



FISHERIES COORDINATION PLATFORM AND THE REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

16th & 17th June 2022

NAIROBI - KENYA

Promoted and Funded by



Implementing partners



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of E€OFISH and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European

WORKSHOP REPORT:

1. Setting up of the SWIO Fisheries Coordination Platform.
2. Presentation of The Regional coordination Mechanism – A web based application,
Developed by E€OFISH

by

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JUNE 2022

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1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Fish is an essential protein source for 3.2 billion people and provide 17 per cent of the world's animal protein. It is a lifeline for many developing countries, including the EA-SA-IO region that rely on fish for 70 per cent of their nutrition. Hence, informed policymaking and management measures are critical for mainstreaming appropriate investments to build resilience of fragile fisheries resources and ecosystems for the present and future generations.

In this context, ECOFISH is proposing the setting up of the SWIO Fisheries Coordination Platform which will regroup a network of regional scientists and institutions to collect and share data on climate and climate change impacts and other scientific evidence to support national/regional projects for funding by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other multilateral development agencies.

The operationalisation of a Regional Fisheries (Climate-Environment Outlook) Network or platform to track the socio-economic and ecological impacts of climate change and biodiversity degradation in the ACP countries of the EA-SA-IO region is supported by Strategic Action 1.7 of the ECOFISH Marine Fisheries Work Plan. The purpose of the Concept Note is to define the objectives, theory of change, high-level log frame and implementation modalities of this intervention to trigger a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder consultative process for anchoring the mechanism in the regional landscape.

The ECOFISH programme support the sustainable management and development of fisheries to contribute to poverty alleviation food and nutrition security while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity. It builds on the achievement of previous projects to enhance the sustainable and inclusive management of the marine and inland fisheries resources and ecosystems of the EA, SA and IO region to contribute to the aspirations of the UN-SDG 2020. It also reflects the "AU Transforming Africa 2030 and Blue Economy Strategy" as well as other analogous marine fisheries and environment international and regional instruments, including the *AU Policy Frameworks and Reform Strategies* for the small-scale fisheries 2017.

It is to be noted that the Ecofish programme commissioned two studies, namely on the indicators used in the region with regards to climate change and a Socio-economic impact assessment of climate change on the small-scale fisheries of the SWIO region. The two consultants presented their findings. This workshop took stock of the contents, discussed and provided further inputs to be incorporated in the report.

The logical next step would be the creation of a network as mentioned above. A proposal is presented for discussion and adoption by the main parties concerned for the SWIO region. Note that a similar platform was set up in September 2021 for the Horn of Africa.

1.1 Objectives

The proposed intervention aims to set up a regional Network for assessing and predicting potential impacts of climate change on selected coastal marine fisheries and ecosystems in EA-SA-IO region¹. The pilot will initially focus on observing the biophysical and socio-economic factors of ocean warming and associated environmental stressors the priority fisheries in the partner countries.

The concept is inspired by the Integrated Coastal zone Management which is interrelated to other analogous approaches such as the Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management (EBFM), Integrated and Sustainable Fisheries Management Approach and the FAO Blue Growth Initiative.

Besides a lack of adequate and reliable fisheries data, the conventional fish stock assessment methods are based on a single species which is not appropriate in a multi-species and multi-gear fisheries system such as the artisanal fisheries of the region. However, there is a global effort to promote EBM to embrace the biophysical and socio-economic dimensions of fisheries management in an integrative and holistic manner. So, the intervention proposes to establish a regional network of national or local in-situ observing of the ocean warming and biodiversity degradation phenomena in selected coastal marine fisheries.

The regional network of national marine research centres will collaborate to synthesize a suite of existing and in-situ observations through the dynamic models to assess the current and future trend of climate and environmental impacts on the fisheries. It will also refer to UN SDG 2030 framework, particularly SDG 14 that has six targets related to marine life, small-scale fisheries, and associated ecosystem services.

1.2 Methodology

The Network will have to select key indicators/pointers related to the impacts of ocean warming as well as overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices on the coastal marine fisheries to anticipate appropriate adaptation measures for maximisation of the socio-economic and ecological benefits to local fishers and fish workers in the partner countries. The Network will be designed through consultation among the key stakeholders (data users and producers). The National Focal Points of the Ecofish Programme will assist in the facilitation and coordination of the key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels. However, this is just the beginning of the process for an in-depth and inclusive consultation with all relevant stakeholder groups.

Scientific institutions will be equipped to measure ocean production and main parameters illustrating the change of the biophysics of the ocean. The Fisheries

¹ It is one of the strategic actions of ECOFISH Marine Fisheries Work Plan which is implemented by the IOC Secretariat. It covers the ACP countries of the marine façade of the EA-SA-IO region: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Sudan. La Reunion, an outer territory of France/EU is also participating this programme on its resources.

Coordination Network will work in close collaboration with the Meteorological Services as well as other relevant international institutions over the duration of the project to have an insight of likely impacts of climate change on key fish species. It is worth noting that there are already studies (cf recently study from FAO on the impact of climate change on fisheries) - with detailed information on the Indian Ocean region.

Analytical capacities are essential to measure and plan actions against climate change. To uphold ocean and fisheries in the climate priorities per country, the work package will include studies, validation meetings, training and provision of IT equipment with software application (supply contract). These will be commissioned to assist countries, DRMOs and RFBs with stronger analytical works on the climate change and its impacts.

1.3 Outcomes

- In keeping with the narratives of this Concept Note the ECOFISH Programme aims at ushering a paradigm shift in the region regarding the climate change adaptation in the coastal marine fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region through science-based policymaking and management decisions.
- It should be perceived a pride for relevant stakeholders at all levels to partake their leadership and commitments for anchoring this Fisheries Coordination Platform/Network in the EA-SA-IO landscape. Effective consultation and collaboration are now triggered.
- The activity will assist the DMROs and RFBs in the incorporation of climate adaptation and resilience strategies and action plans into their respective policy and institutional frameworks. The beneficiary countries will be supported through appropriate skill development, training and capacity building initiatives.
- Analytical capacities of the DMRO's will be enhanced.
- Countries will benefit from required equipment to carry out the necessary measurements.
- Knowledge of impacts can help in the mitigation of issues.

The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting as background papers.

- Annexe 1: Promoting a Sub-regional Coordination Platform for the coastal marine fisheries sector in the SWIO region.
- Annexe 2: Creation of the ECOFISH's web-based Fisheries Programmes Coordination Platform for the EA-SA-IO region – Experimental Phase.
- Annexe 3: Potential Impacts of Climate Change and Climate Variations on the coastal marine fisheries in the South-West Indian Ocean region.

2. FISHERIES COORDINATION PLATFORM

2.1 Setting the scene for the meeting

1. Dr S. Sweenarain presented the Ecofish programme and its various workplans, log frame and activities. He spoke on the asymmetry of information and why the fisheries sector is still lagging behind. He introduced the Fisheries coordination platform, its objectives, functions and the role of the national focal points. He *emphasized on the impetus of effective regional collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of coastal marine fisheries resources to contribute to the socio-economic and ecological goals of the UN SDG 2030 / Africa's Agenda 2063. He mentioned on the need for collective work and sharing of data at the regional level.*

Dr. Sweenarain spoke on the functions if the Fisheries Coordination Platform (FCP), which can be summarised as follows:

- *To assist in the strategic orientation, facilitation and coordination of sub-regional and national chapter of the Ecofish objectives and strategic actions.*
- *To contribute to preliminary research and consultative processes for formulating Concept Notes and Terms of Reference for STE, background papers and Agenda for the sub-regional meetings and workshops.*
- *To review the performance of the Ecofish activities at the sub-regional and national levels.*
- *To coordinate fisheries and fisheries-related programmes at sub-regional and national levels for reinforcing synergies.*
- *To promote multistakeholder dialogue and participatory approach in policymaking and management decisions.*

Download Presentation annexe 4: [click here](#)

2.2 Discussions

Dr Wassie Anteleh from IGAD commented on the experience of the Horn of Africa Regional Coordination Platform set up in Sept 2021 by IGAD & Ecofish. He shared a few tips to enable a collaborative environment and mentioned on the role of the IPMU to call meetings and monitor results.

The discussions were also axed on the following:

- Funding for the development of the blue economy at country levels.
- Funding for the National focal points as the activities mentioned will call for meetings with other potential collaborators, meetings at various levels, transportations etc.

- Funds received for the funding of projects are normally channelled through the Ministry of Finances of respective countries. Some rare exceptions have been recorded. Coordination of projects are also done by concerned Ministries and requests for funds are made to the Ministry of finance.
- Interactions with the IOTC. SIOFA SWIOFC etc are complementary to the above.
- Implementation of management plans, managing resources etc are equally important. A network/Platform might help administration of projects. However, expenses have to be met. Cannot expect the national focal points to subsidise the projects from their own pockets. Ecofish needs to look into this issue?
- Lack of scientific data in some countries, capacity needs, gap assessment to be investigated.

The NFP's will try to address the above as far as possible.

3. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Comoros

The representative of Comoros briefly talked on the following Topics/challenges:

- Statistical system, (collection of data and analysis). Will need to find out about the protocols for data sharing.
- Management Plans and resource management.
- Processing and value addition.
- Environment and climate change. (Impacts and Extreme Weather Events).

He also mentioned on the need to follow the policies of the government.

3.2 Mauritius

The presentation of Mauritius was axed along the following:

- Facts about Mauritius and the main challenges faced by the sector namely
 - Invest in the fishing industry to continue to generate income for the country in terms of exports and reduction of imports.
 - Reinforce the fishing industry to assume new roles and responsibilities with respect to food security.
 - Exploration for potential untapped resources to evaluate commercial feasibility and develop strategies for sustainable exploitation.
 - The need to set a strong base for the fishing industry in Mauritius with the potential for generating sustainable jobs.
- Some of the priority actions relates to the following:
 - Encourage Outer reef and bank fishing in appropriate boats and use of appropriate fishing gears.
 - Training of fishers as per needs.
 - Investigate new potential stocks for exploitation
 - Protection of the ecosystems and biodiversity.
 - Further develop the aquaculture sector.
 - Combat IUU fishing I the region.

Download Presentation annexe 5: [click here](#)

3.3 Mozambique

The representative for Mozambique spoke on the coastal marine fisheries sector and the main challenges related to the fisheries sector, namely:

- Maximize ecosystem productivity.
- Maximize the sustainable human benefits of coastal ecosystems. These include improvements to existing benefit streams (such as fisheries) as well as the development of new streams (such as blue carbon). This also means maximizing resilience to coastal and marine climate change, to mitigate damage to both ecosystems and human lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.
- Reduce human dependence and impacts on coastal and marine habitats through the development of new sustainable livelihood strategies and livelihood opportunities.
- Training of fishers.
- Rehabilitation of ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity, Mapping of seagrass areas and legal frameworks.

The priority actions relate to:

- Reinforce the control and management of fishing activities and the ecosystems that fisheries depend on, with a view to guaranteeing the renewal and sustainability of fishing resources.
- Carry out campaigns to register fishermen at the level of fishing centers.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the use of sustainable fishing gear and fishing gear that do not damage fragile ecosystems (mangroves, corals, seagrass).
- Evaluate, update and implement participatory fisheries management plans that include awareness and information programs on management regulation and good practices in the fisheries sector.
- Develop and implement community territorial management strategies where the management of fishing resources is carried out by the community through territorial rights.
- Training and development of management capacities of community fisheries councils; Establishment of temporary closed areas.
- Participatory surveillance of harmful gear, fish sizes and fishing grounds, etc.

Download Presentation annexe 6: [click here](#)

3.4 Seychelles

The representative of Seychelles spoke on the overfished tuna and the need for funding for infrastructure etc. The main challenges relate to:

- Resources and resourcing: Limited capacity within the Ministry and the SFA.
- Access to resources: Inability to adequately supply the domestic fish processing sector of fresh tuna for exports due to latent capacity in semi-industrial fishing.
- Inadequate funding for common infrastructure facilities and utilities in support of key investments.
- Yellow fin tuna remains in the red/overfished.
- Implementation and enforcement of Mahe Plateau Co-management plan.
- Implementation of the management plans, building capacity and encouraging the circular economy are definite challenges in face of limited funding.

The priorities may be summarized as follows:

- Build capacity of actors in the Fishing industry.
- Encourage a Circular Economy, using by-products & waste from fish transformation.
- Invest in key infrastructure for the Fishing Industry (road/ utilities/ machinery/ sewage) & increase Seychellois stake holding in the sector.
- Promote and develop diversified marine species, through the development of the aquaculture sector; and
- Sector governance and management of fisheries resources.

Download Presentation annexe 7: [click here](#)

3.5 Zanzibar

The representative of Zanzibar, Mr Omar Foun spoke on the crab and seaweed farming, the shehia fishermen committees, teaching youth, marine conservation etc.

The main challenges relate to the following:

- Data collection and the implementation of the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA).
- Tackling the issue of IUU.
- Increase conservation areas and establish baselines for data monitoring and evaluation.

- Exchange visits locally, regionally and internationally.
- Support a workshop to discuss challenges in small pelagic Fishery in the United Republic of Tanzania in marketing, fishing grounds.
- Support monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) both territorial and EEZ.
- Promote Eco Tourism income generating activities so as to minimize fishing pressure.
- Provide Environmental Education especially Climate Change and its mitigation measures.
- Conduct Value chain study in Priority Fisheries

Download Presentation annexe 8: [click here](#)

4. PROPOSAL FOR THE FISHERIES COORDINATION PLATFORM

Dr. Sweenarain presented the proposal for the fisheries Coordination Platform for the SWIO region. (See annex 9).

He remarked that some of the common denominators which could be immediately implemented may be summarized as follows:

- Capacity needs & gaps assessment in the region.
- Build network (what's App may initially be used).
- MCS platform
- Sharing of lessons and best practices.
- Policies and management plans (capacity building for its implementation).
- Socio economic impacts/Impacts of climate change/ EWE/observatory/BEFSA
- Marine fisheries environment/sustainable livelihood protection initiatives.

Download Presentation annexe 9: [click here](#)

4.1 Discussions:

Dr Wassie Anteleh made some remarks regarding the support of countries, organisations structure, projects to be implemented and the possibility for the IOC to take the lead in the longer term with regards to the operation of the platform/commitments of parties.

Mr. Tiana remarked that this platform should have a direct link to the highest level of decision takers of countries to be fully effective. This would greatly facilitate and

Hasten decision taking at the higher levels.

4.2 Conclusion

The participants were requested to digest all the explanations given and to discuss with their colleagues and submit any comment, amendment, or any addition to the submitted draft text discussed.

Ecofish will take all necessary measures to ensure that any comment or addition is incorporated in the draft document circulated. Ecofish will also ensure that the discussions be incorporated in the various concerned sections of the draft document.

1 The Regional coordination Mechanism

1.1 Presentation of The Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

Dr S. Sweenarain made a presentation as an introduction to the Regional Coordination Mechanism (Act. 1.1.1.1 of the Ecofish workplan). He spoke on the following:

- The vision and mission statement.
- High level log frame.
- The Ecofish workplans.
- The organisation arrangement/structure.
- The work packages and institutional web.
- Justification for the RCM, objectives, function, strategies, coordination & alignment, etc.
- Thematic areas and geographical coverages and other key features.
- Role & responsibilities of the secretariat.
- Project cycle management & research/Development phase.
- Dbase indicators & variables.
- Project log frame.
- The search engine/ protection and the scope of the RCM.
- Communications and visibility.

Download Presentation annexe 10: [click here](#)

The second part relates to the presentation of Mr. Said Mmadi, the IT expert at Ecofish. He made a presentation of the application explaining the various pages e.g., create project, register, explore, log in for further searches, the various types of control measures embedded for protection etc.

He also mentioned on the types of projects and the pages related to project details, creation of new projects and the search function.

Mr S. MMadi made an excellent presentation and cleared doubts along the way.

1.2 Discussions

The main items discussed were as follows:

- Sharing of information.
- Updating information on the RCM, how it will work?
- The search engine.
- The various levels of control.
- National projects & regional projects.
- Regional platform for Octopus/Sea cucumber.
- Support of La Reunion for the Tuna Platform.
- Many items were discussed during the presentation itself.

1.3 Conclusion

The need for further workshops to explain how the work will be tackled was also discussed. There is also the issue of raising awareness in the region specially with Donors, DMRO's, REC's Countries and other organisations/NGOs. It was noted that the RCM could play an important role in the future and should be considered as an excellent tool as part of good fisheries governance in the region.

The meeting was closed at 12.30 Hours.



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