

Minutes of the

**MEETING OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT REGIONAL STEERING
COMMITTEE FOR THE BENGUELA CURRENT COMMISSION AREA**

**Hotel Safari/Safari Court & Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia,
19 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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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

These are the minutes of the meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committee for the Benguela Current Commission area. The meeting was held at the Hotel Safari/Safari Court & Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia on 19 October 2012. This report captures the discussions at the meeting, the decisions taken and the recommendations made. It was prepared by the EAF-Nansen project management unit in Rome and circulated to all the participants for comments and confirmation.

FAO EAF-Nansen Project/FAO, Projet EAF-Nansen.

Minutes of the Meeting EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committee for the Benguela Current Commission area, Hotel Safari/Safari Court & Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia, 19 October 2012

FAO EAF-Nansen Project Report. No 18. Rome, FAO. 2013. 17 p.

ABSTRACT

The third meeting of the EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) area was held at the Hotel Safari/Safari Court & Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia on 19 October 2012. It was attended by representatives from Angola, Namibia, South Africa, the National Coordinators of the BCLME SAP-Implementation project and also from the BCC, FAO and IMR. Mr. Beau M. Tjizoo of Namibia was elected Chair assisted by Mr Nkosi Luyeye of Angola.

The meeting started with the Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen presenting the conclusions, recommendations and action points from the joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees held in Accra, Ghana in March 2011. The capacity building and other activities undertaken in the year were enumerated and discussed. Activities in the 3-year Transition Phase of the EAF-Nansen project, including the Dr Fridtjof Nansen survey plan, were also discussed.

The RSC then discussed the report on the BCC/EAF-Nansen Projects meeting held at the same venue on 16 October 2012. A number of recommendations emanated from the discussions.

INTRODUCTION

1. The third meeting of the EAF-Nansen Project Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) area was held at the Hotel Safari/Safari Court & Conference Centre, Windhoek, Namibia on 19 October 2012.
2. All member countries were represented. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Secretary, Ecosystem Advisor and Regional Training Coordinator of the BCC, the National Coordinators of the BCLME SAP-Implementation project, and observers. The list of participants is given in Appendix 1.
3. The meeting was chaired by Mr Beau M. Tjizoo of the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources assisted by Mr Nkosi Luyeye of Angola.
4. The Agenda for the meeting (Appendix 2) was adopted without any changes.

REPORT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES

5. The Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen presented the conclusions, recommendations and action points from the joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees held in Ghana in March 2011.
6. He noted that at that Accra meeting Namibia was nominated as chair of the BCC area RSC with Angola as vice chair. It was reiterated that in the BCC area the role of EAF Regional Task Group is played by the BCC Ecosystem Advisory Committee
7. The capacity building activities undertaken in the year were enumerated including the consultation on mainstreaming EAF training in university curricula in Africa, the EAF courses held at Rhodes University (SA) from 8 August to 2 September 2011, which was attended by officers from Namibia and South Africa and training workshop in survey data analysis and Nansis held in Windhoek 5–9 September 2011 with co-sponsorship from BCC.
8. Activities leading to the future of the EAF-Nansen project were also mentioned including institution of a 3-year transition phase and discussions held with UNEP, IOC/UNESCO and other partners on possible UN-wide platform to monitor climate-related changes in the marine environment. It was explained that the transition phase is to give sufficient time to MFA to assess the situation and take a final decision concerning the research vessel and also to give the opportunity to FAO and IMR to engage in discussions with potential partners regarding the co-financing of the operating costs of the vessel and synergies with other UN Agencies and donors to support activities of common interest.
9. The announcement made by Norad at the BCC as regards to a new vessel for the project was reiterated.

REPORT OF THE BCC/EAF PROJECTS MEETING

10. The Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen project presented a report on the BCC/EAF-Nansen Projects meeting held at the same venue on 16 October 2012. He informed the RSC that the primary objective of the meeting was have updates on the three BCC/EAF-Nansen EAF projects, implementation status, constraints and lessons learnt. The three projects are:

- ▶ Implementing a process which allows the review (auditing) and tracking of an EAF management in BCC region (EAF/09/01);
 - ▶ Integrating the human dimension of an EAF into fisheries management in the BCC region (EAF/09/12); and
 - ▶ Guidance on institutional arrangements which support an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF/09/02)
11. For each project the status of implementation was examined against the project work plan. The content of the presentation for the BCC Forum was also discussed. A summary of the minutes of the meeting is given in Annex C. The recommendations pertaining to each project are given in the workshop report.
 12. Appreciating the immense and unique support that the EAF-Nansen project is providing the countries of the BCC region the RSC requested the EAC to consider its recommendations and if necessary to forward the same to the BCC Management Board.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT DURING THE TRANSITION PHASE

13. The meeting was informed that in the transition phase (2012 – 2014) the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries would remain the main focus and the project would continue working towards the implementation of EAF at different levels, including collecting relevant information on the present ecosystem state and use of the same for the management of the resources.
14. Norad has requested that the field research activities be expanded to serve broader needs for monitoring the state of the marine ecosystem in terms of changes in biodiversity and productivity that may result from impacts of climate change and pollution.
15. In the BCC region in particular, it is important that all the BCC/EAF-Nansen projects are completed during the transition phase.

DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN SURVEYS IN THE BCC AREA

16. Tore Stromme, Research Coordinator of the EAF-Nansen project introduced this agenda item. He said that in 2012 three (3) surveys were carried out in collaboration with the BCC for 88 days. In addition there were 60 days for the Angola pelagic and demersal surveys and 41 days for Angola Pelagic cold season/BCC regional pelagic surveys. These add up to a total survey days of 148 in the BCC region.
17. The current situation of the BCC projects in terms of funding for surveys was discussed. Tore, indicated that in spite of its financial difficulty, if a request should come from the BCC Secretariat this will be forwarded to Norad for consideration.
18. The Committee members were reminded about the new conditions on insurance and language skills applicable to national and guest scientists going on board the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen for surveys.
19. A committee member from Namibia asked if the oil and gas work being carried out in Angola could be extended to cover minerals. Responding, Mr Stromme noted that the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen is not suitably equipped for such work (e.g. does not have depth penetrating echosounder) and that other vessels could do the job better.

20. The delegation from Angola asked that since the Ministry of Petroleum is doing sensitivity mapping in phases, is there a possibility of extending the survey to cover all areas and depth ranges. Tore's response was that this is possible but costly and partners are expected to provide the necessary specialised equipment and expertise.
21. Namibia further enquired about the possibility of extending the oil and gas work to other areas in the BCC region since Namibia, in particular, needs the type of information generated from this type of work. It was noted that some aspects of the work could be included in the ecosystem surveys and that the GENUS project may also have some relevant data and information on this subject matter. The meeting was informed that the new South African polar vessel is equipped for some aspects of this work and could be available for regional studies.
22. The BCC secretariat is considering seeking support from the EAF-Nansen project to hold a workshop next year to synthesise all data and information from the ecosystem surveys carried out in the region. Mr Stromme noted that an initiative to prepare a "state of the ecosystem report" could be of great interest and would result in an important product for the BCC Annual Science Forum.
23. The delegation from Angola indicated that Angola will request for 90 survey days in 2013.

TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS

24. The opportunity for training and fellowships within the EAF-Nansen project were recalled.
25. The University of Namibia (UNAM) was encouraged to request for support to strengthen its fisheries courses.
26. Angola expressed the need for capacity building programmes at sub-regional level on pelagic surveys and survey data analysis.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

27. Kyriakos Kourkoulotis drew the attention of the meeting to the part of the Projects meeting report (Appendix 3) on financial and administrative matters.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nomination of National Focal Points for the EAF-Nansen project

28. This item was overlooked

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

29. Angola (INIP) and South Africa (DAFF) were nominated Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

UNAM Summer school in oceanography

30. The RSC was informed that UNAM intends to start a Summer School in oceanography in 2013.

Date And Venue Of The Next Meeting

31. The next meeting could be held during the next BCC Annual Science Forum hence the date and venue will be determined in consultation with the BCC Secretariat and communicated to members in due course.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

32. The recommendations compiled in the course of the meeting were presented for consideration by the members.
33. The RSC of the EAF-Nansen project for the BCC area:
- Appreciates the support provided by the Norwegian Government (NORAD) through FAO to support the BCC initiative to implement the three EAF projects:
 - Implementing a process which allows the review (auditing) and tracking of an ecosystem approach (EAF/09/01)
 - Provide guidance on institutional arrangements which support an ecosystem approach to fisheries. (EAF/09/02)
 - A strategy to develop and integrate the human dimension of an EAF in the region (EAF/09/12)
 - Appreciates the brief presentation made on the results of the activities carried out and results achieved by the three countries in the implementation of the EAF projects and notes with satisfaction the strong partnership established between the BCC and the EAF-Nansen to coordinate their respective efforts and define actions in areas of common interest.
 - Takes note of the recommendation of the BCC/EAF-Nansen projects Meeting on the Tracking Tool project to bring the three countries at the same level of understanding on project deliverables and next steps and supports the idea to set up a meeting of the Focal Points to be facilitated by WWF.
 - Takes note of the request of Angola to have the reports of the three EAF projects translated into Portuguese and welcomes the offer of the BCLME SAP-IMP project to assist with the translation.
 - Aware of the need to bring the findings and results of the three projects up to the policy level, proposes that a group be set up to study and customise recommendations from the Institutional Arrangements project and sensitise decision-makers on the results, lessons learnt and way forward. The EAF-Nansen and BCLME SAP-IMP projects were requested for assistance and BCC was requested to lead the process.
 - Having in mind the BCC constraints with regard to its science programme, requests the partners responsible for the implementation of the three EAF projects to complete their activities as soon as possible.
 - Welcomes with appreciation the future possible support of Norway to the BCC and strongly suggests the Secretariat to continue its discussions with Norway but also with other potential partners.

- Requests the BCC Secretariat and EAF-Nansen Coordination Unit to prepare the financial statements for each project reflecting the actual expenses incurred on the three projects, and share this information with all concerned along with the final technical reports.
- Notes with interest the decision of Norad to continue funding the EAF-Nansen project beyond the transition phase, ending in December 2014, and for approving the construction of a new research vessel to allow monitoring the state of the marine ecosystem in terms of changes in biodiversity and productivity that may result from impacts of climate changes. The RSC welcomes also the decision of the donor to continue supporting the countries to consolidate and strengthen their capacity for the implementation of EAF.
- Takes note with appreciation the initiative taken by the EAF-Nansen project in collaboration with IOC of UNESCO to seek and broaden collaboration with other partners with specific mandates to create a UN-wide platform for monitoring climate-related changes in the marine ecosystems, especially in developing countries.
- Notes the importance to discuss and analyze the data collected during the surveys on shared small pelagic stocks and recommends the EAF-Nansen project to consider supporting the setting-up of a working group on small pelagic under the auspices of BCC.
- Notes the importance of assessing the health of the marine ecosystem and underscores the proposal of the BCC Secretariat to establish an ad hoc working group to undertake a complete analysis of the ecosystem health based on the various data and information that have been collected over the years.
- Takes note of the request of assistance from the University of Namibia to strengthen its curriculum in fisheries science and welcomes with satisfaction the possibility that the EAF-Nansen could possibly support this request.
- Takes note the request of Angola for ship time in 2012 and requests the EAF-Nansen project to accommodate the request of 90 survey vessel days in the 2013 cruise plan of the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen and to complement it by 12 days to cover the Namibian waters in order to maintain the time series established for small pelagic resources.
- Takes note of BCC financial status and its concerns that the time series could be discontinued as funds are not available for surveys and requests the EAF-Nansen project to intervene with Norad to explore the possibility to mobilise funds to cover surveys in 2013 and 2014.
- Concerned about the potential impact of pollution from oil extracting activities on fisheries resources and ecosystems with possible consequences for their conservation and management requested the EAF-Nansen project to support environmental monitoring surveys related to oil and gas prospecting and exploration at the request of the countries.
- Notes that the environmental monitoring surveys are not part of the EAF-Nansen project however the surveys could be accommodated in the survey plan should time

slots and funds be available. Such surveys must be funded partly by partners including analysis of samples and requests could come from BCC or individual countries.

- Takes note that the transition phase of the project includes 90 days of demonstration surveys (30 days in 2013 and 60 days in 2014) to explore possibilities to expand the field research activities to serve broader needs for monitoring the state of the marine ecosystem in terms of changes in biodiversity and productivity that may result from impacts of climate change and pollution. These surveys will be planned and executed in close collaboration with the potential partners.
- Takes note of the opportunity offered by the EAF-Nansen project for countries that have their own vessel to ask for assistance and advice in the use of the vessels for ecosystem surveys and the choice and operation of scientific/acoustic equipment.
- For regional surveys, the RSC considers the importance to have an overall overview of the stock situation and endorses the suggestion made by IMR to prepare a regional assessment report that includes findings from national surveys.

APPENDIX 1
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APPENDIX 2
AGENDA

14:00	Registration	Action
14:15	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and administrative arrangements • Welcome and TOR of the RSC • Chair, Vice Chair & Rapporteurs • Agenda • Action Points from the Joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees, Accra, Ghana • Update on project activities • BCC/EAF-Nansen project activities (report from the projects meeting held on 16 October) 	
15:30	Coffee Break	
15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of the EAF-Nansen project during the transition phase • <i>R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen</i> surveys in the BCC area • Training & Fellowships • Administration and Finance • AOB : Nomination of FPs; Election of Chair and Vice-Chair; UNAM Summer school in oceanography • Conclusions and Recommendations 	
17.00	Closing	

APPENDIX 3

Brief Report of the BCC/EAF-Nansen Projects Meeting held on 16/10/2012

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was attended by project staff from Namibia and Angola. Also in attendance were the Executive Secretary, Ecosystem Advisor and Regional Training Coordinator of the Benguela Current Commission, the Senior Project Manager and National Coordinators (South Africa and Namibia) of the BCLME SAP Implementation project, WWF South Africa, Namibia Nature Foundation, Environmental Evaluation Unit (EEU of the University of Cape Town) and Norad.

The objective of the meeting was to receive updates on the three BCC/EAF-Nansen EAF projects, implementation status, constraints and lessons learnt. The three projects are:

- ▶ Implementing a process which allows the review (auditing) and tracking of an EAF management in BCC region (EAF/09/01);
- ▶ Integrating the human dimension of an EAF into fisheries management in the BCC region (EAF/09/12); and
- ▶ Guidance on institutional arrangements which support an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF/09/02)

For each project the status of implementation was examined against the project work plan. The content of the presentation for the BCC Forum was also discussed.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECTS

Tracking Tool Project

The purpose of this project is to organize capacity building and ecological risk assessment workshops in the three BCC countries, and prepare management actions whose implementation will be assessed using a Tracking Tool adapted for this purpose. The intention is to adapt the existing WWF EAF tracking tool to develop a cost-effective tool within the monitoring and assessment capacity of the three countries for use in the BCC region.

Alice Johnson of WWF South Africa made the presentation on the Tracking Tool project. Summary and decisions taken are as follows:

- ▶ **South Africa:** Substantial progress has been made, DAFF has incorporated EAF into its management process; ERA workshops are facilitated by DAFF. It was proposed that a similar process be followed in Namibia and Angola.
- ▶ **Angola:** Review of small pelagic ERA was done; some training was done at the same time
 - All the ERA workshops were postponed; first time due to visa for the facilitator (Barbara Paterson) then for administrative reasons.

- ▶ **Namibia:** There were delays in nominating the national focal point
 - ERA review for hake was done on 4-5 October in Walvis Bay;
 - New Linefish ERA was planned for 9-10 October but was not held; National focal point could not attend and WWF could not come.
 - Major problems: Over-commitment of senior personnel of Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and NatMIRC.

Observation and lessons learnt

- ▶ There is no project coordinator for this project to coordinate the activities in all three countries hence there is no clear centre of coordination.
- ▶ No national focal points to coordinate the project, especially in Angola and Namibia.
- ▶ There is no contract (between BCC and WWF) for the running of this project.

Focal points for the three countries were nominated as follows:

- South Africa: Craig Smith
- Namibia: Johannes Iitembu
- Angola: Kumbi Kilongo

A proposal was made to organise a small workshop during the first quarter of 2013 to allow for exchange of information among the three focal points to address the constraints and review the work plan.

Human Dimension Project

The objective of this project is to help increase the understanding and incorporation of human dimension into fisheries advice and management and define a pilot monitoring protocol to collect essential social and economic information, both quantitative and qualitative, on the current status of a restricted number of key fisheries in each country.

Summary presentation was made by Barbara Paterson (of Namibia Nature Foundation - NNF)

- ▶ FAO has a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with NNF.
- ▶ Implementation started with a regional workshop in Walvis Bay in April 2011. The workshop looked at what kind of information is currently available. It was concluded that the region is very data-poor, especially as regards social indicators.
- ▶ A regional WG meeting was held in September 2012. Conclusions of the study were drafted; the report was also sent to WG members who could not attend the meeting.
- ▶ UCT/EEU produced a report on Small-scale fisheries in the BCC region.
- ▶ Project also facilitated initiatives across the region.
- ▶ The key activity to be undertaken in South Africa is to start collecting the right data.
- ▶ The baseline reports for the three countries will be prepared for publication.

Observation and lessons learnt

- ▶ Involvement/commitment of the countries in this project
 - Angola: Involvement has been good, led by IPA. Very good workshop with good stakeholder participation. There is an opportunity to use the areas of improvement identified in report.
 - South Africa: Very good progress, broad stakeholder participation, good support from DAFF.
 - Namibia: Very good progress, broad stakeholder participation. Initial support from the Directorate of Policy, Planning Economics in MFMR.

Difficulties

- ▶ Angola: Limited monitoring of social aspects of the fisheries, and inadequate analysis of the information that is routinely collected.
- ▶ Namibia: Difficulty in getting access to important information being collected such as employment data.

Strategies to complete

- ▶ The three baseline reports were finalised in 2011 and have been circulated widely. As is the nature of any baseline study - they will all require updating at some point.
- ▶ Kwame to circulate e-mail on follow up actions including suggestions for complementary activities to be carried out with the funds that have not yet been spent.

Institutional arrangements Project

The objective of this project is to provide information and advice to the national fisheries institutions of Angola, Namibia and South Africa on institutional arrangements necessary to meet the requirements of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

The EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator gave brief updates as follows:

- ▶ The report of the study was presented to the BCC management board in 2011.
- ▶ Separate reports were sent to the countries.
- ▶ Feedback of the BCC Management Board to countries
 - Each country should activate EAF WG.
 - Concern was noted that the recommendations from the institutional reviews and ERAs have not be considered by national authorities and are not under implementation.
 - Report should be tabled through decision-makers at national level.

- Secretariat and National coordinators should pay visit to fisheries ministries in the three countries to follow-up on the consideration and implementation of recommendations in the reports.
- It was felt that several of the recommendations are largely based on the Australian context and system, and not applicable to the context of the three countries.
- BCC has not had a chance to plan visits to the countries to address some of the EAF issues and recommendations with fisheries authorities.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Kyriakos Kourkouliotis of FAO introduced the item and summarized the budgets earmarked for the projects. He noted that these will be discussed during the Regional Steering Committee meeting.

He informed the meeting that there is a strategic partnership between the EAF-Nansen Project and BCC in pursuing their respective mandates and involving consultation, coordination of efforts, and mutual assistance for joint actions in the field of common interests, in accordance with the objective and principles of the EAF.

He summarized the budgets of the three projects and contribution by partners (in US dollars) as follows:

Partner	EAF/09/01 Tracking Tool	EAF/09/02 – Institutional Arrangement	EAF/09/12 – Human Dimension	Total US\$
BCC	103,913	-	19,385	123,298
EAF-Nansen	15,682	42,497	195,710	253,889
BCLME SAP-IMP	24,000	-	-	24,000
WWF-SA	-	-	-	-
Countries	51,000	6,000	15,000	72,000
TOTAL	194,595	48,497	230,095	473,198

He remarked that the immense contribution being made by WWF towards the Tracking Tool project has not been quantified and that this would bring the total contribution to well above USD 500 000 for the three projects.

Mr Kourkouliotis further elaborated on the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between FAO and NNF for the implementation of the Human Dimension project amounting to US\$119,700. The LoA was signed in December 2010 to cover an initial period of 12 months but an extension for an additional year has been agreed to enable NNF and the countries finalize the activities.

FINAL OBSERVATIONS AND CLOSING

It was concluded that the major lesson learnt from the three projects is that for co-funded projects there is a need to strengthen the coordination and have a leader for the implementation with closer technical follow-up.

The participants expressed satisfaction with the clarity given on the implementation of the projects and resolved to follow up on the proposed actions.

ANNEX A**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****ANGOLA**

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