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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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y la
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WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERY COMMISSION (WECAFC)

SIXTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, 3 November 2013

First draft WECAFC work programme for the period 2014-2015

1. Introduction

1. The background paper on “Intersessional activities – review of the WECAFC Work Programme 2012-2013” (WECAFC/SAG/VI/2013/5) showed progress made in the last intersessional period. The document showed that over 80 percent of the approved Programme of Work 2012-2013 was actually implemented, although sometimes to a lesser extent than originally planned for. Overall, the last Programme of Work seems to have been realistic and achievable. The main contributions to the implementation of the Commission’s Programme of Work were received from FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and FAO’s regular programme. Joint activities with CFMC, NOAA, CRFM, TBF, GCFI, IGFA, IFREMER, EU and the World Bank further contributed to the implementation of a range activities of the joint Working Groups.

2. Compared to most of the previous inter-sessional periods it appears that the Working Groups have done a tremendous job this period. Major achievements have been reached and substantial progress has been made. However, the large dependence on the Secretariat in terms of supporting the initiation and implementation of the activities is a remaining weakness. As has been noted many times before, the current reliance on the Secretariat (provided free-of-charge by FAO) should be reduced in favour of increased member state commitment to the Commission’ work programme and its objectives.

3. FAO although formally requested by the members at the 14th session, has not managed to carry out a full re-orientation and strategic planning process of the Commission. Funding was not available to do so. Instead FAO supported a performance review process, following the decision by COFI (30th session) in 2012 that all RFBs should undergo a performance evaluation process. The preliminary results of the WECAFC performance review are presented in WECAFC/SAG/VI/2013/7: Draft findings of the WECAFC performance review, re-orientation and strategic planning process.

2. Background

The background to WECAFC Programme of Work has remained largely unchanged from what was reported to the 5th SAG and 14th session of WECAFC. Therefore this part has been moved to Annex A.

3. Work programme preparation

In an ideal situation, the work programme of WECAFC would be prepared based on the priorities set by the members, with inputs from each of the member countries, developed in a participatory manner and taking in consideration all the past, ongoing and planned activities of partners and other stakeholders in the region. The work programme would address sectoral priorities as expressed in the CCCFP, CPFs, FAO Regional Conference and other important policy and strategy documents. Moreover, the planning and implementation process would be aligned, and budget would be made available for the priorities identified.

The WECAFC Secretary would prefer to develop with the members a medium term plan for a period of five years (2014 -2018), to be discussed and agreed at the 15th session of the Commission. The medium term work plan should contain clear and comprehensive activities and outputs, key performance indicators, timeframe, partners involved, budget required and budget secured.

The currently proposed draft work programme 2014 -2015 is largely informed by the work programme 2012-2013 as approved by the 14th session of WECAFC in February 2012. It takes in consideration the objective, principles and functions of the Commission as well as the activities undertaken currently by FAO/WECAFC and partners (e.g. CRFM, CERMES, CLME, CFMC, OSPESCA, IFREMER, ACPFishII, etc) in the region and the inter-sessional activities (see WECAFC/SAG/VI/2013/5). Moreover, it contains information on the estimated funding and staff time available at FAO (within the Subregional Office for the Caribbean and at FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Department at Headquarters) for the WECAFC work.

The activities and projects of the proposed work programme for 2014-2015 can be found in detail in Annex B.

This work programme is the second work programme “new style” of WECAFC. The work programme adheres to the amended “Rules of Procedure of the Commission” as prepared for and endorsed by the 14th session of WECAFC.

Guiding Principles

The work programme shall have the following guiding principles:

- 1) The members of the Commission shall have ownership of and responsibility for the work programme.
- 2) The WECAFC work programme shall first and foremost reflect the common interests and priorities of all members to the Commission. Implementation arrangements will however strive to address unique problems of individual members as well as problems shared by a subset of the Commission’s membership, such as the CARICOM and OECS countries.

- 3) The work programme shall be implemented [as much as possible] through technical cooperation in line with the principle of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Technical Cooperation among Countries in Transition (TCCT) advocated by FAO.

In line with the objectives of the Commission, which are “to promote the effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources of the area of competence of the Commission, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by members of the Commission”, AND addressing the recent developments in the region AND taking in consideration the latest Work programme of WECAFC, this work programme has been developed in conformity with the GENERAL PRINCIPLES of the Commission, which include the following.

- a) The Commission shall have due regard for and promote the application of the provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments, including the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
- b) The Commission shall ensure adequate attention to small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries.
- c) The Commission shall coordinate and cooperate closely with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest.

Recognizing that the Commission and its work programme would benefit from the development of a vision, mission statement, goal and purpose, and institutional outcomes foreseen, the participatory preparation of was supposed to take place in 2013 but this has been delayed to 2014 at a WECAFC priority setting and work planning workshop.

For the current work programme 2014 -2015 there are various considerations that apply:

- i. It shall be implemented by the Commission, which will operate it as a programme for exchanging, producing and disseminating special information and advice; linking policy-makers, managers, scientists and private sector fish producers, working in marine fisheries and/or aquaculture with the aim to achieve the objectives of the Commission;
- ii. The core resources (manpower, core funding and institutional participation) to operate the 2014 -2015 work programme will be provided by the members of the Commission;
- iii. The work programme shall consist of activities and projects that are implemented with the assistance of FAO and other donors and partners.
- iv. The 2014 -2015 work programme will form, together with the WECAFC Priority setting and work planning workshop (2014) the basis for the development of a “rolling programme” of five – years which will start in 2015.
- v. The development and implementation of specific projects and activities under the work programme shall be undertaken by the members with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Commission.
- vi. The implementation of the programme and the activities under it shall be coordinated by the Secretariat and monitored and evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) of the Commission.

This work programme was prepared by the FAO Secretariat to the Commission, in close cooperation with the Bureau. Future work programmes and amendments to this work programme will be prepared by the SAG with assistance from the FAO Secretariat.

The work programme has two major parts: (i) technical part and (ii) programme coordination and management part. The technical part consists of three components of the work programme, which follow the General Principles of the Commission, namely: 1) promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments; 2) support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries; and 3) coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest.

4. Draft WECAFC Work Programme for the period 2014-1015

(i) This technical part describes the goal, purpose, activities and interlinked projects, of the three technical components of the work programme.

1) Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.

Goal: Improved regional governance of the marine fishery and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC.

Purpose: Strengthened policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote and support fisheries and aquaculture in line with the CCRF and related international instruments in the WECAFC region.

2) Support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture.

Goal: Increased capacity of fisherfolk and aquaculturists to apply modern production technologies, better management practices and produce high quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption.

Purpose: Responsible development and management of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

3) Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest

Goal: Increased inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.

Purpose: Strengthened research, technology development, management and capacity building frameworks and networks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

(ii) programme coordination and management part.

This part of the work programme describes the responsibilities of the entities involved in the drafting, implementation and monitoring of the work programme, as well as coordination, management and funding arrangements. The specific goals, purpose,

activities and interlinked projects related to programme management are combined into one work programme component.

This part is prepared in line with the discussions in the past sessions and Working Group sessions on strengthening of the functioning of WECAFC. It responds to concerns raised in the analysis of WECAFC as presented in FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular 1050, "Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. Historical overview, impacts and main lessons learned". Moreover, it follows the draft amended Rules of Procedure, produced with legal advice from FAO Headquarters, which were approved by the 14th Session of the Commission in February 2012.

The strategic re-orientation is also necessary in view of Commission suggestions that WECAFC could assist in coordinating regional harmonization of (fisheries) regulations.¹ This is an area which still needs considerable attention. Moreover, additional challenges for the management of shared fish stocks in the region are the large geographical area, the number of unresolved maritime boundaries among WECAFC Members and the lack of information, particularly in relation to high seas fishing in the eastern region of the WECAFC Area. Research on high seas fisheries is urgently required, which is partly addressed under component 1. On the other hand, fisheries and fishery resources across the region that most urgently need improved management still include the inshore reef fish resources, sharks, Caribbean spiny lobster and queen conch, while urgent pre-emptive management to optimize sustainable benefits is required for coastal large pelagics and seabob as well as high seas fisheries resources.

The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which was endorsed in 2013 by most WECAFC members, assigns important coordination, advisory and management roles to WECAFC, in terms of regional fisheries governance. Moreover, SAP assigned WECAFC with lead and coordinating roles for the regional level management of spiny lobster, queen conch, large pelagics and shrimp and groundfish fisheries.

The fourth component of the work programme is an internal management component.

4) Manage the work programme and carry-out a strategic reorientation of the functions and mandate of the Commission

Goal: Improved functioning of WECAFC in terms of addressing its mandate and promises to its members, through professional daily management of the work programme and strategic reorientation to fill gaps in regional fisheries management and strengthen the role of the Commission in the area under its mandate.

Purpose: Increased management capacity of the Commission to address pertinent needs of its members and specific gaps in regional fisheries management in a competent and effective manner.

4.1 Responsibilities

In terms of responsibilities for the implementation of the 2014 -2015 Work Programme the following entities are essential.

Commission. The Commission as the supreme policy and decision making organ shall approve the work programme at the Fifteenth Session in March 2014. It shall also

¹ Otherwise, the session focused mainly on the state of fishery resources and the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in the WECAFC region; climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture; FAO fishery statistics programme and WECAFC; and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) issues with respect to fish trade and CITES/FAO Memorandum of Understanding.

decide on the preparatory process for the future work programmes, including the date and place of the WECAFC priority setting and work planning workshop to be held in 2014. The Commission shall oversee the implementation and evaluation of activities and projects under the work programme. It shall promote the uptake of positive and relevant lessons and results from the work programme in policies and development programmes at the regional, national and sectoral levels.

Secretariat. The Secretariat will assist the SAG in formulating, monitoring, evaluating and following-up the work programme. Its main responsibility is to coordinate and manage the implementation of the programme. The Secretariat will be lead by the

Secretary of the Commission. The Terms of Reference of the Secretary can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

SAG. The Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) would formulate the work programme with the assistance of the Secretariat and provide the technical advice and inputs to assist the Commission in monitoring and evaluating the work programme. The SAG may propose the establishment (and abolition) of subsidiary bodies on specific technical issues; these subsidiary bodies deal with specific technical subjects, projects or activities. The exact Terms of Reference (TORs) of the SAG can be found in the amended Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

Bureau. The functions of the Bureau is to implement the decisions of the Commission between its sessions, carry out such other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission and to:

- a) propose a strategy and work plan with the assistance of the Secretariat for review and consideration by the Commission, and monitor its implementation;
- b) prepare estimates of expenses for the next succeeding two years for presentation to the Commission for submission to the Organization;
- c) ensure that policies and decisions of the Commission are operationalized; and
- d) coordinate and monitor the work of the Scientific Advisory Group and the Working Groups and any other subsidiary body of the Commission.

National Focal Points. The national focal points have important tasks in the implementation of the activities under the work programme. They advise the Commission about appropriate scientific and other research programmes, including possible annual revisions, within the limits of the available project budget. Moreover, they review and discuss the annual work plans offering proposals for and planning of scientific, training and other courses and seminars in the context of the Commission work programme and activities. The Terms of Reference of the National Focal Points can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

4.2 Coordination and management aspects

4.2.1. Planning, coordination and management

The planning, coordination and direction of the work programme are core functions that are the responsibility of the Secretariat and Bureau, which will work closely together with the SAG and with the National Focal Points.

4.2.2. National level implementation arrangements

National level implementation of the activities and projects will be a major responsibility of the National Focal Points and their respective organizations designated by the member governments. They will provide national level coordination of the work programme (i.e. the activities and projects under the work programme) and, as needed, the manpower and material resources for such coordination function. It is anticipated that a national coordinator should be designated for each project.

4.2.3. (Sub)Regional and national centres

A proven structure for a regional cooperative arrangement is one that comprises a few (two or three) (sub)regional centres that have responsibilities for certain species and production systems; national centres that will adapt for national application the results of the work from the (sub)regional centres. These (sub)regional centres conduct research, training and information dissemination at the regional level as well as in the countries where they are located, while the national centres perform the adaptation work and extension activities to promote the technology at the national level. The national centres will be selected by the National Focal Points, while (sub-) regional centers will be determined by the Commission or its SAG. All centres as well as the national focal points and their respective organizations are engaged in information exchange.

4.2.4. Personnel for work programme development, management and implementation

The technical expertise to develop, organize and implement the programme, as well as to provide specialist advice and inputs to the component activities, will come from a number of sources, and a combination of schemes.

Secretariat staff

The basic technical expertise for project development and a coordination mechanism will be provided by the Secretariat personnel.

The secretariat of the Commission will consist for the period 2014-15 of one Secretary (part-time - FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Officer serving the Caribbean region – as in-kind contribution by FAO) and a full-time bi-lingual secretarial staff/administrative staff. The position of the bi/tri-lingual secretarial staff will be partly supported by the FAO SLC Regular Programme and partly by national and regional level projects.

National staff supported by the members of the Commission could be seconded to the Secretariat at any time for specific technical tasks and or general secretariat support tasks. A member or collaborating national centre or agency can assign, for a short period, staff to work at the Secretariat on certain aspects of a project being jointly implemented by the agency and the regional body. The honorarium and expenses made by these national staff will be covered by the member of the commission seconding these staff.

Through special linkages with Universities and other institutions, MSc students, post-graduate students and/or volunteers, having the required expertise, may also be accommodated within the Secretariat. No honorarium will be paid to students and volunteers, but expenses made in relation to the work for a project or for the secretariat will be paid by the respective project or the FAO SLC Regular budget. In the 2012 -2013

biennium two Dutch student volunteers have worked at the Secretariat. The Secretariat welcomes offers for volunteers from any of the WECAFC member states.

SAG

Members will, through SAG, support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the projects and activities under the work programme. The exact Terms of Reference (TORs) of the SAG can be found in the amended Rules of Procedure of the Commission. FAO's WECAFC budget covers the participation of 5 SAG members in SAG activities.

The expenses made in relation to the attendance of others in SAG meetings will be covered by the Members of the Commission themselves. The costs involved in participation of SAG members in projects, technical meetings and activities will be covered by either the project budget or the respective member of the commission.

Staff of (sub)regional and national centres

The staff of centers will provide specialist technical inputs in formulating and implementing at the regional and national levels projects and activities under the work programme. Experts of the centres can take part in disciplinary or multidisciplinary or systems oriented research, training and information development activities.

Project staff

These are specialists hired on a project basis either in the field or assigned to the Secretariat. They possess specialist skills and experience needed to formulate and/or execute specific projects. The specialists can be hired (depending on their skills, qualifications and project budget) under the FAO partnership programmes such as TCDC (Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries) and TCCT (Technical cooperation between Countries in Transition) or as national consultants. Remuneration of the project staff is incorporated in the project budget and is paid from the proceeds received from implementation of a project.

Junior technical staff

Junior technical staff can be assigned to the WECAF Commission and will be fully supported by collaborating agencies/governments to work either at the Secretariat or in specific projects that may be located elsewhere. Their services are for a short period, and meant to supplement available secretariat or project expertise. Their participation in the work programme is meant to also improve their own technical expertise for the benefit of their sponsor institutions or themselves.

Subsidiary bodies

Apart from the SAG, other subsidiary bodies can be established on request of the Commission. These subsidiary bodies can have different forms and titles. Subsidiary bodies can be in the form the ad-hoc Working Groups sub-Commissions or Committees. These subsidiary bodies will comprise experts organized for a specific task, activity or project under the Work Programme. They are groups of technical experts on the various disciplines required to execute the task or project. The subsidiary bodies will (in general) be staffed by experts from focal organizations, centres and collaborating agencies. A Subsidiary body can be formed to tackle a certain special activity that requires multidisciplinary expertise such as development of policy guidelines, development of best management practices, development of training materials and

courses, etc. Subsidiary bodies will respond to specific requests from the SAG and function in support of the work programme implementation.

Presently there are 7 Working Groups of which most are active and one Sub-Committee. The latter is the Sub-Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles, which has been dormant since 1995.

4.3 Funding and related arrangements

Article VI Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) under the FAO Constitution, receive as in-kind contribution from FAO a part-time secretary. Moreover, FAO's regular programme budget finances the organization of regular sessions of the Commission. Nevertheless, FAO regular Programme funding is not supposed to be used to finance travel and accommodation of delegates of members to the sessions of the Commission. The regular programme budget available at FAO in support of the WECAF Commission has been rather stable for the past five-six years, at around USD 120 000 per biennium.

For the 2014 – 2015 biennium the following budget, which we will call the administrative budget, is indicated in below table:

Administrative Budget	2014 in US\$	2015 in US\$	Comments
Professional staff			
None	0	0	Part-time secretary provided by FAO;
Administrative support			
Bi/tri-lingual secretary/administrative support to Secretariat (12 months annually)	12000	12000	50% of salary covered by SLC Regular Programme – remaining to come from projects
Activities (General operational)			
Equipment purchase for secretariat	0	0	computer, printer, furniture, etc
Duty travel of secretariat	5000	5000	Technical, administrative and legal assistance
Travel and accommodation of delegates to Commission meetings	15000		Exceptional support to facilitate attendance by members in need in view of revival of the Commission (since 2008)
Preparation and publication of 15 th session meeting report	15000		Translation, lay-out, publication and dissemination
Organization costs of 15 th session of the Commission meetings and SAG meetings	15000	10000	These funds will support the hosts of these meetings in the organization
Interpretation services in support of 15 th session of the Commission	8000		15000
Training of Secretariat	0	0	
Activities (Technical)			

Support to work programme implementation	10000	13000	in support of work on priorities of the Commission
Consultancies for work programme implementation	0	0	in support of work on priorities of the Commission (only possible under projects)
Total Administrative budget	80000	40000	

The indicative administrative budget is presented in detail for 2 years (2014 and 2015). It covers planning, administration, coordination and management costs of the Commission. It should be noted however that a large part of the preparatory work (e.g. drafting of background papers and other research and translation of background documentation for the 15th session of the Commission) has been carried out under the 2012- 2013 SLC Regular Programme Budget. If these costs would have been added to the preparation costs of the 15th session, it would have become clear that the organization of one regular session meeting carries a budget of approximately 80 000 USD.

Moreover, the FAO Regular Programme provides for (in-kind) contribution to the Secretariat in terms of 50% of the SLC Fishery and Aquaculture Officer (P4 level) staff time, which should be valued at 50 000 USD per year and the office, furniture and administrative support infrastructure, which can be valued at 10 -20 000 USD per year. FAO Headquarters technical assistance to the Commission can be valued at an average of 40 000 USD per year, although some fluctuation could be noticed in the support provided in recent years. In total, the FAO contribution to the WECAF Commission can be valued between 160 and 170 000 USD per year.

It is clear that the above FAO Contributions are insufficient to carry forward a proper WECAFC work programme in the region. Financial resources in support of the Commission and its work, shall therefore not only come from FAO. The members of the Commission are required to assist in kind and through funding of the activities and projects under its work programme. Donations and other forms of assistance received from non-member countries, organizations, individuals and other sources are also welcomed.

The Secretariat will assist the Commission and the individual members and observers in the development of partnerships with donors to adopt more cohesive approaches and procedures to support the work programme of the commission; a work programme that addresses the most urgent needs of the members.

The administrative and operational activities of the Commission will require supported from the FAO Regular Programme and donors. FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) support is not accessible for the work of the Commission, but individual members may request assistance in fisheries and aquaculture and link it with ongoing WECAFC activities.

Other contributions	2014 in US\$	2015 in US\$	Total for 2 years in US\$	Observation
Contribution by FAO				
Executive secretary (P4) –part time (50%)	50000	50000	100000	In-kind
Secretariat/administrative support from SLC	15000	15000	30000	In-kind

FAO Headquarters technical support and advisory services	40000	40000	80000	In-kind
Contribution by Donors				
Donor contributions required in support of Commission work programme	50000	50000	100000	Members requested to support the work programme
Through the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)				Largely depending on requests received and funding available within FAO -estimated
Total extra-budgetary support to administrative and operational activities of the Commission				

(this table will be completed when matrices in Annex B are completed)

4.3.1. Implementation of the technical work programme

The technical work programme will largely rely on extra-budgetary funding of projects and activities. In the budget table below the budget requirements as well as the extra-budgetary resources already made available (by donors) are shown on a project base. It is clear that a large part of the projects and activities under these projects remain unfunded for moment.

Recognizing that extra-budgetary assistance from member countries and other donors will be required, it should be noted that [wherever appropriate and applicable] activities will be implemented through technical cooperation in line with the objectives of cost-effectiveness and regional self-reliance in programme implementation.

The technical components of the work programme will be funded by FAO and extra-budgetary resources (budget expressed in US\$).

Technical components and projects	Budget required	Budget secured	Donor contribution	Gap in funding
	2014 2015	-	(of secured funding)	
Component 1:				
Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.				
Component 2:				
Support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture.				
Component 3:				
Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest				

Component 4:				
Manage the work programme and carry-out a strategic reorientation of the functions and mandate of the Commission				
Total budget				

(this table will be completed when matrices in Annex B are completed)

4.3.2 Linkages with other regional organizations.

Some of the experiences, lessons, technology, information as well as expertise of other regional and international organizations and programmes (such as CFMC, OSPESCA, CRFM, OECS, CLME, ACPFishII, NOAA, NAFO, ICCAT, ICES, and others) will likely prove valuable for the Commission and the implementation of its work programme, like was the case in the 2012 -2013 biennium. Linkages and collaboration with these organizations and programmes will be sought where possible. An information exchange mechanism, in line with the relevant activity, will be established and strengthened by the Secretariat to facilitate these linkages and collaboration. The joint working Groups established at the 14th session are examples of well-functional partnerships in support of the work of WECAFC.

4.3.3 Participation in international events and forums.

In order to support the interests of the members of the Commission in global forums, such as the FAO Committee on Fisheries and its subcommittees on Aquaculture and Trade, the Secretariat will advise the National Focal Points of such events and facilitate participation of members in these events, where possible. Development of joint statements by the members for use in these global forums will be assisted by the Secretariat (when required).

5. Suggested Action by the SAG

The SAG is invited to discuss and review the proposed draft work programme for the period 2014 -2015.

Particularly, the SAG is requested to:

- 1) Advise on the activities and projects foreseen in the draft work programme, the potential funding sources and partners to involve.
- 2) Add/remove specific scientific/research activities to be taken up by the Commission in the next biennium (2014-2015).
- 3) Discuss and offer technical guidance on one or more issues, in order that individual SAG members and observers to the 6th SAG meeting take a leading role in further development and implementation of activities and projects foreseen.

ANNEX A - Background

It is recognized that in the last decade most of the WECAFC activities were carried out with the financial support of the FAO Regular Programme Budget and extra-budgetary projects (see WECAFC/SAG/VI/2013/5). Additional support was mainly forthcoming from the United States (through the Department of State and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council), and France, through IFREMER.

WECAFC and partners

In view of this historical situation and at the same time acknowledging the ongoing trends in inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Caribbean region, it is foreseen that WECAFC will contribute to projects and activities of partners in the region (e.g. CRFM, CFMC, OSPESCA, OECS, ACS, CERMES, IFREMER, CLME, NOAA, UNEP, UNDP, ACPFishII, etc) and vice-versa.

By doing so, it is understood that each agency, institution and project, has its own work programme or strategic plan, and that collaboration with the other partners is sought for activities that appear in the programme or plan of two or more agencies, institutions and projects. In this way, certain activities will be generally led by one stakeholder (partner) and the other partners will team-up. Duplication of efforts and overlap of activities, causing wasting of limited resources, will be avoided by good communication between the secretariats and managers active in fisheries and related sectors in the region. They will meet frequently in different fora, meetings and workshops to exchange information and further collaboration.

WECAFC is aware that its strengths include, amongst others, its membership range and coverage, its mandate, the technical back-up and sustainable (although limited) funding by FAO, its political convening power, and its capability to provide a valuable linkage between science and management. It is therefore important that WECAFC capitalizes on its specific strengths and collaborates with proper partners in the areas where the Commission is weaker and allowing those partners to take a technical lead in these areas. The Commission can do so through joint projects, technical support and information exchange, including facilitating the flows of information from FAO at global level to the region and vice-versa.

FAO and regional governance issues

Being a Commission, established under the FAO Constitution, for which FAO provides the Secretariat, it is required from the Commission to report to FAO on a technical level to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), consisting of FAO members. In addition, the Commission is expected to report to the FAO Regional Conference.

The 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in May 2014 in Santiago, Chile, and will determine FAO's regional priorities for the biennium 2014 -2015. The Regional Conference will provide an opportunity to bring the work of WECAFC to the attention of agriculture and fisheries ministers of the region and pass to them the conclusions and recommendations from the 15th session of WECAFC (Port of Spain, 24-28 March 2014), together with the outcome of the Thirteenth Session of the Commission of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC), and the priorities received from the members of the Network of Aquaculture of the Americas (RAA).

The Regional Conference provides, as such, the possibility to raise the profile and importance of fisheries within the region and increase funding options.

Currently the priority areas (in all sectors) set by the FAO Regional Conference for this region include the following:

- 1) Food and nutrition security
- 2) Plant, animal health (including transboundary diseases) and food safety
- 3) Climate change (mitigation and adaptation) and sustainability of agriculture and natural resources (including biodiversity)
- 4) Support to family farming and rural development
- 5) Enhanced institutional capacities, policy formulation and investment
- 6) Addressing Gender and youth issues

WECAFC has contributed mainly to priority areas 1, 3 and 5 in this inter-sessional period.

As FAO has undergone a reform process in recent years, the priorities at global level have changed. Currently the 5 Strategic Objectives of FAO are the following:

1. *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.*
2. *Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.*
3. *Reduce rural poverty.*
4. *Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.*
5. *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.*

It is clear that the objective and work of WECAFC contributes most to FAO's strategic objective no.2; however, the activities of the commission will also directly or indirectly contribute to FAO's other Strategic Objectives. The extent of this contribution will largely depend on the Programme of Work determined by the members.

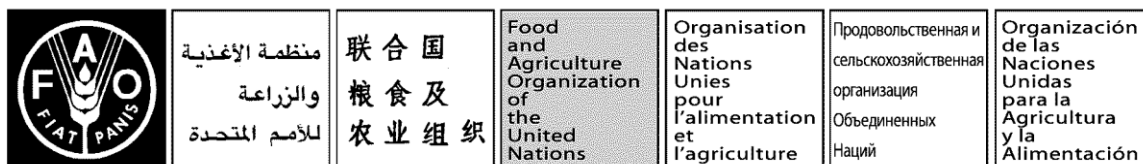
Moreover, the Country Programming Framework (CPF) process², in which FAO has engaged with the national Governments in the region, is an important priority setting mechanism for FAO (and indirectly also WECAFC). The CPF aims to strengthen the effectiveness, impact, and visibility of FAO assistance to Member countries through a strategic and coherent country programme, developed in close consultation with the Government and other national stakeholders, fully aligned with the national programming cycle and UN programming process, and pursuing the achievement of national development objectives and MDGs within the FAO Strategic Framework. The CPF represents FAO's corporate response to Member countries assistance needs, including disaster risk reduction and preparedness, recovery and rehabilitation and provides FAO partners (Government, national stakeholders, external development partners) with a comprehensive vision of the nature and scope of FAO's medium-term (from 4 to 5 years) assistance strategy in a country and an estimate of the resource requirements for its implementation.

Apart from the FAO governance aspects, there have been some major governance initiatives in fisheries at regional level in the WECAFC mandate area. For instance, the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP), which draft agreement was approved by the Fourth Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Ministerial

² More information on the CPFs can be found at:

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/TC/TCA/NMTPF/NMTPF%20guidelines/FactSheetAboutCPF.pdf>

Council (held in St. Johns, Antigua in May 2011) and the St. Lucia “Declaration on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing”, approved by the CRFM Ministerial Council meeting in July 2010, as well as the CRFM –OSPESCA Belize Declaration and Joint Action Plan in 2012. Through these initiatives the CARICOM countries have made an important effort towards transboundary regional collaboration in fisheries and aquaculture. WECAFC should recognize and internalize these initiatives to improve governance of the sector in the CARICOM countries, and similar initiatives in the Central American region.



ANNEX B Draft WECAFC Work Programme for the period 2014 -2015

Component 1: Promote the application of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.

Goal: Improved regional governance of the marine fishery and aquaculture sector for more effective conservation, management and development of the living marine resources in the area of competence of WECAFC.

Purpose: Strengthened policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote and support fisheries and aquaculture in line with the CCRF and related international instruments in the WECAFC region.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement foreseen	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
1.1 Dissemination of the latest information on the CCRF and related instruments and guidelines	Recommendations for improvement and harmonization of legal frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region	Emails and letters to members, making them aware of guidelines and instruments Response to FAO CCRF monitoring questionnaire	2014 -2015	no	5 000	FAO SLC (secured)	
1.2 Promotion of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA)	EAF and EAA incorporated in national policies and strategies of WECAFC members EAF based fisheries management and conservation plans	National policy and strategy documents Fisheries management plans	2014 -2015		400 000	CLME+ FAO TCP Member countries	CLME, OSPESCA, CRFM, UWI, CANARI

	developed						
1.3 Provision of fisheries legal and policy advice in line with the CCRF to WECAFC members	Recommendations for changes in the policies, strategies, laws and regulations	Mission reports of consultants National strategies, laws and regulations	2014 -2015	Not applicable; submission for information in 2015	300 000	FAO TCP GEF World bank Member countries	CRFM, OSPESCA, OECS
1.4 Development of NPOAs - Sharks	Two additional WECAFC members have developed and are implementing NPOAs –Sharks	Number of NPOA’s sharks developed by WECAFC members Implementation records	2014 -2015	Not applicable; submission for information in 2015	80 000	Japan USA PEW Member countries	
1.5 Facilitate the regional application of the 2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas	Recommendations from the “Regional Workshop: Towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks in the high seas of the Western Central Atlantic Ocean” Effective functioning of WECAFC WG on deep sea fisheries in the high seas	Report from the “Regional Workshop: Towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks in the high seas of the Western Central Atlantic Ocean” WECAFC resolution on deep sea fisheries in the high seas fisheries	2015	Yes, in 2016	200 000	USA UNDOALOS/FAO FishStocks TrustFund Member countries	UNEP
1.6 Support the national level application of the 2010 FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards by WECAFC members	GEF project: “Sustainable management of bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries (REBYC-II LAC)” realizes its objectives	Adoption of bycatch management by REBYC II LAC countries: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago Recommendations for the WECAFC membership	2014-2015	Yes, in 2016	5.8 million	GEF FAO Member countries	

1.7 Promote the ratification and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) among WECAFC members	Capacity built among at least 8 WECAFC members for implementation of the PSMA in the WECAFC region	Report and capacity building materials from a regional workshop to build capacity for implementation of the PSMA	2014	Yes, in 2016	60 000	FAO NOAA PEW	CRFM, OSPESCA
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Component 2: Support the development and management of responsible small-scale, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and aquaculture.

Goal: Increased capacity of fisherfolk and aquaculturists to apply modern production technologies, better management practices and produce high quality and safe fish and fishery products for human consumption.

Purpose: Responsible development and management of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement foreseen	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
2.1 Strengthen the capacity of the Caribbean Network of Fishers Organizations (CNFO), national and primary fisherfolk organizations	Competent fisherfolk representatives participating professionally in regional and national level fisheries management decision making processes	Attendance lists of capacity building activities Manuals and other capacity building materials prepared	2014 -2015	no	300 000	FAO TCP support foreseen	
2.2 Support the establishment of a regional shellfish hatchery for the Wider Caribbean	Investment/business plan study	Investment/business plan Grant/loan support from a development bank	2014 -2015	No, for information only	100 000	Caribbean Development Bank Member countries	
2.3 Support to the application of the International guidelines on small	Organization of the 2nd World Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Congress, Merida, Mexico, 21-25	Recommendations and other outcomes from the 2nd World Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Congress,	2014 -2015	Endorsement by the session	30 000	FAO TBTI	UWI/CERMES CRFM OSPESCA

scale fisheries	September 2014 supported and SSF guidelines disseminated Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food promoted in the region	Merida, Mexico, 21-25 September 2014. WECAFC members adopt the SSF and Tenure guidelines					CINESTAV
2.4 Establishment of aquaculture demonstration activities	Sustainable aquaculture practices by small-scale farmers in various WECAFC member countries	Adaptation of aquaculture practices following advice given Aquaponics and marine cage farming developed; various aquaculture manuals produced	2014-2015	No, for information only	1 million	FAO TCP/Trust fund and Telefood support Brazil PetroCaribe	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)
2.5 Development of regional aquaculture Better Management Practices (BMPs), guidelines and Codes	Regional guidelines for responsible introduction of species in aquaculture developed; BMPs for specific species developed and Codes of Practices developed and adopted by aquaculturists	Codes of Practice and BMPs adopted and disseminated.	2014-2015	Some BMPS and guidelines for endorsement by the 16 th session	50 000	TCP Brazil	Aquaculture Network of the Americas (RAA)
2.6 Review of fish supply chain performance and increased application of fish quality and safety measures	Capacity built on Codex Alimentarius, HACCP, ISO, Good Hygiene Practices and other fish quality and safety measures Recommendations and advice for improving fish quality and safety	Increased number of facilities authorized to export to the EU, USA and Japan	2014-2015	No, for information only	200 000	TCP/BAR/3301 (80 000) EU FAO Member countries	IICA, CRFM

Component 3: Coordinate and cooperate with other relevant international organizations on matters of common interest

Goal: Increased inter-agency/ inter-institutional and inter-project collaboration in the Caribbean region on fisheries, aquaculture and related issues, building on the comparative advantages of each, in support of responsible development and management of the sector.

Purpose: Strengthened research, technology development, management and capacity building frameworks and networks for fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement foreseen	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	
3.1 Strengthening disaster risk management capacity in the fisheries sector in the Caribbean	Implementation of the strategy, action plan and programme proposal on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region Approval and implementation of the GEF Special Climate Change (SCCF) project on “Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector”	Strategy and action plan approved by CARICOM PIF and PPG approved	2014 -2015	Yes, in 2015	5.6 million	FAO Member countries GEF	CRFM, TNC, CARIBSAVE, CDEMA, CCCCC, UWI/CERMES
3.2 Provision of technical and legal advice for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy	Clear and comprehensive draft protocols prepared	Draft protocols	2014-2015	No, for information only	80 000	CRFM FAO TCP facility resources Member countries	
3.3 Sustainable Brazil-Guianas	Re-establishment of the WECAFC Shrimp and GroundFish Working	WG TORs and meeting minutes	2014 -2015	No, for information only	150 000	CLME IDB	CRFM, UNEP

Shrimp and Groundfish fisheries	<p>Group</p> <p>Draft management and investment plan for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries developed</p> <p>Implementation of the CLME+ SAP strategy (No.6) to "Implement Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)/ Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) of the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf with special reference to the shrimp and groundfish fishery".</p>	Draft management plan				<p>FAO</p> <p>Member countries</p>	
3.4 Improved transboundary management of Caribbean Spiny Lobster	<p>Effective functioning of the WECAFC Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster, <i>Panulirus argus</i></p> <p>Resource assessment carried out and a draft regional management plan developed</p> <p>Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4A "Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystems approach for spiny lobster fisheries"</p>	<p>New Terms of Reference</p> <p>Reports of meetings</p> <p>Draft sub-regional management plan</p>	2014-2015	No, for information only	300 000	<p>FAO TCP</p> <p>NOAA</p> <p>CLME+</p>	<p>Joint WG with CRFM, OSPESCA, CFMC</p>
3.4 Improved transboundary management of the Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean	<p>Effective functioning of the CRFM/ WECAFC Working Group on Flyingfish of the Eastern Caribbean</p> <p>Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5A: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for flyingfish fisheries.</p>	<p>WG TORs and minutes of meetings</p> <p>Finalized and endorsed the Subregional Fisheries Management Plan for Flyingfish in the Eastern Caribbean</p>	2014-2015	Yes, for regional endorsement in 2015	20 000	<p>CRFM</p> <p>CLME</p> <p>FAO SLC regular budget</p>	<p>Joint WG with CRFM</p>

3.5 Increased knowledge of and experience with offshore FADs	Effective functioning of the IFREMER/WECAFC Working Group on Development of Sustainable Moored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Fishing in the Lesser Antilles	Continuation of demonstrations in various MAGDELESA project countries Findings and recommendations of the MAGDELESA Project Working group meeting reports	2014-2015	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	20 000	IFREMER/EU funded research Member countries	
3.6 Strengthened research and management capacity for Queen Conch in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on Queen Conch, Strombus gigas” Draft regional management plan for Queen Conch Agreement on conversion factors for processing Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-Strategy 4B	New TORs for the joint working group WG reports Update for CITES	2014 -2015	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	300 000	CFMC/NOAA FAO CLME Member countries	Joint WG with CFMC, OSPESCA and CRFM
3.7 Improved management and conservation of billfish fisheries in the Caribbean	Effective functioning of the WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC/OSPECA Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Draft regional management and conservation plan for billfish developed Implementation of CLME+ SAP Sub-strategy 5B: Enhance the governance arrangements for implementing an ecosystem approach for large pelagics fisheries	WG TORs and reports Approved GEF/ World Bank pilot project proposal on the “Introduction of billfish management and conservation in the Western Central Atlantic Region”; Consortium on Billfish Management and	2014-2015	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	2.3 million	GEF World Bank Conservation international Member countries FAO	TBF, IGFA, ICCAT, CRFM, CFMC, OSPESCA, GCFI, 7 th WRFC

	Increased awareness on the value of recreational fisheries; support to the 7 th World Recreational Fisheries Conference, Brazil, September 2014.	Conservation in the Western Central Atlantic (CBMC) established					
3.8 Improved management of reef fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Increased capacity among fisherfolk and fisheries managers to participate effectively in coastal/reef management and MPAs	Report of a regional capacity building workshop on fisheries and MPAs. Approval and implementation of Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago (GCP/TRI/004/GFF)	2014-2015	Yes, recommendations and advice will be passed to the Commission for endorsement	300 000	GEF Japan FAO Member countries	UNEP, CAMPAN, GCFI, CARIBSAVE, TNC, WWF
3.9 Participate and provide advice and information to activities of partner agencies	Increased sharing of information and communication between the WECAFC Secretariat and other fisheries, aquaculture and environment stakeholders active in the region and neighbouring regions	Minutes of meetings Reports of activities of partner organizations and projects	2014-2015	no	10 000	FAO SLC Regular budget	

Component 4: Manage the work programme and carry-out a strategic reorientation of the functions and mandate of the Commission

Goal: Improved functioning of WECAFC in terms of addressing its mandate and promises to its members, through professional daily management of the work programme and strategic reorientation to fill gaps in regional fisheries management and strengthen the role of the Commission in the area under its mandate.

Purpose: Increased management capacity of the Commission to address pertinent needs of its members and specific gaps in regional fisheries management in a competent and effective manner.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicator	Timeframe	Commission endorsement foreseen	Total budget required	Budget sources and status	Partners
4.1 Organize the	Recommendations and advice	Approved work	March	yes	80 000	FAO SLC Regular	Govt. of Trinidad and

fifteenth session of the Commission in 2014	to WECAFC members on fisheries management in the region	programme Report of the session	2014			budget	Tobago
4.2 Organize the SAG meeting in 2015	Technical and scientific advice for consideration by the 16 th session of the Commission	Report of the meeting	2015	Yes, in 2016	20 000	FAO SLC Regular budget	
4.3 Prepare for the organization of the sixteenth session of the Commission in 2016	Timely organized session which will discuss interesting subjects that meet the needs of the members of the Commission	Background papers prepared Host country confirmed	2014-2015	Yes, in 2016	80 000	FAO SLC Regular budget Member countries contribution	
4.4 WECAFC Performance Review	WECAFC performance review conducted among members and other relevant stakeholders following request from COFI.	Performance review report with clear findings and recommendations	First semester of 2014	Yes, in 2014	20 000	FAO Member countries	
4.5 Improved functioning and resource mobilization through strategic planning	Draft medium term plan for the period 2016 -2020	Draft strategic plan for the 16th session	2014	Yes, for Commission endorsement in 2016	30 000	FAO France Member countries	
4.6 Strategic re-orientation of WECAFC	Options paper prepared for the 15 th session	Resolution on the way forward at the 15 th session Agreement on reform of WECAFC	2014	Yes, in 2014	30 000	FAO Regular Programme	