

# Engaging Children in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

In collaboration with the international NGO Mundus Maris, the EAF-Nansen project started developing a Teaching Kit to promote the sustainable use of marine ecosystems. This pilot initiative aims at supporting school teachers in selected primary schools in Senegal and The Gambia in raising awareness about EAF principles among children from fishing communities. The Teaching Kit provides information on sound fishing practices, the need to sustain the aquatic ecosystems and critical habitats, the relationships between marine resources, the fishers and the fishing communities. It also looks at the problems of unregulated fishing, pollution and coastal development, the long-term impacts of these on food security, livelihood of coastal communities and the need for fisheries management.

## WHY A TEACHING KIT

Young people are key in disseminating messages within communities. At the same time they can create an enabling environment for information and knowledge sharing on many issues. The goal of the teaching kit is to provide teachers and students with the awareness, knowledge and tools that are necessary to discuss, understand and address EAF issues, and to enhance the capacities of future generations of fishers to play an active role in the management of fisheries.

## THE DESIGN OF THE TEACHING KIT

The Kit is based on FAO's experience in promoting responsible fisheries and sustainable use of marine ecosystems and the skills of Mundus Maris in engaging with children on such issues. It is complemented by contextual information and data collected and validated in the pilot schools, through a process which included the following methodological steps:

- A needs assessment to collect information on fishing knowledge and practices, perceptions and attitudes of fisheries communities with respect to sustainable fishing practices.
- Selection of five schools in each pilot country to implement activities in the communities of Hann and Kayar in Senegal; Serrekunda, Tanji and Gunjur in The Gambia.
- Design of the Teaching Kit with the teachers of the schools involved in the implementation.
- Testing the Kit in classroom
- Updating the Kit based on the recommendations from the teachers





## CONTENT OF THE TEACHING KIT

The Teaching Kit contains the following :

Abridged version of "Putting into practice the ecosystem approach to fisheries": the publication has been reduced and simplified in order for the teachers to be able to understand the basic EAF concepts and re-elaborate them for the children

Guidelines: a complete guide with useful ideas for messages, in-class exercises and outdoor observations related to the principles of EAF

EAF Nansen illustrated poster: a children-friendly poster clearly displaying the difference between wrong and right fishing practices and management approach

Fish ruler: a practical ruler displaying the pictures and length of the most common fish species of Senegal and The Gambia. It is 75cm long and can be used for fish measurements during on-site observations.

A Senegambian Ecosystem poster: a poster displaying the most common fish species of the marine ecosystem in Senegal and The Gambia



## THE CREATIVE APPROACH

The kit encourages teachers to apply creative ways for the appropriation of the EAF principles by the children:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Drama                                   | Imaginary drawings |
| Role plays                              | Songs              |
| Trips to landing sites and fish markets | Poetry writing     |

## THE WAY FORWARD

The positive experience can be replicated in other countries involved in the EAF-Nansen project through the adaptation of the kit to the single contexts.

