



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

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| Title : | Improving the Artisanal Fisheries Management of Liberia and Sierra Leone |
| Funded: | EAF-Nansen |
| Total Contribution: | USD 50,000¹ |
| Countries: | Liberia and Sierra Leone |
| 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 Sectoral Context

The two countries are richly endowed in biodiversity with abundant multi-species that are characteristic of marine tropical finfish, molluscs and crustaceans. The fisheries sector plays an important role in the national economy of the two countries. In Sierra Leone, it contributes about 9.4% to the GDP. The industry generates revenue and foreign exchange, provides employment and serves as the largest single source of cheap animal protein for majority of Sierra Leoneans and Liberians. The fisheries resources are exploited by artisanal and industrial fisheries with the biggest proportion (around 80%) of the total production coming from the artisanal sector.

1.2 Development priorities and MDGs

The overall goal of the National Fisheries Sector Policies for both Sierra Leone and Liberia is to foster responsible fishing practices and sustainable development of fisheries amongst the stakeholders for the present and future generations. This goal contributes to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact the policy objectives in the fisheries sector include:

- Improve national nutrition and food security through increased fish production and reduction of spoilage and wastage;
- Increase employment opportunities;
- Enhance the socio-economic status of people in the fisheries sector;
- Increase export earnings from the industry.

1.3 Sectoral Policy and Legislation

In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has the sole jurisdiction to manage and conserve the fisheries resources of Sierra Leone. The legal framework for fisheries management is enshrined in the 1994 Fisheries Management and Development Act, which is complemented by the 1995 Fisheries Regulations. These legal instruments are supported by the Revised National Fisheries Policy (2010).

In Liberia, Government policies have concentrated on food security, especially in preservation of products, conservation and environmental protection to ensure the viability of the ecosystem. The legal instrument for fisheries management is the Revised Fisheries Rules and Regulations of 1973, enshrined in the Natural Resources Laws of 1956, which empowers the Ministry of Agriculture through the Bureau of National Fisheries to determine fees and fines, and take measures to enhance the sustainable management and utilization of the fisheries resources. There is also the Draft Fisheries Policy 2007; Draft Fisheries Act 2010 and Draft Fisheries Regulation 2010. Together with the Policy, action plans were developed.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Problems to be addressed

The current status of the fisheries resources in recent times indicates downward trend both in catch landings and the average size of fish landed. The artisanal fisheries sector which contributes about 80% of the total marine fish landed locally operates with little or no proper control measures. Catch and effort data are inadequate, coupled with weak management strategies. The use of destructive fishing methods and fishing gears to target juvenile fish is on the increase. Furthermore, other constraints plagued the fisheries sector and hampered its development for many decades. These include inadequate fishery policies and regulations, weak institutional capacity in fisheries administrations, insufficient trained staff in fisheries management, limited budgetary allocations for the fisheries administrations.

2.2 Stakeholders and Target Beneficiaries

Primary beneficiaries are the fisheries administrations in the two countries and the secondary beneficiaries include local councils, fishing canoe owners, fishmongers, fish processors, and artisanal fisheries associations, CBOs and NGOs.

2.3 Project Justification

The fisheries in the two countries experience a decrease trend in catch landed and by targeting the juvenile, the renewal potential of the fisheries resources is compromised. It is to overcome this that a management plan is required to regulate the artisanal fisheries sector to ensure management of the fishery and sustainable exploitation the resources.

2.4 Expected Situation at the End of the Project

At the end of the project, both human and institutional capacities for fisheries management in the two countries would be enhanced; countries would have gained experience in cooperation and also the confidence to put in place some harmonized policies to address the artisanal fisheries management. In particular it is hoped the countries would have initiated activities to enable them in the near future to: (i) develop a management plan for artisanal fisheries and (ii) develop common strategies for long term artisanal fisheries management.

2.5 Project Strategy

For the implementation of the project activities the NTG will develop a work plan to guide the work to be undertaken. The NTG will hold consultative meetings with stakeholders in the artisanal fisheries sub-sector to ensure that their views are captured in the work of the NTG. These meetings will provide the opportunity for the collection of information about fishers' situation², and other information needed for the development of a fisheries management plan. Besides, the NTG will create awareness on EAF at the community and National levels through dramatization, print and electronic media. The project will be executed on the basis of a process approach. Research-development is required to address broader management issues and contribute to the elaboration of new or adapted approaches, methods and policies for fisheries management. Research-development activities will focus on selected common issues of major importance, benefiting from experience gained within and outside the sub-region.

² Including socio-economic data

Human capacity building, through workshops, on-the job training, mentoring and through the integration of training and research-development activities 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

The Project will be executed by the EAF National Task Groups and the Fisheries Administrations. The project will, when appropriate, promote cooperation with international organizations active in the region in fisheries or related matters. The resources provided through this project are considered to be the minimum necessary to support the various processes that are essential during the lifespan of the project. Therefore FAO and the two Fisheries Administrations will actively work to bring on board other potential Donors to provide additional funds and assistance in support of the set objectives of the project.

2.7 Past Related Work

In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is supported by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union. The ADB-funded project, "*Artisanal Fisheries Development Project*", (AFDEP), which is in its final year, has been operating for the past four years. The overall goal of the project is to develop the artisanal fisheries sector through the Institutional strengthening and capacity building in the small-scale fisheries. The EU-funded project, "*Institutional Support to Fisheries Management (ISFM)* ", which is a three-year project, is now in its second year of operation. The ISFM project focuses on the fisheries sector (artisanal and industrial fisheries). It supports fisheries research survey, fisheries policies, fisheries management and institutional capacity development. A revised Fisheries Policy with operational plans has been completed and awaiting cabinet approval. the Fisheries Regulation is currently being revised. An FAO supported TCP project to revise the Fisheries Act is about to begin.

In Liberia, in 2007 and 2008, the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) received support from FAO to carry out a National Frame and Livelihood surveys in the coastal marine communities. Furthermore, in 2006 and 2007, the BNF/MoA participated in a collaborative stock assessment survey in the Gulf of Guinea Region supported by FAO and Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME). Currently, the FAO is helping the BNF/MoA to revise its rules and regulations, policy and new fisheries laws.

3. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

The development objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction and create conditions to achieve food security through development of sustainable management of artisanal fisheries in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The project is expected to contribute to improved governance in the artisanal fisheries sector through supportive EAF policy and institutional arrangements.

4. OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Activity 1.1 Prepare and validate a baseline report on the artisanal fisheries in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

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 their understanding of EAF.

Activity 1.3 Organize consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders 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 fisheries of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Activity 1.5 Organize further stakeholder consultations and a workshop to validate the management plan for artisanal fishery of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

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 plan and other EAF-Nansen project issues (produce and distribute sensitization materials on EAF).

Activity 3.2 Organise exchange visits for two (2) NTG members to participate in ERA workshop in the other country.

Activity 3.3 Organize exchange of information at local and national levels, and between the two countries and other EAF-Nansen project countries, sub-regional institutions (e.g. CECAF) and the EAF-Nansen Coordinating Unit on results of the project.

5. INPUTS

5.1 Participating Governments' inputs

Each participating government agrees to designate the project Focal Point and Alternate to be responsible for the implementation of the project. The Focal point and Alternate should have

responsibilities in fishery management in the country as part of their work. The governments will re-organize the work of the Focal Point and Alternate so that they have sufficient time and resources to undertake the 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 in-country meetings, workshops etc; (ii) to meet the expenses of hosting the meetings and (iii) to identify and assign other 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 USD50, 000 divided equally between the two participating countries (USD 25,000 each). In addition, it is envisaged that the EAF-Nansen project could make available in the two countries a planning expert to review the management plans with the objective to harmonise them, a facilitator for the ERA workshop and one legal consultant.

Logical frame work

| PROJECT ELEMENTS/ RESULTS | SUCCESS INDICATORS (= Objectively-verifiable Indicators) | WAYS OF VERIFYING (= Means of verification) |
|---|---|--|
| 1. A framework for the management of artisanal fisheries which takes into account the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) is in place. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline on the artisanal fishery developed and used by partners to monitor changes. • 20 people whose abilities and knowledge on the EAF are improved. • Issues identified and prioritized. • A management plan for the artisanal fishery based on EAF principles is available and validated by stakeholders. | Baseline report available. Workshop on the EAF held and report available. ERA workshop report available Consultation and validation reports |
| 2. Policies, institutional and legal frameworks for the small scale fisheries management improved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing policies, strategies, legislation and guidelines reviewed and recommendations made for their improvement or revision | Review reports |
| 3. Strategy for consultation and exchange of information improved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution of the two countries to the process of developing management plan • Contributions in support of EAF-Nansen project communication on the results of the project | Progress reports and technical reports of the project Communication materials available and distributed |