INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan for the Kingdom of Tonga is to:
   a) identify priority areas for investment that will maximise the sustainable contribution of the fisheries sector to food security and economic growth.
   b) present and cost specific programs/activities to achieve these priorities.
   c) identify possible sources of financing for the specific programs/activities.
   d) provide a framework for implementation and to monitor progress in the short- to medium-term.

2. This Tonga Fisheries Sector Plan (TFSP) is designed to provide a basis for dialogue on the priorities, programs and implementation modalities. The plan addresses extensive comments made on a previous draft by private sector and civil society stakeholders. The TFSP identifies:
   a) the strategic objectives for the Tongan fisheries sector.
   b) the key programs to achieve these objectives.
   c) the links between programs (or subprograms) and their respective objectives using a coherent results framework.
   d) approximate costings of the programs/subprograms; and
   e) suggests implementing mechanisms and arrangements for the TFSP.

3. In order to substantiate and reach a common understanding of the priorities, policy initiatives and interventions, the plan also provides an analysis of the state of the fisheries sector, the challenges faced and the proposed solutions. The findings are structured to facilitate potential development partners in identifying potential strategic interventions and how such interventions could complement each other in relation to country programmes and planned projects. The terms of reference for preparation of the TFSP were endorsed by Tonga’s Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFFF) and the Fisheries Growth Committee (FGC) and the process has been supported by the World Bank in collaboration with IFAD. Other development partners, including New Zealand, have expressed strong support for development of a fisheries sector plan for Tonga.

4. Following dissemination and further discussion of the TFSP, particularly in the outer islands, it is anticipated that upon approval, priority investments and activities would be implemented by drawing on both internal and external resources.

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1 Discussions held during March 2015.
2 Translation of the TFSP to Fakatonga is recommended, in particular translation of key elements of the proposals on community fisheries and beche-de-mer fisheries in order to enable informed dialogue in the outer island communities.