



## **MSG Inshore Fisheries Working Group Officials meet in Port Vila to formulate the MSG Roadmap for the Protection of Inshore Fisheries**

Fisheries Officials from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and representatives of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia are attending a workshop on the formulation of an 'MSG Roadmap for the Protection of Inshore Fisheries' at the MSG headquarter in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The workshop, which is being held from 2 to 8 October 2013, is a joint initiative by the MSG Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) who are providing the technical and financial support to the Workshop. The Workshop is also attended by SPC Officials and representatives of the World Wide Fund

(WWF) for Nature and the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network.

Fish is the most significant, renewable resource that the MSG countries have for food security, livelihoods and economic growth. Coastal and inshore fisheries are key to the subsistence livelihoods of the majority of the people in Melanesia. The development of the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries was a decision made by the MSG Leaders at the Special Summit held in Suva in March 2012. The Roadmap will provide the strategic direction relevant to the MSG Members' inshore fisheries sectors, policies and legislation and provide a detailed structure for its implementation.

During the workshop, the MSG Members will present national context of coastal/inshore fishery policies and management approaches. Participants will also consider the report on the "Strategic Review of Inshore Fisheries Policies and Strategies in Melanesia". The study was commissioned by SPC and provides an overview of the major issues facing Melanesian inshore fisheries, outline the possible responses that emerged in the region and beyond and the opportunities and limitations present in current national strategies. In the formulation of the Roadmap, Members will discuss and consider key elements at the national level that will fit into the elements of the MSG Roadmap, roles of national government, sub national government and community stakeholders and national approach to implementing the MSG Roadmap or elements of it. Experiences in coastal resource management have shown that community based and co-management approaches are the most feasible option, particularly in a Melanesian context.

It is anticipated that the Workshop will produce a draft Roadmap for consideration by the MSG Governing Bodies as well as a draft National implementation action plan for each member. The outcomes of the Workshop and draft Roadmap will be presented to Fisheries Technical Advisory Committee when they next meet.

The MSG Secretariat acknowledged with gratitude and appreciation the financial and technical assistance provided by SPC during this five day Workshop.

Authorized by

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