

Minutes of the

JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEES

Novotel Hotel, Accra, Ghana, 24 March 2011



THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

FAO started the implementation of the project “Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries (EAF-Nansen GCP/INT/003/NOR)” in December 2006 with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The EAF-Nansen project is a follow-up to earlier projects/programmes in a partnership involving FAO, Norad and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Bergen, Norway on assessment and management of marine fishery resources in developing countries. The project works in partnership with governments and also Global Environment Facility (GEF)-supported Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects and other projects that have the potential to contribute to some components of the EAF-Nansen project.

The EAF-Nansen project offers an opportunity to coastal countries in sub-Saharan Africa, working in partnership with the project, to receive technical support from FAO for the development of national and regional frameworks for the implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management and to acquire additional knowledge on their marine ecosystems for their use in planning and monitoring. The project contributes to building the capacity of national fisheries management administrations in ecological risk assessment methods to identify critical management issues and in the preparation, operationalization and tracking the progress of implementation of fisheries management plans consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR AND
IMPLEMENTING AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO
MARINE FISHERIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(EAF-NANSEN GCP/INT/003/NOR)

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) of the EAF-Nansen project (Strengthening the knowledge base for and implementing an ecosystem approach to marine fisheries in developing countries) was prepared by the Project Coordination Unit. The minutes were circulated to the participants for comments and confirmation. The meeting was held in Accra, Ghana on 24 March 2011. The minutes capture the discussions at the meeting, the decisions taken and the recommendations made.

FAO EAF-Nansen Project/Projet EAF-Nansen de la FAO

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committees. Accra, Ghana, 24 March 2011/Compte-rendu de la Réunion conjointe des Comités directeur régionaux du projet EAF-Nansen, Accra, Ghana, 24 mars 2011

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ABSTRACT

The first joint meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) was held at the Novotel Hotel in Accra, Ghana on 24 March 2011. The meeting was attended by representatives of the four RSCs, namely the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) North, CECAF South, the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and also partner projects, the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Messrs Paul Bannerman (Ghana) and Guy Rerambyath (Gabon) were elected chair and vice chair respectively.

The Project Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen project presented an update on the implementation status of the project. Activities and achievements under each component of the project were presented and discussed. Special attention was given to the EAF country projects and their achievements so far, capacity building and in particular the EAF courses organized in partnership with universities in Africa. Also covered were the ecosystem surveys conducted by the R/V DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN in collaboration with partner projects, and highlights of the Norad/FAO/IMR Fifth Annual Meeting held in Accra before the Joint Meeting of the Steering Committees. It was reported that Norad has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the project and indicated that the project will continue when the first phase comes to an end in December 2011 with continued emphasis on Africa.

Participants commended the project for the progress in implementation and the various activities undertaken. The recommendations compiled in the course of the meeting were discussed and adopted by the members.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Meeting of the RSCs of the EAF-Nansen Project was held on 24 March 2011 at the Conference Room of Novotel Hotel in Accra, Ghana.
2. The Project Coordinator, Kwame Koranteng, welcomed all participants. He then gave a brief overview on the regional coverage of the EAF-Nansen project and the establishment of the RSCs. He said that all four RSCs had been established and their first meetings held. He then gave the reason for holding the joint meeting as taking advantage of the many of the key actors at the just ended second Project Forum.
3. The Project Coordinator then introduced the agenda for the joint meeting.
4. Before proceeding to elect the chair and vice chair for the meeting, Mr Koranteng explained that these would only serve the joint meeting and that each RSC would elect their respective office bearers by the end of the meeting.
5. Messrs. Paul Bannerman (Ghana) and Guy Rerambyath (Gabon) were elected chair and vice chair respectively.
6. The chair opened the agenda for discussion and its adoption.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

7. The EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator presented an update on the implementing status of the project. He recalled the long-term and immediate objectives of the project and underscored the importance of improving the knowledge base for EAF implementation. He touched on the activities that have been undertaken under each project component and output, focusing particularly on the activities in the past 12 months.
8. Under the first output, regarding policies formulated consistent with EAF principles, he mentioned some of the work being done in the EAF country projects and regional work with the Large Marine Ecosystem.
9. On the second output which is on development of EAF management plans, Mr Maurihungirire from BCC, reported on the situation of the institutional arrangement project undergoing in the three countries of the Region. He said that the general conclusion was the lack of fisheries Management Unit within the fisheries administration as is the case, for example, in Ghana where a World Bank-assisted project helped to establish a Management Division within the Fisheries Department.
10. The need for specialized persons to work for such a unit was expressed. For this Mr Maurihungirire, supported by Mr Ruwa (SWIOFP), highlighted the importance of training.
11. Under Output 3, related to procedures and methods for assessment and monitoring of the marine ecosystem, the surveys carried out and other activities undertaken were enumerated. The Pakistan was mentioned as a means of using spare time of the vessel and that Pakistan

bore the full cost of the survey. The post surveys meeting that had been organized were also mentioned with special mention of the one held in September 2010 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in partnership with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries (SWIOFP) and the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) projects. The meeting was informed that the Dar es Salaam meeting lead to work on setting baseline for EAF implementation in the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) region.

12. Under Output 4, Increased capacity on EAF, the participants were informed about the course held at the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of Ghana, in April 2010. There were 30 participants from 12 countries. The meeting was informed that as a result of the successful running of the course in Ghana, another course has been planned at the Rhodes University in South Africa in September 2011 as well as a course for francophones to be held at the Université Ibn Zohr in Morocco, also in September.
13. The fish stock assessment course organized in partnership with SWIOFP and the Nansis training workshops held in Mauritius (2009) and in Dakar, Senegal (2010) were also mentioned.
14. Under Output 5, the support given by the project on use of national and regional research vessels and general support to the small pelagic surveys in the Northwest African countries were mentioned.
15. The progresses made under Output 6, in particular communication, information sharing and progress of project implementation were enumerated. The meeting was informed about the Norad/FAO/IMR Semi-Annual meeting held in Accra in the previous week.
16. Participants commended the project for the progress in implementation and the various activities undertaken. It was noted that implementation of the project's communication strategy at country level needs to be reinforced.
17. Ms Azza from Mauritania asked the Coordination Unit to give more importance to CCLME area in upcoming activities, because some of the countries in the subregion are feeling rather frustrated because of the relatively low activities undertaken in their area.
18. Mr Kodjo of Côte d'Ivoire asked if the several projects in Africa could not be coordinated to avoid duplication.
19. Mr Mbaye from Senegal reported that in the last two years his country had submitted a proposal for the implementation of the project in Senegal particularly in support of sensitization of stakeholders. The Coordinator replied that the proposal was received but a decision had been taken to undertake activities collaboration with the CCLME project.

UPDATE ON THE CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

20. The Project Coordinator enumerated the capacity building activities undertaken by the project, including the familiarization workshops, ERA workshops, EAF course, stock assessment course and the Nansis courses.
21. The Chair advised that all participants of EAF-Nansen activities should give a good when they are back in their country. He said that this is the only way by which the various capacity building initiatives carried out by the project will be brought to the attention of many national scientists and managers.
22. The Coordinator also clarified that the Fellowships programme under the project has not been used much because most of the funding requests received are for meetings that are not directly related to the objectives of the EAF-Nansen project. He noted that for although he widely circulated information about an international workshop held in Ireland in August 2010, and encouraged the participation of many managers and scientists from Africa, only one person succeeded in getting his paper accepted. He was offered full support by the project but unfortunately he could not make it to Ireland because he was not issued with a visa.
23. Many participants expressed the need for capacity building in various relevant disciplines at both regional and country level to bring consistency to the project work. It was also suggested that a consultant be hired to train people.

SURVEYS CARRIED OUT SINCE INCEPTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING SURVEY PLANNED FOR 2011

24. The Research Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen Project, Mr Tore Strømme, gave an overview of the surveys carried out since the inception of the project including a brief introduction to the Nansen Programme, the forerunner of the EAF-Nansen project. He then presented the 2011 survey plan.
25. In the discussions that followed, Mr Ben Cherifi from Morocco said that the CCLME project had mandated him to inquire about the organization of a meeting on survey methodologies. Ms Merete Tandstad (FAO) explained that the Pelagic Survey Planning Group will meet in May and will discuss this and other issues.
26. Mr Strømme informed the meeting that for the CCLME region 99 CCLME survey days had been provided for in the survey plan and it is up to CCLME to decide how to use those days.
27. Mr Sall (Guinée) informed the meeting that UEMOA will be carrying out surveys in the waters of selected West African countries and inquired about the links with the Nansen surveys. Mr Strømme expressed the wish to see best communication between parties during the planning phase. Ms Tandstad highlighted the need to join efforts in the planning and had suggested to UEMOA consultants on the subject to invite CCLME to the planning meeting of the UEMOA surveys. They were also informed about the availability of the R/V DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN for the surveys.

MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

28. Mr Kyriakos Kourkouliotis presented a brief report from the Fifth Norad/FAO/IMR Annual Meeting held in Accra, Ghana on 17–18 March 2011.
29. Mr Kourkouliotis said that Norad has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the project and indicated that project will continue when the first phase comes to an end in December 2011 with continued emphasis on Africa. A second phase of the project will continue the activities of the present phase and climate-related issues will be introduced. The second phase will be preceded by a transition phase of 2–3 years.

PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE EAF COUNTRY PROJECTS

30. The Project Coordinator gave an introduction to the EAF country projects and requested the participants from countries with projects to contribute to the discussions, particularly the regional context.
31. Participant from Sierra Leone presented the joint project on the improvement of artisanal fisheries in Liberia and Sierra Leone. He reported that in February 2011 new focal points were appointed and a first draft of the baseline reports have been prepared. The NTGs will meet in April to validate the reports and to plan the next steps in the project implementation.
32. Mr Sedzro from Togo made a presentation on the joint project between Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo. He said that the four countries are working on the management of their beach seine fisheries with a view to coming up with harmonized management actions to regulate the fishery in the subregion. An ERA workshop was held in Lome in February for Benin and Togo. Similar workshops are expected to be held in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. He said that activities in Côte d'Ivoire have slowed down because of the political conflict in the country.
33. Ms Ogandagas (Gabon) gave an overview of the shrimp fisheries management project in Gabon and Cameroon. She reported on the ERA workshops held in Douala and Libreville in February. Ms Ogandagas said that there was a consideration to include Nigeria in the project since the country is a major actor in the shrimp fisheries in Central Africa.
34. Ms Sobo from Tanzania presented to the meeting the joint project on artisanal fisheries management in Seychelles and Tanzania. She said that Seychelles is working on demersal fisheries while Tanzania is working on pelagic fisheries. Baseline reports have been prepared and the ERA workshops are planned for May/June.

SCALING UP OF COUNTRY ACTIVITIES (SWIOFP, CCLME)

35. Mr Ruwa (SWIOFP) made a presentation on the implementation of the project activities in some of the countries in SWIOFC region. He said that the SWIOFP project intends to scale up activities in the other countries using the approach developed by the EAF-Nansen project. It will seek partnership with the project.
36. Mr Sambe (CCLME) informed the meeting that the CCLME demonstration project 1 on sustainable transboundary management of small pelagic stocks in North West Africa will be done in partnership with the EAF-Nansen project.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

37. Mr Kourkouliotis, Project Analyst, made a presentation on finance and administrative issues, and on progress reporting. He focused on the implementation of the country projects and pointed out that many countries do not send the technical and financial reports of the project activities on time. He reminded participants that in accordance with FAO's financial regulations, no new payments will be made to countries that default on submitting financial reports.
38. A participant pointed out that the amount allocated for the project is not sufficient to implement all the activities. Mr Kourkouliotis noted the problem but said that the financial reporting is essential even if all the funds have been exhausted.

WORK PLAN FOR 2011

39. Mr Koranteng presented the project's Work Plan for 2011.
40. Mr Matshili (South Africa) requested more information on the kind of managers trained by the project. It was clarified that the project is training in particular managers dealing with fisheries management and the training is geared towards the preparation and implementation of fisheries management plans.
41. Mr Diop (CSRP) informed the meeting that a USAID-sponsored meeting was held recently to discuss climate change and fisheries and suggested that the project gets in touch with the organizers in order to avoid duplication of work.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR EACH REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

42. Chair proposed that the group breaks into regional groupings to facilitate the election of chair and Vice Chair for each Regional Steering Committee as well as Chair and Vice Chair of each EAF Regional Task Group. This was done and the regional groupings returned the following as elected:

CECAF North – Senegal as Chair and Cape Verde as Vice Chair (retained)

CECAF South – Togo as Chair and Côte d'Ivoire as Vice Chair

BCC – Namibia as Chair and Angola as Vice Chair

SWIOFC – Tanzania as Chair and Madagascar as Vice Chair

ELECTION OF REGIONAL TASK GROUP CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

43. For the Regional Task Groups the following individuals were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively:

CECAF North – Hassimiou Tall (Guinea) and Salah Bencherifi (Morocco)

CECAF South – Salvador Ngoande (Cameroon) and Sheku Sei (Sierra Leone)

SWIOFC – Renison Ruwa (Kenya) and Mardayven Nallee (Mauritius)

44. For the BCC area, the meeting acknowledged that the role of EAF Regional Task Group is played by the BCC Ecosystem Advisory Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – REPORT ON LEGISLATING FOR EAF

45. The participants from Morocco, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire congratulated FAO for the report on legislating for EAF presented at the Forum.

46. It was suggested that the right channels be used to bring such a report to the attention of Ministers as was done with the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

47. The Joint Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the EAF-Nansen project:

- Appreciated the support provided by Norad during the first phase of the project, ending in December 2011, and welcomed with appreciation the readiness of the donor to extend and expand the scope of the project.
- Recommended that the second phase of the project build on the results achieved and lessons learned, and strongly suggested that participating countries be fully associated in the formulation process of the second phase of the project.
- Noted with appreciation the decision taken to include climate change activities in the second phase of the project and recommended that the EAF-Nansen project explore, at early stage, possible collaboration with projects in pipeline funded by other sources like USAID.
- Requested the EAF-Nansen project to further support the environmental monitoring surveys in countries with offshore oil activities to allow these countries track the impact of oil and gas extraction activities on the fisheries resources and ecosystem.
- Recognized the importance of the EAF-Nansen project in helping countries to build capacity in EAF and to put into practice this approach to improve the decision making process in fisheries management.

- Noted the positive impacts derived from the synergies and complementarities developed with the LME projects in particular SWIOFP, ASCLME and BCC to promote the implementation of EAF and encouraged the EAF-Nansen project to continue the cooperation with these projects with a particular emphasis with GCLME and CCLME.
- Recognized the importance of the in-country projects as means of strengthening ownership of the EAF implementation process and called for additional support to expand the activities in neighbouring countries that face issues of common interest and share the results of the projects at subregional level with fisheries bodies and institutions.
- Requested the EAF-Nansen project to help countries executing in-country projects to approach larger projects funded by other donors to include the results achieved in the implementation of the EAF activities.
- Recognized the importance of the data and information collected by the research vessel R/V DR. FRITDJOF NANSEN to improve the fisheries management decision-making process.
- Noted the high daily cost of operating the vessel for the surveys and requested the project to explore potential partners and ensure adequate co-financing for the surveys.
- Acknowledged with interest the success of the various training organised by the EAF-Nansen project and requested the elaboration of a training programme on EAF and stock methods for the benefit of the scientists and managers of the subregion.
- Noted the administrative difficulties of some NTG to use the funds put at their disposal through the local FAO Representations and requested the EAF-Nansen project to explore with FAO Representations possibilities to facilitate the disbursement process.

APPENDIX 1

AGENDA

08:00–08:30	Registration
08:30–09:00	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and administrative arrangements • Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteurs • Adoption of the Agenda
09:00–10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation status of the EAF-Nansen project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on the Capacity Building activities ○ Surveys carried out since inception of the project (including survey plan for 2011) ○ Main outcomes of the Fifth Annual Meeting
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break
11:00–13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress of work in the EAF country projects (rapports par groupes) ○ Scaling up of country activities (SWIOFP, CCLME) ○ Finance and administration issues ○ Progress reports and financial reporting
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plan for 2011 • Next phase of the EAF-Nansen project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outlines of the project ○ Possible elements to be considered • Election of RSC Chairs and Vice Chairs (BCC, CECAF-N, CECAF-S, SWIOFC) • Election of NTG Chairs and Vice Chairs (BCC, CECAF-N, CECAF-S, SWIOFC) • AOB – Report on Legislating for EAF • Conclusions and Recommendations
16:00–16.30	Coffee Break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing

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