

Report of the

**MEETING OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT REGIONAL TASK GROUP
FOR THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION
(SWIOFC) AREA**

Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius, 1–2 October 2012



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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INDIAN OCEAN FISHERIES COMMISSION (SWIOFC) AREA

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Task Group (RTG) for the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) area was held at the Sugar Beach Hotel in Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius on 1 and 2 October 2012, within the framework of the EAF-Nansen project (Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries). The meeting was attended by 20 participants from the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the SmartFish project and FAO.

This report was prepared by the EAF-Nansen Project Coordinating Unit in Rome. It captures the presentations made at the workshop and provides highlights of the discussions that followed.

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

Report of the meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Task Group for the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) area, Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius 1–2 October 2012/
Rapport de la réunion du groupe de travail régional du projet EAF-Nansen pour la zone de la Commission des pêches pour le sud-ouest de l’océan Indien (CPSOOI), Flic-en-Flac, Maurice, 1-2 octobre 2012.

FAO EAF-Nansen Project Report/FAO, Rapport du projet EAF-Nansen. No 16. Rome, FAO. 2013. 21 p.

ABSTRACT

The meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Task Group (RTG) for the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) area was held at the Sugar Beach Hotel in Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius on 1 and 2 October 2012, within the framework of the EAF-Nansen project (Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries). The meeting was attended by 20 participants from the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the SmartFish project and FAO.

The principal objectives of the workshop include receiving updates on progress in the implementation of the EAF-Nansen project, examining the progress of work of the National Task Groups (NTGs), in particular the preparation of the fisheries management plans, and preparation of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting scheduled for 3 October 2012 at the same venue. The participants were taken through the EAF management planning process and the expected outputs of the EAF country projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Opening

The EAF-Nansen Project Regional Task Group (RTG) for the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) area met at the Sugar Beach Hotel in Flic-En-Flac, Mauritius on 1 and 2 October 2012. The meeting was attended by 20 participants from the South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the SmartFish project and FAO. The list of participants and agenda for the meeting are presented in Appendixes 1 and 2 respectively. The meeting was chaired by Renison Ruwa of Kenya, the RTG Chairman.

1.2 Workshop objectives and organization

Kwame Koranteng, the Project Coordinator gave the objectives of the workshop as follows:

- To receive updates on progress in the implementation of the EAF-Nansen project,
- To examine the progress of work of the National Task Groups (NTGs), in particular the preparation of the fisheries management plans, and
- To prepare for the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting scheduled for 3 October 2012 at the same venue.

1.3 The Chairman's Report

The chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting and gave a brief report of his stewardship as the Chair of the RTG from March 2011 to date.

He noted that considerable progress had been made by the NTGs in the preparation of the management plans in spite of many challenges. He acknowledged the financial and technical support given to the NTGs by the EAF-Nansen project and SWIOFP. He also commended the collaboration between the two projects and also with the SWIOFC, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) and now the SmartFish project.

The chairman reminded the members that the meeting was meant to be an interactive one whereby lessons learnt in the preparation of the national fisheries management plans are to be shared.

Commenting on the chairman's report, the Director of Fisheries of Kenya, Mr Godfrey Monor, made reference to the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) meeting held in Banjul, Gambia in 2010 at which the need for implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries was underscored. He said that preparation and implementation of fisheries management plans were also underscored by CAMFA and that the job being done by the NTGs with the support of FAO and SWIOFP is a commendable one and in tune with the CAMFA declarations.

2. UPDATE ON THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

In his presentation, the EAF-Nansen project coordinator gave an update on the project and informed participants about the end of the first phase of the project and the start of a Transition Phase which is to last for three years. He said that more information on this will be given at the RSC meeting which all RTG members are also expected to attend.

The coordinator noted that the frequent changes in national Focal Points for the project as well as changes in the composition of the NTGs are affecting project delivery at national level.

3. THE EAF MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The project coordinator took the participants through the EAF management planning process. He recalled the purpose of EAF which is “to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems”. He reminded the meeting about the key principles of EAF and the EAF implementation framework which he said can be summarised in the following four steps:

- Step 1: Initiation and scope
- Step 2: Identification of assets, issues and prioritisation of main issues
- Step 3: Development of EAF management plan
- Step 4: Implementation and review of the plan

The key activities under each step were presented and discussed. He noted that each of the SWIOFC countries had prepared a Baseline Report, held an ecological risk assessment (ERA) workshop and produced an ERA report as per a format provided by the EAF-Nansen project. With the exception of Comoros and Madagascar each country had also prepared a draft fishery management plan and international experts have already started working with the NTGs to carry out cost-benefit analysis and to help finalize plans.

Some emphasis was placed on Step 4 – implementation and review. The coordinator noted that certain relevant questions are necessary for consideration here including the following:

- How formal should the management plan be?
- Which agencies/groups need to approve it?
- Will the plan require amendments to existing regulations or legislation?
- What is the timeframe for completing formalization, and does that address urgency?
- What interim steps could be taken using current legislative tools?
- Is sufficient legal expertise available for drafting new regulation if necessary? If not, where can you get it and for how much?

Ending his presentation, the coordinator noted that the NTGs are facing a common problem; for most fisheries agencies there are too few resources to undertake all the identified tasks, thus it is very important to rate the priority of each task and the risks of not taking action. He asked the Fisheries Directors at the meeting to help think about the necessary steps to gazette and/or approve the plans for implementation and also for the preparation and/or amendment of fishery regulations where necessary.

Several members made comments on these last aspects of the presentation. The comments on approval/endorsement of the plan are presented in Section 5 below.

4. UPDATES ON THE EAF COUNTRY AND SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS

The project coordinator gave a brief update on the national and sub-regional projects being implemented under Output 2 of the EAF-Nansen project as listed below.

National projects:

- Liberia and Sierra Leone
- Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo
- Cameroon, Gabon and Nigeria
- Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles
- Mozambique
- Mauritius
- Comoros and Madagascar

Subregional projects

- Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) Demonstration project 1 (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Gambia)
- Benguela Current Commission (BCC) EAF projects

The table below summarises the status of work.

Country	Fishery	Baseline Report	ERA Report	Draft Management Plan
Sierra Leone	Small-scale	√	√	√
Liberia	Small-scale	√	√	√
Benin	Beach seine	√	√	√
Côte d'Ivoire	Beach seine	√	√	√
Ghana	Beach seine	√	√	√
Togo	Beach seine	√	√	√
Cameroon	Industrial shrimps	√	√	√
Gabon	Industrial shrimps	√	√	√
Nigeria	Industrial shrimps	√	√	√
Mozambique	Sofala Bank shrimps	√	√	√
	Linefish	√	√	-
Tanzania	Small & medium pelagics	√	√	√
Kenya	Small & medium pelagics	√	√	√
Comoros	Demersal	√	√	-
Madagascar	Demersal	√	√	
Mauritius	Banks/Demersal	√	√	√
CCLME	Demonstration project 1; Small pelagic species	√	-	-
BCC	Institutional arrangements for EAF management	-	-	-
	Human dimension of EAF	-	-	-
	Tracking EAF implementation	-	-	-

The coordinator then presented some aspects of the plan prepared by the NTG of Sierra Leone. He looked at the purpose and scope of the plan, the management and operational objectives, the operation and reporting, and showed part of the logframe. He admitted that the format is a little different from what had been earlier circulated to all NTGs but added that the process was evolving.

Commenting on the logframe Gabriella Bianchi of FAO said that some terminologies had to be changed to be consistent with what is used in FAO.

5. REPORTING ON STATUS OF COUNTRY PROJECTS

Each NTG representative presented an update on their country project. In the discussions that followed each presentation, participants were able to share a lot of experiences gained from the implementation of the projects. The chairman commended Mauritius, Tanzania and Kenya for using the expertise within the NTG to draft their management plans instead of using a local consultant. This gave encouragement to the Comoros and Madagascar teams who resolved to use the same approach.

On endorsement and implementation of the management plans, the Focal Point from Mozambique informed the meeting that in her country a different level of endorsement/approval is required depending on the product. The Law is approved by Parliament, regulations by the Cabinet and operational tools like a management plan are approved by the Minister. The Ministry's consultative body made up of Directors and Deputies, Permanent Secretary, Minister and the vice-Minister and chaired by the Minister, would discuss and make recommendation for the Minister's approval.

In Madagascar, a Ministerial Consultative Committee will consider the plan and the Minister would take it to the Council of Ministers for approval. In Kenya and Tanzania all regulations and management plans are endorsed at the level of the Ministry if a change in the Fisheries Act is not required. In Mauritius, regulations are approved by the Cabinet and could take six to seven weeks to go through.

The RTG members were asked to look at aspects related to the needs of the countries to be able to implement the management plans when completed and endorsed. They were asked to look at resources from governments as well as possible support through projects and from donors.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The EAF-Nansen Project analyst-operations officer, Kyriakos Kourkouliotis, presented a brief overview of the administration and financial aspects of the country projects. He said that these aspects will be discussed in detail at the RSC. He advised the national Focal Points to try and follow the project documents to be able to manage the project effectively. He reminded them about the requirements for technical and financial reporting and request for funds.

7. EAF NANSEN CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The project coordinator introduced the EAF-Nansen project capacity building programme leaving the details to be discussed at the RSC meeting.

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT

Participants were asked to give their general impressions about the EAF-Nansen project and country projects in particular.

Aubrey Harris of FAO reminded the meeting about the decision by SWIOFC to adopt the RTG as a subsidiary body under the Scientific Committee of the Commission. He said that the project has provided a Forum for senior fisheries managers on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries. He advised the RTG to send to the Commission the issue of endorsement of the management plans since they will be in a position to monitor the time lines. He also recalled the work done to set baselines for EAF implementation in the SWIO region.

Clotilde Bodiguel of SmartFish informed the meeting about the programme that she is managing. She said that SmartFish is funded by the European Union through the European Development Fund (EDF) under agreements signed between the European Union and four Regional Economic Organizations of South and East Africa and the Indian Ocean namely the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Eastern African Community (EAC), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). She said that the project comprises of five results; three directly implemented by the IOC (*Governance, MCS and Trade*) and two delegated to FAO (*Fisheries Management and Food Security*). She noted that the country projects are in line with expected outputs of the SmartFish programme and that the countries could look at the possibility of partnering with the programme for the implementation of the management plans.

Other participants made various comments. Generally, participants were happy with the opportunity provided for sharing information and for lesson learning. The Director of Fisheries of Kenya, Godfrey Monor, was happy with the way the project has contributed to minimizing the fragmentation between researchers and managers. He also commended the project for facilitating the ownership of the country projects.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR OF THE RTG

After some heated discussions, Dr Renision Ruwa of Kenya was re-elected the RTG Chair with Ms Maria Ascensão Pinto of Mozambique as the vice-chair. They will hold office until the next RTG meeting.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were discussed and approved for submission to the RSC.

Participants at the EAF-Nansen RTG for the SWIO area:

- Appreciate the support provided by the EAF-Nansen project to help the countries of the region to adopt and implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries which is essential for them to meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development relevant to the fishery sector.
- Appreciate the technical and financial assistance provided by FAO/EAF-Nansen project and SWIOFP to develop management plans in the countries of the region.
- While acknowledging the efforts made by the EAF-Nansen project to create synergies and complementarities with other actors in the region such as the SWIOFP, ASCLME and SmartFish projects, participants reiterate the importance of strengthening these strategic partnerships to promote the implementation of the EAF in the region.

- Call on the EAF-Nansen project to include Somalia in its activities at national and regional levels.
- Are aware that decisions and measures taken in a country to manage shared stocks and stocks of common interest have an impact on neighbouring countries, participants acknowledged the need to cooperate with each other and at regional level throughout the SWIOFC for the implementation of harmonised management frameworks in line with the EAF principles and to ensure political commitment and harmonization of fisheries legislation.
- Request that SWIOFC, as part of its mandate, to monitor the status of implementation of the EAF in the region.
- While recognizing that the preparation and the execution of management plans is a prerogative of the fisheries authorities in collaboration with other relevant entities, participants agreed that a management plan can only be considered sustainable if it is supported with long term financing. Likely funding sources are the budget allocation of the Ministry in charge of Fisheries, fisheries funds and external resources including private sector.
- Request the countries to solicit financial support from other sources in addition to the EAF-Nansen project to implement the management plans. For this the RTG recommends that countries strengthen their cooperation with other projects such as SmartFish to mobilize additional funding in support of the implementation of the management plans.
- Take note of the initiative of certain countries to use the expertise and skills available within the NTG for the preparation of the draft management plan, which helped to strengthen the internalization of the EAF and ownership. However, where and if needed, participants requested the EAF-Nansen project to assist the NTGs to finalise their management plans.
- Appreciate the presentation made on the several steps of the preparation process of management plans that are consistent with the EAF, and note that there is a need to re-structure the draft management plans to make them more concise with a logical framework including indicators that will allow the monitoring of progress made in terms of impacts. Participants undertake to integrate the comments and finalize the management plans by early 2013, the latest, for their adoption by the national authorities.
- Appreciate the need to carry out an annual review of management measures to assess progress made and difficulties encountered and general revision of the plans after a period of five years. Countries were requested to include this point in their management plans.
- Are concerned about the importance of helping managers to assess and compare different options and decide on best measures to implement the management plan, participants acknowledged the need to include in the management plans an analysis of economic and social costs and benefits, and of potential impacts of management measures. A preliminary analysis is being carried out and incorporated in the plans before their adoption. The EAF-Nansen proposed to organise a regional training on cost/benefit analysis.

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COMOROS

Kamardine Boinali
Ministry of Fisheries
Director of Fisheries
Fomboni, Moheli
Comores
Tel.: +269 3326610
Email: boinalikamar@yahoo.com

Nashime Mohamed
Direction des Ressources Halieutiques
Moheli
Comores
Email: nashimohamed@gmail.com

KENYA

Godfrey Monor
Director of Fisheries
Ministry of Fisheries Development
Museum Hill
P.O. Box 58187
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: monorgv@gmail.com

Mwaka Barabara Said
Fisheries Department
PO Box 90423 - 80100
Mombasa
Kenya
Tel.: +254 41475157/722596211
Email: barabaraside@yahoo.co.uk

Renison Ruwa
Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research
Institute
P.O. Box 81651 -80100,
Mombasa, Kenya
Tel.: +254 733 700 572
Email: kruwa@kmfri.co.ke or
reniruwa@yahoo.com

MADAGASCAR

Samueline Ranaivoson
Direction Centrale de la pêche et des
Ressources Halieutiques
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
Tel.: +261 3240 612 96
Email: samranaivo@gmail.com

Roginah Rafidison
Direction Centrale de la pêche et des
Ressources Halieutiques
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
Tel.: +261 320441861
Email: rogirafidi@yahoo.fr

MAURITIUS

Mardayven Nallee
Ministry of Fisheries
Divisional Scientific Officer
4th Floor L.I.C.I. Centre, Port Louis,
Republic of Mauritius
Tel.: +230 2112470
Email: mnallee@mail.gov.mu

Dharmendra Degambur
Ministry of Fisheries
Scientific Officer
Albion Fisheries Research Centre
Petite Riviere
Republic of Mauritius
Tel.: +230 238 4100
Fax: +230 238 4184
Email: ddegambur@mail.gov.mu

Shyama Rathacharen
Ministry of Fisheries
Principal Fisheries Officer
FiTEC
Pointe Aux Sables
Republic of Mauritius
Email: srathacharen@mail.gov.mu

MOZAMBIQUE

Maria Ascensão Pinto
 Ministry of Fisheries
 National Direction of Fisheries
 Administration
 Department of Fishery Management
 Consaglieri Pedroso Road, N. 347
 Maputo
 Tel.: +258 21 35 7100 /358000
 Email: apinto347@gmail.com

Stela Chichava Julião Mause
 Ministry of Fisheries
 National Direction of Fisheries
 Administration
 Department of Fishery Management
 Consaglieri Pedroso Road, N. 347
 Maputo
 Tel.: +258 21 35 7100 /358000
 Email: smausse@yahoo.com.br

TANZANIA

Tumaini Samwel Chambua
 Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
 Development
 P.O. Box 2462
 Dar es Salaam
 Tanzania
 Tel.: +255 22 2860470/ 713751209
 Email: chatmaini182002@yahoo.com

Abdi Hussein
 Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
 Development
 P.O. BOX 9152,
 Dar es Salaam,
 Tanzania.
 Tel.: +255 754 362 101
 Email: kalabdy16@yahoo.com

Hosea Gonza Mbillinyi
 Director of Fisheries
 Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
 Development
 P.O. Box 2462
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 Tel.: +255 222860470 /784455530
 Email: hoseagonza@yahoo.com

FAO

Aubrey Harris
 Senior Fishery Officer
 Subregional Office for Southern Africa
 PO Box 3730, Harare
 Zimbabwe
 Tel.: +263 4 253655/253657
 Email: Aubrey.Harris@fao.org

Kwame Koranteng
 EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator
 Marine & Inland Fisheries Service (FIRF)
 Food & Agriculture Organization of the
 United Nations
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome, Italy
 Tel.: +39 0657056007
 Email: Kwame.Koranteng@fao.org

Kyriakos Kourkouliotis
 Marine & Inland Fisheries Service (FIRF)
 Food & Agriculture Organization of the
 United Nations
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome, Italy
 Tel.: +39 0657053715
 Email: Kyriakos.Kourkouliotis@fao.org

Gabriella Bianchi
 Marine & Inland Fisheries Service (FIRF)
 Food & Agriculture Organization of the
 United Nations
 Via delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome
 Tel.: +39 06570 53094
 Email: Gabriella.Bianchi@fao.org

SMARTFISH

Clotilde Bodiguel
 Project Manager
 SmartFish-FAO programme
 Blue Tower, 5th Floor, Ebène
 Rue de l'Institut
 Mauritius
 Tel.: +230 402 6100
 Mob.: +230 251 2844
 Email: Clotilde.Bodiguel@fao.org

SWIOFP

Rondolph PAYET
Regional Executive Secretary
Regional Management Unit (RMU)
c/o Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research
Institute
P O Box 81651-80100
Mombasa, Kenya
Tel.: +254 20 8023924
E-mail: rpayet@gmail.com

FAO/SWIOFP CONSULTANT

Warwick Sauer
Rhodes University
Grahamstown 6140
South Africa
Tel.: +27 827741337
Email: W.Sauer@ru.ac.za

APPENDIX 2
AGENDA

Day 1	
8:30	Registration
9.00	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and TOR of the RTG • Agenda • The Chairman's Report • Update on the EAF-Nansen project • General Discussion
10.00	<i>Morning Tea / Coffee</i>
10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAF management planning process • Discussions • Introduction to the country and subregional EAF projects • The LOA – Technical and financial reporting
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00	Reporting on status of country projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania • Kenya
15.30	<i>Afternoon Tea / Coffee</i>
17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seychelles • Mozambique Line
Day 2	
9:00	Recap of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritius • Comores
10.00	<i>Morning Tea / Coffee</i>
10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madagascar • Mozambique shrimps • South Africa
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussions on Lessons learnt • Endorsement and Implementation of the management plans • Needs assessment in support of the implementation of the management plans
15.30	<i>Afternoon Tea / Coffee</i>
16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning of future work • EAF Nansen capacity building programme • Election of Chair and Co-Chair • Conclusion and recommendations
17:00	Closing

