

**Minutes of the:**

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**JOINT MEETING OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT REGIONAL STEERING  
COMMITTEES**

**Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 7 October 2013**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

## **THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT**

FAO started the implementation of the project “Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries (EAF-Nansen GCP/INT/003/NOR)” in December 2006 with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The EAF-Nansen project is a follow-up to earlier projects/programmes in a partnership involving FAO, Norad and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Bergen, Norway on assessment and management of marine fishery resources in developing countries. The project works in partnership with governments and also GEF-supported Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects and other projects that have the potential to contribute to some components of the EAF-Nansen project.

The EAF-Nansen project offers an opportunity to coastal countries in sub-Saharan Africa, working in partnership with the project, to receive technical support from FAO for the development of national and regional frameworks for the implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management and to acquire additional knowledge on their marine ecosystems for their use in planning and monitoring. The project contributes to building the capacity of national fisheries management administrations in ecological risk assessment methods to identify critical management issues and in the preparation, operationalization and tracking the progress of implementation of fisheries management plans consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR  
AND IMPLEMENTING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH  
TO MARINE FISHERIES IN DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES

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## **PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) of the EAF-Nansen project (Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries) was prepared by a rapporteur under the general guidance of the Project Coordination Unit. The RSC meeting was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 7 October, 2013. The minutes capture the discussions at the meeting, the decisions taken and the recommendations made and were circulated to the participants for comments and confirmation.

**FAO EAF-Nansen Project/FAO, Projet EAF-Nansen.**

Minutes of the/Compte-rendu de

Joint meeting of the EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committees, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 7 October 2013/La réunion conjointe des Comités de Pilotage Régionaux du projet EAF-Nansen, Dar es Salaam, République-Unie De Tanzanie, 7 Octobre 2013

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**ABSTRACT**

The second joint meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) was held at the Whitesands hotel in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 7 October 2013. The Meeting was attended by 61 participants comprising representatives from 26 African countries in four RSCs, namely the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) North, CECAF South, Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC). Also in attendance were representatives of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) of Bergen, Norway.

Ms Fatma Sobo of the United Republic of Tanzania and Mr Mohammed Halifa of the Comoros were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the session.

Dr Kwame Koranteng, the Coordinator of EAF-Nansen project gave an update on the status of the capacity building activities, the surveys carried out in 2012/13 and plans for 2014, the policy on the access and use of data collected during the Nansen surveys and the main outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> NORAD/FAO/IMR annual meeting.

The EAF-Nansen Project Analyst/Operations Officer, Mr Kyriakos Kourkouliotis, presented the administrative and financial aspects of the Project. He presented the budget and sources of funding for the regions and the summarised the support received by the countries through the National Task Groups.

A report on the evaluation of the first phase of the EAF-Nansen project was presented. The evaluation recommended that the new phase would require a result-based logical framework, a more elaborate Norad supported capacity development component in collaboration with research and academic institutions in Africa and an explicit gender consideration approach.

Participants proposed a series of recommendations for implementation. They recognized the role played by the subregional and regional fisheries organizations, and also expressed their gratitude to the Government of Norway for the continued support for the management of fisheries in Africa.

Regional Task Group (RTG) Chairs and Vice Chairs were elected as follows: CECAF North: Guinea (Chair) and Morocco (Vice Chair); CECAF South: Sierra Leone (Chair) and Gabon (Vice Chair); SWIOFC: Mozambique (Chair)/Tanzania (Vice Chair).

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The second joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) of the EAF-Nansen Project was held at the Whitesands Hotel in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 7 October 2013. The Meeting was attended by 61 representatives from 26 African countries, fisheries commissions and various regional bodies. The African countries represented are Benin, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Togo.
2. Also present were representatives of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The list of participants is in Appendix 2.

3. Dr Kwame Koranteng, the Coordinator of EAF-Nansen project, welcomed all participants and gave a brief overview on the EAF-Nansen, its activities and the regional coverage in Africa. Dr Koranteng requested the participants to introduce themselves and their institutional affiliation before he invited the Guest of Honour to address them and formally open the Meeting.
4. Ms Fatma Sobo, Assistant Director of Fisheries of Tanzania, was the Guest of Honor on behalf of the Director of Fisheries of Tanzania. In the opening remarks, the Director extended a special welcome to the partners from FAO, Norad and IMR for their significant contribution to the sustainable management of fisheries resources in Tanzania, Africa and worldwide.
5. "The ecosystem approach to the management of marine fisheries will have great impact in promoting sustainable utilization and conservation of marine fisheries resources and in helping to rebuild depleted fish stocks", said the Director. In conclusion, the Director said that Tanzania aims to create awareness on the EAF concept to facilitate implementation of fisheries management plan and this has already been achieved in four out of the 12 coastal districts of the country.

### **Election of the Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur**

6. Ms Fatma Sobo of the United Republic of Tanzania and Mr Mohammed Halifa of the Comoros were elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the meeting. Dr Melckzedek Osore, FAO consultant, was appointed Rapporteur.
7. The provisional Agenda of the Meeting was adopted as presented in Appendix 1 after excluding the item regarding progress of work in the EAF country projects.

### **Implementation status of the EAF-Nansen Project**

8. Dr Koranteng presented the implementation status of the EAF-Nansen Project through six focused power point presentations featuring: Update on capacity building activities, surveys carried out in 2012/13 and plans for 2014.

### **Update on the capacity building activities**

9. The Coordinator recalled the EAF-Nansen Project components as follows:
  - Support to policy formulation at national and regional levels;
  - Support to fisheries managers to take EAF considerations into account in management;
  - Ecosystem assessments and monitoring;
  - Capacity Building;
  - Support to regional research vessels to carry out ecosystem surveys;
  - Project planning, management and dissemination of lessons learnt.

10. He highlighted the achievements of the first and transition phases of the project - from its inception in December 2006 till 2013. He emphasized that the goals and activities of the Project have been responding to the needs of the partners. He presented some results from each component of the project and highlighted some of the outstanding achievements. The achievement obtained in both the individual and group trainings conducted over the years was singled out. He showed how the communication strategy has achieved much success leading to the development of a vibrant website, and the production of the newsletter, known as *e-Approach*, as well as various other publications including posters and flyers.
11. From the areas that the vessel has surveyed in Africa the Coordinator concluded that this demonstrates the immense contribution that the R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys are making towards the sustainable management of fisheries on the African continent.
12. Success in Component 6 was achieved through effective communication, holding of regular meetings and the establishment of an extensive network of partners.
13. The presentation also highlighted the problems encountered, action taken, the lessons learnt and how this can be used to strengthen the new phase of the project.
14. The problems included:
  - Delay in the starting of partner projects or difficulties in their implementation;
  - Required co-funding, cruise plan and science programme;
  - Piracy in the South West Indian Ocean area;
  - Financial transaction with beneficiary countries and accountability;
  - Multiple donor-funded projects in Africa, some with large budgetary allocations to the same countries;
  - Commitment by partners could not be assured because of inadequate human capacity in the beneficiary countries.
15. Dr Koranteng concluded that the future project would aim to strengthen the following three outcomes as formulated for the transition phase:
  - Fisheries management authorities have available to them, and are using, the necessary skills, knowledge and systems based on EAF principles;
  - Enabling environment for implementing EAF is in place; and
  - Greater awareness of EAF is generated.
16. He said that the Government of Norway has agreed to build a new vessel for the new phase. He indicated that the new phase (expected to start in 2016) would continue to support developing countries in their efforts to implement EAF and will continue to develop capacity for fisheries management. He said that the programme will be expanded to include pollution and climate variability and change as major drivers and constraints and is expected to contribute to global climate change programme - monitoring the oceans around developing nations with the research vessel as a UN platform for marine observations
17. Dr Koranteng pointed out that the key outcome of the capacity building component of the Project is the enhanced staff capability in the fisheries administrations and research institutes. He said fisheries managers have been trained on methods appropriate for EAF and are now using the newly acquired knowledge in their daily work. In Component 3, the local capacity for analyzing survey data and for fisheries management planning was enhanced through both group and individual training. The group training included data analysis and stock assessment workshops and EAF courses held in a number of universities. The Coordinator noted that more than 170 persons from various institutions have attended the group training. In the individual training category, scientists from partner countries have been supported to present papers and posters at international conferences.



## The Nansen Surveys

18. The presentation on the surveys showed that in 2012 and 2013 there were 268 days and 280 survey days respectively. As at the time of the joint meeting of the RSC, only 135 surveys days had been confirmed for 2014. Participants enquired why the vessel was earmarked to operate beyond the continent in Brazil when many African countries have not been sufficiently surveyed. The meeting was informed that the surveys outside Africa were deliberately included in order to optimize the use of the research vessel and to meet the co-financing requirements of Norad. It was revealed that only Angola had submitted a firm request to use the vessel in 2014.

## Policy on the access and use of data collected during the Nansen surveys

19. The Coordinator also presented the draft policy on the access and use of data from the R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys. He informed the participants that the Nansen datasets have attracted considerable scientific interest world-wide noting that whereas some of the data can serve global public good and contribute to wider knowledge in marine ecosystems others are considered rather confidential by the countries. The meeting was informed that the Data Policy is to guide and regulate access to data and their distribution, while ensuring that these data benefit the intended countries and regions. The policy provides further guidelines on aspects of data categorization, ownership, usage and storage.
20. Since the beginning of the Nansen Programme, the guiding principles on the data are as follows:
- The data belong to the countries in whose waters (EEZ) they have been collected;
  - For surveys co-funded by partner projects, the data are jointly owned by the partner(s) and the country/countries;
  - No survey takes place in the waters of any country without the permission of the country, and the possession of required permits;
  - National participation in the survey is encouraged.
21. The data covered by the Policy were listed as follows:
- Hydrographic – e.g. from CTD or weather station;
  - Hydro-acoustic – e.g. from echosounder;
  - Trawl catches;
  - Sea water samples for biological/or chemical analyses;
  - Samples from the seabed;
  - Photography or video recordings;
  - Recorded visual observations (e.g. of birds whales, etc).
22. The Policy specifies the responsibilities of the Cruise Leaders and other scientists and technicians that participate in the surveys. It was proposed that the ownership of the data be as follows:
- Data collected within national EEZs are owned by the countries.
  - Data collected in international waters will be owned by the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) or the Regional Fishery Body (RFB) that manages or oversees the management of the resources in the particular region, and the countries that are members of the RFMOs of RFB.
  - Since partners like the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) projects act on behalf of the countries; the subsequent distribution and use of data must be guided by the data policies of the partners but these do not override the Nansen Data Policy.
  - Data older than 5 years, from the date of collection, are to become publicly available.
  - The data may be used in FAO working groups/meetings or workshops in which representatives of the data owner participate.
23. The Policy also looks at the storage of the data and all specimens collected during the surveys, including those by guest scientists, the request for the data and their use in publications. The meeting was informed that IMR is the custodian of the data and manager of the Nansis database and that

neither IMR nor FAO is authorised to distribute the data without express permission of the owner(s). It was also proposed that unless otherwise agreed between the parties, the Bergen Museum (the main Norwegian museum for storing marine research material) is the authorised entity to store the samples. On publications, the Policy requires that all Nansen survey reports be co-authored by the leading national scientists who participate in the surveys and that these scientists and other national scientists, irrespective of whether they participated in the surveys or not, would have the right to publish research papers from the data when they are granted access to the data and information. It is recommended that all such publications should acknowledge the source of the data and the EAF-Nansen project in particular. The Policy also permits guest scientists to publish papers from data and information that they have collected and the type of publication should be agreed with the EAF-Nansen project, the countries and partners. As much as possible, all such publications should be co-authored by national scientists. It was stressed that the EAF-Nansen Project Coordination Unit must be provided with copies (printed and/or electronic) of all such publications.

### **Outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Norad/FAO/IMR annual meeting**

24. Mr Kyriakos Kourkoulitis, the Project Operations Officer/Analyst presented the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held on 20 and 21 March in Rome, Italy. The main highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Norad requested FAO to develop a project document for the second phase of the EAF-Nansen Project, with assistance from IMR. The Meeting recommended collaboration with UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in the preparation of the second phase. Their participation is deemed crucial for establishing an expanded standard for monitoring the marine ecosystem.
- The second phase of the project is to be structured around four main pillars: (i) Research including field work with the R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* and data analysis; (ii) Policy/Management/Legal aspects; (iii) Capacity building and (iv) Project planning and dissemination of information.
- The new Project will have the following three main thematic areas: (i) sustainable fisheries, (ii) climate change and (iii) environment/pollution related to oil exploitation.
- The meeting recommended to involve participating countries in the preparation of the second phase of the project; the meeting agreed that the Annual Forum is the appropriate venue to engage the countries in the process and to solicit their comments on the Concept Note.
- IMR is leading the tender process for the contract to design the new research vessel. The design process started in March 2013. A number of issues were discussed regarding the internal layout of the laboratories, cabins, etc. The technical specifications of the vessel should be ready by now. The vessel is expected to be completed in early 2016 and thereafter undertake three months of sea trials before it is handed over to the Project.
- Piracy and maritime crimes experienced in the western Indian Ocean and some areas of the Gulf of Guinea and the Bay of Bengal in 2012 were discussed including the potential impact on planned surveys.

The following additional decisions were brought to the attention of the RSCs.

### **25. Final submission of Survey Reports:**

(i) For stock assessment survey, three months are necessary to allow for quality control at IMR, including adding complementary information and also editing; (ii) for ecosystem surveys, more time was required (six months) as usually more than one cruise leader is involved and consequently more time was requested to allow for coordination in finalising the reports. For the latter surveys the rather lengthy procedures for the analysis of some samples (e.g. sediments) collected and the involvement of external laboratories in this activity were noted. It was agreed that this activity is outside the scope of the IMR/FAO obligation and that it should not be mandatory to include the results in the cruise report. Separate reports have to be submitted by the institute/laboratory responsible for the analysis of the samples.

26. It was further agreed that all survey reports would include an executive summary reflecting key findings and trends in fish stock biomass and possible management implications.

### **Finance and administration issues**

27. Mr Kyriakos Kourkoulitis, the EAF-Nansen Project Operations Officer/Project Analyst presented the administrative and financial aspects of the project. He explained how the EAF-Nansen provides support to the National Task Groups (NTG) at both the operational level and also through the implementation of the small projects.
28. He mentioned that currently EAF is implementing three projects in partnership with BCC, four involving eleven countries, one in partnership with CCLME and eight with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP). He lamented that unnecessary bureaucracy that has been a major impediment to the progress of some of the country projects. including difficulties in managing the partnerships.
29. Mr Kourkoulitis presented the budget for the various projects and showed the contribution by the partners. He showed that overall, 68 percent of the entire funding came from EAF-Nansen while the remaining amount was provided by the partners.

### **Work plan for 2013–14**

30. Participants discussed in groups and suggested the following to be included in the 2014 Work Plan of the EAF-Nansen Project.

#### BCC

1. EAF project on Human Dimension of EAF to be completed;
2. Activity 1.3.3 Plan for NansClim II to be included in phase 2 of the EAF-Nansen project;
3. Activity 1.4 Include support for the BCC small pelagics work group;
4. Activity 1.6 Include work on preparation of ecosystem baseline report for the BCC region;
5. Activity 1.8 Conduct needs analysis in the BCC countries for fisheries advisors
6. Activity 2.2 Facilitate transfer of data and reports of surveys conducted in the BCC from IMR to BCC;
7. Activity 3.4 Support production of the Newsletter for the African LME Caucus.

#### SWIOFC

1. Activity 1.1 Need to facilitate finalization of all the management plans for signing;
2. Activity 1.1.2 Socio-economic studies required;
3. Activity 1.1.3 Facilitate work on climate change and disaster risk management;
4. Activity 1.2 Under take surveys where possible and also include training and support for the use of national research vessels;
5. Activity 2.1.4 Include work on lagoon fisheries and also small pelagic and shrimp fisheries.

#### CECAF-SOUTH

1. Activity 1.1.3 Include assistance for the implementation of the fisheries management plans;
2. Activity 1.2 Project to assist in sourcing for co-funding for Nansen surveys;
3. Activity 1.3 Support for fisheries data collection and analysis and also training for the same;
4. Activity 1.4 Support for the CECAF working groups;
5. Activity 1.10 Include work on climate change;
6. Activity 2.1 Policy and EAF;
7. Activity 2.2 Look at institutional capacity development;
8. Activity 3.2 Include revision of the project communication strategy and to clearly indicate activities to be carried out at country level.

## CECAF-NORTH

1. Activity 1.1.3 Assistance required to prepare/revise management plans;
2. Activity 1.3.3 Include support for data collection and analysis in the countries; this includes training;
3. Activity 1.5 Include socio-economic indicators from the CCLME region.

### **Findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the first phase EAF-Nansen Project**

31. The evaluation of the first phase of the EAF-Nansen project was carried out from 1 July to 25 August 2013 by a team of three persons comprising Dr Sophie des Clers (Team Leader), Dr Magnus Ngoile and Mr Christophe Breuil. The brief of their findings was presented by Dr Ngoile.
32. Dr Ngoile commenced by presenting the background of the project and mentioned the long-standing partnership agreement between Norad, on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IMR and FAO. He indicated the scope of the budget and cost sharing approach involved in operating the R/V *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* and highlighted the contribution of the 31 participating coastal sub-Saharan African states.
33. He then focussed on the purpose of the evaluation, which he said was, first and foremost, to assess the achievements attained in terms of outputs and outcomes, and progress made towards contributing to the impact and factors affecting performance. Secondly, he hoped that the evaluation would contribute significantly in formulating recommendations for the second phase.
34. The presentation highlighted the methodology used, the documents analysed, interviews conducted, and the countries visited for the purpose of the evaluation. Eight countries in four LMEs were visited to carry out in-depth analyses. The meeting was informed that the evaluation adopted a consultative and transparent approach through semi-structured interviews with the Project's key stakeholders. The team analysed a large number of documents had the opportunity to attend two of the important meetings, namely: i) the 15<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting on LMEs at the IOC-UNESCO, Paris, 10–11 July 2013, and the Project's workshop held in Accra from 15 to 19 July 2013 on setting baselines for EAF implementation in the countries of the CECAF-South area (i.e. countries between Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the island state of Sao Tome and Principe). The team also visited countries in the four LME regions (namely Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Mauritius) to carry out direct in-depth analyses.
35. The assessment used evaluation criteria that captured: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The evaluation tools used comprised: desktop review, structured interviews, questionnaire survey and analyses of website content.
36. Dr Ngoile then presented the results of the evaluation. The evaluating team noted that the contribution of the various components to the overall achievements of the objectives of the EAF-Nansen Project was very significant. Most specifically, he commended the development of the fisheries management plans for 19 African countries and their status.
37. Other areas evaluated included the impact of the RV *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* especially with regard to the emerging expanded knowledge base and the capacity developed in Africa.
38. Dr Ngoile commended the success of the communication approach adopted by EAF-Nansen in Phase I, which was accomplished through publication of reports, production of the *e-approach* Newsletter and the development of the project website.
39. He said that the strengthening of partnerships with NEPAD and other African agencies at the pan-African, subregional and national levels was also highlighted.

40. The following key recommendations were made based on evidence analyzed, countries visited and human interactions:

1. **Phase II:** As the design for the next phase of the EAF-Nansen Project progresses, a formulation for Phase II is necessary in continuation with Phase I. The new phase requires a result-based logical framework, and suitable indicators of impact at the regional (shared resources) and national fishery level.
2. **Capacity Development:** EAF-Nansen is about increasing the EAF knowledge-base and national and regional management capacity. Phase I has developed new and very promising activities and partnerships with African educational providers, which could be further developed to include wider support from Norad for research and academic institutions in Africa.
3. **Gender:** Explicit gender consideration will be important in Phase II of the Project. The logical framework will need to be 'engendered', with detailed indicators to illustrate the extent of women's voice in the project's local, national and regional activities and fora.

### **Election of chairs and vice chairs of the Regional Steering Committees**

42. Elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair of each RSC and the results are as follows:

**CECAF North:** Cape Verde (Chair), Guinea (Vice Chair);

**CECAF South:** Cameroon (Chair), Nigeria (Vice Chair);

**BCC:** Angola (Chair), South Africa (Vice Chair);

**SWIOFC:** Mozambique (Chair), Tanzania (Vice Chair).

### **Election of chairs and vice chairs of the Regional Task Groups**

43. Elections for the Regional Task Group (RTG) were conducted and the results were as follows:

**CECAF North:** Guinea (Hassimiou Tall)/Morocco (Salah Bencherifi);

**CECAF South:** Sierra Leone (Sheku Sei)/Gabon (Carole Ogandagas);

**SWIOFC:** Mozambique (Maria Ascensão Pinto)/Tanzania (Fatma Sobo).

44. No election was held for RTG of the BCC region because the role is played by the BCC Ecosystem Advisory Committee.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

45. The following recommendations were captured following the conclusion of the Meeting:

- The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Government of Norway for the support provided through the EAF-Nansen project in assisting countries of Africa to develop and implement sustainable fisheries management plans. It also appreciated the decision to further support the second phase of the project through acquisition of a new research vessel.
- The Meeting appreciated the presentation on objectives, activities and results achieved during the first phase of the project for the promotion and implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and welcomed the partnerships established with the subregional organizations and projects of the region to coordinate respective efforts, define actions in areas of common interest and avoid duplication.
- The good collaboration existing between the EAF-Nansen project and the various universities in Africa to organize training in EAF was noted. The Meeting welcomed the initiative taken by the EAF-Nansen project to develop a course on EAF for Portuguese-speaking countries.
- The Meeting recognized and appreciated the necessity to further utilize the data collected during the surveys for the benefit and support of sustainable management.

- It was noted that the 2014 cruise plan for the Research Vessel (R/V) is not yet finalized. The Meeting called upon countries and partners to indicate their interest in using the R/V according to their needs.
- The Meeting noted that the research programme is expected to expand to include climate change-related issues and biodiversity in the second phase of the project, and to use the R/V as a UN-wide platform, and recognised the necessity to develop an appropriate data policy with regard to the ownership and their use.
- The Meeting appreciated the presentation on draft data use policy prepared by the project and requested the project to establish a working group during the session with representative from the four regions to revise the document taking into account the comments provided by participants before endorsement.
- The Meeting requested the assistance of the EAF-Nansen project to strengthen the national capacity and to support the administration/management of the database developed with the data collected during the surveys.
- The Meeting appreciated the presentation made by Dr Magnus Ngoile, one of the three evaluators, of the project and generally agreed with the findings and recommendations of the Evaluation Mission as presented in the draft report, and expresses its appreciation to the reviewers. As requested, countries will provide comments on the draft report to the Evaluation Office of FAO.
- The Meeting requested the project to revise its communications strategy in order to strengthen its information and communication at the country level.
- Countries that have received financial support from FAO were called upon to submit to the Coordination Unit of the EAF-Nansen project and the FAO representation in their respective countries, the progress reports and financial statements as stipulated in the Letters of Agreement to allow the closure of these agreements.
- The Meeting appreciated the presentation on the work plan for 2014 prepared by the EAF-Nansen project and the process put in place during the session to allow participants from the four regions to revise it according to the regional priorities and needs.
- As recommended by the evaluation team, the Meeting stressed that development of the second phase of the project should put in place flexible measures to disburse funds to the countries in support of the in-country activities.
- In recognition of the key role played by the subregional and regional fisheries organizations, the Meeting requested that these should be further integrate into the in-countries activities in relation to the implementation of the management plans.

## **Closing**

46. The Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees was formally closed by Ms Fatma Sobo, Assistant Director of Fisheries of Tanzania. She thanked the guests from FAO, Norad and IMR for their support for this important move so as to facilitate and organise this important meeting. She urged them and other facilitators to ensure that all the planned activities are completed within set time frames in order to conclude the preparations for the second phase of EAF-Nansen on time.

## APPENDIX I PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Provisional Agenda

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 8:00 – 8:30   | Registration   |
| 8:30 – 9:00   | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening and administrative arrangements</li> <li>• Election of Chair, Vice Chair &amp; Rapporteurs</li> <li>• Adoption of the Agenda</li> </ul>  |
| 9:00 – 10:30  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation status of the EAF-Nansen project</li> <li>• Update on the Capacity Building activities</li> <li>• Surveys carried out in 2012/2013 (including 2013/2014 survey plans)</li> <li>• Main outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Norad/FAO/IMR Annual Meeting</li> </ul>   |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break   |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress of work in the EAF country projects (reports by cluster)</li> <li>• Finance and administration issues</li> <li>• Findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the first phase of the Project</li> </ul>   |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch  |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Plan for 2013-14</li> <li>• Next phase of the EAF-Nansen project</li> <li>• Outlines of the project document (details will be presented at the Forum)</li> <li>• Election of RSC Chairs and Vice Chairs (BCC, CECAF-N, CECAF-S, SWIOFC)</li> <li>• Election of NTG Chairs and Vice Chairs (BCC, CECAF-N, CECAF-S, SWIOFC)</li> <li>• AOB</li> <li>• Conclusions and Recommendations</li> </ul> |
| 16:00 – 16.30 | Coffee Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing</li> </ul>   |

## APPENDIX 2

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