

EVALUATION BRIEF

EVALUATION OF THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE EVALUATION

- The Fisheries Management and Development Initiative aligns well with both New Zealand and Pacific strategic objectives.
- Technical expertise is well-received by Pacific Island fisheries administrations and regional agencies.
- There have been clear successes in monitoring, control, surveillance and fisheries management.
- It is difficult to demonstrate how FMDI activities are contributing to outcomes.
- There are a number of areas that improvements could be made including the FMDI management structures.



ABOUT THE ACTIVITY AND EVALUATION

The Fisheries Management and Development Initiative (FMDI) was designed to support Pacific Island countries to maximise the economic and developmental benefits of fisheries resources. The Initiative funds technical expertise from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to support Pacific Island Countries' fisheries agencies. This is undertaken through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MFAT and MPI.

Objectives for the initiative focused on governance, fisheries management, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement.

The evaluation was designed to support the FMDI to be more effective beyond its current lifespan. It is intended to provide an evidence-base to inform decisions about the design and management of the next phase.

WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE?

The evaluation recommended continued support of the FMDI with some changes in its design and management. For example, FMDI objectives could be amended to specify whether they aim to achieve long term outcomes or respond to emerging opportunities.

It also considered that there needed to be a sustained level of investment to provide certainty to MPI. In terms of MPI, leadership needed to increase buy-in, this could be achieved by agreement between MFAT and MPI to clarify the relationship and provide for institutional support that enables the FMDI team to effectively deliver its work.

Finally, there needs to be better succession planning in place. Early planning for succession would allow for relationships to be handed over and maintained by new staff and reduce the time taken to get up to speed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

DETAILS ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Completed by: Allen + Clarke for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE?

WHAT WORKED WELL?

The FMDI design aligned well with relevant strategic priorities including New Zealand Aid Programme priorities. The FMDI goals are specified at a high level and are described broadly enough to cover a wide range of actions.

FMDI goals are consistent with other high-level goals for Pacific fisheries including those of MFAT and the regional strategies endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders such as the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

There has been considerable flexibility within the MoU for staff in MPI, this was consistent with the intent behind the design of the Activity.

The MOU team has been active and visible in the region. Their work was well-received by Pacific Islands fisheries administrations and regional agencies.

There have been some clear successes in both the monitoring, control, surveillance and fisheries management areas.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE?

There is scope to improve FMDI delivery through more effective management structures and planning to achieve its stated objectives.

Attribution of FMDI activities to outcomes is difficult to demonstrate.

There is significant scope for improvement in FMDI by addressing the following:

- management structures under the FMDI
- staff preparation for working effectively in the Pacific (e.g. induction, training)
- strategic focus and
- managing relationships with partner agencies/organisations.

The current components of the FMDI work together to a limited degree to meet the long-term MOU objectives (outcomes). However, impact and sustainability are difficult to assess given the fragmented nature of the work.

EVALUATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE MFAT WEBSITE: WWW.MFAT.GOVT.NZ

We welcome feedback. You can contact us at evaluation@mfat.govt.nz or via social media on @MFATgovtNZ