

	منظمة الأغذية 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
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THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA
EIGHTEENTH SESSION
Bamako, Mali, 26–28 November 2019
Follow-up of the intersessional activities on decisions and recommendations of the 17th session

Summary

A key outcome of the CIFAA 17 session held in Banjul 2017 was the decision approved by member countries to remain an Article VI body of the FAO constitution. However, delegates recommended that the secretariat develop and implement innovative approaches and apply them to improve CIFAA's outputs as an Article VI body. One of the key persistent issue faced by CIFAA is not meeting quorum in many of CIFAA's regular sessions. It was determined that the secretariat, (1) review and amend a more contemporary approach in CIFAA's legal structure to address the challenges associated with meeting the quorum, (2) establish a multi-donor trust fund to implement CIFAA associated activities and (3) promote improved partnerships with key partners such as the AU-IBAR.

This paper provides background on the follow-ups since the 17th session and further highlights the required impetus of both the secretariat and member countries to revitalize CIFAA.

The Committee is invited to:

Consider the developments since the 17th session and provide guidance on how to proceed and suggest actionable items at the benefit of CIFAA's member countries and CIFAA's secretariat.

BACKGROUND

1. The 17th session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), held in Banjul, the Gambia, from 9 to 11 May 2017 hosted a total of 28 delegates from 10 member countries and 3 observers attended the 17th ordinary session. The session covered the main topics of follow up of intersessional activities and way forward; outcomes of the sixth annual meeting of the Aquaculture network for Africa and the Status of Inland fisheries and way forward; and proposals for the main topics of the eighteenth ordinary session of the CIFAA.
2. The CIFAA 17th session followed up on an Extraordinary CIFAA meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia in December 2014. The Lusaka meeting reviewed past CIFAA performances, its effectiveness and CIFAA's future of which was deliberated during the 17th session in Banjul.

FOLLOW-UP OF THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES ON DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 17TH SESSION

3. CIFAA 17 invited Delegates to decide on the various options in determining CIFAA's future and suggested how members can proceed in line with Africa's ever-changing inland fisheries and aquaculture dynamic and at the same time meet demands of CIFAA member countries. Four options were proposed:
 - a. Maintain CIFAA as a body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution;
 - b. Transform CIFAA from an Article VI Body of the FAO Constitution to a regional forum under a separate mechanism;
 - c. Transform CIFAA to a platform for exchange of information and relevant data collection;
 - d. Suspend CIFAA.
4. Delegates agreed that CIFAA will remain as an Article VI body of the FAO constitution.
5. It was also agreed that different approaches and CIFAA's *modus operandi* required transformation for CIFAA to deliver tangible outputs deliberated during its regular sessions. This included novel means to (1) validate decisions despite not reaching the quorum and (2) understanding why certain members participate in CIFAA sessions or why certain members participate less. CIFAA requires a quorum of 19 member countries to attain recognizable decisions.
6. Delegates recommended that the CIFAA secretariat is required to conduct an attendance review of all CIFAA sessions. This review should highlight the regularly attending member states, the low attending member countries, and the absentee's levels of representation.
7. For the attendance review performed please refer to see annex A.
8. The option of courier communication to meet the challenges associated with resources and member country attendance was also discussed. This option would provide countries who were unable to attend, for whatever reasons, the opportunity to react to the recommendations related to the issues deliberated at CIFAA sessions.
9. The courier communication method mentioned above has yet been required to be applied in CIFAA session not attaining quorum.
10. Further, CIFAA's *modus operandi* in obtaining ministerial endorsement for the topics deliberated at the sessions was reviewed. It was suggested that high-level delegates can be present, where possible, on the final day of CIFAA sessions to verify and endorse decisions. This has yet to be required in sessions not meeting quorum.

11. The increased prominence of the African Union for CIFAA was supported by the CIFAA 17 delegates. Delegates recommended that CIFAA find pathways of collaboration with the African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) to better consolidate regional inland fisheries and aquaculture management and its dialogs. This will require the drafting of an elaborated work plan for FAO to present to the AU-IBAR. An elaborated workplan with time frames has yet to be developed and submitted.

MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

12. During a CIFAA extraordinary session held in Dakar 2015, it was recommended that the working group on the CIFAA multi-donor trust fund be operational under the CIFAA Secretariat and its subsequent guidance. This included the drafting of the multi-donor trust fund working groups' terms of reference and the work plan.
13. Currently, the multi-donor trust fund working group's terms of reference and workplan have yet to be drafted and submitted by the CIFAA secretariat to the member countries.

AQUACULTURE NETWORK FOR AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

14. During the 17th session, delegates from Benin, Gambia and Guinea expressed their interest in becoming member of ANAF and requested the Secretariat to provide information on membership's application. It was agreed that applications for membership should be addresses to the FAO regional Office for Africa (RAF). The information on membership application was provided to these countries where until the date, the CIFAA secretariat based in RAF has not yet received any applications.
15. With regard to the formalization process of ANAF, during the 33rd session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome from 9 to 13 July 2018, the Heads of Delegation of Member countries of ANAF reiterated to COFI their willingness to institutionalize the Network and confirmed their decision of integrating it within the AU-IBAR structure. Therefore, they requested the FAO Secretariat of CIFAA and AU-IBAR to make appropriate arrangements for an effective transfer.
16. Based on the above request, the CIFAA Secretariat initiated the process of handing over ANAF Secretariat to AU-IBAR. In August 2018, a meeting was organized by AU-IBAR in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and FAO at AU-IBAR office in Nairobi, Kenya.
17. The meeting was attended by representatives from ten ANAF Member countries (i.e. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia), the ANAF Secretariat from FAO, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) and AU-IBAR.
18. The objectives of the meeting, facilitated by the ANAF Secretariat and LVFO through plenary sessions, included: (i) the elaboration of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of ANAF as a network to foster sustainable aquaculture development in Africa; (ii) the drafting of Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the ANAF Secretariat under AU-IBAR based on the SWOT analysis's results; (iii) the establishment of an interim ANAF Task Force to oversee the transition of ANAF from FAO/CIFAA to AU-IBAR; and (iv) the drafting of a policy brief for the African Union (AU) containing the recommendation to integrate ANAF Secretariat under AU-IBAR.
19. The meeting produced the following outcomes: (i) the status of implementation of ANAF activities; (ii) the ToRs for ANAF Secretariat under AU-IBAR; (iii) the establishment of a Task Force composed by Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa was nominated to oversee the implementation of the action plan; and (iv) a policy brief for the AU containing the

recommendation to integrate the ANAF Secretariat under AU-IBAR.

20. In addition, the meeting highlighted the importance of sharing the outputs of the 7th ANAF Annual Meeting with non-ANAF Members during the Ministerial meeting. It was recommended to prepare the ToRs for ANAF Secretariat as an AU-IBAR entity.
21. The meeting requested FAO and AU-IBAR to support the implementation of the transition action plan including the facilitation of the Task Force to follow up on the key designated activities. The meeting highlighted the importance for FAO, LVFO and other AU regional institutions, partners and the private sector to continue collaborating with the ANAF Secretariat.
22. During the 8th Annual ANAF meeting, which was organized by AU-IBAR in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, FAO and the Government of Botswana, AU-IBAR reported to the meeting that a budget line was proposed for ANAF activities in 2019 and the on-going recruitment of one Fisheries Officer.
23. The meeting requested the Secretariat to present the status on the establishment of ANAF Secretariat at AU-IBAR at the 10th Session of COFI-SCA held in Trondheim, Norway, from 23 to 27 August 2019.

TECHINCAL ITEMS: STATUS OF INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN AFRICA, WAY FORWARD FOR A STRATEGY FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT

24. Of the many technical topics covered, one reoccurring issue was biosecurity, the threat of imported products from outside the Africa region (this included feed, fingerlings and other inputs). Delegates requested a means to investigate the true impact of imported fish and related items to regional production, markets and public health. CIFAA could be considered as a potential platform to investigate these dynamics in the Africa region.
25. The issues of access to efficient and economically profitable fish farming and quality seed for aquaculture in Africa was also discussed at the 17th Session. It was recommended that alternative and innovative technologies, such as the use of alternative sources of protein instead of fishmeal, promotion of local and high-performance fish food units and promotion of Tilapia mono-sex are considered in the sub-Saharan Africa region.
26. Environmental concerns were also echoed during the session. The menace of invasive aquatic plants, mine drainage pollution, deforestation and reduction of water bodies has negatively impacted several inland fisheries in the Africa region.
27. The session also acknowledged that increasing water pollution would eventually be a threat to the environment and sustainable aquaculture growth in the Africa region. The AU-IBAR delegate informed the session that the institution has developed a regional environmental framework.
28. The CIFAA secretariat acknowledged the need for regular and updated inland fisheries and aquaculture statistics. The delegates encouraged the CIFAA Secretariat to have a more prominent role in supporting member countries to improve access to their inland fisheries and aquaculture databases.

ANNEX A– CIFAA attendance review

Member Countries	Regular Sessions								Representation in the past 8 sessions	Overall Participation
	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th		
	Akosombo 24-27 Nov 1997	Abuja 24 – 27 Oct 2000	Yaoundé 2 – 5 Dec 2002	Entebbe 27 -30 Oct 2004	Accra 22 – 24 Nov 2006	Lusaka 9 – 11 Dec 2008	Maputo 16 – 18 Nov 2010	Banjul 9 - 11 May 2017		
Benin	1	1			1			1	4	Fair
Botswana					1	1	1		3	Fair
Burkina Faso	1	2	1	1	1			2	6	Good
Burundi		1	1	1					3	Fair
Cameroon	1	3	19 (host)	2	3	3			6	Good
C.A.R		1			1				2	Weak
Chad		1	1	1	2	2			5	Good
DRC		1	1		1				3	Fair
Congo		3	1						2	Fair
Côte d'Ivoire		3	2	1	1	1			5	Good
Egypt		1		1	1				3	Fair
Eritrea										
Ethiopia										
Gabon	1			1			2		3	Fair
Gambia		1	1	1	1			15 (host)	5	Good
Ghana	7 (Host)	3		3	5 (Host)	1	2	1	7	Very Good
Guinea	2	1	1	1				1	5	Good
Kenya	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	8	Very Good
Lesotho						1			1	Weak
Madagascar		1	1	1		1			4	Fair
Malawi		3	1	2	1				4	Fair
Mali	1	2	1	1	1			1	6	Good
Mauritius	Nil									

Mozambique						1	11 (Host)	2	3	Fair
Niger		1	1		1				3	Fair
Nigeria	2	36 (Host)	1	1	2	1	1		7	Very Good
Rwanda										
Senegal	1	3	1			1		1	5	Good
Sierra Leone		2	1						2	Weak
Somalia										
Sudan		1		1	1				3	Fair
Swaziland				1	4	1	1		4	Fair
Tanzania	2	2	2	2	1		2		6	Good
Togo		1			1				2	Weak
Uganda		5	6	8 (Host)	2	2	3		6	Good
Zambia	1	1	1		1	3 (Host)	2		6	Good
Zimbabwe	1	1	1			2		1	5	Good

Current membership: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, United Rep. of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.