

Annual Report

# BESTTuna

Benefiting from Innovations in Sustainable and Equitable Management of Fisheries on Trans-boundary Tuna's in the Coral Triangle and Western Pacific

**Year 1, 2012**



November 20<sup>th</sup> 2013, Wageningen University, The Netherlands  
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## 1. Introduction

The BESTTuna programme was approved for funding by INREF at the end of September 2011. The programme formally began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012, with various project members joining throughout the year.

This report outlines the activities that were conducted and milestones reached for 2012. A detailed budget for the activities completed in 2012 can be found in Appendix A.

## 2. Overview of activities in 2012

### Research

- The KNAW PostDoc project on tuna credits was executed in two phases, and three papers, aimed at the peer-reviewed journals, are currently being developed as a result of this project. Initially, a survey of the literature and small field trips allowed project leader Dr. M. van Riel to lay the theoretical foundation. This was followed up by the second phase, an eight-week field trip to Indonesia investigating four case studies. The fieldwork was carried out from late August to late October 2012.
- Megan Bailey (INREF postdoc) joined the project August 1, and began research related to incentives in Indonesia and the possibilities for developing Indonesian pole and line fisheries. Field work in Indonesia was followed up by field work in Maldives to investigate success in the pole and line tuna fishery there, in an effort to develop a comparative study of the different countries.
- PhD student Alice Miller was involved in the KNAW tuna credit project and has been active writing and presenting at conferences.
- All other PhD students began conducting preliminary field research in their respective countries. Depending on a plan set out at the kick-off meeting in Bogor, the students carried out initial field visits before coming to Wageningen in order to assist them to start their research proposals.
- The PhD students arrived in Wageningen between September and December, with the exception of Ferral Lasi who will arrive in June 2013. Ferral's delay coincides with the completion of his work commitments at the South Pacific Commission (SPC).
- Simon Bush, Paul van Zwieten and Alice Miller were involved in a consultancy for the European Parliament to investigate the application of the system of derogation to the rules of origin of fisheries products in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. The results of this consultancy were presented to the Parliament on the 9th of October. The results of this study fed into the ongoing PhD research of Alice Miller.

### Education

- Two students were accepted for an internship with ANOVA – Yaiza Dronkers Londono and Momo Kochen.
- A further two students, Mandy Doddema and Melvin Samson completed internship and thesis work on a Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) in the Philippines working with WWF.
- All PhD students formally started their programs within BESTTuna at Wageningen UR. Students met with their various supervisors and began

developing their proposals. They have also begun taking courses and accumulating credits.

#### Proposals and leverage funding

- Discussions held with the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Development Countries (CBI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands halted due to a change in staff at their end. Further opportunities for funding will be discussed with CBI in 2013.
- University of the Philippines Mindanao submitted and received funding for research on tuna value chains to Commission for Higher Education of the Philippines (CHED) for €300,000 to support their own research.
- With the help of the Wageningen University Foundation, additional funding from Adessium Foundation was secured in the amount of €650,000. This funding is for disclosure, engagement and management, as outlined in a later section.
- In-kind funding is being discussed with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the amount of CAD \$25,000. This funding would be through the donation of electronic hand-held data collection devices that will be used as part of data collection protocol development in 2013, or will be used by students in the field.

#### Publications and presentations

Bailey, M., J. Flores, S. Pokajam & U. R. Sumaila (2012). Towards better management of Coral Triangle tuna. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 63: 30-42.

Van Riel M.C., S.R. Bush, P.A.M. van Zwieten and A.P.J. Mol (2012) Understanding fisheries credit systems: do they differ from existing management and what are their essentials? Mitigating impacts of fishing on pelagic ecosystems: Towards eco system based management of tuna fisheries, Montpellier – France, 15-18 October 2012.

Bush. S.R. and P. Oosterveer (2012) Vertically differentiating environmental standards: the case of the Marine Stewardship Council. Responsible Supply Chains and Networks: Challenges for Governance and Sustainability, Stockholm, Långholmen, Sweden, 22-24 November 2012.

Miller, A.M.M. and S.R. Bush (2012) Shifting sustainability - Innovation and competition through ecolabelling in tuna fisheries. Responsible Supply Chains and Networks: Challenges for Governance and Sustainability, Stockholm, Långholmen, Sweden, 22-24 November 2012.

Bush, S.R., van Zwieten P. and Miller, A. (2012). Application of the system of derogation to the rules of origin of fisheries products in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Presentation to European Parliament. 9 October, Brussels.

Miller, A. And Bush, S.R. (2012). Innovative governance strategies for sustainability in the European canned tuna market. Roskilde University, Denmark.

### 3. Management and coordination

#### Management

Simon Bush and Paul van Zwieten spent a minimum half day each a week committed to project management and coordination in 2012. Megan Bailey (INREF postdoc) had a 0.8

contract in 2012 which will increase to a 1.0 fte in 2013 as a result of Adessium funding. The main management time spent in 2012 included:

- Organising the kick-off meeting in Bogor in August.
- Exploring funding opportunities both in the Netherlands and internationally for PhD field work and/or workshops
- Financial reporting and work plan development.
- Supervise PhD students
- Setting up the BESTTuna website, and increasing the content and value of BESTTuna Facebook and Twitter
- Communication and coordination tasks in partnership with WU and international partners
- Recruiting and supervising BESTTuna Masters students

A small discretionary fund was made available to USP, UPM and UPV for coordination activities.

### Workshops and Meetings

The kick-off meeting for the programme was held in Bogor in August. The meeting was attended by 42 people. The main group of attendees was made up of research staff from the collaborating organisations and PhD students. In addition, staff from Bogor University and

- *Second International Advisory Board meeting* will be held adjacent to the BESTTuna meeting. The meeting will be the second opportunity to for BESTTuna program managers to receive advice and direction from the board, and will be the first time that students are able to connect with the board about specific research questions and methodology.

### Communications

- Website - the programme website went online in June 2012, designed by Corporate Communications at WUR. The site has now migrated to [www.besttuna.org](http://www.besttuna.org).
- BESTTuna has both a Facebook and Twitter site. The Facebook site is followed by 89 people and the Twitter feed has 53 followers. Both media have proved highly successful in communicating the daily activities of the programme within and beyond our immediate partners.
- Two conferences were attended in 2012 which extended our academic communication about the programme. These conferences included:
  - Mitigating impacts of fishing on pelagic ecosystems: Towards eco system based management of tuna fisheries, Montpellier – France, 15-18 October 2012.
  - Chains and Networks: Challenges for Governance and Sustainability, Stockholm, Långholmen, Sweden, 22-24 November 2012.

#### 4. Deviations from original work plan (2011 full proposal)

No major deviations from the original proposal for 2012 occurred.

#### 5. 2013 Budget

See supplementary Excel sheet.

#### Appendix A

##### Scientific Steering Committee

WASS Prof. Dr. Arthur Mol (Programme director), Environmental Policy Group  
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##### Other scientific staff (WU)

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##### Main research partners

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International advisory committee

1. Prof Anthony Lewis, University of Wollongong
2. Prof. Martin Tsamenyi, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong,
3. Prof. Robert Deacon, University of Santa Barbara California
4. Prof. Neil Loneragan, Murdoch University