

ECOFISH TECHNICAL COORDINATION AND 4th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
22-24 MARCH 2023
CONCEPT NOTE & PROVISIONAL AGENDAS

Introduction

The document sets the tone for the technical coordination and the 4th Steering Committee¹ Meeting of the ECOFISH programme to be organised under the leadership of IGAD at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22nd to 24th March 2023. It consists of the Steering Committee session preceded by a two-day Technical Coordination meeting.² The concept note provides some insights into the scope and depth of the programme before discussing the modus operandi and the provisional agenda of the forum. In addition, a web-based folder has been created to access all relevant technical and progress reports.³

Background

ECOFISH is a cross-regional and multifaceted programme of the 11th EDF that fosters sustainable and integrated management of selected inland and marine wild fisheries resources to contribute to the socio-economic and ecological goals of the UN Agenda 2030 and Transforming Africa 2063 in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region. It is diversely managed by the EUD to Mauritius and implemented by IOC in partnership with other mandated regional economic and fisheries management organisations and other strategic partners. Said differently, ECOFISH leverages regional collaboration and cooperation to enhance the operational capabilities of the sub-regional and national institutional stakeholders to mainstream the triple-bottom-line of global sustainability – irrespective of Green or Blue -, i.e., economic efficiency, ecological productivity and social well-being amid the unprecedented challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and inequalities. The programme has a budget of € 28 million over 5 years starting from July 2019. However, the implementation was delayed mainly due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, but it is catching up.

ECOFISH’s global objective is driven by three components, **Result 1** - Enhanced fisheries policy, institutional and governance framework; **Result 2** - Strengthened fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance capacities and **Result 3** – Call for Proposal for aspirational projects to showcase sustainable and responsible management of small-scale inland and marine fisheries in local communities. These result areas are mutually reinforced by a menu of strategic actions and mandated guidelines more fully

¹ Cf. *Annexe 1, ECOFISH Technical Handbook 2021 to access the Programme Steering Committee structural and functional framework.*

² *Technical Coordination and Steering Committee are two different types of meetings that serve different purposes and complement each other to assess, plan and coordination the programme activities against the expected results.*

³ Link: <https://ecofish-programme.org/event/ecofish-4th-programme-steering-committee/>

underlined in the overarching Financing Agreement. Furthermore, they are delivered by **five synergistic work plans** through diverse, decentralised project management and governance approaches to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability of actions. Overall, these work plans are coordinated by a dedicated Programme Management Unit (PMU) hosted by the IOC Secretariat, facilitated by a Technical Assistance Team and overseen by various Technical Committees and an integrative Steering Committee.

Work Plans 1 and 2 relate to the shared fisheries of LVFO and LTA, respectively. They have a budget of approximately € 2 million each covering selected strategic actions from Results 1 and 2. **Work Plan 3**, indulging the coastal marine fisheries, is implemented by the IOC Secretariat in collaboration with the relevant Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The maritime façade of the EA-SA-IO has been divided into two sub-groups, the SWIO Cluster and the Horn of Africa (HOA) led by IOC and IGAD. The Work Plan also support the transformation and institutionalisation of IOC-PRSP, a Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan, into a full-fledged Region MCS Coordination Centre for the SWIO basin. Besides a financial grant provided by EUD-Mauritius to the eligible participating countries, the EU-IOC flagship benefits from the additional financial support of the ERDF/INTERREG through France/Reunion to uphold joint strategic sea and air fisheries patrols. **Work Plan 4** administers nine awarded sustainable and integrated small-scale fisheries demonstration/aspirational projects under Result 3 – Call for Proposals. They are an instrument in mainstreaming the principles of sustainable fisheries, healthy ecosystems and improved livelihoods in local fishing communities in selected continental and marine areas. In other words, it is a social lab or incubator for informed policy-making and management decisions in a bottom-up approach. Finally, **Work Plan 5** englobes all functions and services facilitated by EUD – Mauritius. It included a service contract with INCATEMA Consortium for the Supply of permanent Technical Assistance and short-term expertise; management of grants to IOC-PRSP participating countries; external financial audits and external evaluation of the programme.

The **Technical Assistance Team** is responsible for assisting the EUD-Mauritius in providing expert advice to the development work plan and ensuring the technical monitoring and effective strategic orientation and coordination of the entire programme. In other words, the TAT aims to enhance the overall value-added of the programme, build synergies among the operational work plan and effective collaboration and networking among the institutional stakeholders and current fisheries and fisheries-related programmes. The team consists of a **Fisheries Economist**, who acts as Team Leader and Technical Coordinator, an **MCS Expert** and a **Communication and Visibility Professional**, supported by an **Office Assistant**. In addition, the TAT Office has an autonomous office in the same building as the IOC Headquarters

Purpose of the Steering Committee Meeting

The PSC meeting is a statutory requirement meant to undertake periodic performance reviews, strategic orientation, policy dialogues and effective coordination among stakeholders against the expected outcomes of a programme. However, the Steering Committee is often unintendedly overwhelmed by technical discussions overriding the mandate or purpose of the meeting.

Based on the experiential learning and management best practices, the ECOFISH has provided a two-day forum to tease apart the current technical issues, opportunities and challenges of the individual work plans against the backdrop of the expected results. Moreover, the two-leg approach will improve

the effectiveness of the PSC meeting regarding the overall programme integration, including monitoring, coordination, farsightedness communication and awareness-raising.

Furthermore, the PSC meeting emphasises the significance of intra- and interagency collaboration and regional cooperation to improve the working and learning experience of the programme.

Technical Coordination Meeting

The programme technical coordination⁴ meeting as a sub-component preceding the Steering Committee meeting is meant to enhance interactions (synergies and cross-fertilisation) among interdisciplinary experts of the various work plans and their counterparts at the PMU and TAT. It also provides a forum to exchange knowledge and expert advice, experiential learning and best practices, peer review, and self-help capacity-building as the low-lying fruit of regional solidarity.

The objectives and agenda of the meeting will vary depending on the specific needs/issues of the work plans in their socio-ecological context and the overarching logic framework of the programme. Therefore, the shared objectives of the programme Technical Coordination meeting encompass the following:

- i) *Review the progress of each work plan to ensure that they are on track;*
- ii) *Identify any technical challenges or opportunities that need to be addressed;*
- iii) *Discuss any changes or updates to the project scope, requirements and specifications;*
- iv) *Coordinate the activities of each work plan to ensure effective collaboration, synergies and cross-fertilisation;*
- v) *Communicate essential updates and information to the Steering Committee*

In keeping with the above objectives, the **proforma agenda** of the Technical Coordination meeting include the following:

- i) *Review the current technical activities, including the schedule and milestones of each work plan to appraise their performance;*
- ii) *Review any updates/changes o work plan activities and requirements,*
- iii) *Planning and coordination of future technical activities*
- iv) *Communication of important updates and information*
- vii) *Discuss the Mid-Term Evaluation findings and recommendations*

Overall, the Programme TCM will ensure that the technical aspects of the project are being effectively managed and that the technical experts are working together to deliver the expected results. Apart

⁴ *The Technical Coordination Meeting (TCM) will focus on the technical/operational aspects of the projects work plans. It brings together the technical experts responsible for planning and implement the work plans. The objective of the TCM is to ensure that the technical aspects of the project are managed effectively to achieve the certified deliverables. The agenda of TCM includes discussions about technical issues, status updates on ongoing*



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from the technical aspects of each work plan, it will also help to integrate activities and outcomes by desired result, e.g., Result 1 – Reboot fisheries policy, institutional and governance frameworks and Result 2 – Strengthen fisheries MCS capacities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels of the EA-SA-IO region. More details are provided in the attached provisional agenda.

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ECOFISH PROGRAMME TECHNICAL COORDINATION MEETING

March 22 and 23, 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Day 1		
Time	Item	Speaker
09.00	Welcome remarks	IGAD, IOC EU Representatives
	Intro of participants	Chair
09.10	Objectives of the TCM / Rules of the Game	TC
09.20	Setting up the Scene	TC
10.00	Approval of Provisional Agenda	All
10.10	Housekeeping: nomination of 2 Rapporteurs, Meeting procedures etc.	Chair
Family Photo + Coffee break		
Work Plan 1 – Update of the LVFO PE		
11.00	Review R1 and R2 technical activities implemented	Dr Rukuunya Edward et al.
	Review Technical challenges & opportunities	
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements	
	Year 2023/2024 technical activities plan	
	Discussions and takeaways	Chairman/All
Work Plan 2 – Update of the LTA PE		
11.45	Review R1 and R2 technical activities implemented	FAO/LTA
	Review Technical challenges & opportunities	
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements	
	Year 2023/2024 technical activities plan	
	Discussions and takeaways	Chairman/All
Lunch		

Time	Item	Speaker
Work Plan 3 - Marine Fisheries (IOC PE)		
14.00	R1 activities implementation progress review	Subhas/Sunil
	Technical challenges or opportunities	
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements + 2023 planning	
	Discussions and recommendations	Chairman/All
14.45	R2 activities and PRSP implementation progress review	Jude and Tiana
	Technical challenges or opportunities	
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements + 2023 planning	
	Discussion REC/RFB/ Partners/Observers	
	Integration / Takeaways	Chairman/All
Coffee break		
Work Plan 4 - Demonstration Projects / Result 3 (EUD)		
15.45	Technical activities implemented / progress review	TAT /M.Balloo
	Technical challenges or opportunities	
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements + 2023 planning	
	Discussion REC/RFB/ Partners/Observers	
	Discussions	Chairman/All

DAY 2		
Time	Item	Speaker
Work Plan 5 - Technical Assistance, grant contracts, service contracts, NKEs (managed by EUD)		
09.00	R1, R2, R3 and communication activities implementation progress review	Sunil/Jude/Andry
	Technical challenges or opportunities	Madev
	Updates/changes of work plan activities and requirements + 2023 planning	Madev
	Integration	Sunil
	Discussions and recommendations	Chairman/All
Mid-Term Evaluation Report		
10.00	Presentation of the Executive Summary	Madev
	Discussions and Take aways	Chairman/All
Coffee Break		
Partners Dialogue		
11.00	COMESA	Representative
11.15	EAC	Representative
11.30	IGAD	Representative
11.45	SADC	Representative
12.00	IOC	Representative
12.15	Other partners	TBC
12.30	Discussions and integration	Chairman/All
Lunch		
Regional integration		
14.15	Coordination of all the takeaways from the various workplan and the policy dialogue	Sunil
Coffee Break		
15.30	Integration and conclusion	Sunil
16.00	Closing remarks	Chairman/All
END		

4th ECOFISH PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

24th March 2023 in Addis Ababa

OPENING CEREMONY		
TIME	ITEMS	SPEAKER
09.30 – 10.00	Registration	ECOFISH Secretariat
10.00	Introduction	MC
10.05	Welcome address	IGAD representative
10.10	Remarks	EU Representative
10.15	Remarks	IOC Representative
10.20	Remarks and Opening of the meeting	IGAD Representative
Group Photo and Tea Break		

REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE		
TIME	ITEMS	SPEAKER
11.00	Introduction of participants	Chair
	Approval of Provisional Agenda	All
	Housekeeping: nomination of 2 Rapporteurs, Meeting procedures etc.	Chair
	Video presentation: impact of ECOFISH	Andry
11.30	Review of the 3rd PSC recommendations	Technical Coordinator
	Key point of the TCM	
Work Plan 1 – Update of the LVFO PE		
11.45	Review of 2022 and planning for 2023	Dr Rukuunya Edward
	Administration and Finance	
	Other matters: C&V,	
	Discussions and recommendations	Chairman/All
Work Plan 2 – Update of the LTA PE		
12.15	Progress review of 2022 and planning for 2023	FAO/LTA
	Administration and Finance	
	Discussions and recommendations	Chairman/All
Lunch		

TIME	ITEMS	SPEAKER
Work Plan 3 - Marine Fisheries (IOC PE)		
14.00	Performance review of 2022 and planning 2023 Result 1: Policy and Institutions	Sunil and Subhas
14.15	Progress review of 2022 and planning 2023 Result 2: MCS and PRSP	Tiana/Jude
14.30	Administration and Finance	Rudy
	Discussions and recommendations	Chair/All
Work Plan 4 - Demonstration Projects / Result 3 (EUD)		
15.00	Progress review of 2022 and planning 2023	M. Balloo
	Administration and Finance	
	Discussions and recommendations	Chair / All
Tea Break		
Work Plan 5 - Technical Assistance, grant contracts, service contracts, NKEs (managed by EUD)		
15.30	Progress review 2022 and planning 2023	Madev
	Discussions and recommendations	Chair/All
Cross-cutting Activities		
15.45	IT and archive	Said
15.55	Administration and logistic	Claudia
16.05	Communication and visibility	Shirley/Andry
	TAT	Sunil/Jude/Andry
16.15	Discussions et recommandations	Chair/All
Policy dialogue and Coordination		
16.30	All	Chair/All
Status reports: ECOFISH Programme Integration Management (Admin & Finance)		
17.00	IOC	Vicky
	EU	MB
	Policy Dialogue (COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC, SADC and other partners)	
	A.O.B / Announcement	Chair
	Summing up of meeting	Chair/TC
	Nomination of Chair, Venue and Dates for the next meeting	Chair
17.30	Closing Remarks / Words of Thanks	Chair
END OF THE MEETING		