

Backgrounder for Solomon Islands Tuna Fisheries Officer

I. Overview :

Over the next three years, WWF's sustainable fisheries programme for the Coral Triangle and Pacific region aims to work in partnership with key stakeholders to improve the sustainability of the tuna fisheries in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and PNA member countries.

The programme aims to support measurable improvements in unsustainable yellowfin tuna and skipjack fisheries, as well as non-target species caught as by-catch in tuna fisheries. This will be approached through heightened advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building. The programme will also direct international aid and investment in the region towards more sustainable fisheries development, harness market forces and engage supply chains to improve tuna and fisheries management.

The opportunities are to continue engagement with the PNA through PNG and SI purse seine and tuna long line fisheries in both countries, and emerging opportunities in the pole and line fisheries. In addition, this project aims to ensure that the PNA skipjack MSC certification continues to meet conditions that will increase the sustainability of the tuna fisheries in the Western Pacific region. Additionally, it will explore the emerging opportunities for engaging with industry, the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) on a potential Fisheries Improvement Projects and/or MSC Certification. The programme will work with the tuna fisheries in PNG and Solomon Islands, and has the potential to engage in three components, skipjack purse-seine, pole and line and tuna long-line. The bycatch reduction effort would largely focus on capturing and sharing the lessons from other WWF projects in Indonesia and the Pacific, Fisheries Improvement Projects and policy advocacy at the national, WCPFC and Coral Triangle level.

The project will also have a very adaptive approach so that it is able to react to developments in the tuna fisheries during the three years of implementation. The project will work together with the governments in PNG and the Solomon Islands and with the key partners in tuna fisheries at the national level.

II. Purpose of the Job:

The major function of the Tuna Fisheries Officer is to implement key activities under the three year project titled: *"Improved national and regional sustainable tuna fisheries management capacity in the Pacific with a focus on the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) region"*.

The programme addresses improving fisheries in PNA countries (PNG and SI), and builds upon experience in other Coral Triangle and Pacific Islands countries. It also supports the objectives of WWF's Global Marine Programme, and directly delivers on objectives and planned results for WWF's Coral Triangle Programme, the WWF-Pacific's Sustainable Fisheries and Seafood Programme and other WWF Global

Initiatives including the Smart Fishing Initiative.

The position will be based in WWF's Solomon Islands office and will be required to work in collaboration with WWF's Papua New Guinea country office for implementation of activities in Solomon Islands in relation to tuna fisheries.

The position will also work closely with the Fisheries team in WWF-Pacific & Fiji programmes as well as the WWF Coral Triangle Programme and Smart Fishing Initiative.