



EAF-Nansen Project (GCP/INT/003/NOR)

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| Title : | Development of an artisanal fisheries management plan for Tanzania and Seychelles |
| Funded: | EAF-Nansen |
| Total Contribution: | USD 50,000¹ |
| Countries: | Tanzania and Seychelles |
| Duration: | 18 months |
| Estimated starting date: | July 2010 |

¹ Each country will receive an amount of USD 25,000 to carry out the set activities.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Situation of the fisheries

The artisanal fisheries sub-sector of Seychelles and Tanzania are of major socio-economic and cultural importance and contributes significantly to food security. Demand for marine resources for tourism, export and local consumption is growing, leading to further pressure on finfish and high value invertebrate resources. The artisanal fishery is a multispecies fishery targeted by a wide range of boat-gear combinations on fishing grounds across the national jurisdiction waters. At the assemblage (all species) level, yields in the artisanal fishery indicate stability. However, vessels are increasingly targeting high value species and recent assessments show that stocks are overexploited. Furthermore as a result of its open access nature which is subject to inefficient management control this multi-species fishery increasingly faces problems of overexploitation. Introducing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) for the management of artisanal fisheries will not only address these aspects, but will also ensure a broader range of ecosystems services and functions. This will in turn provides a greater array of human benefits guarantees long-terms resources sustainability and ensures the resilience of the ecosystems.

1.2 Current status of artisanal fishery management in the countries concerned

Most of the fishers are currently targeting high valued species. For example in the Seychelles, assessments conducted in the early to mid-1990s indicated that the inshore demersal line fishery was fully exploited and locally over-exploited, whereas the offshore demersal (plateau and islands) fishery was lightly exploited. Contrary to recommendations and advice stemming from these assessments and a fisheries management strategy produced with FAO TCP support, a change in management regime was not implemented. Partly, this was due to the fact that overall yield from demersal has not yet declined substantially. However, transfer of effort between species (i.e. from groupers to snappers), stocks and locations (i.e. sequential depletion fishing) may have masked the full extent of overexploitation. More recent assessments indicate that offshore stocks of key target species (e.g. *Lutjanus sebae*, *L. bohar*) are probably overexploited and that declining yields are inevitable unless robust management measures are put in place.

In response, Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) embarked on a detailed stock assessment based on rigorous and widely accepted methods. The results of this assessment were available in May 2007, by which time catches were more than double MSY, and highlighted major risks from continued targeting at those levels. At the request of the SFA Board of Directors, a process to engage stakeholders was approved and consultative meetings were held with fishers in July 2007 so as discuss precautionary management measures to prevent collapse of the stocks. The management of the Tanzania Artisanal Pelagic Fishery has relied on conventional methods where human activities are managed in a way that maximizes fisheries production, economic benefits, employment or national revenues. The conventional approaches often does not take into consideration the broader effects of fishing activities on the environment as well as the effect of other non fisheries related anthropogenic activities on fisheries and the ecosystem within which they occur.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Issues to be addressed

Typical of coastal developing states, there is a high reliance on marine resources for employment, income generation, foreign exchange earnings and food security. Fishing is one of the primary sources of protein for the local populations and has an important export component as well. Common to most artisanal fisheries in most coastal states, the fishery is open access and subject to little management control. As a result, the fishery increasingly faces problems of overexploitation and overcapitalisation which calls for management measures to rescue the situation. The current policies and institutions are not up to date in light of EAF principles and stakeholders need to be appraised on management issues.

2.2 Stakeholders and Target Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the fisheries administrations in the countries. The secondary beneficiaries and the small-scale fishers involved in artisanal fisheries, processors, NGOs, community-based organisations and other stakeholders in the two countries.

2.3 Project Justification

This project will support the development of an artisanal fishery management plan that provides for clearly defined harvesting strategies in line with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. It seeks to engage stakeholders to a sustainable management process through an adaptive and participatory approach. As a result it will contribute to sustainable development and food security, and will address wider environmental and biodiversity concerns through consideration of ecosystem-based fisheries management tools.

2.4 Expected Situation at the end of the Project

At the end of the project the fisheries administrators and stakeholders will be better able to understand fisheries management objectives, measures and standards. The management framework will identify an adaptive and participatory regime to ensure stakeholder ownership and engagement on a sustained level.

2.5 Project Strategy

The project seeks to establish appropriate stakeholder consultative processes for fishery management plan with clearly defined harvesting strategy, in direct reference to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The project will be executed on the basis of a process approach, that is, taking into account the dynamic nature of the fisheries sector the proposed activities are not static and would be modified as dictated by the prevailing conditions. Human capacity building, through workshops, on-the job training and mentoring will be a major consideration of the project. Emphasis will be placed on the active involvement of participants (administration, research, fishery communities, etc.), before and after training sessions to ensure the direct application of acquired knowledge and/or skills.

2.6 Institutional arrangements and relationship with other projects

This project will be executed by the EAF National Task Groups under the supervision of the fishery department of both countries. Other stakeholders and relevant governmental bodies will assist to progressively monitor and improve the Fisheries Management Plan. This will ensure that the concerns of industry are represented by the different stakeholders involved in the industry due to the biodiversity implications of the project.

2.7 Past Related Work

In Seychelles, FAO supported a fisheries management strategy in the early mid-1990s through a TCP initiative. In 1984, FAO helped in the formulation and implementation of a National Fishery Policy (FAO/GCP/INT/398/NOR), to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in Tanzania. However, currently the fisheries sector activities are under the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries

3. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

The development objective of the project is to develop a management framework for artisanal fisheries in Seychelles (demersal line fishery) and Tanzania (pelagic fisheries) by improving compliance with fisheries management measures to prevent habitat destruction and overexploitation so as to improve ecosystem integrity, socioeconomic development among fishery communities through the adoption of a participatory approach system. Because of the duration of the project, emphasis is placed on the medium-term objective.

4. MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 Medium term objectives

The medium-term objectives are: (i) to improve the understanding of the different stakeholders on the use of participatory management through the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and (ii) improve institutional capacities so as to better understand fisheries management objectives, measures and standards in order to implement the management plan within the framework of the EAF.

Output 1: A plan for the management of artisanal fisheries which takes into account the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) is in place.

Activity 1.1 Prepare a baseline report on the artisanal fisheries in Seychelles (demersal line fishery) and Tanzania (small pelagic fishery) including an assessment of traditional knowledge in the management of these fisheries

Activity 1.2 Organize a workshop for members of the EAF-Nansen NTG, relevant government agencies and other stakeholders (including NGOs and CBOs) to improve the understanding of EAF

Activity 1.3 Organize consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders (Fisheries Administration, Marine Parks, Research Institute, Environment Agency) to identify and prioritize EAF issues, analyse the risks and formulate appropriate management options to address the issues

Activity 1.4 Develop a plan for managing the artisanal fishery of Seychelles and Tanzania.

Activity 1.5 Organize a workshop to validate the management plan of the artisanal fishery of Seychelles and Tanzania.

Output 2: Policies, institutional and legal frameworks for the small scale fisheries management improved

Activity 2.1 Review of existing policies, strategies, legislation and guidelines in the light of EAF and make recommendations for their improvement or revision

Output 3: Strategy for consultation and exchange of information improved

Activity 3.1: In each country, disseminate information about the artisanal fishery management framework and other EAF-Nansen project issues (produce and distribute sensitization materials on EAF)

Activity 3.2: Organize exchange of information between the two countries and other EAF-Nansen project countries, sub-regional institutions (e.g. SWIOFC) and the EAF-Nansen Coordinating Unit on results of the project.

5. INPUTS

5.1 Participating Governments' inputs

Each participating government agrees to designate a focal point and a deputy who will be responsible to run the project. The Focal Point would be a member of the National Task Group established within the framework of the EAF-Nansen Project and have fishery management responsibilities in its country as part of its work. The governments will organize the work of the Focal Points so that they have sufficient time and resources to undertake technical and liaison work in relation to the development of the project and training activities, and other activities related to the management of artisanal fisheries. Although the project will seek to bear certain costs related to the technical meetings, Governments should be prepared: (i) to bear part of the cost of the national participants to attend the meetings, workshops etc; (ii) to meet the expenses of hosting the meetings, and (iii) to identify and assign staff to facilitate the execution of the project.

5.2 EAF-Nansen Project's inputs

The total financial support of the EAF-Nansen Project amounts to USD 50,000 divided equally between the two participating countries (USD25,000 each).

Logical frame work

| PROJECT ELEMENTS/ RESULTS | SUCCESS INDICATORS (= Objectively-verifiable Indicators) | WAYS OF VERIFYING (= Means of verification) |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. A framework for the management of artisanal fisheries which takes into account the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) is in place</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline on the artisanal fishery developed and used by partners to monitor changes. • 17 people whose abilities and knowledge on the EAF are improved. • Issues identified and prioritized. • A framework for managing the artisanal fishery based on the principles of the EAF is available and validated by stakeholders. | <p>Baseline report available.</p> <p>Workshop on the EAF held and report available.</p> <p>ERA workshop report available</p> <p>Consultation and validation reports</p> |
| <p>2. Policies, institutional and legal frameworks for the small scale fisheries management improved</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing policies, strategies, legislation and guidelines reviewed and recommendations made for their improvement or revision | <p>Review reports</p> |
| <p>3. Strategy for consultation and exchange of information improved</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions of the two countries to the process of developing management frameworks • Contributions in support of EAF-Nansen project communication on the results of the project | <p>Progress reports and technical reports of the project</p> <p>Communication materials available and distributed</p> |