



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Shared sardinella

Supporting the implementation
of the ecosystem approach to
fisheries for the management
of shared sardinella stocks in
northwest Africa

AN INITIATIVE BY THE EAF-NANSEN PROGRAMME



Small pelagic fish of northwest Africa

Small pelagic fish are particularly abundant in northwest Africa and represent nearly 70 percent of catches in the region. Species such as sardine, sardinella, anchovy, horse mackerel, mackerel and bonga are harvested by local small-scale fishers and national and foreign industrial fleets.

Sardinella are in particularly high demand in the region and also beyond. The species contribute significantly to the economic activity, employment and food security of both coastal and inland communities in northwest Africa.

However, the state of sardinella stocks in northwest Africa is worrying. The latest assessments by the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) have revealed sharp declines in the stock of round sardinella (*Sardinella aurita*), classifying it as overexploited. Limited information is available for flat sardinella (*S. maderensis*).

These shared resources are vulnerable to variations in environmental conditions and face additional fishing pressure to support the recently advancing fishmeal industry in the region, which targets sardinella as a major source.





Shared sardinella: regional and national approaches

The **Shared sardinella** initiative responds to the need for regional collaboration on the management of shared sardinella stocks. The regional and national projects aim to promote an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) in strengthening capacities, structures and fisheries management processes through the development and use of the fisheries management cycle (FMC).

Activities

The **Shared sardinella** projects centre around two main components:

1

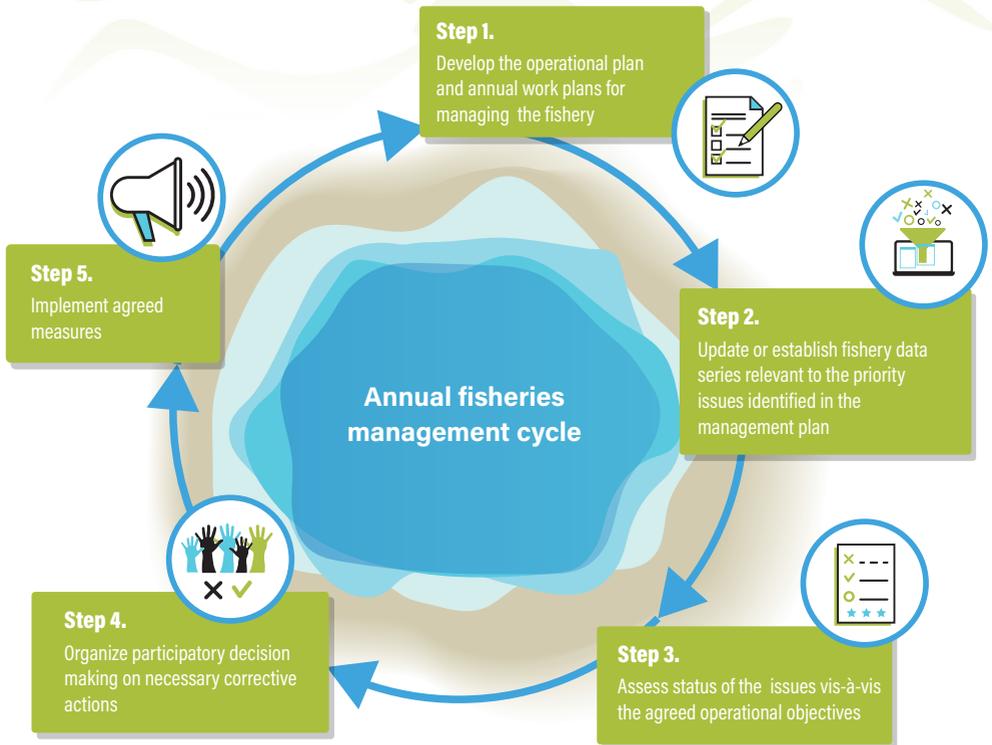
Development of knowledge and the strengthening of capacities in support of fisheries management planning processes in line with the EAF for the shared sardinella stocks

This component targets a greater use of knowledge in the management process. The projects will address all the dimensions of capacity development for the implementation and the monitoring of the EAF. Practical training will be provided to partners that address all phases of the EAF cycle.

2

Development, implementation and follow-up to management systems aligned with the EAF and harmonised at the regional level.

This component aims to promote the EAF management by strengthening capacity, institutions, and fisheries management processes through the development and the use of the FMC.



Update and implementation of the fisheries management plans

Support is provided to the countries to update and implement national management measures for managing shared sardinella stocks with the aim of promoting regional coherence. This activity will be based on existing regional priorities for concerted management of shared small pelagic fish in northwest Africa.

Gender mainstreaming approach

The **Shared sardinella** projects also promote integrating gender equality in the project activities, in accordance with the EAF-Nansen Programme Gender Strategy.



Expected results

The projects contribute to responsible harvest of sardinella stocks in line with the EAF principles, as a result of adopting regionally coherent management plans and harmonised management measures.

Local, national and regional consultation frameworks on management measures and their implementation with participation of key actors in decision-making are strengthened.

The initiative contributes to the expected results of the EAF-Nansen Programme: “fisheries management institutions manage fisheries according to the EAF principles” and related indicators.

The projects contribute also towards achieving the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



The **Shared sardinella** initiative is part of the EAF-Nansen Programme (2017-2022). The long-term objective of the programme is to support sustainable fisheries to improve food and nutrition security for people in partner countries.

The programme is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in close collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) in Norway and is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
AND WATER RESOURCES**



MORE INFORMATION

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