

February 2013



**CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS REGIONAL
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
COMMISSION**



SECOND SESSION

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 16-17 April 2013

**REPORT ON THE FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME (2011-2015)
OF THE COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTION

1. The aim of this document is to report on the progress and challenges in implementing by Commission's Five-year Regional Work Programme (RFP). The document needs to be read together with the document CACFish:II/2013/4 (Commission Budget and Members Contributions for 2013).

2. The intergovernmental preparatory works conducted for the establishment of the Commission saw the RFP as an essential operational tool that helps to improve the regional capacity and capability building in a manner that allows the Commission to undertake the activities that promote the management and conservation of fisheries and aquaculture resources and support a general sectoral development. The adopted RWP gives a chief role to the Technical Advisory Committee to orient towards the achievement of identified outputs and incorporation of a great deal of the regional needs and priorities.

3. The RWP has been categorized into 5 main components, namely governance; aquaculture; inland fisheries and conservation; post-harvest activities; and research & capacity development. The RWP is subject to revision in response to emerging needs, either through a direct request of the Commission, or endorsement of such a revision recommendation of the TAC. The RWP possesses definite goals, outputs, performance indicators, timeframes and budget for all activities. The implementation of the RWP is expected to lead to the following 5 outcomes:

- Improved regional governance of the inland fishery and aquaculture sector for a more orderly, rapid and sustainable development and increased economic opportunities.
- Improved production technology and systems, and better management practices for the aquaculture sector.
- Improved inland fisheries management practices in the region
- Increased quality and safety of fisheries and aquaculture products available in the markets in the region.
- Improved capacities for research and technology development, extension, education and training in fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

4. The operationalization of RWP greatly depends on external financial contributions and specific outputs from regional FAO projects, explicitly the on-going Central Asia Regional

Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FishDev–Central Asia). This is primarily due to lack of enough autonomous budget of Commission that can be directly allocated to RWP. During the intersessional period, FishDev–Central Asia continued to support operationalization of the RWP while helping to create a catalyst institutional capacity building to develop fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

5. The RWP of the Commission was not operational in 2012 due to lack of a singular budget item allocated for the RWP. The program, which was enforced by the Commission in 2011, foresees a total budget amounting to USD 3,867,000 of which USD 1,950,000 is forecasted for research & capacity development through education programmes. The RWP needs an increased autonomous budget of Commission and, to a certain degree, relies on cooperation with and support from the active regional programmes (i.e. Fish-Dev Central Asia Programme). However the delivery of timetabled activities the RWP clearly points dependence on the external financial resources. Considering the fact that, besides its the research & capacity development component, the RWP requires an annual budget of USD 400,000 for its operational component (i.e. workshops, preparation of policy/strategy documents, etc), it is clear that within the limits of the current autonomous budget, the RWP would not be implemented unless direct external financial resources are not made available.

6. Full implementation of RWP with the defined outputs requires additional financial resources (i.e. increased autonomous budget of Commission, voluntary contributions from Member and Non-member States of the Commission and contributions from donor organizations). However, no external financial contribution proposal has been received by Secretariat for full or partly operationalization of the RWP. Under the current budgetary status, the annual funding gap for full implementation of the RWP amounts to approximately USD 300.000, which forms a great barrier to full operationalization of RWP. The Commission has a total annual budget of USD 180.000 which is not expected to increase markedly over the medium term. Therefore, allocation of financial resources for even restricted activities of RWP is not seen feasible under the current autonomous budget. The implementation of RWP is in serious financial challenge that requires action by the Commission. It is therefore important to find ways to activate RWP to the extent possible, in the manner originally planned.

7. No special activity for RWP has been proposed by Secretariat for 2013 due to the financial challenges referred to above. It is worth noting, however, that activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (i.e. workshops, technical consultations, expert meetings, etc.) will contribute to achievement of RWP's outcomes. On the other hand, Fish-Dev Central Asia Programme still remains the most essential instrument that achieves outputs in support of RWP. The Programme has conducted varying range activities since November 2009, with an aim to strengthening an overall regional capacity building in fisheries and aquaculture fisheries. The following 2013 key activities of Fish-Dev Central Asia Programme will create outputs in support of the RWP.

- Ad-hoc trainings on aquaculture production techniques
- Regional workshop on sustainable lake management
- Development of regional research and education programme
- Regional workshop on seafood safety and quality

SUGGESTED ACTION FOR THE COMMISSION

8. In view of the above-mentioned background, the Commission is invited to provide general guidance in terms of full implementation of the RWP by defining likely ways and means to overcome the challenges referred to above.