



John Maefiti

Executive Officer, Pacific
Island Tuna Industry
Association (PITIA)

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

I am the manager of the Pacific Island Tuna Industry Association's (PITIA) Secretariat. PITIA represents all domestic fisheries industry in Pacific Island States which mainly consists of Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) member countries except Australia, New Zealand and Tokelau. PITIA's key objectives are to provide a voice for the fisheries industry on policy issues that have an impact on businesses of member states and to promote sustainable fisheries development that adds value to the domestic fisheries sector in the region. Adding to this, PITIA provides a link for the fisheries industry's private sector and other relevant stakeholders such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that have a common interest in fisheries.

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

Technically, we have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WWF-Pacific for corporation on the sustainable fisheries development and this is a first of such formal arrangement between the two organizations. This workshop is a good initiative for all relevant stakeholders that have a common interest in fisheries as it looks towards having sustainable fisheries for the region and at the same time looks at ways that stakeholders in the industry could maximize the economic benefits of the Pacific Island through sustainable approaches.

One of the key findings I learnt from the workshop were the issues other participating agencies are advocating for and interestingly, a few of these issues are the same issues PITIA is advocating for. For instance, the target reference points for Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). So it is good to see other CSOs and NGOs having an interest on getting the target reference point up for Albacore for the Pacific Islands long line fisheries.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

All stakeholders have big roles to play in the sustainable management of fisheries in the region because we have found that regional fisheries management organizations have been very effective in their role and on their mandate to manage the fisheries in the region. There are some real changes in the progress of fisheries management policies in the region where CSOs and NGOs are holding various governments accountable by placing such pressures on fisheries management policies that are made to ensure that there is sustainable fisheries management in the region.

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



FFA





Aliti Vunisea

Women in Fisheries
Network Fiji (WiFN Fiji)

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

The Women in Fisheries Network (WiFN Fiji) is a network of practitioners, individuals, and organizations that are interested in the work women do in the fisheries sector and a big portion of this is trying to target and work with these women in communities in Fiji. As a member of WiFN Fiji, I conduct research and support for the network. Fiji's fisheries sector is one of the biggest sectors for the country where women are involved in and in a sense not visible. The work women do in the fisheries sector is not enumerated and these women are not part of the planning and development processes. So WiFN Fiji is trying to find entry points or ways for women in fisheries development here in Fiji.

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

The discussion on women and the tuna sector is one that is not always usually discussed because women are in the social sector and the tuna discussion are on the fish, the stock, status and management. So when you are looking at women and the role of communities and people, women mostly do not have a voice. So being engaged in workshops like this ensures we look at the people who own these resources and how such resources should benefit everyone including women.

WiFN Fiji was engaged in a similar workshop last year. The difference I think is that this time, we have moved up a bit in the discussions. Last year, we were all new to the discussions on this platform but what we do have now is that we have organizations from the region such as Oxfam and Pacific Dialogue. So if we are looking at the well-being and plight of women across the region, such organizations are best placed to fight for such issues such as the women seafarers, crew members and all those involved in the industry.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

From this workshop, for at least WiFN Fiji, it is awareness for capacity building. We are really looking at what the tuna industry is doing. The tuna industry is an industry foreign to a lot of women. For WiFN Fiji, we do not really look into the science and management of it and I think it is about time we start looking at these.

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



FFA





Patricia Joan Kailola
Pacific Dialogue

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

Pacific Dialogue is a small non-governmental organization that focuses on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. I work in the human rights section and we engage with the authorities such as police and relevant stakeholders on human trafficking which is happening in Fiji and the Pacific. I am a fisheries scientist by trade however, after being informed of trafficking happening in fishing boats or tuna vessels, I have taken a particular interest because of my background.

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

We were involved in a similar workshop last year, and have given presentations in the last two years on crew rights and abuse. I think if we can stop crew abuse and manage it, we will actually create sustainability in fisheries.

We are looking at leverage, about the market and the need to strengthen awareness that crew abuse and trafficking is happening on the vessels because we know the boats or companies are the worst offenders, and these are the ones implicated in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) and shady fishing deals. So if we bring in firm crew safety conditions, they (vessels/ companies) will find the Pacific not economic for them to keep operating in the Pacific. So you will get less fishing effort, that will result in less fishing pressure and that is how you can get a better reputation for the fishing industry.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

There needs to be more awareness. Our focus is not to keep blabbering to the informed people, but what we need to do is get the message out in to the widest sphere and this include such forums and spaces with stakeholders.

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



FFA





Reverend Francois Pihaatae
General Secretary, Pacific
Conference of Churches
(PCC)

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

Our work at the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) deals with social injustice issues and relating to the oceans, seabed mining is something PCC has been advocating against. With fisheries, seabed mining is and will continue to affect our fish stock in the region. So around this issue, we have been advocating against seabed mining and the impacts it has on our fisheries and oceans.

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

Apart from the technical jargons that we learnt, what we need now is to figure a way to translate these data or information of our fisheries to a grass root level understanding. We have the data and technical support but the onus is for us to have our grass root communities understand them. How can we translate all the findings from the research done into the language of the people? How can the grass root level communities perceive what is going at the national, regional and international levels that may affect their source of livelihood? So I guess these are some of the ways we need to discuss and see how we can achieve them after the workshop.

Another great outcome for PCC was that all stakeholders present were for the idea of ensuring our respective communities we work with know what is happening and how they can be helped with regards to our fisheries and marine resources.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

Involvement of CSOs and NGOs are very important as these are the stakeholders working on the ground and key players for Governments in advising what is needed and so forth.

The workshop was a great opportunity for us CSOs to participate in such a forum. Some of us will be attending the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission forum in December and we will be looking forward to what will be discussed and the outcomes.

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



FFA





Mariam Mathew

**Regional Influencing
Advisor, OXFAM in the
Pacific**

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

As Regional Influencing Advisor, I provide support to our country programmes in the region to undertake influencing work and to support our partners and civil society to advocate on key human rights issues. Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) has country offices in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, Fiji and we have what we call the Polynesia, Micronesia clusters that we manage remotely. So I support each of these country programmes to advance on the national level and influencing issues.

The priorities are different for each of the countries. In the Polynesia and Micronesia region for example, oceans is a big priority. Oceans, climate change and fisheries are issues and reasons for OXFAM in the Pacific's participation at the workshop. The workshop allows OXFAM in the Pacific the space on where the organisation can add value to the work that civil society is doing on these issues. Both at the country level, engaging with governments but also at the regional level, on how discussions can be made with regional institutions and to governmental bodies or work with regional CSOs to amplify and to come together to engage strongly to achieve certain outcomes.

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

For OXFAM in the Pacific, basically we are trying to find out which organizations are out in the region and what work they are doing and how we can add value. So we are trying to understand the work, under this project that WWF-Pacific is doing and what has been done last year and if there were changes reflecting in to it and if not, can organizations such as OXFAM come in with our strengths and add value to the work WWF-Pacific is doing. Looking at where we add value, whether its providing research or playing that convener facilitator role bringing together CSOs and NGOs directly providing technical support to Governments and in that way also opening doors in which we can support CSOs to engage once we have strengthened those relationships.

Definitely fisheries is an area OXFAM considers a priority and not just speaking about the fisheries but also looking at inequality and for me that really stood out. We have a global campaign called 'Even It Up' which is basically about reducing the economic inequality between the rich and the poor and looking at these issues trying to see how is the wealth being distributed and that is how we as an international NGO can support local CSOs to voice out on these issues.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

I personally think longer term solutions. In as much as we are putting out our policy asks to Governments, we need to do more. We need to engage civil society on a constant basis and push for greater support from the public on key issues. First of all, share information that comes out of these meetings and when there are aspects such as inadequate media coverage or civil society organisation participation, to share that information and basically get the public more engaged on the inequalities, because ultimately, these are decisions which affect their lives and they need to be in the 'Know' to make informed decisions. So OXFAM would be looking forward to working with the partners to look beyond next month's WCPFC meeting but put in place a longer term strategy. I think we are clearer in terms of our 'Asks' but not in terms of 'How can we work with civil society to strengthen our engagement?'

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



FFA





Pita Ligaiula

Pacific Islands News
Association (PINA)

Organization and Current Scope of Work?

I work for the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) Limited. It is the premier regional news agency that represents the interests of media professionals in the Pacific region. PINA's objectives include developing training and resource materials and the exchange of information and skills with industry members in the region. PINA also operates a daily news service, PACNEWS, compiled from news articles contributed by members. PINA also aims to promote good governance through the dissemination of accurate information to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the building of relationship with NGOs, donors, and regional organizations in strengthening coverage of their work programmes in the development of PICs. [Source: <http://www.pina.com.fj/>]

How did you find the CSO/NGO workshop?

This workshop has given us a direction on certain issues we can focus on covering Pacific tuna. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) conference is very complex, and technical. The main point of contention for PINA is media access which is having access during the negotiation process. For instance, PINA has been accredited to cover the conference, however, the news agency is not allowed to sit in and cover the meetings. So there is a limited space for PINA to cover and get stories to send to the respective news agencies in the region.

So from this workshop, we managed to develop a communiqué and from a media perspective, its public accountability, media access and transparency for WCPFC.

This is the first time for us PINA to take part in such workshop and we are very thankful to WWF-Pacific for this initiative. The workshop creates a network for CSOs and NGOs to come and work together on issues that are very important to the Pacific region especially fisheries - tuna.

Carrying the CSO/NGO workshop forward?

I have learnt a lot from listening to the experts from fisheries and what conservation issues they are working on, and also on issues faced by the participating organizations as well relating to the fisheries sector.

Note: A small Pacific CSO delegation comprising of the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry Association, Pacific Islands News Association, the Locally Managed Marine Area Network and WWF attended the 14th Annual Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission from the 3rd – 7th December in Manila Philippines to advocate for sustainable and responsible tuna fisheries.



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



FFA

