



REPORT  
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A high-angle photograph of a fisherman on a bright blue wooden boat. The fisherman is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, dark trousers, and a large, round, woven straw hat with a blue band. He is barefoot and is using a long wooden pole to handle a large, dark, silvery tuna fish lying on the boat's deck. A large, woven wicker basket is visible in the background. The boat is on the water, and the scene is brightly lit.

# Fisheries Improvement Project for the Vietnamese Tuna Longline and Handline Fisheries Sector

*PROJECT BRIEF*

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## PROJECT BRIEF

<b>Location</b>	: Vietnam (Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa provinces)
<b>Species</b>	: Yellowfin tuna
<b>Geographical Area</b>	: South China Sea, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Ocean
<b>Gear type</b>	: Longline and Handline
<b>Key Markets</b>	: EU, Japan, US, Canada, Australia
<b>Launch of the FIP</b>	: April 2014
<b>Key Elements</b>	: Full MSC Pre-assessment, Fisheries in Transition guidelines compliant, Multi- stakeholder FIP, Industry funded, traceability

## BACKGROUND

The Vietnam yellowfin tuna Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) was launched in April 2014 and applied to handline and longline harvested yellowfin tuna in Vietnam – a fishery of approximately 2000 vessels with estimated 14,000 metric tons of annual landings and total export value of nearly 370 million USD.

The FIP is rooted in earlier projects by WWF Vietnam focused on bycatch best practices and capacity-building for other tuna management requirements such as research & monitoring and engagement with regional management bodies<sup>1</sup>. These interventions helped pave the way for increased awareness and capacity among government and overall heightened support among all stakeholders for a comprehensive push towards improved management and ultimately MSC certification.

Preliminary FIP scoping and an MSC pre-assessment were completed in Q4 2013. After a stakeholder workshop and workplan development phase, a FIP Action Plan was completed and formally endorsed in January 2014. The Action Plan identified WWF and the national tuna industry group Vina Tuna as co-clients of the FIP. The FIP was formally launched in April 2014, having entered the Implementation stage, with activities commenced and slated to be tracked and audited annually through to 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Especially the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Vietnam's status therein



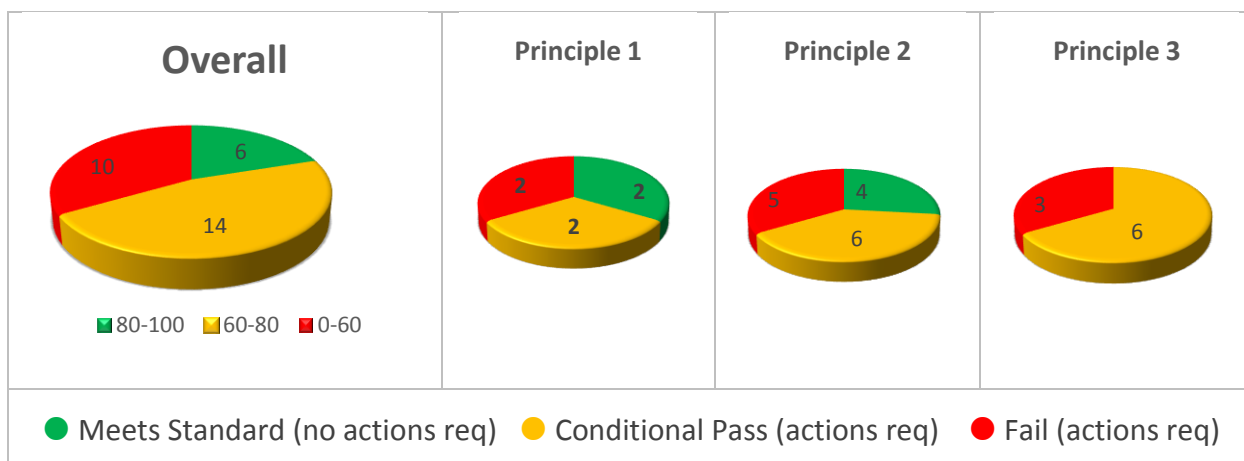


Figure 1 - MSC Principles and Performance Indicator Scoring for the Vietnam Yellowfin Fishery

## CURRENT STATUS

Implementation of the FIP Action Plan commenced in April 2014, and with Terms of Reference developed for government partners (i.e. MARD, DECAFIREP and provincial sub-Departments) and Vina Tuna, as well as for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the FIP via an independent and CAB-affiliated assessor.

### *Industry Partner Agreements*

Nine international suppliers and exporters from five countries spanning most major markets have entered into FIP Partner Agreements to help ensure the effective implementation of the FIP Action Plan, including identification of on-the-ground activities taken up by industry. The Partner Agreements further aim to ensure that recognized industry partners are achieving appropriate standards for traceability, corporate communication and marketing in their FIP-related activities. Through annual fees paid by partners, these Agreements also help finance core FIP activities, and open other funding channels through diverse supply chains. Several WWF National Offices are likewise engaged in these corporate arrangements, including WWF-US, WWF Netherlands, WWF Germany and WWF Australia.



Map 1 – Location Map of Vietnam yellowfin tuna FIP main provinces

## Traceability

The FIP is prototyping the application of “Fit as FIP” traceability to ensure that Vietnam yellowfin tuna is differentiated in the marketplace. This requirement is particularly important in Vietnam where export volume exceeds domestic catch and over half of total exports (i.e. frozen yellowfin steak and loins) use foreign raw material which is re-exported. FIP Partners are required to have a traceability system in place within 1 year of signing their Agreement, and for this system to be audited by an independent 3rd party within 18 months. These measures will help ensure unqualified products do not dilute the marketplace with inappropriate “FIP” fish.

With technical and logistical support from the FIP Coordination Unit led by WWF, FIP Partners will work with their processors as well as downstream buyers to ensure shared understanding and support on traceability and related aspects. This includes sharing of business data used in verifying the trade flow of FIP products.

## Action Plan

The FIP Action Vina Tuna Plan includes 3 goals with a total of 54 milestones to be achieved. Under each goal there are detailed activities, which are the focus of the more specific collaboration between WWF, industry partners and the Government of Vietnam. The Goals, Outcomes and indicated Activities for the Milestones are indicated below:

### GOAL 1: To ensure that the tuna catches do not exceed sustainable

<b>Outcome 1.1</b>	<b>Stock status improved and reference points applied in management</b>
<i>Activity 1.1.1</i>	WCPFC would have to set explicit limit reference points which are consistent with the MSC definition of BLIM (0.2 Bo), and for these to be applied to the harvest strategy (1.2.1)
<i>Activity 1.1.2</i>	Effective rebuilding strategy implemented for bigeye tuna (requires CCM and CNMs to implement effective measures, but to be achieved in the much longer term, i.e. 5-10 years, or greater)
<b>Outcome 1.2</b>	<b>Data collection and Information systems strengthened</b>
<i>Activity 1.2.1</i>	Continue to improve national data collection and monitoring at all levels
<b>Outcome 1.3</b>	<b>Management strategies applied and supported by tools and the application of strong information and research</b>
<i>Activity 1.3.1</i>	Implementation of a compatible harvest strategy in Vietnam waters (and compliance with CMMs), which would include longline, purse seine and other gears (including handline and gillnet) and would be consistent with Vietnam’s obligations developed through any future changes to 2012-01
<i>Activity 1.3.2</i>	Monitoring system in place (consistent with CMM 2010-03) which evaluates the effectiveness of the management measures
<i>Activity 1.3.3</i>	Establishing national harvest control rules (input and output restrictions) across the range of tuna fisheries which allow for limits to be implemented as reference points are approached

## GOAL 2: To promote the ecosystem based approach to fisheries management

<b>Outcome 2.1</b>	<b>Retained and bycatch species subject to a management strategy</b>
<i>Activity 2.1.1</i>	Document the catch of bigeye tuna, shark, billfish, baitfish and other species in the handline and longline fisheries (See FIP action 2.1.3)
<i>Activity 2.1.2</i>	Undertake retained species and bycatch management strategy for all billfish and bait stocks and any other retained or bycatch species, if data shows catch rates to be 5% or more
<b>Outcome 2.2</b>	<b>Shark management measures implemented</b>
<i>Activity 2.2.1</i>	If certain sharks (silky, mako and thresher sharks) are found in fishery and retained, implement a partial strategy consistent with CMM 2010-07. Implement full strategy to prevent retention capture of oceanic whitetips (CMM 2011-03/CITES App 2) and scalloped, great and smooth hammerheads (CITES App 2). Establish shark NPOA
<b>Outcome 2.3</b>	<b>Turtle management strengthened</b>
<i>Activity 2.3.1</i>	Monitor and implement a turtle management mitigation policy; update turtle NPOA
<b>Outcome 2.4</b>	<b>Habitats subject to a management strategy</b>
<i>Activity 2.4.1</i>	Incorporate a requirement to record gear losses into the national observer programme
<b>Outcome 2.5</b>	<b>Ecosystems and biodiversity assessments made for the Vietnamese and South China Sea region</b>
<i>Activity 2.5.1</i>	Assess the ecosystem impact for the Vietnam EEZ /South China Sea Sub region

## GOAL 3: Fisheries Governance strengthened

<b>Outcome 3.1</b>	<b>Fisheries Law effectively implemented</b>
<i>Activity 3.1.1</i>	Clarification of Vietnam's status within the convention, and extension of the convention area to the Vietnam
<i>Activity 3.1.2</i>	Implementation of the Fisheries Law containing core elements which prioritise sustainable fisheries, and provisions for implementation of international conventions including CMMs
<b>Outcome 3.2</b>	<b>Roles and responsibilities and consultation processes fully implemented</b>
<i>Activity 3.2.1</i>	Implementation of the Advisory Council through the National Tuna Management Plan (NTMP) process
<i>Activity 3.2.2</i>	Revise the a tuna fisheries strategy so that long term and short term objectives demonstrate effective implementation of sustainable fisheries management systems

<b>Outcome 3.3</b>	<b>Positive incentives promoted</b>
<i>Activity 3.3.1</i>	Review negative and positive incentives against the stock status for yellowfin and bigeye, as well as the impact on bycatch
<b>Outcome 3.4</b>	<b>Fishery specific management objectives applied</b>
<i>Activity 3.4.1</i>	Handline fishery is included along with the other tuna fisheries contained within the management plan
<b>Outcome 3.5</b>	<b>Decision making process strengthened</b>
<i>Activity 3.5.1</i>	Clarify decision-making structure defined with the NTMP
<b>Outcome 3.6</b>	<b>Effective application of compliance systems</b>
<i>Activity 3.6.1</i>	Strengthen the compliance monitoring system
<b>Outcome 3.7</b>	<b>National research plan is in place</b>
<i>Activity 3.7.1</i>	National research plan in place which addresses P1 and P2 requirements

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