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



<b>FOURTH SESSION</b>
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<b>REPORT ON CACFish 5-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME (2011-2015)</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The aim of this document is to report on the status, progress and challenges in implementing of the 5-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) (RWP) of CACFish.
2. The document needs to be read in conjunction with the following documents: Commission Budget and Member Contributions for 2015 (CACFish/IV/2015/6); Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) of the Commission (CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.5); the Report of the Third Session of the Commission (CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.3); Report of Third Meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (CACFish:III/2014/Inf.4) and the Agreement on the Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, the Agreement (CACFish/IV/2015/Ref.1).
3. The CACFish Secretariat is responsible for overall running, associated coordination and reporting of RWP. Furthermore, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has a role in the technical monitoring and evaluation of RWP. The Committee is also responsible for overseeing the proper technical implementation of the activities of RWP. Implementation of RWP is envisioned to be monitored and kept under regular review at the regular Meetings of TAC and the Sessions of Commission. Within this framework, the progress with RWP is regularly traced by the CACFish Secretariat who reports also the respective evaluation of TAC to CACFish with financial implications.

## **BACKGROUND**

4. RWP was launched as an operational instrument by the approval of the Commission at its Inaugural Session (2011) in response to the stakeholders' requests and expectations for capacity development in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture. The current Programme has the following guiding principles: (i) reflection of the common interests, needs and priorities of CACFish

Members (ii) addressing individual or common problems of Members (iii) primary ownership and responsibility of Members for implementation of the RWP. On the other hand, RWP has the following five cross-cutting technical components: (i) governance; (ii) aquaculture; (iii) inland fisheries and conservation; (iv) post harvest activities; and (v) research and capacity development.

5. It is worth mentioning that the RWP has been designed as a “rolling programme” that comprises changeable activities depending on the financial resources and emerging priority issues. Being an operational instrument of the Commission, RWP merely addresses the CACFish Member States. However, it also aims to suit the interests and needs of non-CACFish Member States with whom collaboration is established. Besides, it foresees collaboration with other states, academic and research institutions, and other stakeholders with an aim maximizing its impact. To this end, it gives a special focus on the input of key stakeholders in terms of the achievement of the objectives of RWP as well as for an increased cumulative contribution to the regional vision set by RWP. It assumes to attain self-reliance within 10-year period. Although the RWP has time-tabled activities for its first 5-year term (2011-2015), the programme provides flexibility in the delivery of these activities or their revision..

6. RWP anticipates both the internal and external funds in financing the full implementation of RWP activities. Internal source counts on the allocations of CACFish autonomous budget. External funding refers to both the direct financial support to programme, in accordance with Article X (Expenses) of CACFish Agreement, and donor-supported programme components. It is important to note that the current RWP postulates a high dependence on the related FAO projects and possible donor supports.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

7. RWP is approaching to its end of implementation period in 2015 and, unless otherwise decided by the Commission, will move into a second-run covering the period from 2016 to 2020. Current efforts therefore are largely limited to finalization of the scheduled activities of RWP. More action is required in respect of the uncompleted activities, the details of which are given in the Annex I. As discussed above, RWP is a rolling regional programme and thus will have its second five-year phase covering the period 2016-2020. Fisheries/aquaculture management in CACFish Area apparently is dependent, among others, on technical assistance, technology transfer, and institutional capacity building and training. In this regard, when fully operated, RWP is expected to be a prime technical assistance instrument for improving technical capacity building.

8. The Second CACFish 5-year Work Programme (2016-2020) prepared by the CACFish Secretariat was submitted for review to and approval to the Third Meeting of TAC held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 16 to 18 February 2015. The second RWP (RWP2) document was adopted with minor modification by TAC (CACFish/IV/2015/4). The scope of RWP2 kept almost unchanged in order to address the regional challenges, gaps and needs, most of which unchanged from the previous years. There was full support from TAC to continue RWP and to enforce a Regional Fisheries/Aquaculture Training and Education Programme which was thought to deliver remarkable improvements in human capacity building for improved skills. RWP2 is expected to deliver a better experience to stakeholders while benefiting from the existing better management practices and experience, FAO regional fisheries and aquaculture projects, and other types of regional collaboration.

9. It should be noted that the accomplishments of RWP remained heavily dependent on the external financial and technical support provided by a number of cooperation mechanisms which were available from 2010 to March 2015. They included: (i) FAO Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Projects, namely (i) the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and

Aquaculture Development (FishDev-Central Asia); (ii) the Regular Fisheries Programme of the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (SEC); (iii) few Technical Cooperation Projects of FAO; and (iv) the project Support to Fisheries and Aquaculture management in the Kyrgyz Republic, a national FAO project financially supported by the Government of Finland. FishDev-Central Asia made valuable contribution to the achievements of RWP. FishDev-Central Asia, to a certain extent, has been adjusted to ensure delivery of the scheduled RWP activities. It is also worth mentioning that the mobilization of human resources by the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, contributed to these accomplishments. CACFish Secretariat, composed primarily of temporary employees, has been sufficient to undertake the overall coordination tasks of RWP.

10. As seen in the Annex, a significant proportion of the planned activities has been essentially completed through external cooperation mechanisms (i.e. FAO projects) referred to in the previous paragraph. The uncompleted activities either are not underway or still in planning stage, although some of which are behind schedule.

11. At its Second Session (2013), CACFish recognized a need for external funding to support to RWP (CACFish:III/2014/Inf.4) while stressing the significance of the full activation of RWP. The Commission also recognized the support of Fishdev Central Asia in transitioning the RWP into an effective operational practice. It is expected that RWP would be more functional in a time when CACFish has more autonomous budget and more Members.

12. Lack of enough funds would reduce the impact and effectiveness of RWP. Therefore, a key challenge for CACFish remains to allocate sufficient fund to RWP using its own funds. Opportunities however exist to have donor funds and/or new external FAO regional projects and programmes which collectively contribute to success of RWP.

#### **PROGRESS DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD**

13. No any RWP activity has been carried out using CACFish own budget since its launch in 2011. The primary reason behind this is the lack of budget allocation for RWP. The Commission had established its first autonomous budget in 2012 and received first partial member contributions in 2013. In other words, there were virtually no RWP allocations in 2011, 2012 and 2013 within the CACFish budget. Annex I summarizes activity-based progress of RWP since its enforcement.

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION FOR THE COMMISSION**

14. The Commission is invited to note of the progress report and to provide, as appropriate, further guidance in implementation of RWP, taking into consideration at the same time the second CACFish Second Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2016-2020) based on the working document CACFish/IV/2015/4).

## ANNEX I: Progress status of CACFish 5-Year Work Programme (2011-2015)

## Component 1: Governance

Project and activity titles	Total budget required (US\$)	Budget sources and status	PROGRESS STATUS
1. Provision of technical advice on the modernization of laws and regulations governing fisheries and aquaculture			
1.1 Organization of a regional workshop on the improvement of legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture	30 000	FAO FishDev-Central Asia (20 000)	<i>Not started</i>
1.2 Development of modern legal frameworks and regulations for aquaculture development and management in Azerbaijan	72 000	FAO project TCP/AZE/3301 (component 2) "Review of the national capture fisheries and aquaculture legislation of Azerbaijan" started in January 2011.	<i>Completed</i> <i>Done under FAO project TCP/AZE/3301</i>
1.3 Provision of legal advice on fisheries and aquaculture legal framework in Kyrgyzstan	30 000	GCP/KYR/003/FIN Support to Fisheries and Aquaculture management in the Kyrgyz Republic, a national FAO project financially supported by the Government of Finland	<i>Not started</i>
1.4 Provision of legal advice at national level to other CACFish member countries	160 000	TBD project documents to be developed (40 000 per country x 4 countries)	<i>Not started</i>
1.2 Improvement of the fisheries and aquaculture data information and trend reporting in the region			
1.2.1 Organization of a Regional capacity building workshop on fishery and aquaculture statistics, information and trends: improving data collection analysis and dissemination	30 000	FishDev-Central Asia	<i>Completed</i> <i>The workshop was held in Antalya, Turkey on 12-14 April 2011 under FishDev-Central Asia. Workshop Recommendations were submitted to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inaugural Session of CACFish (2012),</i></li> <li>• <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Session of CACFish (2013);</i></li> <li>• <i>First Session of TAC(2012)</i></li> </ul>

1.2.2 Provision of advice on the establishment and improvement of fisheries and aquaculture data and information systems at national level in specific CACFish member countries	60 000	TBD project documents to be developed (20 000 per country x 3 countries)	<i>Not started</i>
1.2.3 Regional review of fisheries and aquaculture in the Central Asian and Caucasus region	25 000	CACFish autonomous budget Cost estimated at 5 000 annually	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>Review of fisheries and aquaculture has been done for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.</i> <i>All reviews published as FAO Circulars</i> <i>Financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia and Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC</i> <i>Initiation of the Review of Turkmenistan Fisheries and Aquaculture waits for the support of the country</i>
1.3 Policies and strategies for sustainable regional development of fisheries and aquaculture			
1.3.1 Organization of a regional capacity building workshop on good practices for fishery and aquaculture policy and strategy development	30 000 (20 000)	FAO FishDev Central Asia	<b><i>Completed</i></b> <i>A Regional workshop on better management practices in aquaculture organized under FishDev-Central Asia</i> <i>Several validation workshops were organized on national fisheries/aquaculture policy</i> <i>Financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia and Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC</i>
1.3.2 Provision of advice on the formulation of aquaculture policies and strategies at national level in specific CACFish member countries	160 000 (40 000 secured)	TBD project documents to be developed (estimated at 40 000 per country x 4 countries) In Azerbaijan a workshop was held in July 2011 to develop the national policy for aquaculture with support from FishDev Central Asia.	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>Technical Assistance provided to Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for national policy/strategy development/update</i> <i>Financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia, Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC and TCP</i>
1.3.3 Preparation of a Strategy for responsible fish introductions and translocations in aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus	35 000 (secured)	FAO Regular Programme	<b><i>Completed</i></b> <i>A technical document on fish introductions and translocations in aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus was prepared and submitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Session of TAC (2012)</i> <i>Financially supported by the Regular Fisheries</i>

			<i>Programme of SEC Recommendations were submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of CACFish</i>
1.3.4 Regional guidelines on monitoring fish health and preparedness and response to aquatic animal health emergencies	40 000	TBD	<b>Completed</b> <i>2 regional workshops were conducted (one in 2012 and one in 2014) on aquatic fish health and diagnostic techniques for fish diseases. A regional strategy framework was prepared and submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of TAC</i>

**Component 2: Aquaculture**

<i>Project and activity titles</i>	<i>Total budget required (US\$)</i>	<i>Budget sources and status</i>	<i>PROGRESS STATUS</i>
2. Support to the sustainable development of aquaculture in the region			
2.1 Provision of technical advice and collaboration on high quality fish feed production in the region	100 000 (50 000 secured)	FAO TCP/RER/3205 “Advice to Central Asian Governments on the feasibility of commercial fish & livestock feed production” (in 2011)	<b>Completed</b> <i>Several practical workshop were conducted under FishDev-Central Asia</i>
2.2 Preparation of a guidance document on introductions and transfers of fish in Central Asia and the Caucasus (in Russian and English language).	10 000 (secured)	FAO Regular Programme (a Regional study on fish introductions in Central Asia and the Caucasus has started in 2010)	<b>Completed</b> <i>A technical document on fish introductions and translocations in aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus was prepared and submitted to First Session of TAC (2012)</i> <i>Financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia and the Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC</i> <i>Recommendations were submitted to the Second Session of CACFish</i>
2.3 Development of Better Management Practices (BMP) for aquaculture in the region	100 000 (40 000 secured)	FAO FishDev Central Asia supported the expert workshop in February 2011. The draft BMPs were presented and reviewed at the 4 <sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting. Needs for funding of other BMPs TBD	<b>Completed</b> <i>BMP documents Prepared and published under the series of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper</i>

2.4 Provision of technical advice on stocking, restocking and culture based fisheries	40 000 (secured)	FAO Regular Programme ( The outcomes of a “Regional study on the feasibility of restocking and development of culture-based fisheries in Central Asia” were presented, discussed and endorsed by the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting)	<b>Completed</b> <i>Issues of stocking, restocking were covered by a technical document which was prepared and submitted to First Session of TAC (2012)</i> <i>Issues of culture-based fisheries were technically discussed at the Regional Workshop on Enhanced Inland Fisheries and Conservation which was organized in Antalya, Turkey on 29 October - 1 November 2013.</i> <i>The works were financially supported by Regular Fisheries Programme SEC and FishDev-Central Asia</i> <i>Respective TAC recommendations were submitted to the 2nd Session of CACFish (2013)</i>
2.5 Provision of technical advice on broodstock development of carp and trout species	100 000	TBD	<b>Completed</b> <i>An Expert Meeting on Fish Breeding and Broodstock Management was conducted in Istanbul, Turkey; on 10-12 December 2013 under the 2013 Work Programme of TAC</i> <i>Recommendations of Meeting were submitted to the 2nd Session of TAC</i>
2.6 Provision of technical advice on sturgeon hatchery management	100 000 (Secured)	Technical Guidelines and a Manual in Russian, English and Turkish were developed with support from FAO TCP/TUR/3202 and FAO TCP/INT/3101.	<b>Completed</b> <i>Guidelines were prepared and published in 2013 both in English and Russian under FAO’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper publication series</i> <i>The publications were re-printed in 2014</i> <i>The work was financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia and Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC</i>
2.7 Provision of technical advice on specific aquaculture technologies and systems (e.g. cage culture, recirculation systems)	300 000	Documents to be developed	<b>In progress</b> <i>Several ad-hoc training workshops were conducted on aquaculture technologies and systems (e.g. cage culture, recirculation systems) under FishDev-Central Asia</i>
2.8 Development of Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) methods for aquaculture in	50 000	TBD project documents to be developed	<b>Completed</b> <i>A technical document on Environmental Impact</i>

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Central Asia			<p><i>Assessment was prepared and submitted to First Session of TAC (2012)</i></p> <p><i>Recommendations were submitted to the Second Session of CACFish</i></p> <p><i>A FAO publication titled “Guidelines on the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure in Aquaculture in the Central Asia and Caucasus Region was published in 2013.</i></p> <p><i>The work was financially supported by FishDev-Central Asia and Regular Fisheries Programme of SEC</i></p>
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## Component 3: Inland fisheries and conservation

<i>Project and activity titles</i>	<i>Total budget required (US\$)</i>	<i>Budget sources and status</i>	<i>PROGRESS STATUS</i>
3. Support to inland fisheries management and conservation objectives			
3.1 Provision of technical advice on fish population genetics	100 000	TBD project document to be developed	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>Fish genetics issues were partially covered by the following activities:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A technical document on fish introductions and translocations in aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus, referred to in the item 2.2 above</i></li> <li>• <i>Regional Workshop on Enhanced Inland Fisheries and Conservation, referred to in the item 2.4 above</i></li> <li>• <i>Expert Meeting on Fish Breeding and Broodstock Management, referred to in the item 2.5 above</i></li> </ul>
3.2 Provision of technical advice on the construction of fish passages for dams on fish migration routes	15 000	FAO Regular Programme (mainly translation of existing documents into Russian language)	<b><i>Not started</i></b>
3.3 Development of regional best-practice approaches for rehabilitation of water bodies (including spawning and nursery habitats in rivers and lakes)	50 000	<i>TBD project document to be developed</i>	<b><i>Not started</i></b>
3.4 Provision of technical advice on the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in inland fisheries	50 000	TBD (a regional training workshop would cost about 30 000, while consultancies and translation of documents will cost another 10 000 each)  FAO FishDev Central Asia may share the costs.	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>A regional workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in inland fisheries was organized in 2012 under FishDev-Central Asia</i> <i>MCS- Recommendations are planned to be submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of TAC (2015)</i> <i>Preparations will be made in 2014</i>

**Component 4: Post harvest activities**

<i>Project and activity titles</i>	<i>Total budget required (US\$)</i>	<i>Budget sources and status</i>	<i>PROGRESS STATUS</i>
4. Fish and fisheries products post harvest quality and safety improvement			
4.1 Provision of technical advice on fish marketing and fish processing	150 000	TBD GCP/KYR/003/FIN project is being conducted in Kyrgyzstan by Government of Finland financed project GCP/KYR/003/FIN Support to Fisheries and Aquaculture management in the Kyrgyz Republic	<i>In progress</i> A fish marketing and consumption study conducted in Kyrgyzstan by the project GCP/KYR/003/FIN
4.2 Preparation of guidance documents on fish quality and food safety measures (in Russian and English language).	60 000	TBD project document to be developed	<i>Not started</i>
4.3 Assess the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security in Central Asia and the Caucasus	20 000	TBD Study prospectus to be developed and donor to be found	<i>Not started</i>

## Component 5: Research &amp; capacity development

<i>Project and activity titles</i>	<i>Total budget required (US\$)</i>	<i>Budget sources and status</i>	<i>PROGRESS STATUS</i>
5. Support to research, technology development, training and education in fisheries and aquaculture			
5.1 Development of a regional collaborative programme of high quality fisheries and aquaculture education at BSc and MSc level	1 000 000	TBD project document to be developed  Donors and interested partners should indicate their interest in this activity	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>Preparation of a Regional Education and Training Programme is underway</i>
5.2 Development of a regional training programme in fisheries and aquaculture (consisting of short and practical courses on a range of subjects)	500 000 (300 000 secured)	FAO FishDev Central Asia (100 000 confirmed for various technical training courses in the region) Third Country Training Programme (JICA, TICA, MARA) continues to carry out trainings (200 000 confirmed for 2011). FishDev Central Asia provides some training in specific subjects as well.	<b><i>In progress</i></b> <i>Preparation of a Regional Education and Training Programme is underway</i>
5.3 Development of a regional programme or network of institutions to exchange research experiences and technology developments	250 000	Annual workshops of fisheries and aquaculture researchers would cost approximately 50 000 per year TBD project document to be developed	<b><i>Not started</i></b>
5.4 Preparation of high quality training and education materials on various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture	200 000 (20 000 secured)	FAO FishDev Central Asia (20 000 confirmed for various training manuals in Russian language)  National institutions should inform the Commission about preparation of training materials –to avoid duplication of effort and disseminate information more widely	<b><i>Not started</i></b>