



2023 ASFA Advisory Board Meeting

Bangkok, Thailand

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ASFA/2023/13

Africa regional network project proposal: collection of research and data related to SDG indicator 14.4.1

FAO ASFA Secretariat Trust Fund project proposal

Project title: Africa regional network project proposal: collection of research and data related to SDG indicator 14.4.1 - \$20,000.00

Aims and outputs:

Following the completion of the FAO-SEAFDEC project: *“Identifying research and data related to SDG indicator 14.4.1: case studies from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam”* the FAO ASFA Secretariat is proposing to conduct a similar project by working with the Africa regional network. The aim of the project is to identify and record on OpenASFA research publications and datasets produced in Africa and related to SDG indicator 14.4.1 – the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels. The project will focus on recording hard to reach, grey literature and grey data on OpenASFA, therefore helping to increase the available knowledge and data on the status of stocks in the region. Up to ten individuals will be recruited to work on the project, who will be invited to attend in person training at a meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, to be held adjacent to the IAMSLIC conference.

The outputs will be:

- an OpenASFA collection of research and data related to SDG indicator 14.4.1.;
- up to 10 individuals trained in OpenASFA input during a five day workshop;
- a report and promotional materials summarizing the project and collection.

Timeline

The project will be conducted in three phases:

1. March 2024 – May 2024: Identification of project participants. The ASFA Secretariat will work with regional focal points from Africa to identify up to ten individuals affiliated to relevant institutions in the region. To be considered relevant, an institution will produce or publish marine fisheries research. Individuals with a background in either libraries and information management or stock assessment, shall be preferred.
2. June 2024 – September 2024: Preparation of materials. Together with regional focal points, the ASFA Secretariat will work with project participants to identify relevant resources and begin to record them, using either an Excel template or OpenASFA dependent on the preference of participant. Participants who are able to identify at least 100 resources will be invited to attend the in person training and meeting.
3. October 2024: a five day, in-person workshop will be held in Alexandria, Egypt (venue and dates to be confirmed) back-to-back with the IAMSLIC conference. Participants’ travel and attendance at the workshop will be funded by this project. The workshop will review resources collected by participants, either in the form of Excel template or draft OpenASFA records, and ensure that OpenASFA records are completed and published to a specific collection, with all metadata fields, including keywords, correctly completed and having undergone quality control. The collection will then be made available on the OpenASFA Search interface.

4. September – December 2024: Project report and promotional materials. When the OpenASFA collection is finalized, a project report and promotional materials shall be created by the ASFA Secretariat. The project report will summarise the work undertaken by participants as well as a brief analysis of the contents of the collection and any recommendations for future work.

Justification: The number of active partners and records created in Africa is to lowest of the ASFA regions, yet Africa remains a priority region for ASFA due to its high production of grey literature and barriers researchers face in publishing in academic journals. This project will allow up to 10 participants to attend a five-day workshop and be fully trained in OpenASFA, as well as producing a collection of up to 1,000 records related to sustainability of stocks in the region.

Participants: Participation will be open to up to ten individuals affiliated to relevant institutions in Africa. Although participation will be open to individuals affiliated to non-ASFA centres, priority will be given to individuals who are already familiar with OpenASFA input process.

Administration: The ASFA Secretariat will administer this project with support from Regional Focal points in Africa. The estimated cost of this project, covering travel and DSAs for ten participants to attend the five day workshop, plus support from Regional focal points, is USD\$20,000.00.