



# e-APPROACH EAF-Nansen Project Newsletter

NUMBER 1 October 2009

## EDITORIAL / ÉDITORIAL

It is such a pleasure to bring you this first issue of e-APPROACH, the Newsletter of the EAF-Nansen Project "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries". The immediate objective of the project is to provide scientists and managers with additional knowledge on their ecosystems for their use in planning and monitoring and, to further the acceptance of the key Principles of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

The release of the newsletter is in line with the communication strategy for the project which was elaborated with broad participation by our partners and stakeholders. As with the strategy, the primary objective of the newsletter is to raise public awareness and understanding of the EAF-Nansen project. The newsletter is also intended to increase the awareness of the public on the importance of EAF as a contribution to global sustainable development mechanism to support sustainable use and management of marine ecosystems. It is our hope that you will find the newsletter useful and informative and most importantly an avenue to obtain information on the implementation of the EAF and to share your ideas with other readers through its pages. We welcome contributions in English and French. A complete pdf version of the newsletter may also be found at the website of the EAF-Nansen project ([www.eaf-nansen.org](http://www.eaf-nansen.org)).

C'est avec un immense plaisir que je partage avec vous ce premier numéro de e-APPROACH, la Lettre d'information du Projet EAF-Nansen "Renforcement de la base des connaissances pour la mise en oeuvre d'une Approche écosystémique des pêches (AEP) maritimes dans les pays en développement". L'objectif immédiat du projet vise à fournir aux scientifiques et administrateurs les connaissances additionnelles sur leurs écosystèmes pour leur utilisation dans la planification et le suivi, et de promouvoir la prise en compte des principes clés de l'Approche Écosystémique des Pêches (AEP).

La publication de cette Lettre d'information découle la stratégie de communication du projet, élaborée avec la collaboration de nos partenaires et acteurs concernés. Comme pour la stratégie, l'objectif principal de la Lettre d'information est de sensibiliser le public sur les activités et résultats projet EAF-Nansen. La Lettre d'information est également destinée à attirer la conscience du public sur l'importance de l'AEP en tant que contribution à un mécanisme global pour le développement durable pour utiliser et gérer les écosystèmes marins. Nous espérons que vous trouverez cette Lettre d'information utile et informative et, nous gageons sur son importance pour obtenir des informations sur la mise en oeuvre de l'AEP et partager vos idées avec d'autres lecteurs. C'est avec plaisir que nous accueillerons vos contributions en français et en anglais. Nous vous informons qu'une version pdf complète de la Lettre d'information est également disponible sur le site du projet EAF-Nansen ([www.eaf-nansen.org](http://www.eaf-nansen.org)).

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## EAF FORUM / FORUM AEP

In this section of the EAF-Nansen Newsletter, we intend to create a forum for discussion on the approach, methodology, terminology and applicability of EAF.

### EAF – the Genesis

The ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) is one of a number of concepts being developed to manage natural resources in a holistic way, but with a specific focus on fisheries. International and regional fisheries-related instruments have established provisions that embrace the principles of ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries. The principles in support of the EAF clearly emerged in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) adopted by FAO in 1995, and can also be traced back to the negotiations of the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) adopted in 1982, and to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), its Agenda 21 (1992), to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992) and the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands (1972). The LOSC, for example obliges coastal States to take into consideration the interdependence of fish stocks, as well as the effects of their fishing activities on species associated with or dependent on harvested species. The CCRF encourages States to conserve aquatic ecosystems and institute management measures that are holistic including the target species as well as other species that belong to

the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent on the target species. Similarly the UN Fish Stocks Agreement requires States to adopt conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent on the target species.

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries was more explicitly addressed in the Reykjavik Declaration, which was adopted at the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem, held in Reykjavik, Iceland in October 2001 and organized jointly by the Government of Iceland and FAO with the co-sponsorship of the Government of Norway. The results of the Reykjavik Conference and the Reykjavik Declaration were presented to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (Johannesburg 2002), and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit encouraged nations to apply the ecosystem approach by 2010. Finally, in 2003 the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed EAF as the appropriate framework for fisheries management and supported the role of FAO in facilitating the process of its adoption as agreed during the WSSD.

#### ***So what is the ecosystem approach to fisheries and why EAF?***

According to FAO, the rationale for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries "...is to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiplicity of societal needs and desires, without jeopardising the options of future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems". Further "EAF strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking account of the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries."

#### ***Do you agree that EAF ensures sustainable ecosystem integrity and fishers' livelihood through participatory management?***

***Do you have the most succinct and meaningful explanation of ecosystem approach to fisheries in a single sentence? Share with us.***

## EAF IN THE FIELD / AEP EN ACTION

### Bringing EAF into the Management of the Line and Shrimp Fisheries in Mozambique

Two ecological risk assessment (ERA) workshops were held at the premises of the National Institute for Fisheries Research (IIP) in Maputo, Mozambique from 14 to 17 September 2009. The purpose of the workshops was to undertake ecological risk assessment of the line fishery and Sofala Bank shallow water shrimp fishery of Mozambique.

Participants were members of the Mozambique EAF National Task Group (NTG) and some staff of IIP, the National Directorate of Fisheries Administration and from the fishing industry. The workshops were facilitated by Dr Rick Fletcher, one of the renowned experts in the field of EAF. Two experts, Prof Rudy van der Elst of South Africa and Mr Tenreiro de Almeida of Mozambique who had prepared the draft management plans for the line fishery and shrimp fishery respectively also participated in the workshops.



*The EAF-Nansen Coordinator and the Director of Fisheries of Mozambique seal the deal to introduce EAF in the management plan of Mozambique's line and shallow water shrimp fisheries*



*The gentlemen from the fishing industry listens to the ERA facilitator attentively and with open eyes ...*



*... and so is the Deputy Director of IIP*

The following steps of the EAF framework were completed in the workshop:

definition of the scope of the EAF process, this includes clearly outlining the scale and type of the fishery and developing a shared understanding of the social, economic and ecological values to be achieved, and

identification of issues and the prioritisation (amongst them of those that need to be managed) to define each of the relevant issues and their priority

for management and to recognise those issues that cannot be directly managed including those where actions by other agencies would be needed.

The workshop reports detailing necessary management actions are to be used by the Rudy and Tenreiro to finalise the management plans which will then be subjected to final validation by the stakeholders and managers.

The workshops were well attended and successful. Recognising that carrying out an ecological risk assessment as an important step in the preparation of a fisheries management plan, the participants expressed satisfaction with the ERA methodology and they re-affirmed confidence in the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

## NEWS/ NOUVELLES

### Mozambique EAF National Task Group Starts Working

On 1 – 3 July, the Mozambique EAF National Task Group held its first meeting. The Task Group is made up of 13 members drawn from various government departments, academia and the fishing industry. The Chair of the Group is Dr Domingos Gove, Director of the National Institute for Fisheries Research who is also the EAF-Nansen project Regional Task Group member (Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem area) for Mozambique with Ms Claudia Tomas of the National Directorate of Fisheries Administration as the Alternate.

See story at: [www.eaf-nansen.org/news](http://www.eaf-nansen.org/news)

## Trainers' workshop

A Trainers' Workshop was held at the FAO headquarters in Rome from 16 to 20 February 2009. The aim of the Trainers' Workshop was to train experts from the project area to assist FAO backstop the in-country project activities. The workshop was attended by participants from all four operational regions of the project namely the Canary Current, the Guinea Current, the Agulhas and Somali Currents and the Benguela Current large marine ecosystems areas. The training covered fundamentals of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, ecological risk assessment methodology and the development and review of fisheries management plans. It also looked at the EAF-Nansen project, its activities and expected outcomes. Participants were also introduced to workshop facilitation.



*Trainers and resource persons*

## EAF – Nansen Regional Steering Committees take off

### **Mombasa, Kenya**

The South West Indian Ocean area EAF-Nansen project Regional Steering Committee was established at the 4th Session of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) held in Mombasa, Kenya from 23 to 25 September 2009 as an ad hoc committee of the Commission in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Statutes of the Commission for the duration of the EAF-Nansen project. Similarly, the EAF Regional Task Group of the project was established as an ad hoc EAF Working Group under the Scientific Committee of SWIOFC. The first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee was held on Saturday 26 September 2009 under the chairmanship of Dr Hussain R. Hassan,

Minister of State for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Maldives. It would be recalled that under institutional arrangement for the EAF-Nansen project, there is to be a Regional Steering Committee for each of the four operational areas of the project (coinciding with four large marine ecosystem areas in Sub-Saharan Africa), namely the Canary Current area, the Guinea Current area, the Benguela Current area and the Agulhas and Somali Currents area.



*Regional Steering Committee Members, Mombasa, Kenya*



*The EAF-Nansen Coordinator shares some ideas with the Assistant Minister for Fisheries Development of Kenya, Hon. Mohammed Abu Chiaba, at the meeting in Mombasa*

## Windhoek, Namibia

Three days later, the inaugural meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Benguela Current large marine ecosystem area was held at the UN Offices in Windhoek, Namibia on 29th September 2009, chaired by Dr Moses Maurihungirire, Director of Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia. The RSC in this region is affiliated to the Benguela Current Commission and its Ecosystem Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Johann Augustyn of the Marine Coastal Management of South Africa. The role of the EAF-Nansen Regional Steering Committee is to assess the project progress and give region-specific advice to the project management to ensure effective implementation of the project.



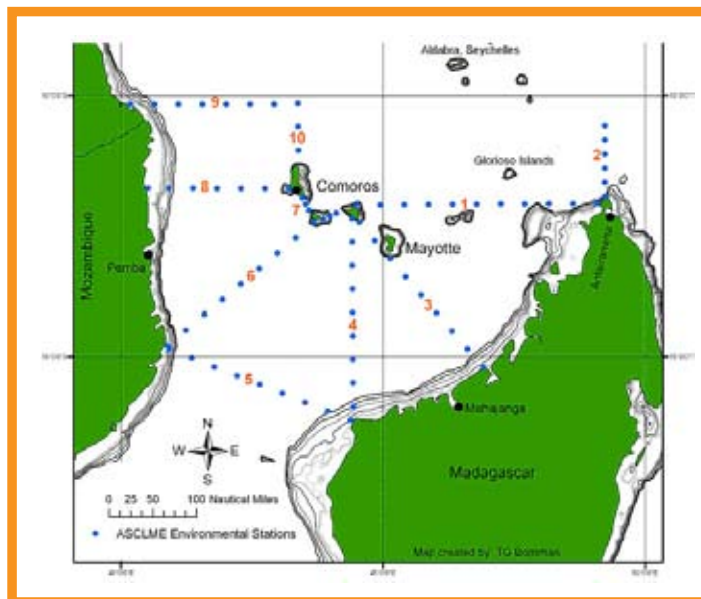
*Meeting of the Benguela Current area Regional Steering Committee, Windhoek, Namibia*

## ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

### The 2009 SWIOFP / ASCLME Ecosystem Survey Underway

On September 2009, the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen sailed out of Cape Town on a mission to undertake ecosystem surveys jointly organised by the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project and the EAF-Nansen project. The work includes surveys on the western seaboard of Madagascar and around the island of Comoros. One objective of the survey is to establish the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the Comoros Gyre, an anti-cyclonic eddy that is generally located from 10°S to 15°S and between the north-east coast of Mozambique and the north-west coast of Madagascar. According to the Sailing Orders of the survey, recent exploratory cruises, satellite tracking and remote sensing studies have shown that the northern Mozambique Channel to be a generally oli-

gotrophic environment that nonetheless supports a large number of fisheries, a high biodiversity and high densities of ecologically important top predators. The processes that sustain the biomass and diversity of this ecosystem are not well understood. The 106-day voyage follows the 116-day cruise in the waters of Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles and on the Mascarene Plateau jointly organised by the ASCLME and the EAF-Nansen projects in 2008. Visit [www.asclme.org](http://www.asclme.org) for information on last year's cruise.



*Design of the Comoros Gyre Dr Fridtjof Nansen Survey*



*The Indian Ocean: low tide at Mombasa beach*

## Nansis is in Windows

We are happy to inform all our partners that the Windows version of Nansis, the software for trawl survey data logging and analysis has been released. The development of the Windows version of Nansis has been an activity under the EAF-Nansen project. The software was first developed by Dr Tore Stromme of IMR for use in connection with fisheries surveys conducted with the Norwegian fisheries research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen and has been used by many fisheries scientists in developing countries for well over 20 years.

To help users get very conversant with the software and to discover its power, a training course has been developed for scientists and cruise participants. The EAF-Nansen project is offering the training with the collaboration of GEF-assisted large marine ecosystem and other regional fisheries projects in Africa. The new Nansis is available for free download from the IMR website.

See full story at: [www.eaf-nansen.org](http://www.eaf-nansen.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS A VENIR

- A meeting of the EAF-Nansen RSC for the GCLME area will be held on 29th October 2009 in Accra, Ghana. It will be preceded by a one day Managers and Scientists forum on small pelagic fishery resources in the southern CECAF region. The forum will be held at the close of the 10-day working group on small pelagic fishes financed and co-organised by the EAF-Nansen project
- A Survey Data Analysis workshop for scientists from the Western Indian Ocean countries will be held from 2 – 13 November at the Albion Research Institute in Mauritius. The training is being co-organised and financed by the SWIOFP and the EAF-Nansen project with technical support from the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Norway. The training will be centred on the Nansis software for survey data logging and analysis.
- From 11 November 2009, the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen will sail southwards from Reunion Island to carry out ecosystems surveys around some of the seamounts in the south-western Indian Ocean. The project is the joint effort of IUCN, ASCLME, the Zoological Society of London, the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme and the EAF-Nansen project.

Visit the cruise blog at: <http://seamounts2009.blogspot.com>

- The annual survey planning meeting for the joint acoustic survey in the Northwest Africa region (Morocco to the Gambia) will be held in Dakar, Senegal on 30–31 October 2009.

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