



STRENGTHENING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REGIONAL PROCESSES IN THE FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC REGION

FAO established the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) to promote the sustainable use of living marine resources within its area of jurisdiction, through the proper management and development of fisheries and fishing operations. The Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) supports the CECAF in reviewing the outcomes and recommendations of the fisheries working groups, to formulate scientific advice for improved management and recommendations for future actions. From previous SSC sessions it emerged that CECAF's performance was not meeting the expectations of its member nations. In view of this, an independent cost-benefit analysis (CBA) study was conducted, aimed at restructuring the CECAF to improve its delivery to members. The general objective of this European Union-funded project was to contribute to strengthening fisheries management regional processes in the CECAF region, by supporting the organization of the CECAF intersessional follow-up meeting on the outcomes of the independent CBA study, as well as the implementation of the Ninth Session of the SSC.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project successfully supported the organization of the CECAF intersessional follow-up meeting on the outcomes of the independent CBA report, and the implementation of the Ninth Session of the SSC of the CECAF. The follow-up meeting on the revised independent CBA report was attended by 15 delegates representing CECAF Members. The delegates welcomed the report and its options, and the highlighting of the CECAF's key challenges. They made key recommendations, as well as recommending the most appropriate option to improve the functioning of the CECAF. During the Ninth Session of the SSC the major items covered included, among others, the reports produced on the assessment of the Working Groups (WGs) concerned with small pelagic and demersal species, and the report of the artisanal fisheries WG; and fishery management advice in the CECAF region. The SSC made recommendations for the WGs that needed corrective measures or strengthening. The resolutions proposed were shared in draft form by the 38 representatives from 18 CECAF Members and non-state stakeholders who attended the Ninth Session of the SSC, for immediate implementation. The draft report of the findings and recommendations of the CECAF CBA study was prepared and presented to CECAF Members. Once the report has been finalized (in both French and English) it will be uploaded on the CECAF website for use by stakeholders.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 205 900

Duration
January 2021-December 2022

Resource Partner
The European Union

Partners
Regional Fisheries Bodies and
Regional Economic Communities

Beneficiaries
CECAF Members



IMPACT

The project interventions contributed to improving the processes through which the CECAF provides scientific advice. It is expected that this will contribute to sustainable regional fisheries governance in the CECAF mandate area. This, in turn, will assist agencies, countries and dependent communities to use existing and emerging knowledge, tools and practices to secure and sustainably maximize the contribution of aquatic (both marine and inland) food systems to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ACTIVITIES

- Intersessional follow-up meeting on outcomes of independent CBA report held in Dakar, Senegal, 28-29 June 2022, and report presented to 15 delegates representing CECAF Members.
- Delegates recommended that CECAF adopt Option A – “Maintaining CECAF as an Article VI advisory body – mainly for coastal living resources”; and actions and interventions were put forward to support Option A.
- Ninth Session of SSC of CECAF organized in Nouakchott, Mauritania, 5-9 December 2022, attended by 38 representatives from 18 CECAF Members, and from other leading fisheries bodies.
- Assessments and management advice from five WGs: i) Small Pelagic Working Group North; ii) Small Pelagic Working Group South; iii) Demersal resources Working Group North; iv) Demersal resources Working Group South; and v) Artisanal Fisheries Working Group for the CECAF region, which guided formulation of advice on fishery management measures in CECAF region to be presented at Twenty-Third CECAF Session for adoption.
- Revision of independent study on CBA of the options for strategic reorientation of the CECAF - “Revised independent study to identify different options in support of an improved functioning of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)” - completed and presented at intersessional meeting of CECAF.



Project Title

CECAF-Support to the CECAF intersessional follow-up meeting on the outcomes of the independent cost-benefit analysis report and organization of the ninth session of the Scientific Sub-Committee of CECAF

Project Code

FAO: GCP/RAF/522/EC
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