The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in Practice

Extra-budgetary funding is utilized to further develop the EAF framework and to help developing nations in their efforts to implement the EAF. At present, the following projects are specifically dedicated to the EAF:

- **Capacity Building for an Ecosystem Approach: Considering Interactions, including with Marine Mammals** (Donor: Japan)

- **Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries** (Donor: Norway)

Under development:

**A toolbox to facilitate implementation of the EAF**
FAO is developing an integrated toolbox for the application of EAF. Following the key steps of the planning and implementation processes, the toolbox will provide a suite of tools and methods intended to facilitate the EAF application.

**Indicators for EAF**
A review of available indicators and guidance for their use is in preparation, covering indicators of ecological and human well-being, as well as those relevant to governance and external drivers.

**Regular Programme funding**
- Technical assistance
- Expert workshops
- Guidelines development

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What are the key features of EAF?

- The purpose of the EAF is to manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by aquatic ecosystems.

- The EAF is a **holistic and integrated approach** to fisheries management. It takes into account relevant ecological, social and economic issues, as well as governance and external drivers.

- The EAF is **participatory** at all phases of the planning and implementation processes.

- In placing emphasis on the processes required for planning and implementation, the EAF can be applied to all situations, including from small-scale to industrial fisheries, from data poor to data rich situations and from local to global scales.

- The FAO guidelines on EAF provide a methodology that takes the users through the main steps required for EAF application.

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**EAF in Practice**

- **High level policy goals**
  - Scoping (Fishery and area, stakeholders, broad issues)

- **Setting objectives**
  - (Broad goals, operational objectives, indicators and performance measures)

- **Formulating action & rules**
  - (Legislation, regulation, planning)

- **Implementing & enforcing**

- **Monitoring & reporting**

- **Short - term assessments**

- **Long - term policy review**

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**What does practical implementation entail?**

- Practical implementation of EAF requires development or revision of fisheries management frameworks (plans, policies, legislation, etc.) through a systematic assessment and planning process so that they are consistent with the EAF principles.

- Successful implementation requires establishment of adaptive management mechanisms.

- Stakeholders participate in all the key steps.

- Risks and uncertainty are explicitly incorporated into the EAF, allowing for their identification and management.

- To ensure optimal outcomes should be implemented as part of a multi-sectoral ecosystem approach.