

Minutes of the:

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

Casablanca, Morocco, 24 October 2014



**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 third 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) held in Casablanca, Morocco on 24 October 2014 were prepared by the Project Coordination Unit. The minutes capture the discussions at the meeting, the decisions taken and the recommendations made. The draft minutes 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, Casablanca, Morocco, 24 October 2014/

La réunion conjointe des Comités de pilotage régionaux du projet EAF-Nansen, Casablanca, Maroc, 24 octobre 2014

FAO EAF-Nansen Project Report/FAO Rapport du projet EAF-Nansen. N°26. Rome, FAO. 2015. 21p.

ABSTRACT

The third Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) of the EAF-Nansen Project was held at the Novotel Hotel in Casablanca, Morocco on 24 October 2014. There were 53 participants representing 17 African countries, regional and subregional fisheries bodies, partner projects, Norwegian agencies and other United Nations agencies.

The meeting was chaired by Birane Sambe, Regional Coordinator of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project.

The Committees received updates on the status of implementation of the project, including capacity development activities; the surveys carried out in 2013/14 with the research vessel *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*; survey plans for 2015; and the policy on access to, and use of, data collected during the Nansen surveys. The draft project document for the new phase of the EAF-Nansen Project was presented, together with its administrative and financial components, with special emphasis on financial support to the countries for the preparation of fisheries management plans. A summary of the outcome of the workshop on the establishment of a Fisheries Management Cycle that was held the day before, was also presented.

The Committees expressed satisfaction with the project's delivery and thanked the government of Norway for its continued support for the management of fisheries in Africa through the EAF-Nansen Project.

INTRODUCTION

The third Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) of the EAF-Nansen Project was held at the Novotel Hotel in Casablanca, Morocco on 24 October 2014. The meeting was preceded by a workshop on the establishment of a Fishery Management Cycle, held at the same venue on 23 October 2014, in which many of the Committee members also participated.

The meeting was attended by 53 representatives from 17 African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania). Also in attendance were representatives of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC), the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, the Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The list of participants is presented in Appendix 2.

Kwame Koranteng, Coordinator of EAF-Nansen Project, welcomed the participants to the meeting and informed the Committees that that countries that had not finalized and approved their management plans had not been invited to participate in the meeting. He also regretted the non participation of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as a result of the Ebola epidemic and the prevailing ban on travels to or from these countries.

Election of the Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur, and adoption of the agenda

Birane Sambe, Regional Coordinator of the CCLME project, and Lamine Camara, Deputy Director of Resource Management and Oceanography in the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of Mauritania, were elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Staff of the EAF-Nansen Project Coordination Unit (PCU) served as rapporteurs.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda of the meeting (Appendix 1) was adopted with one item (report of the workshop on the establishment of a Fishery Management Cycle) added under "Any other business".

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

The Project Coordinator presented the implementation status of the project, with a focus on capacity development activities, ecosystem surveys, progress of work in the countries and endorsement of the Nansen Data Policy. He recalled the components of the project are 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 development;
- Support to regional research vessels to carry out ecosystem surveys; and
- Project planning, management and dissemination of lessons learnt.

Capacity development activities

The Coordinator reminded the Committees that the key outcome of the capacity development component is that the staff of fisheries administrations and research institutions sustainably manage the fisheries of their countries. He noted that, through project activities, many fisheries managers have been trained in methods appropriate to the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and are now using this knowledge in their daily work. Local capacity for analysing survey data and for fisheries management planning has

Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, and Gambia (through the CCLME project)	Small pelagic	√	√	√					
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√- activity started but not completed

Communication

The Project Coordinator informed the Committees that appreciable success has been achieved in communication through the project website, the production of the newsletter (*e-Approach*), publication of pictures from field activities on the project's *Flickr* account and publication of project reports, posters and flyers. For example, the day after the EAF-Nansen Project side event, held at the 31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome in June 2014, there were more than 4 000 visits to the *Flickr* account.

Endorsement of the Nansen Data Policy

The Project Coordinator introduced the draft "Policy on the access and use of data collected in the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys (Nansen Data Policy)". He informed the Committees that the first version of the document was presented at the second Joint Meeting of the RSCs held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 7 October 2013.

He recalled that the surveys carried out by the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* are intended to support beneficiary states to develop and manage their fisheries and that the Nansen Data Policy is to guide and regulate access to the data and their distribution, while ensuring that these data benefit the countries and regions. The policy also provides guidance on aspects of data categorization, ownership, usage and storage.

He said that the guiding principles that have been followed through the present and past phases of the Nansen Programme 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 surveys is encouraged.

The policy outlines the responsibilities of the cruise leaders and other scientists and technicians that participate in the surveys. It also looks at the storage of the data and all specimens collected during the surveys (including by guest scientists) and requests for the data and their use in publications. The role of IMR as the custodian of the data and manager of the Nansis database was clarified. Neither IMR nor FAO is authorized to distribute the data without the express permission of the owner(s).

Participants were informed that Norad had provided comments on the draft policy and that FAO would consider these comments alongside those in the meeting. Thereafter it would be finalised and sent to the countries.

The Steering Committees endorsed the Nansen Data Policy in principle.

The Coordinator informed the participants that a new vessel, that is expected to provide a research platform for the future project, is under construction. He indicated that a new phase of the project is expected to start in 2016 with the goal of providing continued support to developing countries in their efforts to implement EAF and to develop capacity for fisheries management. He said that the project will be expanded to include pollution and climate variability as major drivers of change. The project is also expected to contribute to global knowledge on climate change by monitoring the oceans around developing nations, with the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* in the role of a United Nations platform for marine observation. He noted that these aspects would be covered in detail in a later presentation.

The Coordinator also informed the meeting about the progress of the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys, saying that this subject would be covered in a separate presentation. He underscored the contribution that the research vessel is making in the areas of fisheries resources and ecosystem surveys in Africa and other regions, with the ultimate goal being the sustainable management of fisheries.

Work Plan for 2014/2015

Presenting the EAF-Nansen Project's 2014/2015 work plan, the Project Coordinator requested participants to come up with five key areas of work for which they would require support and might be included in future activities of the project. These key areas of work are summarized below.

Gulf of Guinea

- Survey of the shared shrimp stocks in the subregion;
- Capacity development with respect to data analysis, collation and utilization for effective management decisions;
- Infrastructural development, including the upgrade of laboratories to test fish quality;
- Harmonization of each county's legal framework to cover all aspects of access to the resources, management, trade, and food safety among others;
- Support for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and
- Support for Marine Stewardship Council certification of the shrimp fisheries.

South West Indian Ocean

- Assistance with stock assessment in Tanzania, Kenya, Comoros and Madagascar
 - Capacity building with respect to research, EAF, best practices on integrated management, management of transboundary resources/shared stocks.
 - Improvement of fisheries statistics.
- Protection of environment (ecosystem)
 - Emerging issues such as oil and gas exploration.
 - Climate change.
- Backstopping/exposure
 - Expert technical support for the implementation of the management plans.
 - Fora for experts to meet and exchange ideas and best practice, challenges and solutions.
- Prevention of IUU fishing.

North West Africa

- Cabo Verde: there is a Fisheries Plan for the period 2004 to 2014; funding is required to review it and incorporate EAF principles.
- The Gambia: a Strategic Action Plan for the period 2009 to 2015 has been developed and a Management Plan for small pelagic fisheries has been developed.
 - Funding is required to review both plans and incorporate EAF principles.
 - Support is required to develop a fisheries database.
 - Training on EAF is required for a range of target audiences including administrators, fishers, communities, NGOs and fishing associations.
- Guinea Bissau: a Strategic Action Plan for the development of the fisheries sector for the period 2013 to 2016 has been prepared and validated; an Annual Plan for Management of the Fisheries Resources has been developed; and the West African Regional Fisheries Programme is assisting with the revision of the Fisheries Code of Conduct.

- Support is needed to review the plans, incorporate EAF principles and establish the fisheries management cycle.
- Support is required to develop a Management Plan for small pelagic fisheries.
- Senegal: the Fisheries Action Plan is incomplete.
 - Support is needed to review it and incorporate EAF principles.
 - Training on EAF is required for a range of target audiences including fisheries administrators, fishers, communities, NGOs and fisheries associations.
- Mauritania: The Action Plan for small pelagic fisheries and ecosystem-based management is validated.
 - Technical support is required to implement the plan.

Discussion

Several of the participants commended the Project Coordinator for the presentation and noted the considerable progress made in project delivery.

Hamady Diop of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) informed participants that, as part of the work on the harmonization of national fisheries policies and coordination of management measures, the SRFC in close collaboration with the EAF-Nansen and CCLME projects, commissioned the preparation of a draft regional policy for the promotion of sustainable use and joint management of pelagic fisheries in the Northwest African region (This was within the framework of CCLME Demo Project 1.) A validation workshop was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in February 2013. Representatives of research and monitoring institutions, fisheries administrations and professional fisheries organizations from the seven member countries of the SRFC and FAO, attended the meeting. He said that in March 2013, the Coordinating Unit of the SRFC (consisting of the heads of Fisheries Directorates of member countries) met in Dakar, Senegal and formulated a recommendation for adoption at the extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers.

Foluke O. Areola, Federal Director of Fisheries of Nigeria, noted that more support is needed on gender mainstreaming and in the promotion of gender equality.

Mbaye Babacar of Senegal informed participants that the Department of Marine Fisheries of Senegal has appointed a Gender Focal Point that could assist the work of the project in the country. He also appreciated and underlined the importance of the involvement of children in the project and suggested that activities related to education be strengthened.

Several participants reiterated the need for easy access to data and asked that survey data be obtained from the project rather than from the scientists participating in the surveys. The Project Coordinator clarified this issue, saying that when a survey is planned and agreements are made, the national Directorate of Fisheries nominates the scientists who participate in the survey. All scientists who participate in the surveys are given the data and a preliminary report at the end of the survey. Therefore, the onus rests with the Directorate to ask the scientists to provide the data and preliminary reports, even though these are also submitted to the country eventually. He added that it would be useful if each country identified a contact point to manage the data collected in the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys in the respective national waters.

Hashali Hamukuaya, Executive Secretary of the Benguela Current Commission, highlighted the importance of the adoption of the Nansen Data Policy. He said that the BCC had received several requests to access the Nansen data and the policy is essential to guide partners on how to respond to such requests.

The discussion also touched on the need for additional training to improve the use of the data collected during the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys. The Chair remarked that the CCLME project has a Technical Working Group for surveys and survey data handling.

Several delegations requested additional support from the project for the implementation of the fisheries management plans that have been developed through the project.

NEXT PHASE OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

Gabriella Bianchi, Senior Fishery Resources Officer of the FAO Marine and Inland Fisheries Branch (FIRF), made a presentation on the next phase of the project which is to be called the “EAF-Nansen Programme”. The Programme is expected to start in 2016. She said that the development of the project document for the new phase began in 2012, when the government of Norway took a decision to build a new research vessel. The development of the project document had followed a consultative process and involved international, regional and national partners, coordinated by FAO. The final project document was expected to be approved by December 2014.

The potential stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners of the EAF-Nansen Programme were listed as follows:

- Fisheries and environmental institutions in developing countries;
- Regional programmes, Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, sub-commissions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programmes;
- UN Agencies and international Non-Governmental Organizations.

Ms Bianchi described the main Programme components, outcomes and outputs. The main components are: Science; Management and Policy; and Capacity Development; with public awareness, outreach and resource mobilization as cross-cutting components. The desired impact is: “*ensuring the sustainability of marine fisheries and ecosystems to support livelihoods, economic growth and food security*”. This is to be achieved through three outcomes which are elaborated below.

Outcome 1. The knowledge base for the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the face of climate variability and change, pollution and anthropogenic pressures is enhanced. The project is expected to:

- Continue and expand the research work targeting fishery resources, particularly transboundary resources;
- Provide insight into the impacts of climate variability and change on fishery resources and ecosystems; and
- Gain insight into the impacts of land-based pollution and oil and gas exploration and production activities on marine ecosystems.

Outcome 2. Management of fisheries in developing countries is improved by ensuring that the risks and opportunities related to climate, pollution and other environmental and anthropogenic stressors are taken into consideration. The project is expected to:

- Build on past efforts and concentrate on providing and promoting the use of the knowledge base required to sustainably manage fisheries;
- Support the development of effective governance processes in each of the main regions/ecosystems and in partner countries, as applicable.

Outcome 3. The capacity of developing countries for sustainable management of fisheries, including the promotion of gender equality and effective participation of women, is developed.

- The Programme is expected to continue its efforts in increasing fisheries science and management capacity in partner countries.
- Institutional linkages beyond the fishery sector will be established (e.g. with agencies responsible for the marine environment or the petroleum industry).

Ms Bianchi said that further consultations would take place with partner countries so as to establish priorities in close collaboration with them.

Discussion

The Vice Chair, Lamine Camara, expressed appreciation for the inclusion of climate change in the new programme, but said that pollution and other stressors were not well taken into account.

The Federal Director of Fisheries of Nigeria supported the position of Mr Camara. She also drew the attention of the committees to the impact of climate change on the activities and livelihoods of fishing communities, mainly small-scale fishers. She noted that there is a need to provide standards to ensure food safety and stressed the need for criteria for food safety and social development. For this reason she suggested there should be a dedicated laboratory on the new vessel to work on issues of food safety.

Many participants expressed satisfaction with the new programme, indicating that it meets their expectations.

Hamady Diop of SRFC suggested that, with the establishment of the Training Centre a “Nansen Scientific Journal” should be published. Ms Bianchi responded that the project is not intended to duplicate the work of other competent organizations and projects and that the creation of a reliable and scientifically valid journal would require substantial resources and procedures.

Participants asked for clarity on the difference between the terms “project” and “programme”. Ms Bianchi explained that the term programme would be used for the next phase because it had been judged more appropriate. It takes into account the numerous thematic areas that are included in the next phase of the EAF-Nansen Programme.

Moshibudi Priscilla Rampedi from South Africa, requested more information about the way that the programme would approach the climate change issue, specifically with regard to mitigation. In response the Project Coordinator explained that the project is collaborating with the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme (NFFP) on these issues.

THE *R/V DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN* SURVEYS AND THE CRUISE PLAN FOR 2014 to 2016

Tore Strømme, the Research Coordinator of the project gave updates on the surveys carried out with the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* in 2013 and 2014 and the cruise plan for 2014 to 2016. He said that in 2014 the survey programme suffered serious setbacks as a result of the breakdown of the vessel and escalating insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea where a number of surveys had been planned. At the time of the meeting, five surveys had been carried out, mainly off Angola and Gabon for a total of 126 survey days.

Hamidy Diop of the SRFC requested more information about co-funding, noting that the LME projects would no longer support research surveys. Mr Strømme explained that the EAF-Nansen Project is exploring avenues for alternative sources of funding, and there is potential to approach the programmes supported by the Global Environment Facility.

All participants underscored the importance of the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys and requested additional sea days to assess resources in their countries’ EEZs.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Kyriakos Kourkouliotis, the EAF-Nansen Project Operations Officer/Project Analyst presented the administrative and financial aspects of the project. He explained that the EAF-Nansen Project has provided support to the National Task Groups (NTG) at both the operational level and also through the implementation of the small projects supporting the preparation of national and regional fisheries management plans. He explained the implication of the Letters of Agreement (LoAs) concluded between the FAO Country Representative and the national authorities to undertake national activities, stressing in particular the obligations thereof.

Mr Kourkouliotis presented the budget for the various projects – national and sub-regional – and showed the contributions of the EAF-Nansen Project and partners, as well as the in-kind contributions of the countries. He said that the total amount invested in the in-country projects was US\$1 508 229. The EAF-Nansen Project contributed 68 percent of the total and the remainder was contributed by partners and the countries themselves.

After the general overview of the activities carried out, Mr Kourkouliotis showed in detail the reporting situation and the closure of the LoAs, through which funding was provided to the countries for the in-country projects. He showed that, in spite of several reminders sent to the national institutions during the year, most of the countries had not submitted the necessary documentation as stipulated in the LoAs. Mr Kourkouliotis noted that this has an adverse effect on the management and closure of the LoAs, as well as on the provision of funds for future activities. He emphasized that in order to provide outstanding funds, as indicated in the LoAs, it is necessary for the use of funds to be reported to FAO, together with a technical progress report.

Mr Kourkouliotis informed the committees that all the LoAs had expired and needed to be officially closed. All the required reports must be submitted so as to allow the PCU to institute an official closure. He also reminded the committees that owing to the possible consequences of an audit, it would not be possible to continue providing funds to countries that do not submit reports in a timely manner.

ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES AND EAF REGIONAL TASK GROUPS

Elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair of each RSC and the results are as follows (Chair/Vice Chair):

CECAF North: Morocco/Gambia;

CECAF South: Nigeria/Ghana;

BCC: Namibia/Angola; and

SWIOFC: Mozambique/Tanzania.

Elections were also held for Chair and Vice Chair of the EAF Regional Task Group (RTG) with the following results:

CECAF North: Guinea Bissau (Vitorino Assau Nahada)/Gambia (Ebou Mbye);

CECAF South: Gabon (Carole Ogandagas)/Côte d'Ivoire (Alain Kodjo); and

SWIOFC: Mozambique (Claudia Tomas)/Tanzania (Fatma Sobo).

In the BCC area, the BCC Ecosystem Advisory Committee plays the role of RTG.

It is important to note that the person elected for the Chair or Vice Chair of the RTG acts in his or her own capacity as an expert.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Report on the workshop on the establishment of a Fisheries Management Cycle

Kwame Koranteng gave a brief report on the workshop that was held at the Novotel Hotel on the day before the RSC meeting and attended by most of the committees' members. He noted that the EAF-Nansen Project is promoting EAF as a comprehensive management approach that requires fisheries administrations to put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure that fisheries are managed according to the priorities and related objectives identified in an EAF management plan. He recalled that a fisheries management plan should be seen as the interface between policy objectives – which are usually set at a high level and included in the fisheries, environmental or development policies of countries – and activities of the fishers.

Mr Koranteng indicated that the project would assist countries to establish a Fisheries Management Cycle (FMC) that consists of all the activities that a fisheries administration is expected to carry out annually as part of its mandate to manage the fisheries. The FMC is promoted as being at the core of fisheries management and identifies the processes and activities that should take place at pre-established, regular times to ensure implementation of a fisheries management plan.

He reiterated the five steps in the FMC namely:

- i. Development of an Operational Plan (OP) and associated annual work plans that provide details of the major activities, timelines and resource requirements for implementing the management plan.
- ii. Updating or establishing a data time series (both fishery dependent and fishery independent) for priority issues.
- iii. Assessment of the status and trends related to ecological, social and economic factors that are also linked to the operational objectives and provide information on the status of the fishery in relation to the agreed objectives.
- iv. Organization of stakeholder workshops for participatory decision making on corrective measures.
- v. Implementation of the agreed measures.

It was noted that the FMC is an example of “adaptive management” which requires a balance between acquiring the knowledge needed to improve management in the future, and achieving the best short-term outcome based on current knowledge.

The participants took note of the presentation and many wanted to know when this work would begin in the countries, in support of the management plans that had been prepared.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Third Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees of the EAF-Nansen Project reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- The committees expressed their appreciation to the Norwegian Government for its continued support of the EAF-Nansen Project and in particular for the development of a new programme which includes the construction of a new research vessel.
- The important role of the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* in collecting relevant data and information for the management of fishery resources was underscored and the participants drew the attention of the PCU to the limited co-financing opportunities that the countries have for the use of the vessel. This is as a result of the phasing out of the LME projects that had hitherto co-funded the surveys.
- The committees noted the efforts made by the project to strengthen national and regional capacities for fisheries management in line with the EAF. They also welcomed the proposal to establish a training center in Africa to organize short- and medium-term, practical training courses.
- The committees endorsed the integration of “gender” aspects in the planning and implementation of activities in the current and second phases of the project. They called for appropriate indicators to capture the extent of women’s involvement in the project’s local, national and regional activities, as well as in its outcomes.
- The importance of having a policy on the use of the data collected by the research vessel was reiterated and the committees requested that the PCU incorporate the comments provided at the meeting and finalize the Nansen Data Policy for circulation to the partners.
- The presentation on the framework for the future EAF-Nansen Programme – with science, fisheries management and capacity building as its principal pillars – was very much appreciated.

Participants reiterated their request to maintain the focus of the programme on fisheries, while integrating other elements such as climate change and pollution. The importance of further involving the national institutions and existing Regional Scientific Committees in the programme's activities was underlined as a major element of capacity building. It was noted that the detailed project document for the EAF-Nansen Programme would be refined through meetings with the countries, relevant sub-regional organizations and committees. It is expected that the final project document would be shared with the countries for their endorsement.

- The 2014–2015 work plan presented to the committees was endorsed and the need to train and use national and regional resource persons to support its implementation was pointed out.
- The committees endorsed the request made by some of the countries for technical and financial support from the EAF-Nansen Project for the implementation of their fishery management plans. The committees also urged all countries that had received support through LoAs for the preparation of fishery management plans to prepare the final technical and financial reports and submit these to FAO. This would facilitate the closure of the LoAs.
- The regional and sub-regional bodies represented at the meeting were satisfied with their level of involvement in the project and reaffirmed their support for the work being done.
- A Forum is planned to coincide with the end of the transition phase of the EAF-Nansen Project (in 2015). Participants urged the following countries to offer to host the Forum: Equatorial Guinea, Cabo Verde, Mauritius, Seychelles, Congo and Kenya.
- Finally, the committees expressed their appreciation to the government and officials of the Kingdom of Morocco for the excellent facilities provided in Casablanca for the third Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees of the EAF-Nansen Project.

CLOSING

The Third Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees of the EAF-Nansen Project was formally brought to a close by the Chair. He thanked FAO, Norad, IMR and the government of Morocco for their support in the organization of the meeting and also thanked the participants for their participation and the quality of their interventions.

**APPENDIX I
PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

8:30 – 10:30	Election of Chair, Vice Chair & Rapporteurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Agenda • Implementation status of the EAF-Nansen Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Ecosystem surveys Progress of work in the EAF country projects (case study) • Endorsement of the Nansen Data Policy
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next phase of the EAF-Nansen Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation process • Introduction to the outlines of the new Programme • Discussions
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next phase of the EAF-Nansen Project (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and feedback • Information on the construction of a new research vessel • The roadmap
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan for 2014–15 • The cruise plan for 2014–16 • Finance and administration issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting • Closure of LOAs for in-country activities in the first phase • Election of RSC Chairs and Vice Chairs (BCC; CECAF-N; CECAF-S; SWIOFC) • AOB • Conclusions and recommendations
17:30	Closing

APPENDIX 2
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
CYCLE AND THE JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES

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