



منظمة الإغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR FISHERIES (RECOFI)

### Sixth Session

Rome, Italy, 10 – 12 May 2011

## PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2011–2012

### INTRODUCTION

1. The full programme of work of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) includes activities that must be performed by the Members at national levels, by the Working Group on Fisheries Management (WGFM) and the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA), and by any other ad hoc or standing committee/working group that the Commission may deem necessary to establish on a temporary or longer-term basis.

2. This document summarizes salient activities envisaged to take place during 2011 and 2012, as identified by the WGFM (October 2010) and WGA (October 2010). When reviewing the proposed provisional Programme of Work for the inter-sessional biennium 2011–2012, care should be taken, to anticipate and assess its budgetary implications in conjunction with the financial status reported in document RECOFI/VI/2011/3 and on the information and considerations held in document RECOFI/VI/2011/8.

3. Furthermore, the document contains an estimate of expenditures foreseen in the RECOFI budget (Members' contributions inclusive of the arrears). The outstanding budget required to achieve the full implementation of the proposed work plan is also highlighted.

### ASSUMPTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

4. The estimated budget for the (global budget) functioning of the Commission stems from the following sources:

- i) The proposed 2011–2012 Programme of Work of the WGFM as endorsed at its Fourth meeting (October 2010);
- ii) The 2011–2012 Programme of Work of the WGA, as formulated and endorsed at its Fifth meeting (October 2010).

#### *Assumptions*

5. The following assumptions, which have budgetary implications, are made for consideration by the Commission:

- a. Members will pay annual contributions when due and will settle their arrears;

- b. Subsidiary bodies of the Committees (i.e. WGFM and WGA) will be adequately supported in order to address in a timely manner the various logistic aspects for the organization of the meetings planned for the next inter-sessional period;
- c. Members will make every effort to provide the Secretariat with the data requested to support the work of the WGFM and WGA;
- d. Members will effectively support the work of national scientists, experts, administrators and National Focal Points and will guarantee the costs of all national inputs associated with the Commission's programme of work, including those related to the Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS);
- e. FAO will maintain to the extent possible the technical backstopping capacity in support to the Commission and its Secretariat at the same level of the one provided in 2009–2010.

#### *Uncertainties*

6. The Programme of Work formulated by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission envisages financial requirements that cannot be funded through the current annual Members' contributions only. This element of uncertainty is not taken into consideration in the proposed draft budget as it should be discussed and assessed by the Commission.

#### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME ON CAPTURE FISHERIES**

7. The Working Group on Fisheries Management at its Third meeting (Doha, October 2009) and Fourth meeting (Muscat, October 2010) reviewed the strategy and projects approved in May 2009 by the Commission for implementation. All activities agreed by the Commission for implementation had been achieved except the project on the integration of catch and effort data whose implementation was initiated in March 2011. Moreover, RECOFI in 2009 had postponed a number of WGA and WGFM activities principally because of a lack of funds. However, projects that had been postponed could be reconsidered for implementation if that was the wish of the Commission. The complete table of the inter-sessional activities (both approved and postponed) as endorsed by the Commission at its Fifth Session in May 2009 is given in Appendix 1 of this document. The WGFM in October 2010 concurred on a set of activities, budgeted at approximately USD 330 000, to be undertaken from 2011 to 2012 to implement the work plan. All the activities proposed by the WGFM have been tentatively budgeted, but most funding sources remain to be identified. In accordance with the Commission's wishes, the approved suite of activities is comprehensive and integrated and addresses fisheries management on a broader level. The implementation of the activities will assist countries in strengthening regional fisheries management in the RECOFI area.

8. It is widely believed that in circumstances of heavy fishery exploitation, IUU fishing and coastal habitat degradation, the issue of by-catch reduction and management have particular relevance. The State of Kuwait is in the process of adopting the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and By-catch Reduction Devices (BRDs), and it will deem particularly useful if RECOFI would organize a regional workshop on by-catch management with the participation of the Commission' Members and other relevant stakeholders. Such a regional workshop could be hosted by the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, State of Kuwait.

<b>Activity ranking</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Duration (days)</b>	<b>Indicative cost (USD)**</b>
1	Preparatory exercise for implementation of minimum data requirements and establishment of a regional database and information network to support management of major fisheries	TBD*	TBD	3-4	20 000
2	Workshop to develop regional management plans with agreed operational objectives and conservation measures for fisheries management	TBD	TBD	3-4	15 000
3	Pilot joint assessment of kingfish and workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data	TBD	TBD	4	30 000
4	Applied training programme for data collectors for the identification of priority species.	TBD	TBD	TBD	25 000
5	Comparative analysis of certain legal issues to promote further harmonization of legislation, building on initial work undertaken by RECOFI and taking into consideration other relevant work.	TBD	TBD	3	20 000
6	Workshop on social and economic aspects of small scale fisheries	TBD	TBD	3-4	10 000
7	Pilot joint assessment of ecosystem impact of shrimp fisheries	TBD	TBD	TBD	30 000
8	Review of national fisheries monitoring programmes	TBD	TBD	TBD	40 000
9	Evaluation and promotion of options of gear types with lower ecosystem impacts	TBD	TBD	TBD	15 000
10	Feasibility study to review development of regional databases of violations, establish a list of vessels authorized to fish by Members and the establishment of a MCS information exchange scheme.	TBD	TBD	TBD	30 000

Activity ranking	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)**
11	Workshop to consider regional standards for fish exports and imports as a means of promoting better cooperation and trade	TBD	TBD	TBD	15 000
12	Evaluation of certification and related schemes to be investigated together with the relationship between IUU fishing and trade and the estimated value of IUU fishing in the region	TBD	TBD	TBD	20 000
13	Annual regional meetings of MCS officers to exchange information of common interest and consider the possibility of promoting a harmonized MCS approach	TBD	TBD	TBD	15 000
14	Project to implement regionally VMS: phase I to ascertain feasibility	TBD	TBD	TBD	30 000
15	A study to evaluate and promote options to improve utilization of by catch	TBD	TBD	TBD	15 000
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>330 000</b>
	Bycatch reduction and management (regional workshop) <sup>1</sup>	2012	Kuwait	3	20 000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>350 000</b>
	5 <sup>th</sup> WGFM meeting	Oct 2011	TBD	3	–
	6 <sup>th</sup> WGFM meeting	Oct 2011	TBD	3	–

\* TBD = To Be Determined

\*\* The indicative budget includes consultancy fees, international travel and DSA. These may vary depending where the activity is organized in the region and who is invited to implement it. FAO technical support costs are not included.

9. As reported in document RECOFI/VI/2011/8, funding options considered by the WGFM included an increase in the assessed contributions from Members, an encouragement to voluntary extra budgetary contributions from Members and a strong effort to secure contributions from the regional donor community. The WGFM acknowledged that it would probably be necessary to use a mix of these funding options to obtain the required level of funds and stressed that decisions relating to funding rested firmly with the Commission.

10. The WGFM acknowledged that should the current level of Members' contributions to the Commission remain unchanged, this would have a significant impact on RECOFI's work including the WGFM work. The WGFM stressed that decisions relating to funding rested firmly with the Commission. The WGFM encouraged the Commission to consider this matter at its 2011 Session because, without adequate funding, it would not be possible to implement the work plan agreed to by the working group.

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 8 refers

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME ON AQUACULTURE

11. The proposed work plan of the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGA) for the next inter-sessional period was discussed during the Fifth meeting of the Working Group in Doha in October 2010. The WGA formulated its programme of work for the next inter-sessional period taking into account the recommendations made at the joint WGA/WGFM workshop on marine special planning (Doha, Qatar, 24-28 October 2010) and the activities which had already been proposed and endorsed by the Commission at its Fifth session (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 12-14 May 2009), but which had not been implemented due to budgetary constraints. Moreover, the WGA agreed that the activities discussed and prioritized at its Fourth meeting (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 27-28 January 2009) remained important action priorities in support of a sustainable development of the aquaculture sector at the regional level. The complete table of the inter-sessional activities (both approved and postponed) as endorsed by the Commission at its Fifth Session in May 2009 is given in Appendix 1 of this document. The implementation of the envisaged activities and meetings planned for the next inter-sessional period requires an indicative amount of USD 190 000.

12. The WGA recognized that the Commission, based on its current level of financial contribution, may not have the required budget to implement a comprehensive aquaculture programme and recommended that some activities could be implemented with extra-budgetary funds. However, the WGA trusts that the Commission will endeavour to avoid postponing the implementation of some of the proposed activities to the next inter-sessional period. In this regard the WGA recalled that the establishment of the RECOFI Regional Aquaculture Information System (RAIS) had been possible due to the contribution from the State of Kuwait and felt that the Commission Members should continue supporting WGA activities also through such funding mechanism. The programme proposed below shows a number of activities, ranked in order of priority.

Activity ranking	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)*
1	Capacity building for spatial planning and management (WGA/WGFM training)	TBD**	Qatar	4-5	40 000
2	Risk analysis to aquaculture (Training)	TBD	Oman	3-4	35 000
3	Environmental monitoring in cage aquaculture (Training)	TBD	Outside RECOFI region	10-14	25 000
4	Development of a national strategy on aquatic animal health (Planning workshop)	TBD	TBD	3-4	35 000
5	Aquaculture recirculation technologies (Technical workshop)	TBD	TBD	2-3	25 000

Activity ranking	Activity	Date	Location	Duration (days)	Indicative cost (USD)**
6	Climate change challenges in aquaculture development (WGA/WGFM awareness workshop)	TBD	TBD	2–3	20 000
7	Regional Aquaculture Information System (maintenance and development)	TBD	TBD	TBD	10 000
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>190 000</b>
	6 <sup>th</sup> WGA meeting	2011	TBD	2–3	–
	7 <sup>th</sup> WGA meeting	2012	TBD	2–3	–

\* The indicative budget includes consultancy fees, international travel and DSA. These may vary, depending where the activity is organized in the region and who is invited to implement it. FAO technical support costs are not included.

\*\* TBD = To Be Determined.

## RECOFI BUDGET FOR 2011-2012

13. In accordance with the provisions of Article VII and IX of the RECOFI Agreement, before making any decision involving expenditures in connection with the implementation of the approved work plan for the intersession period including the establishment of committees and working groups and the recruitment or appointment of specialists, the Commission shall have available the basic information on the financial implications thereof.

14. The budgetary requirements estimated for the inter-sessional biennium would contribute to support the organization of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, and related requirements, such as specialized expertise and qualified consultants for specific tasks or publications. Other Secretariat related costs, such as the FAO technical support services and travel costs, are not included and could be charged to the Commission's budget depending on circumstances.

15. The proposed Programme of Work formulated by the technical bodies of the Commission has financial requirements that cannot be met solely by the current annual contributions. Should the Commission decide to approve all proposed expenditures, a conservative total estimated budget for 2011–2012 based on information and data presently available to the Secretariat would amount to approximately USD 520 000; to which approximately USD 25 000 should be added to support the Secretariat operational costs including those related to the Seventh Session (May 2013). This represents a very significant and more than a three-fold increase compared to the original budget (USD 165 000) adopted for 2009–2010. An approximate balance of USD 76 000 would be carried over to the present biennium. The current level of Members' contributions for the next biennium would amount to USD 80 000. Should Members pay all their overdue contributions, this would make an additional USD 35 000 available. However, the implementation of the full workplan would require an approximate additional amount of USD 329 000<sup>1</sup> (excluding the Secretariat operational costs mentioned above). If the Commission decides to reduce the overall projected estimate of USD 520 000, adjustments in the Programme of Work of the Commission are necessary unless extra budgetary funds are made available or identified by the Commission Members for selected activities.

<sup>1</sup> USD 349 000 including the Kuwait proposal on by-catch reduction and management (see paragraph 8).

**SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

16. The Commission is invited to review the activities proposed by its Working Group on Fisheries Management and Working Group on Aquaculture. The Commission may wish to address the issue of funding if it desires to proceed with the entire proposed work plan as identified by the working groups. The Commission is thereby requested to consider the budgetary implications of its Programme of Work and to provide the Secretariat with guidance on its implementation.

17. The Commission may wish to make relevant decisions on these matters, including specifying priorities as appropriate, and identifying complementary and/or additional sources of financing as deemed necessary.

## Appendix 1

Table of RECOFI activities to be undertaken in the 2009–2010 intersessional period

Working Group	Activity	Date	Location	Duration	Indicative cost (USD)	Status
Fisheries Management	Workshop on stock status reporting	Jul 2009	Iran	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Integration of catch and effort data in the RECOFI area	2009/2010	RECOFI countries	TBD	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	3 <sup>rd</sup> WGFM Meeting	Oct 2009	Qatar	3 days		Approved
Aquaculture	Risk analysis in aquaculture (Training)	TBD	Oman	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Aquaculture	Environmental monitoring in aquaculture (Training)	TBD	TBD	10–14 days	20 000	Approved
Joint	Red tides: Impacts on capture fisheries and aquaculture and counter measures (Technical workshop)	2010	Kuwait	3–4 days	20 000	Approved
Joint	Geographical Information System (GIS) and spatial tools applications for capture fishery and aquaculture	2010	Qatar	3–4 days	30 000	Approved
Fisheries Management	Review of national fisheries programmes	2009	RECOFI countries	TBD	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Workshop on the utilization of fishery dependent data	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Workshop on RECOFI fisheries economics	2010	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Training workshop on fishery resources appraisal	2010/2011	TBD	4 days	40 000	Postponed
Fisheries Management	Pilot joint assessment of	2011	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Indicative cost (USD)</b>	<b>Status</b>
	shared stocks					
Aquaculture	Development of a national strategy on aquatic animal health (Planning workshop)	TBD	TBD	3–4 days	30 000	Postponed
Aquaculture	Aquaculture recirculation technologies (Technical workshop)	TBD	TBD	2–3 days	20 000	Postponed
Aquaculture	Regional Aquaculture Information System	TBD	TBD	5 days	5 000	Ongoing