



# 3<sup>rd</sup> ECOFISH PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022

NARRATIVE REPORT

Promoted and Funded by



Implementing partners



© 2022 EEOFISH

**EEOFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT**

Blue Tower | 4th Floor | Rue de L'institut

Ebène 72201 | Mauritius | Tel: +230 402 6100

info@ecofish-programme.org

[www.ecofish-programme.org](http://www.ecofish-programme.org)



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

# **3<sup>RD</sup> ECOFISH PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE**

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA  
17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

NARRATIVE REPORT

---

# CONTENTS

---

<b>1. BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Welcome speech from Dr Y.S.Mamo .....	6
<b>2. THE ECOFISH PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 The mandated development partner .....	9
2.2 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC MEETING (MARCH 2021). .....	9
<b>3. THE LVFO WORKPLAN.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>4. THE LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY WORKPLAN .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5. REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 1 .....	17
5.2 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 2 .....	20
5.3 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.....	23
5.4 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 3 .....	24
<b>6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, GRANT MANAGEMENT, SERVICE CONTRACTS, ETC.....</b>	<b>26</b>
6.1 Presentation of the EU (Mr M. Balloo).....	26
<b>7. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>27</b>
7.1 Information technology and Database management .....	27
7.2 Communication and visibility .....	28

---

<b>8. DMRO'S/ RFB STATUS REPORTS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
8.1 Presentation from EAC (Dr Anthony Taabu Munyaho).....	30
8.2 Presentation from IGAD (Dr Wassie Anteneh).....	31
8.3 Presentation from EFCA.....	31
8.4 Presentation from SADC .....	31
8.5 Presentation from TAT.....	32
<b>9. PRESENTATION OF THE IOC (MR VICKY CUSHMAJEE) .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>10. COMMENTS FROM THE EU (MR MADEV BALLOO) .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>11. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP .....</b>	<b>34</b>

# 1. BACKGROUND

The EEOFISH 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.

The EEOFISH financing agreement was signed on September 13, 2018. This was subsequently followed by a high-level consultative meeting in November 2018, eventually followed by the first Programme Steering Committee in February 2020. The Integrated Programme Management Unit (IPMU) was not established until July 2020, when some of the staff were recruited.

To ensure effective management of the EEOFISH Programme, Steering Committee’s (PSC) have been established for Workplans 1,2 and 3. The PSC meets annually to take stock of progress achieved and approve the annual workplan’s. In this context, the third PSC meeting for the marine workplan 3 met in Lusaka on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 under the chairmanship of COMESA. This Narrative report has been prepared to get the gist of the achievements of the EEOFISH programme. The report reviews Result 1,2 and 3 of the EEOFISH Marine/inland Fisheries for the EA, SA and IO region. Note that Result 3 is managed by the EUD with technical inputs from EEOFISH Technical Assistance Team (TAT) and relates to call for proposal launched by the EUD in April 2020.

[Download Agenda](#)

[Download Participants List](#)

## 1.1 Welcome speech from Dr Y.S.Mamo

In his welcoming speech, the chairperson of the EEOFISH programme Dr Yoseph Shiferaw Mamo spoke on the importance of fisheries to COMESA and the region at large. He stressed on the close collaboration between COMESA and the EEOFISH programme and the Joint effort with regards to the Blue Economy namely the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account, championed by COMESA. He also referred to the ground activities contributing to the well-being of the communities and the local population.

### **1.11 Speech of the Head of Cooperation of the EU - Annex 1**

[Download Speech](#)

### **1.12 Speech of the Secretary general of the IOC - Annex 2**

[Download Speech](#)

### **1.13 Speech of the Assistant Secretary general of the COMESA Secretariat - Annex 3**

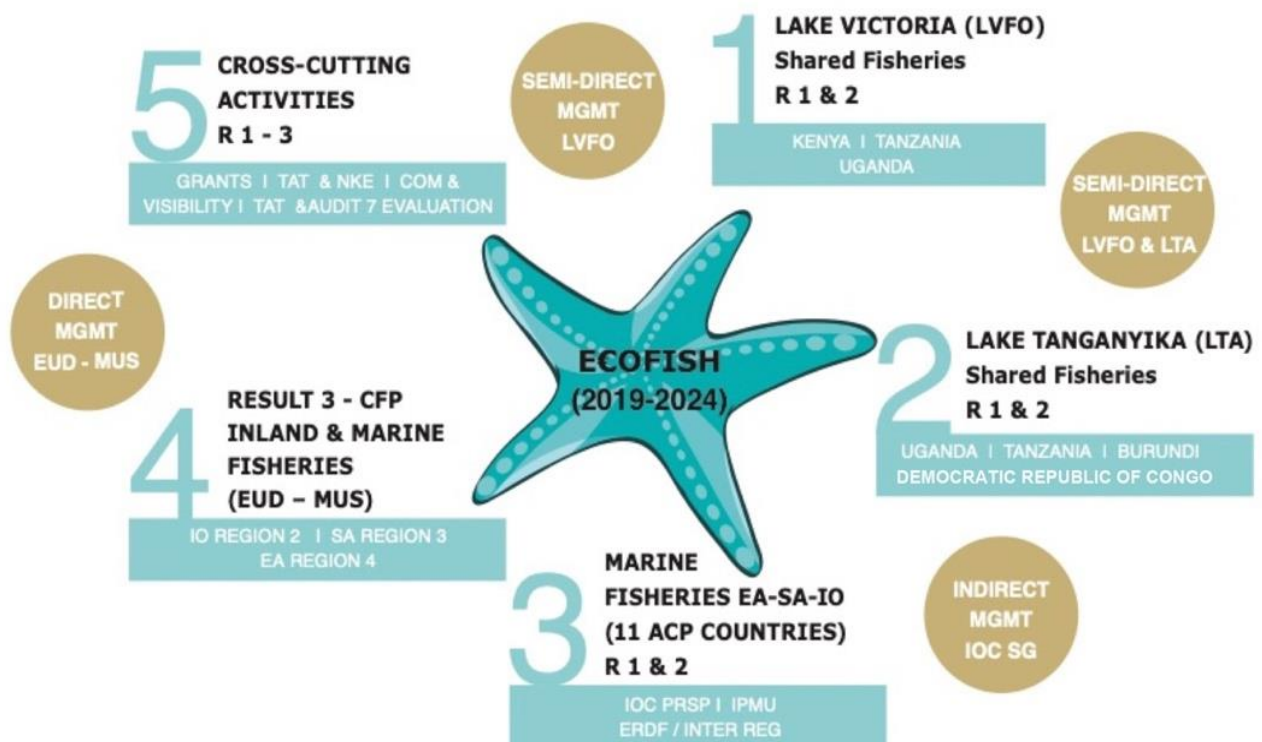
[Download Speech](#)

## 2. THE EEOFISH PROGRAMME

To set the scene for the meeting, the EEOFISH PMU presented a short film on one of the Demonstration projects.

This was followed by an update of the EEOFISH programme by Dr S. Sweenarain (Team Leader).

From a project management perspective, EEOFISH comprises 5 Work Plans which are embedded into the mandated objectives and guidelines of its Financial Agreement.



**Work Plans 1 and 2** are included in the shared fisheries of Africa’s two Great Lakes: Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. LTA and LVFO are two inland Regional Fisheries Management Organisations that are institutionally connected to EAC. The LTA Work Plan is managed jointly by the LTA and EUD Burundi and is implemented by the FAO through a Contribution Agreement. The LVFO Work Plan is implemented by the LVFO Secretariat through a Delegation Implementation Agreement signed with IOC.

**Work Plan 3** relates to the Marine Fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region which is implemented by the IOC Secretariat through a dedicated IPMU. It is a multi-faceted work plan that embraces all mandated strategic actions of the EEOFISH programme. It also includes the IOC Regional Fisheries Surveillance Programme, commonly known as “PRSP” to tackle the



issue of IUU fishing in the SWIO region. The IPMU became operational in July 2020 with a reduced staff complement.

**Work Plan 4** relates to Result 3 – Call for Proposals. Nine (9) awarded projects (3 in the EA, 4 in SA and 2 in IO Region) are concerned. The Ecopêche OI (Reunion Island) is also included here.

**Work Plan 5** consists of the direct management and cross-cutting components such as the Technical Assistance Contract with the Consortium INCATEMA-DT Global-AESA, PRSP Grant Contracts to financially support regional fisheries sea and air patrols, Communication and Visibility budget and provision for External Evaluations and audits.

[Download Annexe 4- Setting the scene](#)

## 2.1 The mandated development partner

The following sub key stakeholders are the mandated development partners of the E€OFISH programme.

1. The five Duly Mandated Regional Economic Communities (RECS): COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC and SADC.
2. Two inland Regional Fisheries Management Organisations: LVFO and LTA.
3. SWIOFC is presently non-functional.
4. The IOTC and SIOFA has been excluded as E€OFISH has had no dealings with them.
5. Other fisheries-related partner agencies include AU-IBAR, FAO, EFCA and UNEP-Nairobi Convention.
6. EU Delegations in the EA-SA-IO region

## 2.2 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PSC MEETING (MARCH 2021).

### **RECOMMENDATION 1:**

To hold on the discussion regarding the payment of a stipend/allowance to the participant attending virtual meetings organized by E€OFISH as the matter would be raised by the Administration and Finance Officer.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *A memorandum including the context, objective, scope and criteria and safeguards was presented to the IOC Secretariat and the EU Delegation in Mauritius to improve the effectiveness of virtual workshops and meeting.*

- *However, the proposal was rejected by the sponsors. It is a missed opportunity to innovate in the interest of the programme and the carbon budget.*

## **DISCUSSION**

- *An appeal was made for the EU to reconsider the payment of a stipend to participants at virtual meetings.*

## **COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS**

- *Innovations to be brought in the implementation of activities*
- *Carbon footprints, reduced costs of airfares, saves travel time, pooling of participants may not be feasible.*
- *To be noted that IGAD is already remunerating participants at virtual meetings*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The IOC will resubmit a request to the EU, highlighting the elements put forward during the discussions.

## **RECOMMENDATION 2:**

The IOC will ensure the closure of the former grant contracts with three concerned countries and finalize the new grant application negotiation reports with seven eligible countries at the earliest before the prescribed deadline.

## **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *With the support of the E€OFISH IPMU, all previous SmartFish grant contracts are closed, with the exception of Mauritius whereby the process is still ongoing.*
- *The national grant contracts for regional MCS operations are managed directly by the EU Delegation in Mauritius with the technical coordination of the Technical Assistance Team and the PRSP Technical Coordination*
- *Administrative and Financial training courses have been dispensed by EUD-MUS to the National counterparts.*

## **COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS**

- *Participants were informed that Mauritius procedure is almost completed, and the IOC will be submitting outstanding supporting documents to the EUD in Mauritius soon.*

**RECOMMENDATION 3:**

Collaboration in terms of information exchange or sharing with other mandated agencies to be formalized

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *Following the PRSP Regional Coordination Unit, both Operations and Decision Making, a roadmap for information exchange among its participating countries is in process.*
- *The above initiative includes inter-agency collaboration regarding other regional MCS Coordination and Maritime Security Mechanisms in the region.*
- *Significant milestones have been passed in the collaboration with the 2 MASE Regional Mechanisms and SADC MCSCC. And discussion is underway to support IGAD is designing a tailored MCS CC for the Horn of Africa.*
- *Collaboration ongoing, development of Information exchange protocol under and MOU with two MASE regional centers.*
- *Consultative meeting between PRSP RCU and MASE held:*
- *Consultative meeting with SADC IPMU and RTT due.*  
*been formulated to ensure sustainable, reciprocate MCS*

**COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS**

- *It was pointed out that a protocol for data information and sharing would be needed.*
- *It was necessary to create awareness on existing protocols and others in pipeline*

**RECOMMENDATION 4:**

IOC as contracting authority needs to send official letters to the IOC member states who are signatory to the VMS protocol, to reinstate the process for forwarding national VMS data to the centralised regional VMS (SIGMA) server and for the three East African countries members of PRSP to invite them to join the mechanism.

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *IOC-PRSP (MCS Coordination mechanism) has been activated and is functional. 3 Regional Sea patrols have taken place with the support of France/Reunion despite the COVID 19 pandemic challenges. The extension of the VMS protocol to four (4)*

- East African countries – MOZ, TZN, KEN and SOM – is being taken care of under an updated PRSP administrative arrangement and Exchange of Information framework.*
- *Done, However Seychelles still refraining from sharing VMS data pending investigation with regards to the server and visual security and accessibility at the IOC secretariat as recommended by the PRSP Extended RCU and validated by the council of Ministers.*
  - *In process of recruiting expert for the work including gap analysis of 2014 protocol for information exchange.*

### **RECOMMENDATION 5:**

The committee proposed that a draft of the modalities of payment and qualification for the stipend be clearly defined.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *The option was explored and found to be more complicated than the actual administrative and financial procedures.*
- *After an improved understanding of the mandatory procedures by the administrative and financial staff, these financial tools are working efficiently.*
- *EUD MUS has provided several training courses to target staff to boost their functional capabilities*

### **RECOMMENDATION 6:**

Use of new financial tools to facilitate activities, such as pooling of STEs by launching a single bigger contract which will facilitate recruitment of STE's and execution of activities

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *The option was explored and found to be more complicated than the actual administrative and financial procedures.*
- *After an improved understanding of the mandatory procedures by the administrative and financial staff, these financial tools are working efficiently.*
- *EUD MUS has provided several training courses to target staff to boost their functional capabilities.*

### **RECOMMENDATION 7:**

Appreciated the work done and hoped that we present the M&E platform in future meetings.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *The system is operating and it is innovative in the sense that there is no specialized software to manage and monitor a fisheries project.*
- *E€OFISH is a multi-faceted programme and is a test case for the M&C software. It focused on the Marine Fisheries WP, and it is now extended progressively to the technical WP: LVFO, LTA and R3/ Field Projects.*
- *It is bound to be a major assets/ deliverables*

### **RECOMMENDATION 8:**

To better coordinate communication activities in the region, DMROs and RFBs are encouraged to assign a communication counterpart dedicated to the E€OFISH programme, as IOC and IGAD have done. The network of communicators which will be set up will thus ensure a better impact on the region.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *Done. The network of communicators is set up and exchanging on WhatsApp. This network will be expanded to remaining partners which did not assign a communicator counterpart yet, and to the network of journalists that will be established*

### **RECOMMENDATION 9:**

Ensure that the 3 PRSP grant contracts under SMARTFISH be finalized urgently to enable the grants under E€OFISH to be concretized.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- *The issue is resolved, except the case of one country.*

#### **COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS**

- *Mauritius Seems to be on the right tract for closure of the previous project.*

### 3. THE LVFO WORKPLAN

Dr.Edward Rukuunya from the LVFO presented the achievements of the LVFO workplan. He spoke on:

- The evaluation and review of performance of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (2016- 2020).
- Drafting and development of a new Fisheries Management Plan IV for the period 2021 to 2025.
- Reviewing of registration and licensing frameworks.
- Fisheries Data collection & database management, including data gaps as the 2018 Frame Survey was missed and the 2022 Frame survey may be missed due to lack of finances.
- MCS operations to fight IUU fishing.
- Capacity Building for fisheries MCS operations and prosecutions, and
- Communications and visibility
- Steering committee meeting have been postponed due to LVFO still awaiting the second part of project funding from the IOC. Initial request was made quite some time back.

#### **Forecast:**

- Conduct a regional workshop to harmonise annual licensing of fisheries, fishing boats and gear planned for August 22
- Regional workshop to harmonize protocols on licensing of fisheries, fishing boats and fishers planned for July 22
- Expansion and updating of the existing Fisheries Database planned in July 2022
- Regional meeting to harmonize protocols for marking of biodiversity hotspots and breeding/nursery areas in selected areas of Lake Victoria planned for August 22
- Regional consultative multi-stakeholders meeting to harmonize MCS operation on Lake Victoria planned for April 22
- Conduct MCS operations in April 2022
- National Stakeholder meetings on the review of the institutional framework for EAF

#### **Comments & Take aways:**

- Dr Sweenarain commented on the registration and licensing. He proposed that we all work together for the benefit of the project and its sustainability.
- Dr Rukuunya mentioned on the consultants on board and about bringing synergies
- Dr Antony mentioned about the lessons learnt from the SmartFish era. He also remarked on the use of the past equipment.
- Dr Mamo remarked on the fast-decreasing budget of the LVFO for the project.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bring in more synergies with other organisations
- EUD MUS to expedite payment of 2<sup>nd</sup> prefinancing

[Download Annexe 5 – LVFO](#)

## 4. THE LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY WORKPLAN

Dr Sylvain Tusanga from the Lake Tanganyika Authority presented their achievements for 2021/22. He also mentioned about the MoU with the LVFO which is ready for signature.

- He recalled on the work done by a consultant on the main species of the lake.
- The socio-economic study done.
- Preparation of a charter based on the three studies carried out.
- LTA three months fishing prohibition on the lake.
- Recruitment of personnel.
- Harmonisation meeting.

### Forecast

- Purchase of boats and drones (feasibility to be checked in the first instance).
- Capacity building on MCS
- Survey of the lake, fisheries statistics and data collection

### Challenges

- He pointed out the various difficulties encountered with the FAO for the implementation of activities and further mentioned that only 31% of the project finance has been so far utilised or engaged.
- Other activities have not as yet been started.
- Steering committee meeting have been postponed due to LTA still awaiting the second part of project funding from the IOC. Initial request was made quite some time back.

**Comments & Take aways:**

- *Collaboration of the LVFO/LTA for the survey of the Lake Tanganyika*
- *Collaborative actions with fishers and what do they think about the studies?*
- *Initial framework survey*
- *Community based surveillance to monitor the fishing ban period.*
- *Mr D.Phokeer mentioned about the lagoon restocking project for Mauritius and to take into consideration the lessons learnt from the previous SmartFish project.*
- *Participants were informed that lessons learnt from SmartFish project were taken into consideration e.g., the fishing prohibition as a co-management approach with stakeholders.*
- *Concerned was raised with regards to sustainability and maintenance of boats and drones for MCS, given that lesson learnt from SmartFish project are that similar past assets were not being maintained properly and no available budget post project funding.*

**Recommendations**

- Undertake a meeting with IOC, FAO, LTA and the EUD of Mauritius and Burundi to address the challenges and find solutions to improve the project implementation.
- To review action plan.
- Define a sustainability strategy for post project funding, to ensure assets purchased and actions are sustained and maintained
- IOC to do the necessary to finalise the second part of project funding, so that the LTA steering committee can take place and project activities can progress.
- Provide progress on the three months fishing ban

[Download Annexe 6 – Lake Tanginika Authority](#)



## 5. REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS

This section summarizes the works performed by Results. It is to be noted that Mauritius opened up for business and commercial activities in January 2022. However, the lockdown and travel restrictions within the EA-SA-IO region slowdown the activities of the programme.

### 5.1 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 1

**Result 1 - Enhanced regional policies and institutional frameworks to secure more sustainable fisheries management to secure more sustainable fisheries management and contribute to marine biodiversity and climate resilience.**

#### SA 1.1 To enhance regional cooperation in the sustainable management of shared marine fisheries and national fisheries of regional interest marine fisheries

- Act 1.1.1.1: The setting up of Regional Coordination Mechanism is meant to ensure more coherence between the macroeconomic imperatives and the fisheries management policies and strategies among key development pillars at national & regional level. Note that various modifications have been made to reflect present needs & analyses. The RCM application will be operationalised this year.
- Discussions were started with the FAO to assist in the implementation of the VG4SSF in the countries of the EA, SA & IO Region, (Act 1.1.3.1). The modus Operandi is still being worked out. In the same context, preliminary discussions were held with the SWIOFC (Act 1.1.5.1) for the setting up of a socio-economic group within their Scientific committee meeting. Note the SWIOFC scientific Committee meeting approved the proposal for the setting up of the Socio-economic group. Note this activity is also linked to Act 1.4.2.1
- A consultant has been hired to redefine and characterise the small-scale fisheries of the EA, SA & IO region, (Act 1.1.5.2). This activity has been sequenced with act 1.2.1.1/2 on management plans and Act 1.3.1.1/2/3 relating to registration and licensing. Work is in progress. Draft final reports for the Management plans are presently under review. A validation meeting will soon be held to validate the reports

#### SA 1.2 Evaluate and review existing management plans and/or develop and support the implementation of new management plans for species and/or fisheries of regional interest

- EEOFISH is developing and consolidating synergies with EcoPêche OI (Reunion) and other partners in Comoros, Djibouti and Mauritius. A meeting was held to discuss the setting up of FADs with Comoros and Djibouti. in November 2021. Note this Act 1.2.1.3 is linked to Act 1.1.2.2

- The NKE's hired for the Recreational and Ornamental fisheries (Act 1.2.1.4/5 submitted their reports and these were validated at a virtual meeting during the reporting period. The recommendations of the consultants need now to be implemented.

#### SA 1.4 Strengthen the technical and administrative capacities of DMRO's & RFBs to improve service delivery at the regional level

- With regards to the strategic action 1.4, many activities were reported on at the last meeting. EEOFISH assisted the IGAD in the setting up of a regional coordination platform (WS held in Addis in Sep 2021), which will act as a think tank for IGAD, Act 1.4.4.1
- EEOFISH collaborated with the Open university (Mauritius) to develop a degree course on Law, Blue Economy and Sustainable Fisheries Management which was successfully launched in December 2021. Note that some 20 students have been registered for the first intake and courses have started already at the beginning of March 2022. (Act 1.4.5.1). An MOU has been signed between the EEOFISH and the Open University.
- EEOFISH is presently assisting the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine resources, Fisheries and Shipping to restart the National Ocean Council on a better footing. A consultant has been hired and work is in progress, (Act 1.4.5.2).

#### SA 1.5 Facilitate collaboration with other regional institutions in charge of natural resources management (e.g., Regional Sea Conventions) and synergies with relevant programmes

- With regards to Strategic Action 1.5 on collaboration with other organisations, note that we have touch based with SWIOFC, AU IBAR, FAO, UNEP, SIDA, IOTC. UNECA. Note that EEOFISH has been admitted to the Global Ocean Accounts partnership.

#### SA 1.6 Improve data collection and data management in support of more evidence-based regional policies

- Strategic Action 1.6 relates mainly to the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite account. We have just recently validated the report of the consultant at a meeting with all concerned in Nairobi. The BEFSA, which is a new paradigm refers to the greening of the ocean-based activities taking into consideration climate change, marine pollution and other such factors. This activity was championed by the COMESA. Note this activity will pilot the Blue Economy statistics in selected countries based on a socio-ecological approach. A road map has also been produced together with a manual on how to go about building a BEFSA. It is interesting to note that Kenya is the first country moving forward towards the calculation of the fisheries GDP using the BEFSA. A meeting was held with the authorities and the KMFRI on the 24<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2022.

### SA 1.7 Map changes in the range of fish species and strengthening the monitoring of fish stocks to determine the impacts of climate change and other associated factors on the resources

- The Local consultant and the NKE hired have submitted their reports with regards to the Strategic action 1.7. on climate change relating to indicators, collaboration with other research institutes of the region, impacts, climate variability and paving the way for the setting up of a climate observatory. The reports will be validated in due time. Note that an MOU has been signed between ECOFISH and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute for a better collaboration on activities relating to strategic Action 1.7.

### SA 1.8 Support the adoption and implementation of fisheries management measures aiming at protecting marine biodiversity with regional impacts

- The SADC is championing the voluntary marine conservation areas. In this context, the Concept note has been completed and an action plan will soon be proposed and discussed with concerned parties (Activity 1.8.2.10. Under activity 1.8.4.1, a guideline has been prepared for the launch of small projects targeting the reform and rehabilitation of coastal fisheries resources and habitats. The launch is due within the next two months.
- It was also pointed out that during the period under review some 17 reports were published.

### **Forecast for year 2022/23**

- *The RCM application will be operationalised this year.*
- *Collaboration with the FAO & SWIOFC will continue.*
- *A validation meeting to be held soon to validate the Management Plans reports.*
- *Collaboration with Ecopêche OI will continue to promote the FAD fishery.*
- *Recommendations of the consultant to be discussed with the countries concerned with regards to recreational and ornamental fisheries.*
- *Collaborate with IGAD on the RFB for the Horn of Africa*
- *Continue collaboration with the Open University of Mauritius*
- *Complete the work on the National Ocean Council and official launch jointly with Ministry of Blue Economy (Mauritius)*
- *Continue collaboration with the organisations of the region & others.*
- *Assist countries with the implementation of the BEFSA*
- *Collaborate with the MOI for Climate Change adaptation & resilience.*
- *Collaborate with the SADC on the VMCA, Biodiversity & ecosystems conservation.*
- *Launch of the call for proposal for small projects on reform and rehabilitation of coastal fisheries resources and habitats.*
- *Implement the planned studies and workshops.*

## 5.2 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 2

### Strengthened fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capacities

#### Report on activities undertaken during 2021

MCS operations are a component of fisheries management at par with the policy and institutional frameworks, governance systems, strategies, and management plans. Therefore, the strategic actions of Result 1 and 2 are mutually enriching. The aim of Result 2 is to strengthen MCS capacities (enforcement and compliance functions) of beneficiary countries as a requisite to advance sustainable management of the shared and sedentary marine fisheries resources in the EA-SA-IO region.

The expected result covers the small-scale and the industrial fisheries that require a common but differentiated approach. It also facilitates regional sea and air patrol operations, human and technical capacity-building, and intra-and interagency collaboration exchange of secured strategic intelligence to combat, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and fisheries-related crimes in the SWIO basin following the FAO and IOTC guidelines.

These activities are carried out in close collaboration with IOC-PRSP, the first Regional Action Plan to fight IUU fishing in all its forms, introduced as one of the EU flagships at the World Ocean Conference in 2018 and mentioned again at the Indo-Pacific Forum held in Paris in March 2022. Building upon the legacies of the EU DG MARE supports and SmartFish programme over the past 15 years, EEOFISH is now committed to strategizing PRSP as a multi-functional and cost-effective **Regional MCS Coordination Centre** within the IOC institutional ecosystem.

It is also essential to acknowledge the contribution of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for its expert advice and Reunion Island. for mobilising additional financial resources through ERDF/INTERREG to undertake regular fisheries surveillance patrol in the PRSP participation zone in a spirit of adopting a Team Europe approach.

There have been some unexpected gaps in the continuity of PRSP operations during the SmartFish-EEOFISH transition that have been patched up promptly to reinstate IOC-PRSP as a Regional Centre of Excellence. As a result, some achievements and milestones passed by Result 2 to date are as follows:

- ✓ MSV Osiris II was deployed for three regional fisheries patrols and on-board capacity-building in collaboration with La Reunion/France with ERDF/INTERREG funding. A fourth one will be underway March- April 2022

- ✓ The regional VMS based at the IOC Secretariat is reactivated, and the contract with the service provider is renewed. As a result, the exchange of VMS information among the National Competent Authorities is on. Designated room has been provided by IOC for the regional VMS and PRSP. AIS data will be procure soon, as an additional tool for risk analysis.
- ✓ In 2021 priority was given to as support eligible PRSP Participating States with their application process for an EU grant to undertake joint regional fisheries sea and air fisheries patrols and MCS capacity building at the national levels. All seven eligible country's applications have been approved by the contractual deadline of 13/09/2021. With the exception of Mauritius, the beneficiary countries can now utilise the funding to synergise their human and technical capabilities and plan joint regional fisheries surveillance missions over the next three years. Work is still ongoing between the IOC secretariat and the Mauritian Competent Authority to close the SmartFish grant for Mauritius before the 1<sup>st</sup> disbursement under the present PRSP grant can be disbursed. Mozambique has received his first pre-financing and has not participated in most RCU meetings, whether online or face-to-face. A letter was sent to the Permanent Secretary for Fisheries but to date there has been no respond. Another letter must be prepared and sent after a discussion online with the EEOFISH National Focal Point.
- ✓ Building on the recommendation of the PRSP Ministerial Conference 2017 and a cross-disciplinary technical study conducted by SmartFish, the consultation on the institutionalising PRSP started with a high-level multi-stakeholder meeting in Seychelles in October 2021. This multi-stakeholder meeting, (the ERCU) paved the way forward for the institutionalisation, with several recommendations to be completed before the next fisheries ministerial meeting can take place.
- ✓ After a five year process the IOC Council of Ministers approved Somalia's integration to PRSP in the IOC mechanism with advice of a progressive approach, starting with fisheries information exchanges and capacity building actions. A notification letter was sent, and we are waiting for the official respond from Somalia and the appointment of his representant at the RCU and the ERCU.
- ✓ A Service Contract between PRSP and EFCA to strengthen technical and strategic alliance between the two MCS Centres is in the pipeline. The service contract will involve activities under strategic action 2.5 and 2.7. EUD MUS reported that prior approval for working directly with EFCA is completed. IOC needs to send the tender dossier and negotiation report for endorsement by EUD MUS before service contract with EFCA can be signed (*Note that EFCA representative – Mr Pedro Galache - participated to the PSC meeting*)
- ✓ PRSP is back on track regarding its collaborative relationship with the regional fisheries organisations, such as IOTC, SWIOFC, SIOFA, and other regional MCS and maritime security-related initiatives, including the two regional coordination centres

of the EU MASE programme (maritime security) and SADC MCS Coordinating Centre in Mozambique.

- ✓ A multidisciplinary research assignment is underway, in its final stage, to actualise MCS operational and legal needs and gaps in the partner countries to formulate a comprehensive and integrated capacity development strategy and work plan. Those capacity building activities will be carried out through E€OFISH Results 1 and 2 and the respective national PRSP Grant Contracts in collaboration with other regional endeavours, such as the FDA-IORA Fisheries and Blue Economy project. A compilation of Fisheries MCS legislation guideline will be produced as part of this assignment.
- ✓ In addition to preliminary informal consultations / working arrangement with MASE and the two regional centres, a formal consultative meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, between the MASE and PRSP involving the two regional centres and the PRSP RCU. The outcome of the meeting was to form a commission to oversee the development and implementation of a collaborative framework for fisheries information exchanges and operational coordination. A TOR to seek a complementary assistance is underway in line with Strategic action 2.6 and workplan 2.6.3: **Harmonise fisheries MCS tools and processes with those of EU-funded MASE programme.**
- ✓ Two national and regional observer assignments are underway. One to understand the present status of National Observer Programme (NOP) and regional Observer Programme (ROP) in the region including development of electronic observer monitoring system (EMS) in the region. This will evolve into assisting countries to develop NOP and ROP. Secondly the development of Standard operating procedures (SOP) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and information sharing procedure that will serves as the foundation of setting up NOP and ROP in the region. The medium to long term objective is to assist countries with their NOP and set up a regional observer deployment coordination programme in the SWIO region.

### **Comments & Take aways :**

- ♣ *The meeting was happy to learn of Somalia integration in the PRSP*
- ♣ *the grant contract was a welcome initiative to assist countries to enhance their capacity and work together to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in their marine jurisdiction and the region as a whole.*
- ♣ *The action plan for 2022 is very optimistic with lots of activities to be implemented.*
- ♣ *The action foresees a number of consultancies. however, several activities are done internally where initially were plan for consultancies. There are also areas where we need specific technical assistance or an impartial expert opinion.*
- ♣ *COMESA informed that the PRSP model is highly commended in Western Africa and there is a need for cooperation with western Africa.*

- ♣ The PRSP presentation initiated a lot of interest and additional details of the mechanism were sought by the committee. More detail information should be provided on PRSP as a regional tool to prevent deter and eliminate IUU fishing

## Recommendations

- ♣ Recommended that PRSP share experience with Western African countries to learn from this IOC initiative.
- ♣ Dr Mamo will act as the go between, to facilitate the processes, between the IOC PRSP and the West African countries.
- ♣ Detail progress of implementation of R2 action to be presented at the next meeting to achieve at least 80% implementation by end of year 2022, as presented.
- ♣ Allocate a larger time slot for PRSP presentation in future meeting
- ♣ Ensure the Mauritius SmartFish grant closure is finalised to enable Mauritius to obtain its EEOFISH grant and participate actively in joint fisheries patrol.

[Download Annexe 8 & 8b, 8c, 8d](#)

## 5.3 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Some 8.2 % of the budget has been spent so far, out of the 11.4 % engaged. It is to be noted that spending's cannot be taken as an indicator of performance as plenty of work has been achieved in house (During the Covid/lockdown period) without having any recourse to external experts.

- It is to be noted that some 22 STE have been recruited for various studies, 7 physical workshops organised.
- Nearly €100,000 euros in marine equipment engaged for fisheries organisations.
- Request to recruit a regional and office-based programme assistants approved by the EUD. Procedures have been initiated for recruitment
- EU procedures for "single tender" still time consuming for our finance dept and causes delays for some activities

For the year 2022, some 22% of the Budget is forecasted for the execution of activities.

**Comments & Take aways:**

- Dr Sweenarain pointed out that Result 1 & 2 made use of Non key experts from the pool of the TA Contract for many activities, thus a saving from the use of STE initially planned under the marine PE. This is the reason why spending may seem low on the marine workplan.

[Download Annexe 9 Finance & Admin](#)

**5.4 Marine Fisheries Work Plan- Result 3****Awarded Projects: Concrete fisheries management and governance initiatives in small-scale inland and marine fisheries supported.**

The FE/TL has worked closely with the EUD Mauritius Project Manager for the implementation of Result 3. Technical advice was provided as and when needed. The activities of the projects were closely monitored with the submission of a monthly report. Meetings have been held with all the projects and expert advice provided where warranted. They have also been encouraged to network among themselves. The TAT has facilitated virtual networking meetings during the reporting year

A representative of the TAT and EUD Mauritius also participated in the annual Steering Committee meeting of the UNDP (Mauritius). The Communication and Visibility Expert is also closely working with the projects and various short films have been posted on our website. The Com expert is bringing local social innovations for more sustainable and inclusive fisheries.

These projects have shown some resilience to the COVID pandemic. Most of them have are rolling out their planned activities. No field visit has been undertaken. The figure below illustrates the thematic scope and location of these awarded projects.

**Comments & Take aways:**

- *Underutilised funds under Result 3 have been reallocated to the marine workplan to organise networking meetings and side events with the projects for sharing of experience and lessons learnt. Reference was also made to the side event organised on Day 3 to the present steering committee;*





## Result 3 – Awarded Projects

**To demonstrate Integrated & Sustainable small -scale inland and marine fishery value chains at the community level.**

**Nine awarded projects [ EA: 3; SA: 4 & IO : 2]  
4 Continental and 5 Marine fisheries**



Result 3 was awarded 9 projects, namely to UNDP (Mauritius), C3 (Madagascar), IGA (Djibouti), Mwambao (Zanzibar), ADPP (Mozambique), SOS Sahel (Sudan), WWF (Kenya), Action Aid (Zambia). We have also included infopêche OI from La Reunion in this group.

[Download Annexe 10 – Result 3](#)

## **6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, GRANT MANAGEMENT, SERVICE CONTRACTS, ETC**

### **6.1 Presentation of the EU (Mr M. Balloo)**

Mr Madev Balloo from the EU gave a brief presentation on the disbursement of funds from the EU as per the grants awarded for the call for proposals. Mr Balloo spoke on the contractual obligations which are:

- All grantees have submitted their 1st year interim narrative & financial reports.
- EU Finance Section has provided individual coaching on reporting of expenses.
- 2nd prefinancing upon assessing the level of expenses in some cases.
- 6-months progress reports by activity (in line with log frame to update OPSYS)

He briefly spoke on the status of implementation measures, challenges and mitigating measures.

The full presentation is given at annex 13

[Cf. Annexe 13– EUD presentation download](#)

## 7. Cross-cutting activities

### 7.1 Information technology and Database management

The activities under this component (information technology and database management) focused on the implementation of information technology tools. The following were delivered:

- A demonstration of the RCM application was made. The application is still a work in progress; however, some nine projects have been encoded for trial purposes.
- A monitoring and Control system for EEOFISH programme activities has been created and operationalised.
- Inventory and launch of the Regional Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) was completed.
- The StaRFISH database has been reactivated and work is in progress on its use by countries.
- Plan to upgrade the Starfish is underway
- The EEOFISH programme information management and data archiving strategy are now operational.

#### **Comments & Take aways:**

- *The performance monitoring and evaluation system for E€ofish programme activities created and operationalised was highly appreciated for project implementation monitoring*
- *Committee members sought the possibility to have access to the PM&E system, however the committee was informed of the availability of the progress dashboard on the E€ofish website as per the link. (<https://www.EEOFISH-programme.org/achievements>).*  
<https://www.EEOFISH-programme.org/achievements>

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommended that the necessary is done to capture data for Result 3 projects
- RCM to be improved and operational by next steering committee meeting

## 7.2 Communication and visibility

Since the last Steering Committee, EEOFISH increased interactions among stakeholders, strengthened relationships and networks, as well as a higher targets' interest. The following indicators attest to this improvement:

- Visits recorded on EEOFISH's website increased from 760 to 4717
- The average time spent by visitors on the website increased from 3 minutes 52 seconds to 9 minutes 19 seconds.
- On average, 44% of people who have had contact with EEOFISH and who are on its distribution list have opened the newsletter, showing their interest in the programme, whereas 9.5% want to learn more about its activities and achievements by clicking on the "know more" buttons.
- Over 650 people voluntarily subscribed to the EEOFISH newsletter.
- EEOFISH's Facebook account followers increased from 426 to 4797
- 53 articles pertaining to EEOFISH were published in the regional press.
- For web searches the EEOFISH website appears in:
  - 1st place for target countries and 4th places in the world for the keyword "EEOFISH".
  - 2nd place for the target countries and 44th place in the world for the keywords "sustainable fisheries Africa".
  - 18th place for the target countries for the keywords "fisheries Africa". On the other hand, it does not appear in the first 100 results in the world.

The programme has also consolidated its communication structure through the following actions:

- All the tools that have been identified and requested by implementing partners (cf. communication and visibility strategy p.20) are now available.
- All programme partners were provided with EEOFISH visibility guidelines and, where necessary, received assistance in its application.
- A framework contract including 11 tasks to improve the visibility and communication of EEOFISH has been established with DAI Belgium (see ToR in appendix).
- The network of EEOFISH communicators has 25 members now.

In terms of reporting, the current budget commitment and disbursement rate is over 75% and the Out of the 17 expected outputs of the Communication & Visibility component and the 11 activities under the Work Plan 3, 4 have been completed, 17 are being implemented and 7 are yet to be initiated.

As part of the implementation of the initial visibility and communication strategy, the next step will therefore consist in making these achievements a lever for positive change in the fisheries sector. The interactions, the networks and the will that have been created to date will be the tools to galvanize the actions that EEOFISH carries out, to improve the lives of fishermen, the fishing environment and the well-being of the population of the region.

### **Comments & Take aways:**

- A service contract is in place to support activities in terms of communications and visibility.
- Use of communication tools. SOP to be launched soon
- Archiving of all reports & other initiatives for any future use.
- Using communications to change mentality & change life
- Need for a closer collaboration of all communications partners and greater use of technology.

### **Recommendations**

- Ensure information security as well as data protection on the various interaction platforms of the programme
- Place more emphasis on communication for change of mentality and development rather than visibility

[Download Annexe 12 – Com & visibility](#)

## 8. DMRO'S/ RFB STATUS REPORTS

Day 2 started with the presentations from partners and other regional fisheries bodies.

### 8.1 Presentation from EAC (Dr Anthony Taabu Munyaho)

Dr Taabu Deputy Executive Secretary of the EAC and Chair of the LVFO gave a comprehensive presentation highlighting the following: Introduction, State of fisheries in EAC, Management of fisheries and achievements Collaborations with other Regional Coordination Bodies and Snapshot of ongoing projects

He also highlighted the LVFO: Mandate, Objectives, Scope, and dynamics of Transformation of LVFO into EAFO including fisheries management frameworks like the fisheries management plans, aquaculture management plans, value addition, the LVFO strategic plan, policy guidelines, trade guidelines among others. He highlighted the existence of a fish maw value chain guideline for purposes of traceability and improved trade. Highlight was also given on existing projects like Truefish project and ECOFISH all financed by the EU and implemented in collaboration with regional bodies.

The full presentation of Dr Antony Taabu is given at annex 15

#### **Comments/ Take aways:**

- EAC to comment on the tripartite agreement and the possibility of including IGAD.
- Dr Taabu replied that he will take this comment to the tripartite agreement meeting. He made a plea for the institutional transformation of the LVFO to EAFO. He further mentioned the inclusion of sustainable fisheries and bringing same to the limelight as it is presently hidden in Agriculture.

[Cf. Annexe 15. EAC presentation download](#)

## 8.2 Presentation from IGAD (Dr Wassie Anteneh)

Dr Wassie Anteneh presented the progress achieved for the period under report, which focuses on the activities carried out against the IGAD Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2020-2024 and the mandated objectives of E€OFISH. The following were mentioned:

- Blue economy – how beneficial it was for the region.
- IGAD strategic plan for 5 years
- Setting up of the regional coordination platform
- Need for the BEFSA in the IGAD Region
- Fisheries management plan/ co-management for the lake Turkana where some 2,000 fishers operate.
- The issue of IUU devastating the fisheries of Somalia. Urgent need for a workshop to discuss means to curd the damages being done.

The full presentation of Dr Wassie Anteneh is given at annex 14.

[Cf. Annexe 16. IGAD presentation download](#)

## 8.3 Presentation from EFCA

Dr Galache spoke of the work carried out by the EFCA in general and stressed on:

- The collaboration with the E€OFISH programme
- He mentioned on the various capacity building being carried out by the EFCA.
- He made a plea for a closer collaboration with E€OFISH.

## 8.4 Presentation from SADC

Apologies from Dr Motseki, who was taken up in the SADC Ministerial Meeting

## 8.5 Presentation from TAT

The main aim of Dr Sweenarain presentation is to open a door for constructive dialogue amongst the DMRO's and the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFB's). This presentation relates to:

- The geographic coverage of the EEOFISH programme.
- High level log frame and theory of change
- The methodological approach adopted by EEOFISH for the Blue economy
- The expected results
- The scope of the marine workplan
- The DMRO's priority actions
- The project concept of IGAD's Regional Fisheries Agency

The full presentation is given at annex 17.

[Cf. Annexe 17. Presentation by the TAT download](#)



## 9. Presentation of the IOC (Mr Vicky Cushmajee)

Mr Cushmajee spoke of the financial aspects of the E€OFISH programme. He mentioned the audit which is in progress at the IOC. He also referred to the larger financial engagements which is in progress. He spoke on the grants signed with the countries.

The full presentation is given at annex 14

### Comments/ Take aways:

[Cf. Annexe 14– IOC financial presentation download](#)

## 10. Comments from the EU (Mr Madev Balloo)

Mr Madev Balloo, Programme manager, at the EU made the following remarks:

- The Individual coaching provided by the EU on financial matters.
- Mr Balloo pointed out that regular meetings are held at the IPMU, and he always make it a duty to attend the meetings to gauge progress.
- He noted that Implementation of activities are on target.
- On the financial side some 38% of the whole budget has been consumed.

## 11. Concluding Remarks and Closure of the workshop

- It was recognised that ECOFISH is highly relevant to the region and the planned Mid-term evaluation is timely as it will provide a clear assessment of the achievements and guide our future interventions. *(Note that Chair enquired on the possibility of delaying the exercise as field activities on the ground are only recent. EUD informed that procedures for recruitment of evaluation team is underway).*
- Taking into account that implementation of all workplans suffered from the Covid-19 pandemic, it was already flagged that at the next PSC meeting, we need to discuss the possibility of asking for a no-cost extension of the implementation period of the programme.
- It was unanimously agreed that the next PSC meeting will be chaired by IGAD. However, this will need to be confirmed with Dr Eshete Dejen, who could not join the concluding part as he was attending an IGAD Ministerial meeting.

The Chairperson thanked all the participants including those online for their contribution to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Programme Steering Committee of the Ecofish programme.

Dr Edward Rukuunya (LVFO), Dr Wilson Chizebuka (COMESA), Mr Rudy Ittoo (ECOFISH) and Mr Dev Phokeer (IOC) all expressed their thanks to the chairperson for the excellent way he led the meeting over two days.

Dr Sweenarain reiterated the thanks from the Ecofish team to the chairperson and also thanked all participants for their contribution to this PSC meeting. With these last words the chair closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 13.00 hours.



## **ECOFISH INTEGRATED PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT**

BLUE TOWER | 4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR | RUE DE L'INSTITUT | EBÈNE 72201 | MAURITIUS | TEL: +230 402 6100

[info@ecofish-programme.org](mailto:info@ecofish-programme.org)

[www.ecofish-programme.org](http://www.ecofish-programme.org)