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Evaluation of NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme, GCP/RAF/463/MUL

Management response to the mid-term evaluation report

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Management Response of the Evaluation of the NEPAD – FAO, Fish Programme (NFFP)

The Management Team finds the report of the mid-term evaluation comprehensive, well-structured and well written, and analytical in its approach. The Evaluation Team appears to have made good use of information obtained during stakeholder-consultation missions. The report provides a number of concrete recommendations for the Programme's next phase.

Management response matrix

<i>Management response to the (Evaluation Title)</i>		<i>Date</i>			
<i>Evaluation Recommendation</i>	<i>Management response Accepted, partially accepted or rejected and comment on the Recommendation</i>	<i>Management plan</i>			
		<i>Action to be taken</i>	<i>Responsible unit</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Further funding required (Y or N)</i>
Recommendation 1 Phase Two of the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme should be implemented and should be for at least three years	Recommendation accepted in principle. The Management Team (MT) agrees in principle, but the current donor has informed the NFFP Implementation Team that they will not be in a position to fund Phase II of the Programme. No funding for the implementation of Phase II has yet been forthcoming.	A proposal for a concluding Phase of the Programme (to enable a responsible closure should no additional funding become available) is under preparation. Sida, the current donor, has indicated that such a proposal could be funded. In parallel, the NFFP Implementation Team continues its efforts to identify other potential donors.	The NFFP Implementation Team (Lead Technical Officers, Component Leaders, Programme Coordinator, Budget Holder and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA))	Proposal for a Concluding Phase to be finalised by end-May 2014. Should this funding come through, additional donors will continue to be sought throughout the implementation period of the Concluding Phase (tentatively October 2014 – December 2015)	Yes.
Recommendation 2 The NFFP should be reclassified as an inter-regional programme as befits its reality and as originally negotiated and planned. This implies that the Budget Holder should be at the HQ in Rome where she or he will be able to consult with the LTO, LTU, component	Recommendation not accepted. Being a NEPAD-FAO Programme, NFFP's overall scope is all African Union Member States, as is the mandate of the NEPAD Agency ¹ . In accordance with the subsidiarity principle of FAO's decentralization policy, liaison	Allocate more administrative resources to the Programme's Budget-Holder functions and Proceed with the recruitment	FAO RAF	Immediate action. The final decision on the location of the Budget Holder for a Concluding Phase (and a potential Phase II)	Yes

¹ RAF covers 47 out of 54 AU member states. The ones not covered by RAF are Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and Tunisia. Egypt's membership has been suspended and Morocco is not a member

leaders and other technical staff backstopping the Programme and from where the administrative support is provided.	with the African Union and NEPAD has been entrusted to the ADG/RR RAF who will consult with the ADG/RNE as necessary (DGB 2014/18. Refers). Consequently, budgetholdership of projects in partnership with the African Union is entrusted to the ADG/RR RAF to ensure coherent resource management in all relations with the AU and the countries covered by RAF.	of fisheries and aquaculture officers in RAF.		needs to be taken in view of the funding for the Concluding Phase coming through, preliminarily in September 2014.	
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>If funding is found and the decision made to proceed with implementing Phase II, Sida, FAO and the NPCA should consider a three party agreement that accommodates a direct transfer of an agreed proportion of the funds from Sida to the NPCA to enable the NPCA to undertake expenditure relating to the implementation of the NFFP that is not permitted through use of LOA</p>	<p>Recommendation partially accepted.</p> <p>While this recommendation seems attractive in theory, we believe that the Programme implementation would be further complicated as Sida would be dealing with two implementing partners with a question mark on who is responsible for overall Programme implementation. Moreover, the non-standard implementation modality proposed by the evaluation would have to be reviewed and approved by the Inter-departmental Working Group on New Operational Modalities. The outcome of this review cannot be predicted.</p>	Submit SIDA, FAO, NPCA implementation modality to IDWG on New Operational Modalities	OSD/RAF/FI	Before approval of Second or Concluding Phase	NO
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Sida should discuss the sustainability of strengthening the capacity of the NPCAs Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme with other donors interested in working with the NPCA with a view to formulating a realistic plan that will result in greater long-term sustainability. Consideration should be given to proposing an agreement with the African Union Commission/NPCA whereby donors initially take responsibility for the funding of the key staff coupled with a planned gradual transfer of that responsibility to the African Union over a period of years.</p>	<p>Recommendation accepted.</p> <p>However, the recommendation seems to be wholly addressed to Sida (and the NPCA). While the FAO encourages donor coordination, the recommendation is outside the scope of the NFFP. One could question the plausibility of donors signing long-term agreements with the African Union on the funding of staff.</p>	Not Applicable	Sida and the NPCA	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Consideration should be given to minimising the number of Letters of Agreement by negotiating one LoA a year that reflects NPCA financing requirements that relate to NPCA tasks to the work plan thereby also reducing the transaction costs of processing and reporting on several of them. (see paragraph 207)</p>	Recommendation accepted.	The elaboration of one LoA per NFFP work plan/ year (as applicable) only.	Recommendation	As and when the next phase of the Programme commences.	No
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The MTE recommends that FAO and RAF expedite as soon as possible the selection and recruitment processes for the professional posts in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and at the Regional Office for Africa, to ensure smooth implementation of all planned initiatives</p>	Recommendation accepted.	Initiate recruitment	Recommendation	Immediate	NO (these two posts are already budgeted for in the FAO 2014-15 Regular Budget)