Promoting an ecosystem approach to fisheries in Africa, contribution of the EAF-Nansen Project

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Introduction

- Sustainable use of natural resources requires an approach that takes sustainability principles into consideration as well as governance.
- The 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries negotiated and agreed by FAO member States provides principles and standards applicable to the conservation, management and development of all fisheries.
- In 2003, COFI endorsed EAF as practical implementation of the CCRF.
- The WSSD implementation plan calls for an ecosystem approach to be implemented by 2010.
- Capacity Development and the EAF-Nansen Project.
THE "DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN SURVEY PROGRAMME" >>>

- Achieved tremendous success
- A model for development cooperation in fisheries
The EAF-Nansen Project (*Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries*)

**Immediate Objective:**
Beneficiary countries manage their resources sustainably and in line with ecosystem approach.
The EAF-Nansen project offers an opportunity to coastal developing countries to receive technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway (IMR) for assessment and management of their fisheries within an ecosystem context, with the funding support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).
Project Components

- Support for fisheries policy formulation and review
- Support for EAF management planning
- Ecosystem assessments and monitoring
- Capacity development
- Support to regional research vessels for ecosystem surveys
- Project planning, management and dissemination of lessons learnt
Key EAF Principles

- Maintaining ecosystem integrity
- Improving human well-being and equity
- Applying the precautionary approach
- Developing adaptive management systems
- Ensuring compatibility of management measures (across jurisdictions)
- Broadening stakeholder participation
- Promoting sectoral integration
- Improve research to better understand all components of the ecosystem
- Conservation and management decisions based on the best available knowledge
The EAF-Nansen Project has been assisting coastal countries in Africa with these key principles through the development of national and regional frameworks for the implementation of EAF.
SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Capacity developed for EAF planning and implementation
- Assisted Fisheries administrations to prepare and implement fisheries management plans
- The review of legal instruments relevant to EAF (Legislating for an ecosystem approach to fisheries)
- Tracking EAF implementation
- Progress made on institutional arrangement in support of EAF implementation
- Surveys and assessment Working Groups supported and/or established
- Surveys in least researched of the world’s ocean regions (e.g. the Mascarene plateau, southern Indian Ocean seamounts; South West Atlantic seamounts)
- Support provided to all LME programs and regional fisheries projects in Africa;
- **Sierra Leone** and **Liberia** > artisanal fishery
- **Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana** and **Togo** > beach seine fishery in the four countries
- **Tanzania, Kenya** > fishery for small and medium pelagic species
- **Cameroon, Gabon** and **Nigeria** > industrial shrimp fishery with participation of:
  - NEPAD/PAF,
  - RBBs
- **Mozambique** > Sofala Bank shrimp fishery Line fishery
- **Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles** > demersal fisheries
- **Mauritius** > Fishery on two banks
- shared small pelagic stocks in North-west Africa
Training

- The project has designed a post-graduate course on EAF run in partnership with universities in Africa (Ghana, Morocco, South Africa, Mozambique, Cameroon)

- The course which relates directly to the knowledge required for fisheries management planning and monitoring

- Other courses
Development of a Teaching Kit for Basic schools

- Focusing on 5 key EAF Principles
  - Ecosystem integrity
  - Precautionary approach and respect of rules
  - Broadening stakeholder participation in management
  - Promoting sectoral integration
  - Decision making and information
- Messages for the children
- Exercises involving observations outside the classroom
- Training teachers
Tracking the implementation of EAF

- The WSSD target on EAF implementation has two components: the actions being taken and the effectiveness and outcomes of those actions.
- Tracking Tool to establish baselines for EAF implementation and to track the progress of implementation against the ten EAF objectives.
- By December 2014, the Tracking Tool had been used on one fishery each of 29 out of the 32 countries in Africa.
- Overall implementation score of 43 percent.
The 10 EAF Objectives

1. Good understanding of ecosystem impacts of fisheries
2. Ecosystem impacts included in management advice.
3. The social well-being of fishing communities accounted for in management advice.
4. The economic well-being of the fishing industry is maintained.
5. Effective communication and information sharing
6. EAF in management plans
7. Effective compliance
8. Capacity, skills, equipment and funding for EAF
9. Data procedures
10. External impacts
WHAT NEXT?

and

WHERE?
Transitioning into a new phase (2016-2020)

- A new programme
- A new research vessel
VISIT

- Website: www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen
- Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/67578091@N08/
- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/eafnansen

THANK YOU