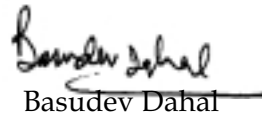


# Foreword

In this report, appropriately titled *Tuna, A Key Economic Resource of the Pacific*, the authors highlight the importance of tuna in the economy of Pacific Islands countries. Considering the limited exploitable resources of these island countries, it may be argued that for people of the Pacific, tuna is not only *a* key resource but often *the* key resource.

To the world, tuna represents a multibillion-dollar-a-year industry. To the Pacific Islands countries that contribute a third of the world's supply each year, it provides essential direct and indirect employment (5 percent to 8 percent of national employment), subsistence, and a valuable source of income for governments in the form of access fees and other benefits. In addition, through commercial sport fishing, tuna represents an important link to the countries' important tourism industry.

The future food security and economic development of the Pacific region will undoubtedly be linked to the responsible and sustainable management of its tuna resources. This report provides us with valuable insights into how such resource management can be achieved.



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