

Governments of Marshall Islands, Palau and Papua New Guinea to conduct two one-week regional workshops in June and July 2009 at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, in accordance with paragraph 14(f) of the Terms of Reference. The workshops will address (i) an introduction to tuna biology and assessment, and (ii) advanced tuna stock assessment and ecological risk assessment.⁶ The request was endorsed unanimously by the Panel at the level of USD 69,927.

Governments of Marshall Islands, Palau and Papua New Guinea to conduct one-week regional tuna data workshop in April 2009 at SPC Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia in accordance with paragraph 14(f) of the Terms of Reference. The request was endorsed unanimously by the Panel at the level of USD 45,307.

The total cost of these three projects is USD 167,444 of which USD 147,444 will be paid in 2009. These projects will contribute to the implementation of conservation and management measures relating to sharks adopted by the WCPFC and human resource development for the enhanced conservation and management of tuna resources in the Pacific Islands region.

FAO has entered into, or is in the process of entering into, Letters of Agreement for the three projects with the respective lead organizations (FFA and SPC) that will implement them. Both of these organizations will make significant contributions in-kind in implementing the projects. The disbursement of funds to support implementation commenced in January 2009. They will be completed by September 2009 and be reported on in the 2009 financial report to the Parties of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

5. Assistance Fund Balance

As at 31 December 2008 the balance in the Assistance Fund was USD 572,234 (see Tables 1 and 2). However, the outstanding funds approved for the implementation of the three FFA and SPC projects in 2009 (USD 147,444) will red

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