

**FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015 ON THE STATUS OF THE ASSISTANCE FUND
UNDER PART VII OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA OF 10 DECEMBER 1982
RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF STRADDLING FISH STOCKS AND
HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS¹**

June 2017

1. Introduction

In November 2003, the United Nations General Assembly, in Resolution A/RES/58/14, established an Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement), to assist developing States Parties in the implementation of the Agreement. It also decided that the Fund would be administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). On 19 April 2005, the Fund was established.² It is managed in accordance with the Fund's Terms of Reference and FAO's Financial Regulations as well as other applicable Rules.

2. Contributions to the Assistance Fund

The United Nations and FAO have continued to make calls for contributions to the Assistance Fund at international forums including sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Committee on Fisheries, as well as on the website of the Assistance Fund³. A call for contributions was also made at the Eleventh round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (New York, 16-17 March 2015). On 11 December 2014, a joint letter calling for contributions was sent from the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and FAO to Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observer Missions to the UN in New York.

In April 2015, the Government of Norway made a contribution of USD 200,000 to the Fund. This allowed the use of the Fund to be reinstated following its temporary suspension in October 2014 due to the near depletion of the fund. As at 31 December 2015, the Governments of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America, all States Parties to the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, had made financial contributions to the Assistance Fund totalling USD 1,667,455. Table 1 shows contributions to the Fund together with accrued interest of USD 49,498. As at 31 December 2015, the Fund's total receipts were USD 1,716,953.

States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, wishing to make contributions to the Assistance Fund are encouraged to do so and they should direct their payments to the following FAO bank account, citing project MTF/GLO/127/MUL:

Bank: Citibank
Account Name: Food Agr Org – TF USD
Address: 399 Park Avenue, New York, NY, USA, 10022
Account No: 36352577
Swift/BIC: CITIUS33
ABA/Bank Code: 021000089

¹ This report is provided in accordance with paragraph 22 of the Terms of reference for Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

² Accounts MTF/GLO/124/MUL and MTF/GLO/127/MUL "1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement – Part VII- Trust Fund".

³ www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/fishstocktrustfund.htm. Contributions to the Fund should be made to the trust fund account established by FAO in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Terms of Reference of the Fund.

3. Requests for Assistance from the Fund

Information about the existence and purpose of the Assistance Fund has been disseminated widely by the United Nations and FAO, including through electronic means, international meetings and contacts with relevant regional fisheries bodies. In 2015, 18 applications for travel were received. Of this total, 17 were considered favourably, processed and funded. The total number of travel requests in 2015 was significantly lower than in 2014 (27 requests) since the use of the fund was suspended until April 2015 due to lack of funds.

Table 2 provides details of expenditure from the Assistance Fund as at 31 December 2015. Expenditure is categorized according to the purposes for which assistance is permitted and administrative expenses, as reflected, respectively, in paragraphs 14 and 21 of the Fund's Terms of Reference.

In 2015, total expenditure from the Fund was USD 83,011 of which:

- 89 percent supported participation in technical and annual sessions of regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources [CCAMLR], International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna [ICCAT], Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency [FFA], South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organization [SEAFO], and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission [WCPFC]) and participation in high seas meetings of international and regional organizations (paragraph 14 (a) and 14 (b) of the Terms of Reference);
- 11 percent supported human resource development, technical training and technical assistance (paragraph 14 (f) of the Terms of Reference);

4. Panel of Experts

The Panel of Experts was not convened in 2015.

5. Assistance Fund Travel Allocations by State Party

Table 3 provides an allocation of travel expenditure by State Party and by category of expenditure under paragraph 14 of the terms of reference for the period 2006 to 2015. Nine Parties benefitted from funding in 2015. Bangladesh benefitted from the fund for the first time in 2015.

6. Assistance Fund Balance

As at 31 December 2015, the balance in the Assistance Fund was USD 141,417 (see Tables 1 and 2).

7. Conclusion

Over the duration of the Fund's operation from 2006 to 2015, 72 percent of expenditure was devoted to supporting the participation of Parties to the Agreement in RFMO and global meetings, 6 percent went to support Parties' participation in negotiations for new RFMOs, 20 percent was directed to capacity development, a very small percentage supported issues related to dispute settlement and 2 percent was for administrative and associated costs (Table 2).

The Assistance Fund was established, and is being managed, in accordance with its Terms of Reference and FAO's Financial Regulations and other applicable Rules. The United Nations and FAO encourage States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial contributions to the Fund. The United Nations and FAO seek to ensure that the Assistance Fund maintains a healthy funding level so that support for the implementation of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement can be sustained.

Table 1: 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement Part VII Trust Fund: Income Account (USD) as at 31 December 2015

No.	Donor	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1	USA	200,000	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	215,000
2	Iceland	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
3	Norway	0	98,179	0	0	0	0	96,798	0	0	0	0	200,000	394,977
4	Canada	0	0	64,230	389,948	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	454,178
5	Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
6	New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	19,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,500
7	Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	531,800	0	0	0	0	531,800
Total contributions		200,000	148,179	64,230	404,948	0	21,500	96,798	531,800	0	0	0	200,000	1,667,455
	Interest	0	6,249	14,725	21,567	4,102	1,485	262	189	457	243	63	156	49,498
Total funds		200,000	154,428	78,955	426,515	4,102	22,985	97,060	531,989	457	243	63	200,156	1,716,953

Table 2: 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement Part VII Trust Fund: Expenditure Account (USD) as at 31 December 2015⁴

TOR paragraph ⁵	Expenditure category	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	2011 (%)	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	2014 (%)	2015 (%)	Total (%)
14a	Expenses for participation in meetings and activities of relevant RFMO/As	20,421 (31)	30,657 (52)	51,596 (35)	78,370 (18)	131,297 (63)	51,939 (85)	145,408 (75)	80,342 (48)	107,413 (72)	53,870 (65)	751,313 (48)
14b	Expenses for participation in high seas meetings of global organizations such as UNDP, FAO, and other specialized agencies, GEF, CSD and other appropriate international and regional organizations and bodies	45,729 (68)	3,862 (7)	59,702 (41)	74,488 (17)	30,740 (15)	5,120 (8)	40,090 (21)	62,286 (37)	29,074 (19)	19,595 (24)	370,686 (24)
14c	Ongoing and future negotiations to establish new RFMO/As, renegotiation of founding agreements for such organizations and strengthening existing RFMO/As	0	23,347 (40)	22,980 (16)	43,197 (10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	89,524 (6)
14d	Building capacity in relation to flag State responsibility, MCS, data collection and scientific research at a national and/or regional level	0	0	8,775 (6)	47,771 (11)	0	0	5,166 (3)	15,452 (9)	8,562 (6)	0	85,726 (5)
14e	Facilitating exchange of information and experience on the implementation of the Agreement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14f	Supporting human resource development, technical training and technical assistance to support proper conservation and management	0	0	0	182,340 (41)	37,354 (18)	0	0	10,279 (6)	0	9,534 (11)	239,507 (15)
14g	Dispute settlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,098 (3)	0	4,098 (0)
21	Administrative expenses (staff time, insurance and project servicing costs for certain projects)	867 (1)	1,106 (2)	2,642 (2)	14,621 (3)	8,741 (4)	4,326 (7)	2,367 (1)	0	0	11 (0)	34,681 (2)
Total (%)⁶		67,017 (100)	58,972 (100)	145,695 (100)	440,787 (100)	208,132 (100)	61,385 (100)	193,031 (100)	168,359 (100)	149,147 (100)	83,011 (100)	1,575,536 (100)

⁴ There were no expenditures from the Fund in 2004 and 2005.⁵ References are made to the relevant paragraphs (14 and 21) of the terms of reference for the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.⁶ Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**Table 3: 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement Part VII Trust Fund: Travel Expenditure (USD)
at 31 December 2015: Allocation by State Party**

Year	Country	Paragraph 14 ⁷						Total
		a	b	c	d	f	g	
2006	Fiji		3,967					3,967
	Guinea		6,394					6,394
	Maldives		3,063					3,063
	Marshall Islands		4,855					4,855
	Mauritius		6,073					6,073
	Namibia	5,580	3,520					9,100
	Niue	8,203						8,203
	Saint Lucia		2,553					2,553
	Samoa		6,300					6,300
	Senegal		3,195					3,195
	South Africa	2,868						2,868
Uruguay	3,769	5,810					9,579	
Total		20,421	45,729	0	0	0	0	66,150
2007	Belize	1,754						1,754
	Cook Islands			4,665				4,665
	Guinea	3,849						3,849
	Marshall Islands	2,963						2,963
	Federated States of Micronesia			12,058				12,058
	Niue	6,945		6,623				13,568
	Samoa		-200					-200
	Senegal	5,609	4,062					9,671
	South Africa	4,606						4,606
	Uruguay	4,932						4,932
Total		30,657	3,862	23,347	0	0	0	57,866
2008	Cook Islands	3,027	3,027	8,735				14,790
	Kiribati	5,966						5,966
	Maldives		4,300					4,300
	Marshall Islands	7,732	10,166					17,898
	Federated States of Micronesia	4,429		9,269				13,698
	Nauru	4,182	4,182					8,363
	Niue			4,976				4,976
	Palau	2,311						2,311
	Samoa	2,675	7,051					9,726
	Senegal	12,354	4,856					17,211
	Seychelles		7,504		4,756			12,260
	Tonga	2,906	11,130					14,036
Uruguay	6,013	7,486		4,019			17,518	
Total		51,596	59,702	22,980	8,775	0	0	143,053

⁷ The classification of expenditures under paragraph 14 of the Terms of Reference is explained in Table 2.

2009	Cook Islands		5,288					5,288
	Guinea		4,544					4,544
	Kiribati		14,885	5,726				20,612
	Marshall Islands	6,449						6,449
	Federated States of Micronesia	44						44
	Mozambique		4,218					4,218
	Namibia		3,242					3,242
	Niue	3,804						3,804
	Samoa	3,968	5,375					9,343
	Senegal	13,334	19,603					32,937
	Seychelles	3,583	11,879					15,462
	Tonga	12,523	5,454	5,397				23,374
	Tuvalu	16,451						16,451
	Uruguay	18,213						18,213
Total		78,370	74,488	11,123	0	0	0	163,981
2010	Cook Islands	11,832						11,832
	Fiji		4,542			1,394		5,936
	India		3,160					3,160
	Kiribati	4,419				3,300		7,719
	Mozambique		4,999					4,999
	Namibia	7,844						7,844
	Nauru					3,759		3,759
	Nigeria	13,189						13,189
	Niue	17,562						17,562
	Palau	3,595						3,595
	Samoa	8,293	9,140					17,432
	Senegal	17,026	4,065					21,091
	Seychelles	4,738	4,835					9,573
	South Africa	3,436						3,436
	Tonga	18,935						18,935
Tuvalu	13,694						13,694	
Uruguay	6,734						6,734	
Total		131,297	30,740	0	0	8,453	0	170,490
2011	Cook Islands	6,849						6,849
	Federated States of Micronesia	1,497						1,497
	Namibia	4,443						4,443
	Samoa	6,498						6,498
	Senegal	8,888						8,888
	South Africa	1,322						1,322
	Tonga	6,469	5,120					11,589
	Tuvalu	8,015						8,015
	Uruguay	7,958						7,958
Total		51,939	5,120	0	0	0	0	57,059

2012	Cook Islands	20,049	8,420					28,469
	Guinea	312						312
	Kiribati		7,679					7,679
	Micronesia	5,707						5,707
	Namibia	13,685						13,685
	Nauru		8,639					8,639
	Niue	8,088						8,088
	Palau	5,055	6,695					11,750
	Samoa	10,954						10,954
	Senegal	11,305						11,305
	Seychelles	7,880						7,880
	South Africa	8,147						8,147
	Sri Lanka	8,749						8,749
	Tonga	25,977	8,657		5,166			39,800
Tuvalu	10,048						10,048	
Uruguay	9,452						9,452	
2012 Total		145,408	40,090	0	5,166	0	0	190,664
2013	Cook Islands	15,560	4,310					19,870
	Iran (Islamic Republic of)					10,279		10,279
	Kiribati		6,590					6,590
	Maldives	5,969						5,969
	Micronesia	7,015	6,837					13,852
	Namibia	1,606						1,606
	Nauru		5,709					5,709
	Niue		6,062					6,062
	Samoa	12,726						12,726
	Senegal	6,268	1,755					8,023
	South Africa	349						349
	Sri Lanka	11,040						11,040
	Tonga	19,808	7,803		15,452			43,063
	Tuvalu		8,172					8,172
Uruguay		15,049					15,049	
2013 Total		80,342	62,286	0	15,452	10,279	0	168,359
2014	Brazil		2,747					2,747
	Cook Islands	13,817						13,817
	Guinea						4,098	4,098
	Kenya	4,104						4,104
	Mozambique		3,728					3,728
	Namibia	1,007						1,007
	Samoa	18,570						18,570
	Senegal	8,043						8,043
	Sri Lanka	8,328						8,328
	Tonga	28,519	4,115		8,562			41,195
	Tuvalu	25,024	8,073					33,098
Uruguay		10,411					10,411	
2014 Total		107,413	29,074	0	8,562	0	4,098	149,147

2015	Bangladesh					9,534		9,534
	Micronesia		6,012					6,012
	Namibia	2,442						2,442
	Nauru		7,471					7,471
	Samoa	20,814						20,814
	Senegal	8,028						8,028
	Sri Lanka	6,366						6,366
	Tuvalu	16,219	83					16,302
	Uruguay		6,028					6,028
2015 Total		53,870	19,595	0	0	9,534	0	83,000
Total travel 2006-2015								1,249,769

**Table 4: 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement Part VII Trust Fund:
Letter of Agreement and Actual Expenditures (USD)**

Letter of Agreement	TOR paragraph	Expenditure							TOTAL
		2009 ^a	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
FFA - 228536 - Preparation of regional plan of action for the conservation and management of Sharks in the Pacific Islands	14 (d)	47,771	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,771
FFA - 240142 - Workshop on Proposed SPRFMO: awareness on roles and responsibilities - capacity and participation of FFA members.	14 (c)	32,074	0	0	0	0	0	0	32,074
SPC - 229962 - Training Workshop: Third Tuna Data Management Workshop	14 (f)	24,205	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,205
SPC - 232710 - Training Workshop: Tuna Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment	14 (f)	49,936	0	0	0	0	0	0	49,936
SPC - 246282 - Tuna Stock Data Workshops (April 2010): data-reporting obligations to WCPFC - regional stock assessments.	14 (f)	40,678	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,678
SPC - 246338 - Tuna Stock Assessment, Ecosystem and By-catch Workshops (June 2010): interpretation and use information.	14 (f)	67,521	-25,163	0	0	0	0	0	42,358
FFA - 254292 (September 2010): Workshop on Port State Measures	14 (f)	0	54,064	0	0	0	0	0	54,064
Total		262,185	28,901	0	0	0	0	0	291,086

^a Some funds approved for expenditure in 2009 were actually expended in 2010.