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Alimentación

FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Nineteenth Session

Cotonou, Benin 4 – 6 November 2008

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eighteenth Session (Douala, Cameroon 3 - 5 October 2006), the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) made a number of recommendations to the Secretariat and Members. This paper reviews those recommendations and the actions taken. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Eighteenth Session are given in brackets.

II. ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

2. The committee recommended for subregional and regional plans of action on combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a precursor to national plans of action (Paragraph 13).

CECAF did not formulate any regional plans of action and reports from the sub-regional bodies and national administrations on their respective initiatives will be useful to the Committee.

3. The Committee recommended that Spain extends the cooperation to other countries in the CECAF region (Paragraph 14).

The delegation from Spain should brief the Committee on the progress made on its cooperation with six countries in the region on combating IUU fishing and the extension to other countries in the region.

4. The Committee requested its members and collaborating partners to support the new subregional fishery committee (Paragraph 15).

Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire continue to support the FCWC on location and funding of the Secretary General's post respectively. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) approved a support project for the FCWC and the implementation started in September 2008. The Secretary General is present and can give complementary information if required.

III. MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

5. The Committee requested for countries to allocate more resources for fisheries research to ensure sustainability of scientific advice. Special effort should be given to improve reporting of by-catch (paragraph 23).

Delegates are invited to brief the Committee of any progress on more resources for fisheries research in their respective countries and on improvements in by-catch reporting.

6. Several delegates reiterated the importance of concerted management for shared stocks and that managers from the different countries concerned should agree on a sharing scheme for these stocks (paragraph 25).

A symposium on management of shared small pelagics stocks in the North-West CECAF region was held in Casablanca, Morocco in March 2008. A report on this symposium will be presented for discussion by the Committee in this Session. It is hoped that other stocks will be covered in future activities.

IV. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

7. Committee appealed for support from donors and partners for the organisation of training workshops (paragraph 33).

A project on promoting ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the region is currently being funded by NORAD. As a result, a Regional training workshop on Ecosystem Approaches for Fisheries (EAF) Management in the Canary Current area was organized in Casablanca, Morocco in July 2008. A Regional Task Group meeting which focused on i) formation and facilitation of EAF-Nansen project National Task Groups, ii) training in the preparation of Target Resource Oriented Management reviews, and iii) training in the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) Methodology was also held in Freetown, Sierra Leone in October 2008. Delegates who participated in these training sessions might want to brief the Committee on the benefits to their respective countries and sub-regions.

V. CECAF FISHERIES RESOURCES INVENTORY

8. The Committee was finally informed that the needs of the CECAF countries and sub-regional and regional bodies will be taken into account in FIRMS and a validation of the information available in FIRMS is expected from CECAF. This will be discussed at the fifth Scientific Sub-Committee session in 2007 (paragraph 38).

Data ownership in FIRMS was discussed at the Fifth Session of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee and a follow up is being made in a presentation that will be made to this Committee for its consideration and decision.

VI. FAO FISHCODE – STF ACTIVITIES ON IMPROVEMENT OF FISHERY DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECTION SYSTEMS IN CECAF COUNTRIES

9. The process is in progress and proposals for activities are expected from countries of the region to support the improvement of their national data collection systems on artisanal fisheries as a priority after reviewing the present situation through subregional workshops (paragraph 40).

Sub-regional workshops have been held in Accra, Ghana (2007) for the FCWC countries and in Douala, Cameroon (2008) for the COREP countries. Follow up national interventions are being formulated for funding and implementation. Delegates from the beneficiary countries can brief the Committee on latest national developments.

VII. ROLE OF CECAF IN A REGION WITH THREE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BODIES

10. The Committee recognized the role of the body and the need for active participation by all members in its meetings and activities. In that context, it recommended for FAO to use appropriate channels to enquire from the countries that have not attended the last three sessions their intention to continue as members of the body (paragraph 54).

Consultations with these countries will continue to get final decisions on their membership, which will make it easier for the Secretariat to acquire a quorum for the Committee meetings.

VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

11. The Committee was informed of the launch of the new strategic partnership for a sustainable fisheries investment fund in the large marine ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa set up by the World Bank. The first session of the Regional Advisory Committee of the partnership was held in Nairobi in May 2006. The funds currently available are \$60 million. FAO, in collaboration with the African Union, will provide detailed information on the fund to the countries and, if needed, will also provide technical assistance (paragraph 55).

The CECAF Secretariat invited an expert from the World Bank, an FAO partner in the Partnership, to provide more information to the eligible countries in the CECAF region during this Session. The presentation will also give the countries an opportunity to clarify key issues on the formulation of Project Concept Notes and the

IX. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION

12. The Republic of Sao Tomé and Príncipe offered to host the Nineteenth Session (paragraph 60).

Due to unforeseen administrative difficulties, Sao Tome and Principe could not host the Session. The Secretariat fortunately had the support of the Government of Benin to hold this Session in Benin as a country that fulfils the rotation of the meetings by being in the central zone of CECAF.

X. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

13. The Committee is requested to note the progress reported and make recommendations as appropriate.

14. The Committee may also wish to discuss actions taken at the national level on those recommendations addressed to Member Governments.