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ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE ON RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR FISHERIES: A GLOBAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION, POVERTY ERADICATION AND ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Executive Summary

This information document, to be read in conjunction with COFI/2016/7.2, provides the outline and main features of the proposed Global Work Programme (GWP) for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches for marine and inland capture fisheries as part of enhancing food security and nutrition, eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The GWP will achieve this objective by putting information within reach by improving global knowledge and access to information about rights-based approaches, sharing policy expertise by sharing lessons learned within and between different regions, providing neutral platforms for exchanging experiences and knowledge, and bringing knowledge to the field by providing technical guidance. The partners in this effort include national and local governments, international organizations including other relevant UN entities, RFMOs and RFBs, fishers, fisherfolk, fishing communities, CSOs, NGOs, academics, and others. The proposed eight year GWP currently covers six thematic areas: (i.) political economy and fisheries governance, (ii.) delineation of rights and processes for doing so, (iii.) capacity development, (iv.) enhancement/diversification of livelihoods, (v.) transboundary rights, and (vi.) financing. Expected outputs and activities identified to date are arranged in modules within each thematic area to make the proposed GWP flexible and responsive to demand-driven requests for support from FAO Members and stakeholder organizations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This information document, to be read in conjunction with COFI/2016/7.2, provides the outline and main features of the proposed Global Work Programme (GWP) for advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches for marine and inland capture fisheries as part of enhancing food security and nutrition, eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The GWP aims to strengthen and increase the coherence of work undertaken by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FIA) of the FAO on rights-based approaches. It reflects inputs from the recent Tenure & Fishing Rights 2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries (UserRights 2015), Friends of UserRights 2015 and Entebbe 2016 meetings as well as previous work on rights-based approaches for fisheries.
3. The GWP is being proposed to support FAO Members when designing, implementing and / or strengthening rights-based approaches that are appropriate for specific conditions, communities and objectives as identified through transparent and participatory processes. In this way the proposed GWP will enhance the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) with emphasis on fisheries tenure. It will also provide support and knowledge to strengthen the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) with particular emphasis on the responsible governance of tenure (Chapter 5).
4. The partners in this effort include national and local governments, international organizations including other relevant UN entities, RFMOs and RFBs, fishers, fisherfolk, fishing communities, CSOs, NGOs, academics, and others.
5. The implementation of the GWP will depend on stakeholders from various sectors at the local, national, regional, and global levels clarifying their respective priority issues and needs. It is expected that levels of support will also determine the priorities and delivery of activities, as well as the efficacy of the programme.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED GWP

6. The overall objective of the GWP is to support FAO Members in designing, implementing, and/or strengthening rights-based approaches that: (i.) contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries, enhanced food security, poverty eradication and attaining the SDGs and (ii.) are suitable for local socio-economic and ecological conditions and objectives as identified in transparent and participatory processes that include all stakeholders.
7. To attain the overall objective, the proposed eight year GWP currently covers six thematic areas: (i.) political economy and fisheries governance, (ii.) delineation of rights and processes for doing so, (iii.) capacity development, (iv.) enhancement/diversification of livelihoods, (v.) transboundary rights, and (vi.) financing.
8. Expected outputs and activities identified to date are arranged in modules within each thematic area to make the proposed GWP flexible and responsive to demand-driven requests for support from FAO Members and stakeholder organizations.
9. The GWP will achieve its objective by:
 - **Putting information within reach** by improving global knowledge and access to information about rights-based approaches;

- **Sharing policy expertise** by sharing lessons learned within and between different regions in inclusive, transparent and open dialogs where small- and large-scale fisheries stakeholders and others can actively and equally participate;
- **Providing neutral platforms** for exchanging experiences and knowledge, while improving collaboration and cooperation between large and small-scale fisheries stakeholders as well as other stakeholder groups directly and indirectly affected by rights-based approaches; and
- **Bringing knowledge to the field** by providing technical guidance on introducing or strengthening rights-based approaches in fisheries.

III. THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK: OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thematic Area 1: Political Economy and Fisheries Governance

10. This thematic area of work seeks to advance knowledge regarding the political economy and governance elements of using rights-based approaches used in capture fisheries. This thematic area is cross-cutting and strongly linked to the other five thematic areas of this proposed GWP.

11. Key activities identified to date fall under the outcomes of putting information within reach, sharing policy expertise, providing neutral platforms, and bringing skills and knowledge to the field. The activities include creating easily accessible inventories on rights-based approaches, supporting the organization of stakeholders and institutions, and providing assistance for strengthening greater understanding of political economy and governance frameworks in the context of rights-based approaches.

12. This thematic area of work will contribute to achieving SDGs 8, 10, 14, and 16 by advancing the understanding of social, economic, and environmental conditions under which rights-based approaches in marine and inland capture fisheries can operate responsibly and contribute to food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation.

Table 1. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of political economy and governance.

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Easily accessible global knowledge base on rights-based approaches	Prepare an inventory of existing rights-based approaches in fisheries under different legal, policy, economic, cultural, environmental settings	Organize workshops to collect and exchange information and data relevant for the inventories	Support the collection of data and information including traditional knowledge
	Easily accessible database on methodologies, tools and indicators	Database on existing methodologies, tools and indicators	Organize workshops to collect and exchange information and	Identify existing methodologies, tools and indicators

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
	for assessing rights-based approaches	for assessing rights-based approaches	data relevant for the database.	
	Communication materials on rights-based approaches and ways to assess them	Prepare communication materials on existing rights-based approaches and methodologies, tools and indicators for assessing them		Disseminate guidelines and easily digestible information among all stakeholders
Sharing Policy Expertise	Reports from regional workshops		Organize workshops on how to integrate the VGGT and SSF Guidelines into policies and legal frameworks	
	Knowledge materials on cross sectoral policy of rights-based approaches in fisheries			Provide technical guidance on cross-sectoral policy coherence
Providing a Neutral Platform	Reports of global conferences	Hold global conferences for all stakeholders to share perspectives and experiences		
Bringing Skills and Knowledge to the Field	Organizations formed and equipped to participate in fisheries governance			Support creation and engagement of stakeholder organizations in discussions about rights-based approaches

Thematic Area 2: Delineation of Rights and Related Processes

13. This thematic area of work is intended to advance the knowledge about the existing customary and statutory types of rights and the processes that have been used when clarifying, defining and/or assigning rights in capture fisheries. Given the variety of interests in fisheries, the provision of neutral platforms for constructive cross-sectoral dialogues is of utmost importance.

14. The activities are aimed at putting information within reach of all stakeholders, sharing policy-expertise, providing a neutral platform, and bringing skills and knowledge to the field. The VGGT and SSF Guidelines serve as pillars for the work on this topic.

15. This thematic area will contribute to achieving SDGs 8, 14 and 16 by advancing the knowledge on how rights to fisheries can be designed and assigned to enhance food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, and thus benefit those directly and indirectly dependent on the sustainable development of capture fisheries.

Table 2. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of delineation of rights and related processes.

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Baseline scenarios, case studies, gap analyses			Compile case studies of existing rights-based approaches
	Map(s) of types of rights to understand the suitability of types of rights in various contexts	Document existing types of rights (e.g. access, use, manage, sale) to fisheries resources		Support mapping of different types of rights at specific sites
	Map(s) of vulnerable and marginalized groups		Workshop(s) on the access to justice of vulnerable and marginalized groups and how to improve their potential to organize and participate	Support mapping of vulnerable and marginalized groups, their access to justice, and their potential to organize
	Report(s) evaluating the impact of other sectors / activities on rights-based approaches and vice versa			Support impact evaluations of other sectors / activities on rights-based approaches in fisheries and vice versa
	Documentation on trade-offs within and between various types of rights-based approaches			Analyse trade-offs of the elements within a rights-based approach and between different types of rights-based approaches
	Documentation of tools used to understand the state of the fisheries resource			Describe, and support the application of existing tools for data collection to

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
				enhance the understanding of the state of local resources as a basis for coordinating rights
Sharing Policy Expertise	Frameworks, processes and possible actions for supporting national efforts for reforming or strengthening rights-based approaches aligned with the VGGT and SSF Guidelines			Develop frameworks, processes and possible actions for supporting national efforts for reforming or strengthening rights-based approaches aligned with the VGGT and SSF Guidelines
Providing a Neutral Platform	Reports on knowledge sharing meetings		Meetings to coordinate dialogues between stakeholders, especially with regard to transboundary rights issues	Support coordinated dialogues between stakeholders within and across sectors
	Mechanisms for dispute resolution accessible to all types of stakeholders		Develop and make accessible dispute resolution mechanisms to all stakeholders	Develop and make accessible dispute resolution mechanisms to all stakeholders
Bringing Skills and Knowledge to the Field	Provide legal advice to all stakeholders			Provide support for improved access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals.

Thematic Area 3: Capacity Development

16. This thematic area of work seeks to develop the capacities of all stakeholders to communicate their interests and to participate in discussions and decision-making processes that are related to rights-based approaches. Capacity building activities identified to date relate to human capacity development, infrastructure development and fisheries equipment.

17. It will be essential to involve all stakeholders and institutions and undertake careful case by case assessments of local needs as the mechanism for identifying the various needs for capacity development in different locations. In addition, capacity development activities will also address gender inequality and include marginalised and vulnerable communities and individuals.

18. This thematic area will contribute to achieving SDGs 11, 14, and 16 through supporting capacities required for strengthening human development and aquatic resource conservation.

Table 3. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of capacity development

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Inventory of existing training materials for capacity development	Conduct inventory of training materials for capacity development		
	Inventory of local capacity development processes and globally applicable parameters	Identify capacity development processes (including mechanisms, tools) that may apply to all situations independent from local conditions		Identify and compare local capacity development processes and develop basic descriptive parameters
	Platform to share knowledge on successful and unsuccessful capacity development strategies	Set up a platform to share knowledge on successful and unsuccessful capacity development strategies		
Providing a Neutral Platform	Information materials on best practices for capacity development		Conduct workshops for sharing best practices for capacity development	Support the collection of information on best practices for capacity development
	Increased shared understanding of rights-based approaches among stakeholders			Hold workshops to developing shared understanding about various topics relating to rights-based approaches.
	Increased shared understanding about conflict			Hold local workshops and set

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
	resolution among stakeholders			up platforms for conflict resolution
Bringing Skills and Knowledge to the Field	"Modern" capacity development tools for greater understanding of rights-based approaches	Provide "modern" tools and approaches to support capacities of all stakeholders (in particular fisherfolk) and institutions (e.g. negotiation skills, communication, organization, etc.)		Support the development and provision of "modern" tools and approaches for capacity development related to rights-based approaches for all stakeholders and institutions
	Report(s) on exchange visits			Support exchange visits for lesson learning
	Report(s) on training seminars and / or workshops		Conduct regional training seminars and / or workshops	Providing training materials, trainings and knowledge regarding the processing and use of undervalued products.

Thematic Area 4: Enhancement / Diversification of Livelihoods

19. This thematic area of work recognizes the resilience provided by enhancing and/or diversifying livelihoods for those who are directly and indirectly dependent on fisheries.

20. Knowledge of strategies to enhance and diversify livelihoods will be made available in consultation with local communities. Enhancement and diversification strategies will also address gender inequality and aim to improve the livelihoods of those marginalized and vulnerable.

21. The activities proposed to date include putting information within reach of stakeholders and communities with easily accessible information inventories, sharing policy expertise between stakeholders through consultations and exchange visits, providing neutral platforms for exploring new opportunities, and bringing knowledge to the field by providing tools for communities to self-assess potential livelihood options.

22. This thematic area of work will contribute to achieving SDG 5, 8, and 14 by reducing poverty and supporting balanced, non-exclusive, sustainable socio-economic development.

Table 4. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of enhancement / diversification of livelihoods.

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Socio-economic analyses			Socio-economic analyses within and beyond fisheries to understand diversification / enhancement opportunities
	Global inventory of livelihood strategies	Prepare inventory of enhancement / diversification of livelihood strategies	Support collection of information on livelihood strategies	Consult with stakeholders on opportunities for enhancing / diversifying livelihoods
	Report(s) on the role of women in the value chain	Promote women's involvement in fisheries value-chain and post-harvest activities to promote gender equality		Promote women's involvement in fisheries value-chain and post-harvest activities to promote gender equality
	Policies on utilization of under-developed resources and by-products		Comparative analyses of utilization of under-developed resources and by-products	
Sharing Policy Expertise	Report(s) of workshops, trainings		Exploration and promotion of feasible enhanced /diversified livelihood strategies through workshops, trainings	Exploration and promotion of feasible enhanced /diversified livelihood strategies through workshops, trainings
Providing a Neutral Platform	Report(s) on results of exchange visits, workshops		Facilitate connections between countries and communities regarding the identification and use of under-valued resources	Facilitate connections between countries and communities regarding the identification and use of under-valued resources
	Report(s) of workshops		Organize workshops to connect socio-economic and	

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
			environmental experts and potential employers outside the fisheries sector	
Bringing Skills and Knowledge to the Field	Increased active participation / engagement of stakeholders		Support dissemination of knowledge on use of self-evaluation tools and participatory toolkits to promote active participation / engagement with stakeholders	Support use of participatory toolkits to promote active participation / engagement with stakeholders.
	Report(s) on value added products and on undervalued resources			Provide tools, support assessments and development of under-valued resources
	Tools and results of training programmes for livelihood enhancement and diversification strategies			Capacity development for livelihood enhancement / diversification strategies (especially for youth)
	Report(s) on outcomes of exchange visits		Facilitate exchange visits for lesson learning	Support exchange visits for lesson learning

Thematic Area 5: Transboundary Rights

23. This thematic area of work is intended to advance knowledge about the various roles of RFMOs and RFBs in the context of rights-based approaches used in inland and marine capture fisheries.

24. Topics identified thus far relate to putting information within reach regarding both the sharing of rights between artisanal, national and international fleets and the development of tools to identify the economic, social, and environmental trade-offs between different types of foreign and domestic fishing arrangements. Topics also include providing neutral platforms for sharing lessons learned.

25. This thematic area of work will contribute to achieving SDGs 14 and 16 through advancing knowledge on the role of regional organizations in the conservation of marine resources.

Table 5. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of transboundary rights.

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Report(s) on RFMOs use of rights-based approaches	Analysis of various right-based approaches used by RFMOs (and RFBs)		
	Reports on allocation issues and lessons learned	Analysis of allocations between artisanal, national and international fleets	Comparative analyses of transboundary rights allocations, issues and solutions	
	Evaluation tools	Development of tools to evaluate and assess trade-offs (economic, social-environmental, food security) of foreign fishing versus domestic production		
Providing a Neutral Platform	Report(s) of workshop(s) on transboundary rights		Workshop(s) on transboundary rights	Facilitate discussions about transboundary issues, solutions

Thematic Area 6: Financing

26. This thematic area of work aims to provide information on how various types of rights-based approaches have been or can be financed.

27. Activities include a combination of putting information within reach regarding the financing and financial partners for rights-based approaches, sharing policy expertise, and providing a neutral platform for advancing transparent partnerships amongst governments, communities, and other stakeholders. Activities also include bringing skills and knowledge to the field so that the issues related to external investment, its impacts and implications can also be addressed such that all stakeholders can understand the social, economic, legal, and environmental implications of different types of investment schemes.

28. This thematic area is strongly interlinked with the thematic area of enhancement/diversification of livelihoods and will contribute to achieving SDG 14 by contributing to the conservation of marine resources and sustainable development.

Table 6. Outcomes, outputs and activities for the thematic area of financing.

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Putting Information within Reach	Report(s) on financing experiences and access to finance related to rights-based approaches	Global comparative analysis of financing of rights-based approaches	Analysis of how rights-based approaches are financed	
	Documentation of payments for ecosystem services (PES)	Support consideration of payments for ecosystem services (PES) to communities for the protection of ecosystems		Collection of data on stocks to help determine the value of right(s)
	Case studies			Analysis of investment impacts on various stakeholders
	Report(s) on mechanisms for payments for fisheries management services			Develop mechanisms for payment for management responsibilities / services assumed by fishers, fishing organizations, communities (e.g., enforcement, data collection)
	Report(s) on social support systems and accessible financial resources			Analyse the possibilities for facilitating access to support systems (e.g. social services) and financial resources (e.g. credit)
Sharing Policy Expertise	Report(s) describing potential financial partners and mechanisms	Identification of financial partners and mechanisms for financing rights-based approaches at various levels	Facilitate improved accessibility of financial resources to fisheries institutions, fishery organizations and fisherfolk	Facilitate improved accessibility of financial resources to fisheries institutions, fishery organizations and fisherfolk

Outcomes	Outputs	Global Activities	Regional Activities	National / Local Activities
Providing a Neutral Platform	Report(s) of workshop(s)	Organize workshop(s) to bring fisherfolk and other fisheries stakeholders together with financial experts	Organize workshop(s) to bring fisherfolk and other fisheries stakeholders together with financial experts	Organize workshop(s) to bring fisherfolk and other fisheries stakeholders together with financial experts
Bringing Skills and Knowledge to the Field	Licenses that cannot be manipulated	Support development of licensing systems and licenses that cannot be manipulated / counterfeited		Analyses of various pressures driving IUU fishing
	Improved knowledge of accounting and implications related to rights-based approaches			Develop and disseminate knowledge on financial issues related to rights-based approaches
	Improved capacity to access financial resources		Facilitate increased accessibility to financial resources for fisherfolk (e.g. funds, bonds, micro-credits, loans)	Facilitate local understanding of and accessibility to financial resources (e.g. funds, bonds, micro-credits, loans)