consultancies were contracted through local experts within the current government expert network pool, with SFP support; and (ii) scientific products, utilizing the learning-by-doing approach, were developed and executed through key government scientific fisheries programs and institutions, namely the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI). This helped ensure embedding increased capacities for a reliable scientific support system post GMC Project. More specifically, in the case of octopus, SFP developed needed data collection protocols for the conduct of stock assessment, and for BSC, historical BSC data, gathered through the NSAP for the main BSC producing regions were used in designing new approaches to data analysis, as well as for proposing the most appropriate reference points for the fishery.

The GMC-IPCU likewise provides a regional fisheries consultant to assist the GMC-PHI country team in the development process of the management plan for sustainability of target commodities, while the core GMC-IPCU team coordinates with all in-country Project Implementation Units (PIUs), providing targeted country support.

In essence, among other goals, integration efforts are expected to lead to increased global buyer network demand and long-term investments for sustainable marine commodities’ sourcing opportunities in GMC-recipient countries; and strengthened national systems and support to sustainable fisheries management due to potential benefits (e.g., economic benefits) and achievement of development targets.

* 1. **Institutional Arrangements and Legal Framework**

The Philippines implements the GMC Project through two entities: (i) the country’s Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), under the Department of Agriculture; and (ii) the UNDP.

Under the Project’s organization structure,[[1]](#footnote-1) it is jointly chaired by BFAR and the UNDP. The Project is directly managed by a senior BFAR Official designated as the Project’s National Project Coordinator in partnership with a National Platform Officer, recruited by the UNDP. The national project centers on supporting two supply chain platforms for its targeted commodities: (i) Blue Swimming Crab; and (ii) Octopus.

In addition to the National Project Coordinator being an organic public servant of the government, BFAR has assigned a National Technical Officer to support day-to-day Project Implementation Unit (PIU) activities. Notably, the Philippines’ implementation modality for the Project is unique in that the government not only provides and shares oversight with the UNDP, but likewise also provides direct management of the Project jointly with UNDP counterparts.

The institutional arrangement is consistent with the Philippines’ Republic Act 8182[[2]](#footnote-2) or the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Act of 1996, in terms of provisions on project execution, among others.

* 1. **Project turn-over and sustainability**

Due to the effective integration of national and global Project components, as well as the institutional arrangements which place authority for platform facilitation and follow-up squarely in the hands of national authorities, it is evident that sustainability mechanisms are built into Project design and implementation.

1. **Marine Commodity Platforms.** The creation and membership of the platforms are each covered under specific Fisheries Office Orders (FOO) issued by the government, through the BFAR[[3]](#footnote-3). The FOOs for each commodity supported by the Project serve as the enabling policy that forms multi-stakeholder groups, with the task of steering the development and implementation of the national management plans, for every cycle of said plans, continuing post GMC Project implementation. This allows the opportunity to ensure all voices are constantly heard prior the execution of policies and initiatives that the plan charts out in the different Fishery Management Areas (FMAs) of the country[[4]](#footnote-4).

* In the case of the BSC, the platform already existed in the form of a Technical Working Group (TWG), reinvigorated by the FOO to align and benefit from the GMC-PHI implementation. The chairperson is a Regional Director level official of the bureau, and the co-chair is the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI), which is the leading business group in the country spearheading BSC sustainability as their primary commodity.
* In the case of the octopus’s commodity, there was no pre-existing platform. The FOO formed a new TWG, patterned after the already existing TWG platform system by the BFAR. The chairperson is also a Regional Director level official of the bureau, and the co-chair is the Philippine Cephalopods Producers and Exporters Association, Inc. (PCPEAI), which is likewise the leading business group in the country spearheading octopus sustainability as their primary commodity.
* Notably, the PCPEAI is a newly formed organization, facilitated through the efforts of GMC-PHI, SFP, BFAR, and SEACHAMP, in view of new opportunities for international buyer network co-financing of Octopus FIPs, facilitated by the SFP through its Global Octopus Supply Chain Roundtable (GOSR) network (covered under GMC component 1).

As this process is strengthening an already existing system adopted by the country, the regular budgets allocated by the government to its platforms ensure that it is sustained by virtue of yearly budget appropriations to BFAR. Furthermore, with the introduction of new avenues for co-financing from international buyer networks to the PACPI and PCPEAI, specifically for Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), it is expected that these new windows of co-financing made possible through public-private collaboration via the platform support will fortify the active participation of business in the platform over the long-term.

Notably, there is no platform turn-over necessary, as said platforms are only supported by GMC-PHI and are already institutionalized in policy—chaired and spearheaded by the government and private-sector.

1. **National Management Plans.** There has already been a previous iteration of the BSC National Management Plan (BSC-MP), formed through stakeholder consultations prior to GMC-PHI. Ideally, the NMP would be primarily a policy document, scientifically based on FIPs that will guide the decision-making process in policy formulation. The case for the Philippines in the earlier version of the BSC NMP is that the document turned out to become more of an action plan that charted out projects and corresponding budgets, similar to the function of a FIP. Further, being an earlier pilot, several weaknesses in the development process prevented the BSC-NMP from achieving full and organized implementation. One of the dissonances identified is that participants in the BSC-NMP did not fully share common goals charted out in the NMP document. Particularly, the BSC-NMP did not express alignment with any internationally respected certification and/or standard that the international buyer groups (demand side) respected, or local industry pursued.

As acquiring external sources of co-financing for FIPs is one of the goals of the seafood productive sector in the Philippines, PACPI had decided to independently conduct its own Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Gap Analysis, with the assistance of MRAG, primarily funded by the National Fisheries Institute Crab Council (NFI-CC). Later, this led to the formulation and separate implementation of the PACPI FIP Action Plan aligned with MSC standards. A monitoring and tracking system, as well as specific funding sources were not formally established, which further exacerbated the problem and implementation of the BSC-NMP became fragmented.

Under the GMC Project, through the platform coordination support, and SFP technical support, the new iterations of the management plan for both BSC and octopus marine commodities aim to learn from the weaknesses of the earlier implementation of the BSC-NMP. The new platforms (or Technical Working Groups) aim to produce harmonized management plans that clearly chart out the specific responsibilities of implementing partners, respect the certification/s and/or standard/s required by business to acquire external co-financing (harmonize public-private partnership goals), and prescribe policies with a sound science-based foundation aligned with the FIP process and purpose, to be rolled out in the different FMAs of the country.

Moving forward, the interventions and improvements to the NMP development process are expected to result in an action-specific, policy centered, science-based, and implementable management plan and corresponding FIP workplan. The TWG platforms earlier discussed are likewise expected to persist and manage the NMP funding, implementation, and monitoring over the medium to long-term post project lifetime.

As an example, the Fish Right Program, a five-year program funded by USAID, has presented to the BSC TWG a BSC implementation plan aligned with the BSC NMP. FR, in collaboration with BFAR and with the agreement of the TWG, has selected four local government units (LGUs) in the Visayan Sea to implement the BSC NMP. The Fish Right Program will accelerate the adoption of the BSC NMP among these LGUs, integrating BSC management into fisheries municipal ordinances and providing support to improve the impact the BSC has in other fisheries, as well as the management effectiveness of the adopted regulations.

# **GMC-SFP Sustainability Strategy**

* 1. **Ecuador Small Pelagic FIP**

The sustainability strategy that SFP has implemented (to ensure the implementation of the Ecuador Small Pelagic FIP after the GMC Project concludes) is based on three main actions: a) Ensuring industry lead and fund the FIP, b) Ensuring an inter-institutional cooperation between CNP (*Camara Nacional de Pesquerias* - FIP implementers) and the National Fisheries Institute (INP) to improve science and management of the small pelagic fishery, and c) Improving the **skills** of scientists, FIP participants and management authorities to resolve the sustainability challenges that the FIP is facing.

Industry lead and funding the Ecuador Small Pelagic FIP

The requirement of feed producers to obtain fishmeal and fish oil certification encouraged fishmeal companies (CNP) to start a FIP in order to meet the MarinTrust Global Standard for Responsible Supply (IFFO RS) certification. For the FIP initiation, SFP provided technical advice and support to develop a pre-assessment and Fishery Action Plan (FAP) to achieve the certification and its benefits. The budget for the FAP was calculated around 1 million dollars for the five years of the project implementation. The FAP was presented to the CNP and they agreed to fund the FIP. Once the FAP was approved by IFFO RS, the FIP participants designed and approved its governance structure - a funding mechanism which shares the FIP costs among all the FIP companies. Under this approach the FIP has ensured the funding of all its activities for the next few years.

Inter-institutional cooperation between CNP and INP to improve science and management of the small pelagic fishery

The CNP signed an agreement with the National Fisheries Institute for Inter-Institutional Cooperation in order to: a) promote scientific and technical research on small pelagic stock assessments and environmental impacts caused by the fishery, b) conduct scientific research campaigns (hydroacoustic surveys) jointly by both institutions, and c) create an inter-institutional research team between the CNP and the INP to meet the FIP objectives.

With this agreement, the FIP has ensured the INP participation in the implementation of the activities to generate scientific information for the design and adoption of management measures in the future.

Improving the skills of scientists, FIP participants and management authorities

With the intention of strengthening the INP capabilities, SFP provided scientific support through the hiring of a consultancy to:

a. Identify adequate stock assessment models for the main species composing the catch (of the reduction fisheries sector in Ecuador),

b. Identify capacity needs and provide hands on training to staff at the INP to ensure the research institution maintains a regular program of stock assessments for small pelagics;

c. Develop stock assessments for the main species and population diagnoses for data poor species and lead an independent peer review process.

Also, SFP has provided training sessions to the FIP companies and government authorities to design and implement the small pelagic FIP.

Under this strategy, the FIP participants and government authorities have the knowledge to continue with the FIP implementation. Also, the scientific INP staff has improved their capabilities to conduct stock assessments. They also have a robust data collection system which is complemented with the information generated through the hydroacoustic surveys of small pelagic resources. All these actions will allow the FIP to generate improvements in science and management to achieve the IFFO RS certification in the future.

* 1. **Philippines Octopus FIP and Blue Swimming Crab FIP**

In the Philippines SFP has supported two FIPs in different situations and stages. The first is the Blue Swimming Crab (BSC) FIP led by the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI), a FIP launched in May 2014, receiving regular funds to implement its actions which is in its stage 4 - Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management. In the second case, SFP has worked with the national octopus’ industry, particularly its processors and exporters, to launch the first FIP in the country targeting this species. This FIP is currently in stage 1 -FIP developing.

The sustainability strategy developed by SFP to support the implementation of the BSC FIP and to create the conditions to launch the octopus FIP and ensure their implementation will continue once the Project finishes is based, as in Ecuador´s case, on three axes: a) Guaranteeing FIPs are industry led, b) Strengthening institutional cooperation between the private sector, mainly processors and exporters of the two targeted commodities, and the public administration in charge of managing the Philippines’ fisheries, BFAR, to set common grounds to work towards a sustainable management of the fisheries resources, and c) Scientific and technical capacity building among FIP participants, BFAR and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) to improve fisheries management and assure a correct FIP implementation.

As can be expected, SFP has adapted the approach used in each of the FIPs based on their situation.

The BSC FIP was already being led by PACPI, a BSC industry organization, since its launch. In this regard, SFP has always prioritized PACPI, together with BFAR, as the main representative to identify and agree the main actions to support the FIP implementation. This was also intended to publicly recognize its key role in the FIP implementation, strengthening therefore its institutional position.

In order to launch and implement the octopus FIP, SFP together with the GMC Project partners, created the enabling conditions to constitute the Philippine Cephalopods Processors and Exporters Association, Inc.1 (PCPEAI) to lead the whole FIP-related process. SFP conducted different workshops and meetings to educate PCPEAI members on the process to develop and implement a FIP and to reach consensus on the octopus FIP nature and scope. These workshops were also venues for the association to discuss internal matters for its constitution.

Moreover, in order for PCPEAI members to take ownership of the FIP since its conceptualization, SFP elaborated its scoping document, stating FIP objectives and a three-year work plan to achieve them, based on PCPEAI interest and targets. The FIP budget was also established. PCPEAI members showed continuous interest to participate in the FIP implementation, however the budget requirements made them ask for support to find co-funding. Since the US is the main market for the Philippines octopus, SFP identified and contacted main US-based Philippines octopus’ buyers to present them the FIP and look for funds. This was going to be done during a side-event would have been held during Boston Seafood Expo North America (SENA) 2020 that was unfortunately cancelled due to the SARS-COVID-19 outbreak and SENA 2020 postponement. Consequently, SFP is exploring how to conduct this workshop in an alternative way. In due time, SFP will guide FIP participants on how to design its governance structure, together with establishing the most appropriate funding mechanisms to guarantee there will be funding to implement the whole FIP.

-Strengthening institutional cooperation between the BSC and octopus’ private sector and the public administration in charge of managing the fisheries to set common grounds to work towards a sustainable management of the fisheries resources.

SFP’s technical and scientific support to the BSC and octopus FIPs has been always aligned with the efforts conducted by the GMC Project to establish or update new National Management Plans (NMPs) for these two commodities through the Technical Working Groups (TWG). Hence, SFP has used the TWG for these two commodities as a forum to discuss and agree which were the main activities to support the FIPs that could simultaneously have a positive impact in the development of the two NMPs. This decision-making process strengthens institutional cooperation between the private and public sector, aligning their interests and making them reach consensus in the benefit of the fisheries. SFP supported science-based activities aimed at strengthening BFAR and NFRDI capacities to generate scientific information for the design and adoption of management measures in the future, in agreement with the industry.

Furthermore, SFP has also promoted the presence of participants coming from the industry and public sector in different meetings or workshops celebrated for them to use as a neutral venue, and keep the discussions on-going about the GMC project’s fisheries management and strengthen mutual trust.

Finally, it was agreed that once the octopus FIP is launched, the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) staff, a BFAR program until 2019, will be the enumerators in charge of collecting all needed information to conduct the octopus stock assessment. The aim of this agreement is to guarantee that the support provided by the FIP will strengthen government capacity to monitor key fisheries for the country and, on the other hand, providing higher legitimacy to the results of the stock assessment since it will be conducted by the institution in charge of assessing the country’s fisheries and not the industry itself.

-Improving the skills of scientists, FIP participants and management authorities

SFP provided technical assistance to strengthen BFAR and NFRDI scientific capacity, together with representatives from the industry in the following areas:

a. for BSC: design new approaches to data analysis to propose the most appropriate reference points for this fishery based on an historical review of BSC data gathered under the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) for regions 5, 6 and 7

b. for octopus: identify the most appropriate stock assessment methods for key Philippines octopus’ species, define data gathering needs and develop a data gathering strategy to enable octopus’ stock assessments to be conducted

To enhance these institutions’ capacity building, SFP trained BFAR and NFRDI and industry representatives using a learning-by-doing approach in the framework of these two technical assists. Moreover, SFP will be supporting, at least, the following science-based activities before the end of the project:

Conduct a desk study on the likely outcomes of implementing different management scenarios to evaluate the cost/benefit of their implementation and to determine which of them are likely to materially contribute in a greater manner to the BSC stock recovery.

Conduct a desk study on the likely outcomes of holding berried female BSC in cages and BSC larvae in Thai-style hatcheries for later release on BSC stock size (i.e., does this materially contribute to rebuilding); to evaluate the cost/benefit of keeping berried females in holding cages and from releasing larvae from Thai-style hatcheries; and to determine if such activities are likely to materially contribute to catch volume in the fisheries.

SFP has also provided training sessions on FIPs to octopus companies and government authorities to design and implement the octopus FIP.

The overall goal of this strategy to strengthen technical and scientific capacities with regards to fisheries management and FIP implementation both in the public and private sector, is to ensure embedding capabilities for a reliable scientific and FIP implementation support once the GMC Project has finished.

* 1. **Costa Rica Large Pelagic FIP**

The Costa Rica Large Pelagics Longline and Greenstick FIP (CRLPF) has not yet developed a sustainability strategy. The FIP’s governance structural problems have not allowed Costa Rica stakeholders to get funding and ensure a financial mechanism for the FIP implementation.

The CRLPF was designed and developed in the frame of the National Sustainable Fishery Platform for Large Pelagic. Through this multistakeholder dialogue, a working group was formed to lead and implement the CRLPF. The following institutions formed the working group: Costa Rican Fishery and Aquaculture Institute (INCOPESCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), National Longline Fishing Sector, Exporters Association- CANEPP, MARTEC, FRUMAR, and UNDP.

From the beginning of the CRLPF, SFP advised FIP participants to identify adequate service providers in the country who could provide technical and coordination assistance. However, the UNDP took this responsibility and the coordination role in the FIP initiation. As UNDP is not in the best position to lead an initiative from the private sector, there was resistance from the US buyers to provide funding support because they were concerned about the overhead and bureaucratic burden that UNDP would apply to manage any funding. This issue hindered SFP's capacity to raise market attention and drive support for the FIP. For these reasons, on several occasions, SFP called attention to the FIP participants and encouraged them to change the FIP leadership to industry representatives. The same message was conveyed to suppliers to encourage their vendors to develop an adequate FIP arrangement to deal with this weakness.

SFP advised national industry players to lead themselves in the improvement efforts, in close coordination with INCOPESCA and by developing and maintaining a FIP funding model on these fisheries through a volume-based fee (a financial contribution per exported ton). This was discussed with FIP participants during a workshop, where the FIP work plan was agreed upon.

Despite all these attempts and the support provided, the CRLPF keeps its same governance structure. Although the FIP coordination has moved from the UNDP to a third party, FIP leadership has not yet implemented a financial mechanism for the FIP implementation. Moreover, government institutions maintain a decisive role in the FIP decision-making process. The lack of a well-structured governance system affects the sustainability of the CRLPF and has caused some actors to start another FIP in parallel. This new FIP (MARTEC FIP) has created a fund with contributions from the same processor company which leads this FIP.

The following recommendations could help the CRLPF to develop and implement a sustainability strategy

1. Follow the industry lead FIP approach promoted by SFP
2. Ensure participation from the processors in country
3. Develop appropriate governance structures for making decisions on the FIP budget, priorities, and activities and establish MoUs between all FIP participants.
4. Signed an MoU with all the FIP participants, including producers, exporters, and importers.
5. Ensure there is a co-funding model in place that warrants an adequate coverage of FIP activities' costs.
6. Cover the total national volume of large pelagics in the FIP.

* 1. **COREMAHI**

One of the key limiting factors that has prevented mahi-mahi FIPs in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) from acquiring third-party certification (MSC) to date is the lack of formal regional management measures for this highly migratory stock. Through the GMC Project, SFP was tasked with building coalitions of mahi-mahi producers, processors, and US buyers to coordinate regional actions to promote the sustainability and responsible management of EPO mahi-mahi fisheries.

The IATTC has made it clear that they do not have a direct responsibility to assign and enforce regional harvest control rules (HCRs) for the mahi-mahi fishery as it is considered beyond its direct mandate. Considering this context and employing an adaptive management approach, SFP determined that the most effective way the GMC Project could support mahi-mahi fisheries in Ecuador and Costa Rica (as well as in other regional producing countries such as Peru) would be to facilitate the creation of a regional producer's interest group to coordinate private sector-led actions to promote the sustainability and responsible management of mahi-mahi fisheries in the EPO.

This group, called [COREMAHI](http://www.coremahi.org/), has coordinated the following actions to generate concrete positive impacts on the management of mahi-mahi stocks and to help FIPs across the region advance toward full MSC certification:

1 Encourage their national IATTC delegates to advocate for improvements in science and management in mahi-mahi fisheries at the regional level: During 2019, COREMAHI prepared two position statements which requested that the IATTC focus on improving research and data collection regarding the composition of mahi-mahi stock, effects of environmental variables on mahi-mahi stocks, and on the impacts of Fishing Aggregating Devices FADs (among other topics). These position statements were shared with fishing authorities in Ecuador, Peru, and Costa Rica, who delivered these key messages and requests directly to the IATTC in its scientific committee meeting (May 2019) and annual commission meeting (July 2019). However, because the IATTC did not make a decision, COREMAHI decided to develop a scientific plan as a blueprint for the IATTC to continue with mahi-mahi research. It is expected that the mahi-mahi scientific plan will be presented at the 12th SAC meeting in 2021.

2 Provide support to develop scientific studies: The COREMAHI regional scientific plan considers projects that will need COREAMAHI participants' support for their implementation. An example is a genomic study to identify the stock structure of mahi-mahi samples of fish collected by the fishers cooperatives participating in COREMAHI. Another project seeks to tag mahi-mahi to monitor their vertical movements to complement the genomic study and reduce the mahi-mahi stock structure's uncertainties. Vessels of the COREMAHI fishers cooperatives will be used to tag mahi-mahi.

3 Implement a code of conduct: Due to there not being an RFMO in charge to manage mahi-mahi in the EPO, COREMAHI participants agreed to design, publish and implement a code of conduct to commitments to voluntarily self-regulate the mahi-mahi fisheries.

To ensure the long term implementation of COREMAHI actions, SFP has convened the largest mahi-mahi importing companies from the United States, through its [Global Mahi-Mahi Supply Chain Roundtable](https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Improving-Wild-Fisheries/Seafood-Sectors-Supply-Chain-Roundtables/Global-Mahi-SR), to work with them to support COREMAHI activities through:

1. Requesting their US IATTC commissioners (and other commissioners) to support COREMAHI requests at the RFMOs meetings.
2. Providing financial support to conduct studies included in the COREAMHI's scientific plan
3. Following, monitoring, and encouraging their providers to implement COREMAHI codes of conduct.

In this way, the entire mahi-mahi supply chain would generate improvements in this fishery at the regional level. On the one hand, mahi-mahi processors and producers (COREMAHI participants) identify common policy change needs and advocate for regional joint asks toensure collective impact at the regional level and achieve MSC certification (regional improvements are essential for their individual FIPs). On the other hand, mahi-mahi buyers will provide support to COREMAHI to ensure a sustainable supply of mahi-mahi to meet their market requirements.

# **Overall Sustainability of All Project Components**

In this section, a summary is provided for each project component to illustrate actions being taken to address the sustainability of actions for each aspect of the GMC Project (See Table 4).

Table 4. Sustainability Roadmap

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Components | Outcomes | Actions to ensure sustainability | Responsible | Key dates |
| 1.Promotion of global demand for sustainable marine commodities | 1. Increased **global market demand for sustainable certified marine commodities** and associated reduction of Illegal, Underreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries. | ***Toolkit for responsible sourcing*** SFP will use (and update – if need be) this tool and promote that buyers continue purchasing sustainable seafood after the project close. | SFP/ Industry | Ready by July 2021  Use of toolkit ongoing after project close |
| ***Sustainable seafood purchasing policies*** These policies adopted by major seafood buyer and retailer companies ensure that actions continue after project close. Therefore, the project has supported the efforts by the seafood sustainability movement to encourage mayor seafood buyers to update their purchasing policies and make them public. Furthermore, the project supports the [Ocean Disclosure Project](https://oceandisclosureproject.org/about-us) which aims for seafood-buying companies including retailers, suppliers, fish feed manufacturers and more, to voluntarily disclose their wild-caught seafood sourcing alongside information on the environmental performance of each source. | Industry | Ready by July 2021  Ongoing after project close |
| [***Supply chain roundtables***](https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Improving-Wild-Fisheries/Seafood-Sectors-Supply-Chain-Roundtables)The supply chain roundtables are forums for processors, importers, and others that buy directly from a specific seafood sector to work together in a pre-competitive environment to achieve improvements in fisheries or aquaculture. SFP, as part of its ongoing actions, will continuously promote the engagement of the private sector in supply chain roundtables. As such, suppliers and retailers will receive updates and information regarding which FIPs or certified fisheries suppliers they could seek to purchase from, as well as promote that suppliers and retailers incentivize their providers to engage in active or new FIPs. | Industry/ SFP | Ongoing |
| 2. **Increased pressure on Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs)** and their Contracting Parties to adopt more sustainable and science-based practices for shark and tuna conservation and management measures through engagement of international value chains. | ***Strengthening of*** [***COREMAHI:***](http://www.coremahi.org/) COREMAHI is a regional organization constituted by producers and processors of mahi-mahi (dorado) from Ecuador, Costa Rica and Peru, whose objective is to promote sustainability and responsible management in mahi-mahi fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The latter as a result that IATTC made it clear that the institution has no mandate on mahi mahi. Thus, as a result of a lack regional management, COREMAHI facilitates the creation of a regional producer's interest group to coordinate private sector-led actions to promote sustainability and responsible management.  Among the many actions that COREMAHI is currently promoting and is planning to promote in the future are:  1. encourage their national IATTC delegates to advocate for improvements in science and management in mahi-mahi fisheries at the regional level, the latter by agreeing and submitting position statements  2. implement actions of the COREMAHI regional scientific plan such as a genomic study - this study is being supported by the GMC Project  3. implement a code of conduct to voluntary self-regulate its fisheries operations, as well as improve coordination in the region | Industry | Ongoing |
| 2. Enabling environments for sustainable marine commodities supply chains | 3. Increased synergy and involvement of national and international players (i.e., retailers, traders, processors, fishermen and fisheries authorities) in sustainable seafood value chains. | As outlined above, a main strategy to ensure sustainability is the ***officialization of National Action and Management Plans***. These plans contain detailed explanations of actions and persons responsible for approximately the next five years after project close (depending on the country and date of officialization) and have been developed in accordance with the needs and plans of the government authorities in each country. Thus, the proposed sustainability roadmap in this sustainability strategy will follow the approved national action and management plans. In addition, the project is promoting that national authorities officialize the platforms or technical working groups via national decree. Thus, stakeholders could request national authorities to activate and maintain dialogue – as it is mandated by law. In addition, if there is a new government in place, the new authorities could easily take over the platform and maintain its functioning.  List of plans:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | No. | Action and/or Management Plan | Link to plan or activities supported by the Project | | 1 | Costa Rica NPOA for Shark | [Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark NPOA)](http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=92516&nValor3=122529&strTipM=TC&lResultado=2&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel) | | 2 | Ecuador NAP for Mahi-Mahi | [Plan de Acción](https://wwflac.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/final_pan_dorado_2019_2024.pdf) | | 3 | Indonesia NAP for Tuna |  | | 4 | Indonesia NAP for BSC | [Harvest Strategy](https://www.dropbox.com/s/51ongzkqs9vxki5/Harvest%20Strategy_Blue%20Swimming%20Crab.pdf?dl=0) | | 5 | Philippines NMP for BSC |  | | 6 | Small Pelagic Fish in Ecuador |  | | 7 | Octopus in Philippines |  | | 8 | Costa Rica Large Pelagic Action Plan | [Action Plan (not yet official)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/262j2xksy5zdv8x/PAN%20pesquer%C3%ADas%20sostenibles%20grandes%20pel%C3%A1gicos_plenaria%20Abr2019.pdf?dl=0) | | National Authorities | Ready by: July 2021  Actions will continue after project close |
| 3.Demonstration fisheries improvement projects (FIP) | 4. Increased sustainability scores of marine commodities purchased from project fisheries. | As outlined above, SFP has taken actions to ***ensure FIPs are led and funded by private industry*** and not dependent on project funds to continue. A complete list of FIPs and their leading/implementing partner can be found here:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **No.** | **Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)** | **Industry or organization Lead** | | 1 | Ecuador Mahi-Mahi  Longline | WWF Ecuador | | 2 | Ecuador Yellowfin & Skipjack Tuna Pole and Line | Though is under development, it receives some support by GMC project, and direct support by Conservation International | | 3 | [Ecuador Small Pelagic Fish](https://www.marin-trust.com/improver-programme-accepted-fips)  [Purse Seine](https://www.marin-trust.com/improver-programme-accepted-fips) | Camara Nacional de Pesquerias | | 4 | [Philippines Blue Swimming Crab](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/philippines-blue-swimming-crab-bottom-gillnet-pottrap)  [Bottom-set gillnet and box trap](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/philippines-blue-swimming-crab-bottom-gillnet-pottrap) | Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. | | 5 | Philippines Octopus | PACPEA. Due to Activities are delayed due to COVID-19. | | 6 | [Indonesia Yellowfin Tuna](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-western-and-central-pacific-yellowfin-tuna-pole-and-line)  [Pole and Line](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-western-and-central-pacific-yellowfin-tuna-pole-and-line) | International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) | | 7 | [Indonesia Skipjack Tuna](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-western-and-central-pacific-skipjack-tuna-pole-and-line)  [Pole & Line](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-western-and-central-pacific-skipjack-tuna-pole-and-line) | International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) | | 8 | [Indonesia Blue Swimming Crab](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-blue-swimming-crab-gillnettrap-apri)  [Gillnet/trap](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesian-blue-swimming-crab-gillnettrap-apri) | Asosiasi Pengelolaan Rajungan Indonesia (APRI) | | 9 | [Indonesia Longline tuna Atli](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesia-indian-ocean-and-western-central-pacific-ocean-tuna-and-large-pelagics) | Indonesia Tuna Longline Association (ATLI) | | 10 | [Indonesia Banda Sea yellowfin tuna – handline](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/indonesia-banda-sea-yellowfin-tuna-handline) | PT. Intimas surya | | 11 | [Costa Rica Large Pelagic Fish](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/costa-rica-large-pelagics-longline-and-green-stick)  [Longline](https://fisheryprogress.org/fip-profile/costa-rica-large-pelagics-longline-and-green-stick) | EcoPacific Plus | | Industry in coordination with SFP | Actions will continue after project close |
| 4.Sustainable marine commodities information and knowledge management systems | 5. Reliable and verifiable information of target marine commodities is publicly available and is used by value chain stakeholders for decision making and engagement in fishery improvement projects. | ***FishSource scores support and improvements***  The project support and improvements to an existing tool ensures that actions continue after the project close. Support includes the creation of new profiles and improvements include the development of a new gender indicator to promote women´s participation as part of FishSource scores and translations of profiles to allow for greater reach as well as other improvements to FishSource. FishSource is a public sustainability database website used by suppliers and other industry and Metrics, which is a monitoring tool website used by suppliers and seafood buyers. For more information, see the [2020 second semester report](https://www.dropbox.com/s/k4jsisvsmpwcqe8/FINAL%202nd%20Semester%202020%20GMC%20Project%20technical%20and%20financial%20report.pdf?dl=0). | SFP | Continuous updates, ongoing |
| 6. Better knowledge management on mainstreaming sustainability into seafood value chains | The project website has been populated with several key documents that will ensure that best practices and lessons learned can be replicated in future projects, including a potential second phase of GMC, including:  -lessons learned documents per country as well as global lessons learned documents -scientific reports -gender documents and tools  [***IW Learn***](https://iwlearn.net/)has a ***commitment to maintain the content produced by the project*** after its closure. The Project is producing experience notes and sharing them on their website. Moreover, all content produced in the<https://globalmarinecommodities.org/en/home/> (project website) will be moved to the IWLEARN website, therefore securing sustainability.  [Panorama](https://panorama.solutions/en) is a public repository of solutions for environmental issues. The GMC project will share experience notes from IWLEARN and adapt them to the panorama requirements. | UNDP, IW Learn | Ongoing |

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# Annexes

Annex 1 - Template for Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP Country Office and GMC National Government Coordinating Authority

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding enters into effect the day of XXX, the month of XXX, 2020

**BETWEEN:** [Name of Division of Government Agency], [Name of GMC Project National Authority Government Agency], [Name of Country]

**AND:** [Name of UNDP Country Office]

**BACKGROUND**

A. The Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities Project (GMC) is an interregional initiative implemented by Ministries and Bureaus of Fisheries and Planning of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and Philippines, with technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), facilitated by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

B. The GMC Project objective is to contribute to the transformation of the global seafood market by mainstreaming sustainability in the value chain of important seafood commodities from developing countries, improving emerging tools such as corporate sustainable purchasing policies and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), driving changes in national fisheries policy for improved fisheries administration, and generating learnings to be shared worldwide.

C. Within the framework of the GMC Project, the UNDP-[insert country name] country office has supported the facilitation of the [insert fishery/seafood commodity] [Sustainable Marine Commodity Platform/Technical Working Group/Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Fisheries Platform].

D. [Insert description of how the GMC Project has supported the Platform/Technical Working Group]

E. As the lead implementing agency of the GMC Project activities in [insert country], [insert government agency name] has been coordinating/leading the implementation of the platform activities to date, with technical and financial assistance from the GMC Project.

F. In the interest of ensuring that the [insert fishery/seafood commodity] [Sustainable Marine Commodity Platform/Technical Working Group/Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Fisheries Platform] continues serving as a consultative body for the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the [National Action Plan/Fisheries Management Plan/Strategic Action Plan] created under the GMC Project, the UNDP-[insert country] establishes this Memorandum of Understanding with [Insert name of GMC Project National Authority Government Agency].

**THE TWO PARTIES AGREE:**

G. Upon completion of the GMC Project activities in [insert country] in [month, year], the [insert government agency name] will assume full responsibility for the future operation of the [insert fishery/seafood commodity] [Sustainable Marine Commodity Platform/Technical Working Group/Multi-stakeholder Sustainable Fisheries Platform]. This implies that the [insert government agency name] will provide the necessary financial, technical and human resources required to carry out the duties of the [Platform/TWG] as determined in the official foundational documentation that established the rules and operational mechanisms for the [Platform/TWG].

**EXECUTED** as a Memorandum of Understanding between:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| .................................................................  [Insert National Government Authority Representative Name]  .............................................  ....................  Title] |  |
| .................................................................  [In representation of (INSERT INSTITUTION)] |  |

**AND**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| .................................................................  [Insert UNDP Country Office Representative Name]    .................................................................  [Title] |  |
| .................................................................  [In representation of UNDP-(Insert Country)] |  |

1. Source: Project Organization Structure under the GMC-PHI ProDoc. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Source: http://www.neda.gov.ph/oda-act-1996/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We refer specifically to FOO No. 160, s. 2018 for the Blue Swimming Crab commodity platform; and FOO No. 269, s. 2018 for the Octopus commodity platform. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Fishery Management Area refers to delineated bodies of water in the Philippines based on approximation of fish stocks and their boundary, range and distribution and other considerations for the purpose of fisheries management or governance that is science-based, participatory and transparent, applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM). The EAFM approach emphasizes the balance of ecological well-being with human well-being founded on good governance for future generations. Source: https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/files/img/photos/FAQsonFMA\_August2019.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)