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COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA

Fifteenth Session

Lusaka, Zambia, 9-11 December 2008

REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP ON ESTABLISHING A “NACA-LIKE” NETWORK IN AFRICA

Background

1. The 14th Session of the CIFA, held in Accra, Ghana from 22-24 November 2006, unanimously endorsed the establishment of an *ad hoc* Working Group (WG) which should work towards the accomplishment of an Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF). Following this decision, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, Cameroon and Mali formed the WG. Nigeria offered to assist and subsequently joined the group.

Objectives

2. The *ad hoc* Working Group should assess the conditions in which an African NACA would be able to provide the much needed skills, technology and information for future development of aquaculture in the Region, but with the realization that the resources for its establishment must come from member countries.

Activities

3. The WG held three meetings: Kribi, Cameroon, on 28 and 29 June 2007, Akosombo, Ghana, from 23 to 25 July 2008, and Jinja, Uganda from 26 to 28 August 2008. In addition to the core countries listed above, representatives of partner organizations attended some of the meetings: FAO, NEPAD, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), WorldFish Center, institutions from Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit/Germany (GTZ) (who sponsored the latter two workshops). The third meeting in Jinja had a session focused on the private sector where stakeholders were invited to highlight their priorities and advise on perceived benefits from a functioning aquaculture network. A facilitator was identified and engaged to promote exchanges between WG members as they worked to accomplish tasks assigned during the aforementioned meetings including drafting Terms of Reference and a workplan for the WG, drafting Terms of Reference for the network (ANAF), reviewing the status with regard to WG countries, and preparing the elements of a project in

support of ANAF (see *Report of the Ad hoc Working Group of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CIFAA) on Establishing a NACA-Like Network for Africa*, November 2008).

Key findings

4. The key focus of deliberations and activities was on the institutional arrangements and associated legal issues. A review was prepared of institutional options for a regional network which determined legal and administrative requirements for individual Member Countries in joining an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) versus a regional NGO. In discussions, a phased process was suggested, following the example of the establishment of NACA, in which ANAF would start off as a project at modest level and gradually grow, leaving the decisions as to the final institutional arrangements to a later date, depending on achievements and successes of the network. Some WG members felt their governments could not commit to obligations of regular financial contributions to maintain the network, which is the case for NACA. A project for the gradual establishment of ANAF was designed on the basis of a logical framework.

5. It is noteworthy that there are a number of aquaculture networks on-going and planned for the Africa Region and, for optimal efficiency and outreach, mechanisms are needed for harmonizing activities between various networks and related institutions.

6. It should be noted that ANAF is seen as an integral part of the Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA – Agenda Item 6). Whilst SPADA has a catalytic medium-term function in the sub-sector to accelerate the development of aquaculture, ANAF has a long-term commitment to oversee and contribute to this development, adding value through its own technical skills as well as the resources of its members.

Recommendations by the WG

- The IGO structure seems the most feasible in spite of the time and resource constraints mentioned above;
- The network should set up temporary operations in collaboration with LVFO where there are complementarities and benefits in terms of infrastructure and support staff;
- Immediate (short-term) resources should be sought whilst a project for the medium-term establishment of the network is formulated and funding sourced.

7. The WG has based much of its work on several key publications appended to this information document and has also prepared a number of documents which are available from the CIFAA Secretariat (Annex 1).

8. Importantly, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the *Report of the Ad hoc Working Group of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CIFAA) on Establishing a NACA-Like Network for Africa*, November 2008, which covers background, scope, activities, key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the WG since its inception in a comprehensive manner and is made available to all delegates at this 15th Session of CIFAA.

9. The WG would like to thank the Group's respective countries and GTZ for the generous support to its functions.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

- The Committee is requested to discuss and decide on the finding that the establishment of ANAF is a longer-term process of gradual interconnectedness and growth and that this should be approached through in form of a project, mainly supported by member countries, with opportunities for external support.
- The Committee is also requested to discuss and decide on the future of the *ad hoc* Working Group on ANAF and decide on its continuation or termination.

Annex 1. Background documents utilized for the ANAF WG process and documents prepared during the ANAF WG process (available from the CIFAA Secretariat)

- Bueno P (2007) Asia-Pacific-NACA: why and how does a “NACA” work? FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 38:22-27.
- Coche AG (ed./rev.) (1994) Aquaculture development and research in sub-Saharan Africa. National reviews/Développement et recherche aquacoles en Afrique subsaharienne. Revues nationales. *CIFA Tech. Pap./Doc. tech. CPCA*, (23 Suppl.): 397 p.
- CIFA (2007) Report of the CIFA *ad hoc* Working Group for the establishment of an African aquaculture network held in Kribi, Cameroon 28-29 June 2007. CIFA Secretariat, Accra. 11 p. (*draft*)
- Maembe TW, Abban EK and Zhou XW (2004) Mission report on Africa intergovernmental aquaculture networking opportunities and options. FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra. 45 p.
- Moehl J, Halwart M & Beernaerts I (2006) Proposal for a programme of integrated inland water resources management in drought-prone West African countries. In M Halwart & AA van Dam, eds. *Integrated irrigation and aquaculture in West Africa: concepts, practices and potential*, pp. 175–181. Rome, FAO. 181 pp. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0444e/A0444E22.htm#ch20>
- Moehl J, Halwart M, Kalende BM. (2007) ANAF: the beginnings of an aquaculture network for Africa. FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 38:30-31.
- NEPAD. The NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture. NEPAD-Fish for All Summit, Abuja, Nigeria, 22-25 August 2005. 29 p.
- Nugent CG (2008) Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF): review of institutional options for a regional network. CIFAA Secretariat, Accra. 24 p. (*draft*)
- CIFA (2005) Report of the 13th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), held in Entebbe, Uganda, 27-30 October 2004. FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra. RAFI/R775(bi).
- Terms of Reference: CIFAA *ad hoc* Working Group on Aquaculture Network for Africa – ANAF.
- Terms of Reference: Aquaculture Network for Africa – ANAF.
- Review of Institutional Options for a Regional Aquaculture Network for Africa. February 2008 (by Christopher Nugent).
- Report of the First Meeting of the CIFAA Appointed *ad hoc* Working Group on the Aquaculture Network for Africa, held in Kribi, Cameroon, 28 and 29 June 2007.
- Report of the Second Meeting of the CIFAA Appointed *ad hoc* Working Group on the Aquaculture Network for Africa, held in Akosombo, Ghana, 24 and 25 July 2008.
- Report of the Third Meeting of the CIFAA Appointed *ad hoc* Working Group on the Aquaculture Network for Africa, held in Jinja, Uganda, 26 to 28 August 2008.
- Report of Activities for the Period July to October 2008, including revised Terms of Reference for ANAF, Terms of Reference for ANAF Focal Point Person in Member Countries, Proposed Logical Framework for ANAF, Mission, Vision and Values Statement for ANAF, Country Reports on Self-Assigned Activities of Country Focal Point Persons, Statement on Possible Host Country Agreement, Financial Support Opportunities, Workplan of WG for September to December 2008.