

**Minutes of the**

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**MEETING OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT REGIONAL STEERING  
COMMITTEE FOR THE CECAF – NORTH AREA**

**Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain, 28 November 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 Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (North) area Regional Steering Committee (CECAF-North RSC) of the EAF-Nansen project. The meeting was held at the Instituto Español de Oceanografía in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain on 28 November 2012. The 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 participants for comments and confirmation.

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

Minutes of the/Compte rendu de

Meeting of the EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committee for the CECAF-North area, Tenerife, Spain, 28 November 2012/La réunion du Comité de pilotage régional du projet EAF-Nansen pour la zone COPACE-nord, Ténérife, Espagne, 28 novembre 2012.

*FAO EAF-Nansen Project Report/FAO, Rapport du projet EAF-Nansen.* No 19. Rome, FAO. 2013. 25 p.

**ABSTRACT**

The EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committee meeting for the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)–North area was held at the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain on 28 November 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives from Morocco, Senegal, Cape Verde, and Guinea and also from the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project. Two staff members of the IEO, Spain and Dr Bradford Brown, FAO consultant for the CCLME project attended as observers. The meeting was chaired by Mr Salah Bencherifi of Morocco.

The meeting received updates on the activities of the project since the last RSC meeting. It discussed in detail the implementation of the CCLME Demonstration Project 1 (Sustainable transboundary management of shared small pelagic stocks in North West Africa consistent with an ecosystem approach), in particular the partnership arrangements, funding and activities. The future of the EAF-Nansen project, including the Transition Phase, approval of a new research vessel and a new science programme were also discussed.

The recommendations were discussed and adopted by the RSC.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The third meeting of the EAF-Nansen project's Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Northern part of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic area (CECAF-North) was held at the Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain on 28 November 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives from Morocco, Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) project as well as observers from Spain and the United States. The RSC member from the Gambia could not arrive early enough for the meeting because of flights. The list of participants is shown in Appendix 1.
2. The EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator, Kwame Koranteng, reminded the members about the composition and Terms of Reference of the RSC. He said that each RSC is to have representatives of fisheries research and management institutions in the partner countries in the region, as well as Institute of Marine Research in Norway (IMR), FAO and representatives of the LME Programmes and other partner programmes/ projects operating in the area. The RSC is responsible for assessing the project progress and formulating recommendations to the project coordinating unit regarding requirements, priorities and work-plans for project implementation in the respective region.
3. Mr Salah Bencherifi of Morocco chaired the meeting. Participants introduced themselves and the Agenda for the meeting (Appendix 2) was adopted without any change.

## **REPORT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

4. The Coordinator presented the conclusions, recommendations and action points from the joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees held in Accra, Ghana in March 2011.
5. 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 (South Africa) from 8 August to 2 September 2011, and at the Université Ibn Zohr in Agadir (Morocco) from 12 to 30 September, 2011. Many of the course participants were from the CECAF-North area.
6. Activities leading to the future phase of the EAF-Nansen project were also mentioned including the 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.
7. It was explained that the transition phase is to give sufficient time to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assess the situation and take a final decision concerning the research vessel. It is 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 in the follow-up phase.
8. The meeting was informed about the decision by the government of Norway to build a new vessel to replace the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen.

9. The following were covered in the discussions that followed the presentation:
  - a. The strategic partnership between the EAF-Nansen and the CCLME projects was commended.
  - b. The Committee member from Guinea complained about access to the Nansen survey data. It was explained that knowledge of Nansis is essential to have full access to the information contained in the database.
  - c. The IEO informed the meeting about the benthos and sediment samples collected during the Nansen surveys. It was reported that training on the analyses of the samples is organised in Vigo, Spain in collaboration with the University of Vigo.
  - d. UNEP is to fund the analysis of the sediment samples.

#### **UPDATES AND LESSONS LEARNT FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCLME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT 1**

10. Aboubacar Sidibe, Leader of the "Marine Living Resources and Fisheries" Component of the CCLME project made a presentation on the CCLME Demonstration Project 1 (Sustainable transboundary management of shared small pelagic stocks in North West Africa consistent with an ecosystem approach) which is financially and technically supported by the EAF-Nansen project.
11. He said that in the national consultations during the preparation of the CCLME project, all four countries participating in the project (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia) identified decline or the precarious state of small pelagic resources as a priority transboundary issue. It was also noted that the lack of a regional management plan constitutes a major challenge for the sustainable management of the pelagic resources in the sub-region.
12. The Demonstration Project is implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) on the one hand and FAO on the other. The objective of the MoU is to strengthen cooperation between the CCLME project, the EAF-Nansen project and the SRFC to ensure coordination of activities in support of the countries and for mutual benefit of the parties.
13. He outlined the process followed in the project starting from the preparation of national baseline reports and the recruitment of an international consultant to develop the regional baseline report from the national reports and other sources of data and information.
14. He touched on the multi-disciplinary workshop held in Dakar from 9 to 11 October 2012 to review the regional baseline report and to conduct an ecological risk assessment from which issues affecting the sustainability of the fisheries were identified and prioritized. He informed the meeting that these issues are to be discussed at the national level with all stakeholders before a second regional workshop is held in early 2013.



15. Mr. Sidibe then touched on the difficulties and lessons learnt in the implementation of the Demonstration Project which include the late start of activities, financial arrangement and coordination of activities between the partners.
16. It was noted that so far Morocco had not participated actively in the project. The RSC member from Morocco spoke about the difficulty due to internal challenges in Morocco but assured the Committee that his country is keen to contribute to the attainment of the project's objectives.
17. The EAF-Nansen Coordinator explained that according to previous agreements SRFC is expected to lead the policy component whereas CCLME is expected to lead the management planning component. For this component there is need to ensure the active participation of Morocco.
18. The RSC was informed that Morocco had requested the postponement of the second workshop under the management planning component to be able to contribute better to the process. It was also reported that the Director of Fisheries of Morocco had written to the FAO Assistant Director General in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture to express some concerns with the process and contributions of the project. Since the delegation from the Fisheries Department of Morocco could not arrive in time for the RSC meeting it was proposed that the issue be discussed in the CCLME Steering Committee meeting on the following day.
19. The Chairman assured members that these notwithstanding, Morocco is committed to the demonstration project and would contribute towards achievement of the expected objectives.

#### **DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE CECAF NORTH AREA**

20. Discussing how the regional pelagic fisheries management plan can be implemented, Brad Brown shared experience of the practice in the United States for coastal resources that are exploited and managed by more than 1 State. He said that an overall plan with clear goals is prepared and then each State would prepare an operational plan which details how it wishes to achieve those goals. Each State would lay emphasis on different things (e.g. one would like to emphasize recreational fisheries whilst another industrial or some other goals). However, it is important to ensure harmonization between local plans.
21. Mr Brown also noted that the approach taken may also depend on type of resources. For example for pelagic resources it would be better to start at regional level but for shrimp it could be different and here one could have national plans connected in a regional network.
22. For the small pelagic fisheries of the CCLME region, it would be better to establish clear goals in a regional plan and each country has to put in a place an action plan to achieve those goals.
23. There was some discussion on how the EAF-Nansen project National Task Groups and the CCLME national Inter-Ministerial Committees can work together on this and other

CCLME demonstration projects and activities. There was also a need for effective interaction at regional level for example through the SRFC, CECAF, and ATLAFCO.

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROJECT DURING THE TRANSITION PHASE**

24. The meeting was informed that in the transition phase (2012–2014) the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries would remain the main focus of the project with additional emphasis on climate change and the strengthening of fisheries management in countries.
25. Linked to the discussion is how the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen can be accessible to more partners for assessments and work on ecosystem surveys. 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.
26. The RSC was informed that a new science programme is being formulated in collaboration with partners, some of who are new to the Nansen programme. IEO could be a partner in the future programme.

### **YOUTH OUTREACH PILOT PROJECT IN THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL**

27. The EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator gave an update on the project development of a Teaching Kit for education on marine ecosystems and the ecosystem approach to fisheries at basic school level. He said that the Teaching Kit is informed by a needs assessment which was carried out in 21 primary and 13 secondary schools in Senegal and the Gambia and a communication strategy. The schools are located in coastal towns and villages where fishing and related activities are important namely, Saint Louis, Kayar, Hann, Mbour and Ziguinchor in Senegal and Brufut and Gunjur in The Gambia.
28. This Teaching Kit has been prepared through a collaboration between the EAF-Nansen project and *Mundus maris*, a not-for-profit international organization with technical support of the Communication for Development Service (OEKR) of FAO.
29. The Teaching Kit is intended to be complementary to teaching aids and guidance provided by the Ministry of Education as part of the syllabus and official curriculum and includes the following:
  - A workbook of methods and approaches to teaching EAF;
  - EAF-Nansen Project poster about fisheries managed with and without taking into account the EAF;
  - Poster “Fishing down marine food webs” to show the eventual effect of uncontrolled fishing on a marine ecosystem;
  - Poster of a Senegambian marine ecosystem; and
  - A Fish Ruler to measure fish (printed on water-resistant material).

30. The RSC was asked to advise on the best way to deploy the Teaching Kit in the schools and to be adopted in the countries. After some discussions, it was concluded that the best way is to work with the Ministry of Education in each country and to introduce the material initially for extra-curricular activities. If found useful, the Ministry would then be able to recommend the Teaching Kit to be included in the formal school curriculum.
31. On the question of additional places to test the tool Mr Sambe, Coordinator of the CCLME project suggested Guinea Bissau as a viable possibility.

#### **DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN SURVEYS IN THE CCLME AREA**

32. Merete Tandstad of FAO introduced this agenda item. She said that the CCLME Ecosystem Baseline Survey included in the 2012 cruise plan of the R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen was successfully completed.
33. The survey was started on 8 May (from Conakry) and ended on 22 July (in Las Palmas). Fifty-four scientists and technicians participated in the survey. In addition to the usual observations carried out on Dr Fridtjof Nansen surveys, guest experts carried out observations on other components of the marine ecosystem (e.g. birds and cetaceans).
34. The EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator added that during the survey a journalist and a photographer spent 10 days onboard the vessel who filmed the survey activities including the deployment of most of the equipment and handling of the samples. They also interviewed the crew, scientists and technicians on board. A brochure and video that document the activities on the vessel and highlight the use of the data and information collected during the surveys are being prepared.
35. Scientists of the IEO participated in the surveys and were given responsibility for the benthic ecosystem analysis in collaboration with the University of Vigo. IEO experts have participated in the three surveys (Cape Verde and two ecosystem surveys) with the same team using the same sampling methodology. The data collected are being analysed to produce a catalogue of the benthos of the CCLME region and information on vulnerable marine ecoregions (VMEs).
36. The meeting was informed that for each country two sets of benthic samples were collected – one set is kept in the country and the other at IEO. The RSC was informed that each national institute is expected to have a complete set of samples from their country (e.g. in Guinea CERESCOR should have the Guinea collection; but this collection is still at CCLME office and needs to be transported to Guinea).
37. On the question of the state of analysis of data for benthos the RSC was informed that the results on the crustaceans and decapods are ready but not for the other groups. For these adequate funding is required since there are over 15 million specimens collected thus requiring considerable time of a taxonomist for the analysis to provide good biodiversity related information.
38. It was noted that IMR had provided some of the analysis under its responsibility but there was a need to follow up with the other institutions that were responsible for some of the collections (e.g. University of Bergen).

39. A member wanted to know the level of information needed for the TDA. It was confirmed that detailed information at biodiversity level was not required at this stage. However, it was requested that the information currently available should be compiled into a report the purpose of the TDA and the records of the CCLME and EAF-Nansen projects.
40. The meeting was also informed that the sediment samples are stored in Spain. Funds have been allocated from the FAO CCLME budget and the analysis of the 2011 ecosystem survey data will be carried out in a Spanish laboratory. The results will be ready in three months and will be used to prepare a map of the sediments of the Canary Current region.
41. A similar arrangement will be made for the 2012 samples for which an amount of USD 10 000 is required for the analysis (either EAF-Nansen or the UNEP component of the budget).
42. There was a question of how all the data collected can be analyzed. The CCLME Project Coordinator indicated that a meeting is planned for 2013 for this purpose and to provide input for a status of the ecosystem report.
43. Merete Tandstad also informed the RSC about plans to carry out a 30-day ecosystem demonstration survey and a 20-day CCLME survey in 2013. It was indicated that the vessel was available to the CCLME project only in April/May and there is need to consider what can be done for the given period. It was requested that, as soon as possible, the CCLME project should convene a working group to assess the needs of the region and how to use the 20 vessels days. From the surveys already carried out, IMR could offer assistance in this task.
44. She informed the RSC that the demonstration survey will be carried out in collaboration with IOC/UNESCO, possibly UNEP and other partners.

## **TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS**

45. The Committee was reminded about the opportunity for training and fellowships within the EAF-Nansen project as well as the capacity building programme agreed between the CCLME and EAF-Nansen projects.
46. To support the benthos sampling work onboard the vessel, IEO has put together a training programme and is currently working on an application for funding from the MAVA Foundation for a course to be conducted at the University of Vigo. It was noted, however, that Morocco cannot receive funding from MAVA, and alternative solutions need to be sought to include Moroccan scientists in the training.
47. It was recognised that currently there is no specialist on benthos in the CCLME countries. The IEO/MAVA training is intended to be a regional one in support of the CCLME project and to strengthen benthos work, including taxonomic studies. Trainees will be in Vigo for up to two months and return to their country to work on samples stored there, but still guided by IEO.

48. The meeting was informed that one student from Guinea was in Vigo at the time of the meeting with funding from Guinea to work on the collection from Guinea.
49. There was a question as to whether the proposed training on analysis of benthos samples could be supported by the EAF-Nansen project. It was noted that this could be a possibility.
50. With regards to sponsorships, it was clarified that training on fisheries management is also a possibility for sponsorship and that managers also can apply to the training fund as long as the training is relevant to the objectives of the EAF-Nansen project. This also includes how scientists can better deliver scientific information for management.

#### **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

51. Kyriakos Kourkouliotis of the EAF-Nansen Project gave a brief overview of financial and administrative matters especially as related to joint activities between the CCLME and EAF-Nansen projects as well as the facilitation of EAF National Task Groups.
52. He reminded members that unlike the situation in other areas the EAF-Nansen project support to countries in the CCLME region is being channelled through the CCLME project, mainly to support the Demonstration Project 1. Support is also being given for surveys with the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen and for training and CECAF Working Groups.
53. Mr Kourkouliotis underscored the need to clarify the financial inputs requested from EAF-Nansen for the demonstration project. He said that there is a need to clarify the elements for financing of the Demonstration project as the plans and agreements were still not clear.
54. The member from Senegal wanted to know whether the proposal submitted by his country nearly two years can still be supported. Responding, the Project Coordinator recalled the decision to channel funds through the CCLME project but noted that the Senegal proposal could be considered in the next phase of the EAF-Nansen project.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

55. The RSC was informed about the EAF-Nansen project Forum to be held towards the end of 2013. The forum will focus on the experience of partners in implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries. Similar experiences from countries outside Africa will also be included in the agenda.
56. The RSC took note of the opportunity for the CCLME project and advised the countries to use this platform to share the experiences gained from the activities carried out in the CCLME demonstration projects.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

57. The following recommendations were discussed and adopted.

58. The RSC of the EAF-Nansen project for the CECAF North area:

- Appreciates the support provided by the Norwegian Government (Norad) and GEF through FAO, to help countries in the region to adopt and implement EAF and to carry out ecosystem surveys.
- Appreciates the presentation on the activities carried out and results achieved for the promotion and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and notes with satisfaction the partnership established with the CCLME project and its partners to coordinate efforts and define actions in areas of common interest to avoid duplication.
- Notes the efforts made by the CCLME and EAF-Nansen projects and partners, in particular the SRFC, to create synergies and complementarities in the demonstration projects, and reiterates the importance of strengthening these strategic partnerships to speed up the implementation of the projects.
- Appreciates the presentation made on the progress of the CCLME Demonstration Project 1 and requests the CCLME and EAF-Nansen projects and the SRFC, to finalize the on-going discussions on funding and disbursement modalities. It further requests the CCLME project to organize as soon as possible the second regional meeting of the demonstration project involving the four countries.
- Given the transboundary nature of the small pelagic fishery, the RSC requests the four countries to develop national implementation plans for small pelagic fisheries that meet the objectives of the sub-regional management plan being developed. It was agreed to further discuss this point during the CCLME Steering Committee meeting.
- Requests the National Task Groups of the EAF-Nansen project to become more involved in the implementation of the CCLME demonstration projects. The CCLME project is requested to propose a regional cooperation mechanism between countries, various projects, institutions, inter-ministerial committees, CECAF, and other partners.
- Aware of the important role that young people can play in disseminating EAF messages within the families of fishers and in the communities, the RSC commends the efforts made by the EAF-Nansen project to develop a Teaching Kit for education on marine ecosystems and the ecosystem approach for the basic schools in Senegal and The Gambia. The proposal to include the Teaching Kit in the formal curriculum of basic schools of both countries was appreciated. The CCLME project was requested to assist the EAF-Nansen project in this work.
- Takes note of the work done by the University of Vigo on the analysis of benthos samples collected during the CCLME ecosystem surveys and appreciates its availability to conduct training on the subject for scientists of the region. This training could be supported by the EAF-Nansen training and fellowship programme.

- Notes with satisfaction the analysis of the sediment samples collected during the first ecosystem survey in 2011 under the coordination of IEO. This activity was funded by the FAO budget of the CCLME project. However it is noted that no solution has been found so far regarding the sediment samples collected in 2012. This point is to be discussed at the CCLME Project Steering Committee meeting.
- Notes the concern of Guinea as regards access to the data collected during the 2011 and 2012 Nansen surveys and requests FAO, more explicitly the EAF-Nansen project, to assess the situation and provide assistance to Guinea on the matter.
- Notes with interest Norad's decision to continue funding the EAF-Nansen project beyond the transition phase, ending in December 2014, with the construction of a new research vessel.
- Concerned about the potential impact of climate change on fisheries resources and ecosystems with possible consequences for their conservation and management, participants ask the EAF-Nansen project to include the CECAF North region in future climate-related activities to be undertaken by the project. IEO indicated its availability to contribute in the identification and formulation of relevant activities.
- Welcomes the proposal of the EAF-Nansen project to allocate to the CCLME project 20 vessel days in 2013 for an ecosystem survey. Based on the preliminary results of the ecosystem surveys carried out so far, the RSC requests IMR to propose options for the use of the 20 vessel days.
- Takes note of the planned EAF-Nansen project Forum in 2013 and encourages the CCLME project and the countries to use the opportunity to share experiences.

#### **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

59. The meeting was informed that since RSC meetings are organised back-to-back with the CCLME Project Steering Committee meetings, the date and venue will be communicated to members in due course.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**APPENDIX 2****AGENDA**

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 -10:30	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening and administrative arrangements</li> <li>• Welcome and TOR of the RSC</li> <li>• Chair, Vice Chair &amp; Rapporteurs</li> <li>• Agenda</li> <li>• Action Points from the Joint meeting of the Regional Steering Committees, Accra</li> </ul>
11:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on project activities</li> <li>• CCLME Demo 1 project– updates and lessons learnt</li> <li>• Discussions on implementation of the fishery management plans in the CECAF North area</li> <li>• Activities of the EAF-Nansen project during the transition phase</li> <li>• Communication project in Gambia and Senegal</li> </ul>
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen</i> surveys in the CECAF North Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2012 surveys</li> <li>○ 2013 survey plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letters of Agreement - Technical and Financial Reporting</li> <li>• Training &amp; Fellowships</li> <li>• AOB</li> <li>• Conclusions and Recommendations</li> </ul>
	Coffee and Closing





