

EAF- NANSEN PROJECT REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES MEET IN TANZANIA



Crossection of the participants in discussion

The second joint meeting of the EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) was held on 7th October, 2013 at the White Sands Hotel in Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania. The meeting was attended by 61 participants from 26 African countries and representatives of 10 partner organizations and agencies including Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects among others. From the RFBs were

Under the institutional arrangement for the EAF-Nansen project, there is a Regional Steering Committee for each of the four operational areas of the project corresponding to the coverage areas of CECAF-North, CECAF-South, BCC and SWIOFC. Each regional Steering Committee has representatives of fisheries research and management institutions in the countries in the region, as well as IMR, FAO and representatives of the relevant LME Programmes and other fisheries-related programmes/ projects operating in the area. The regional Steering Committee is responsible for assessing the project progress and formulating recommendations to the project management regarding requirements, priorities and work-plans for project implementation in the region.

participants from the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) of Northwest Africa.

Partners in Attendance

Other participants were from the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) of Norway, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Benguela Current Commission (BCC), and the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention (United Nations Environment Programme).

The Committee members received updates on the status of capacity building activities, surveys carried out in 2012/13 and plans for 2014. They also discussed the draft policy on the access and use of data collected during the *R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen* surveys (Nansen Data Policy). The Project Coordination Unit also gave highlights of the achievements of the first phase of project from its inception in December 2006 to December 2011.

On the project's work plan for 2013/14, the participants discussed in regional groups and made suggestions for activities that were beneficial to their respective regions. The need to

develop complete national or regional portfolios covering all components of the project and with clear budgetary allocations was tabled for discussion.

Report on Evaluation of Phase I of the EAF-Nansen Project

The draft report on the independent evaluation of the first phase of the EAF-Nansen project (2006 - 2011) was presented to the committee members. Generally, the members agreed with the findings of the evaluation team as well as many of the recommendations including the need to take into consideration suitable indicators of impact at the regional and national levels and a robust capacity development framework including clear gender parity. Members were asked to provide the evaluation team with written comments to enable them finalise the report.

Bureau of the Regional Steering Committees and Regional Task Groups

A new chair and vice chair for each of the Regional Steering Committees were elected for the coming year. Also elected were the chair and vice chair of each EAF Regional Task Group. The results of the elections are shown below.

| Region | Chair | Vice Chair |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) | | |
| CECAF North | Cape Verde | Guinea |
| CECAF South | Cameroon | Nigeria |
| BCC | Angola | South Africa |
| SWIOFC | Mozambique | Tanzania |
| Regional Task Groups (RTGs) | | |
| CECAF North | Hassimiou Tall (Guinea) | Salah Bencherifi (Morocco) |
| CECAF South | Sheku Sei (Sierra Leone) | Carole Ogandagas (Gabon) |
| BCC | The BCC Ecosystem Advisory Committee | |
| SWIOFC | Maria Ascensao Pinto (Mozambique) | Fatma Sobo (Tanzania) |

An EAF Regional Task Group (RTG) has been established in each of the four operational regions of the project. Each RTG is composed of 1 member (and an alternate) from each country. The RTGs also have representatives from relevant regional projects and sub-regional fisheries commissions/committees where applicable. The RTG is a forum for learning and exchange of ideas and advice in relation to the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

Conclusion

At the end of the meeting, participants made several recommendations, including the following, for consideration of FAO and the Project Coordination Unit.

- Continue activities aimed at strengthening national capacity for EAF implementation;
- Provide support to national fisheries research and management agencies in the management of the database developed for the fisheries survey data;
- Revise the project communications strategy to strengthen dissemination of information and communication at the country level;
- Put in place flexible measures of disbursing funds to the countries in support of the in-country activities;
- Involve sub-regional and regional fisheries organizations more in the in-country activities, especially as regards implementation of fisheries management plans.

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