

ECOFISH

Enhancing equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region



WORKSHOP REPORT: VALIDATION OF REPORTS

**1. THE RE-DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISATION OF THE SSF
IN THE SWIO REGION**

2. MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE SWIO REGION (ACT 1.1.5.2 AND ACT 1.2.1.1)

NAIROBI – KENYA

26TH TO 28TH APRIL 2022

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1. The Re-definition and Characterisation of the SSF in the SWIO region

2. Management Plans in the SWIO region

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26th to 28th April 2022

Nairobi - Kenya

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1. BACKGROUND

The E€OFISH 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 United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture to recognize the significance of the sub-sector in supporting the livelihoods, well-being and cultural diversity of millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers mostly located in developing countries, besides providing healthy and nutritious fish food to billions of people worldwide. However, the world fisheries sector lacks a clear definition of what is small-scale or industrial fisheries. This report shows a simple way of defining the five main categories of the fisheries sector, namely subsistence fisheries, artisanal fisheries, small-scale fisheries, semi-industrial fisheries, and industrial fisheries. Two matrixes with 30 different types of indicators are developed with five columns of clear definition and characterization representing the five main fisheries sectors. For each sector the column is identified and by most entries under one column the corresponding sector is selected.

The open access character of African fisheries has resulted in over-exploitation and because of high fish prices, this has led to over-fishing, contributes to lower catches, changes in the fish species community composition and structure of fished ecosystems, and fishing down the trophic levels of food webs and increases in the incidences for IUU fishing. Access control in well-regulated fisheries (e.g., registration, licensing systems) is yielding varying types of benefits to several AU Member States (MS) including social benefits and revenue.

Despite the economic and social importance of small-scale fisheries, the socio-anthropologic, economic and scientific knowledge is lagging while the official statistics are seriously underestimated. The current state-of-affair is held responsible for socio-political marginalization of individuals and communities directly or indirectly engaged

in the sub-sector for their livelihoods and wellbeing. The ***simplistic definition of the small-scale fisheries*** mostly in developing countries is aggravating economic inequalities which are hurting the poorest of the poor in the local and national economies. The much-needed government revenue in the form of economic rent that can be mobilised judiciously to invest in social infrastructures and services in the local communities is wasted annually. Unfortunately, the accumulated wealth by a few hegemony does not circulate in the sub-sector or local economies. Well managed, development potentials of the small-scale fisheries can contribute significantly to the socio-economic transformation of the local, national and regional economies of the EA-SA-IO region.

In the same context, around 78% of fishing within SWIO countries is small-scale. Some 9% is considered high-value seafood, including tuna and wild shrimp stocks harnessed to a significant extent as industrial fisheries by foreign corporations through collaborative arrangements, and some 13% being recreational/ sports fishing.

These coastal marine fisheries are very important for food security, livelihoods and cultural diversity. For many years, Governments have consistently over the decades considered small-scale fisheries as a social safety net, providing cheap protein nutrition and livelihoods, in particular for the poor. Most of these fisheries are open access, however, without good community-based management standards many of them are compromised due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. This is aggravated by demographic growth, including a growing trend where the inland population is increasingly migrating to coastal areas, resulting in significant pressure on limited fisheries resources, including land-based pollution, and climatic change vulnerabilities.

Lack of knowledge, information, capacity and limited financial resources, are a major hurdle for sustainable and responsible management of small-scale fisheries in the SWIO region. With over 200 fisheries in 9 distinct sectors, involving 16 main types of fishing gears, these fisheries are often widely spread, creating significant manpower and financial strain on government's fisheries management agencies, as well as resulting in difficulties for effective monitoring, control and surveillance.

The seafood value chain for small-scale fisheries is mostly underdeveloped, with fishers not always having access to ice for preservation of caught fish. Once ashore, marketing infrastructure for processing and sale of fish, including cold storage facilities is limited, non-existent in some countries leaving fishers often at the mercy of marketing middlemen. Overall, fishing contributes about 32% of the fisher household income, meaning they must seek elsewhere to obtain the other 2/3rds of their income

needs. The gender ratio in the small-scale fisheries sector is around 80% male, leaving females significantly underrepresented, and more vulnerable due to generally not being linked to formal supporting structures.

Due to reasons as mentioned above, fisheries in SWIO are severely under-performing in terms of employment, food and nutrition security, wealth creation and distribution at local, national and regional levels. The economic potential of capture fisheries in the SWIO is estimated conservatively at US\$ 4 billion with foregone economic rent at about US\$ 400 million per year. Consequently, there is urgent need for means to achieve a positive turnaround.

Against this background, the Ecofish programme commissioned two studies, namely on the re-definition of the small-scale fisheries for the EA, SA and IO region and an assessment of the Management plans for the SWIO region. The two consultants have submitted their reports. This workshop took stock of the contents, discussed and validated the reports to enable Ecofish move to the next level.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 WELCOME SPEECH FROM DR RODRICK KUNDU

In his welcoming speech, Dr R. Kundu, Director Fisheries & Aquaculture Development – Kenya, welcomed all the participants to this report validation meeting. He pointed out the close collaboration between Kenya and the Ecofish programme. He referred to the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA) workshop which was held in Nairobi in March 2022. He explained the benefits countries may derive by implementing the BEFSA at their country level. He also referred to the ground activities contributing to the well-being of the communities and the local population.

2.1.1. Speech of Dr. Kundu at annex 1

Download Speech Annexe 1: [Click here](#)

2.1.2. Welcome address by Mr. S. Hanoomanjee, Fisheries Management Expert at Ecofish

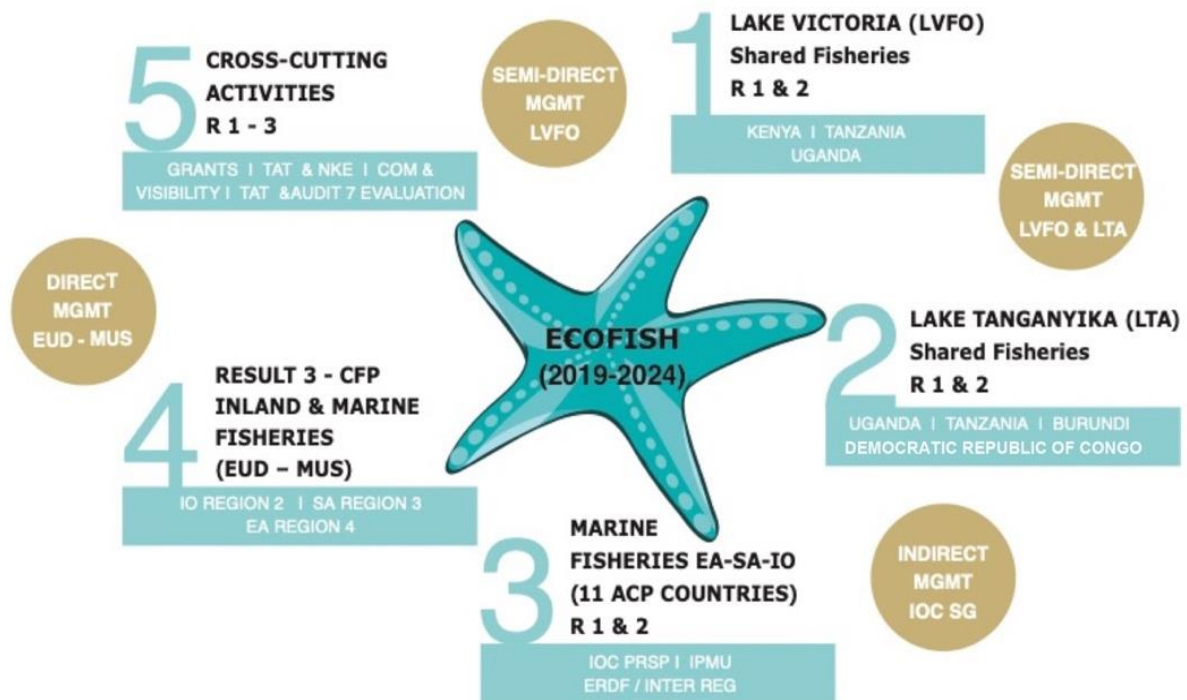
In the absence of the IOC representative, Mr. S. Hanoomanjee welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Ecofish programme and briefly exposed the programme for the next three days.

3. THE E€OFISH PROGRAMME

To set the scene for the meeting, the E€OFISH team presented a short film on one of the Demonstration projects under Result 3 of the Programme. The film shows how Ecofish is “changing the lives of the communities” in Mozambique.

This was followed by an update of the E€OFISH programme by Dr. S. Sweenarain.

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



[Work Plans 1 and 2](#) are indulged 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 under the supervision of EUD Uganda.

[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 E€OFISH 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, SA and 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, Grant Contracts to financially support regional fisheries sea and air patrols, Communication and Visibility budget and provision for External Evaluations and audits.

3.1 THE MANDATED DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

The following sub key stakeholders are the mandated development partners of the EEOFISH programme.

1. The five Duly Mandated Regional Organisations: COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC and SADC.
2. Two inland Regional Fisheries Management Organisations: LVFO and LTA
3. Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
4. The IOTC and SIOFA has been excluded as EEOFISH has had no dealings with them.
5. Other fisheries-related partner agencies include AU-IBAR, FAO, EFCA and UNEP-Nairobi Convention.

[Download Annexe 2- Setting the scene: Click here](#)

3.2 HOUSEKEEPING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOMINATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND FOUR RAPORTEURS AND THE APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. S. Hanoomanjee briefly explained how the meeting was Planned and the protocols to be observed. He made some announcements for the virtual participants on the ways to communicate. He then proposed Dr. R. Kundu as chairperson for the meeting and to be assisted by Dr. s. Sweenarain. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Mr. S. Hanoomanjee also proposed Dr. K. Thabiti from Comoros, Mr. B. Rajabalee from Mauritius, Ms. S. Radegonde from Seychelles and Mr. Julius Mairi from Tanzania to act as rapporteurs for the meeting. The participants approved.

Mr. S. Hanoomanjee then handed over to the chairperson for the continuation of the meeting.

The agenda was approved without any changes

Download Agenda Annexe 3: [Click here](#)

4. RE-DEFINITION & CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Dr. S. Sweenarain introduced the Consultant Ms. Helga Josupeit to the participants as someone with a long career in the fisheries sector, having worked for the FAO as Staff for a long time. She has also carried out various consultancies in many countries in Africa. Her work has always focussed on the small-scale fisheries sector. Dr. S. Sweenarain handed over to Ms. Helga for her presentation.

The consultant commented that the open access character of African fisheries has resulted in over-exploitation and because of fairly high fish prices, this has led to over-fishing, contributes to lower catches, changes in the fish species community composition and structure of fished ecosystems, and fishing down the trophic levels of food webs and increases in the incidences for IUU fishing. Access control in well-regulated fisheries (e.g. registration, licensing systems) is yielding varying types of benefits to several AU Member States (MS) including social benefits and revenue. The key challenge affecting fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa is inadequate governance which has led to inadequate transparency and accountability, incoherent policies, limited structured participation of resource users and no-state actors in the formulation of policies and management of the resources.

The consultant refers to FAO estimates in 2018 that small-scale fisheries are estimated to contribute 70 percent of the total world catch (inland fisheries included) which is used primarily for domestic human consumption and 120 million full-time or part-time fishers are estimated to derive their livelihood from the small-scale sector. An additional 200-300 million people – many of whom are women – are projected to be employed in the value chain, mostly through informal activities.

The small-scale capture fisheries sub-sector plays a prominent role in securing livelihoods, food and nutrition security and cultural diversity in the world, particularly the developing countries but they are predominantly poorly regulated, open access or common property rights and informal activities. These fishing activities are primarily defined based on the **bio-ecological characteristics of the fisheries, technical attributes of the fishing units and the socio-economic attributes of fishers**. In most developing countries, the sub-sector is exempted from fisheries management measures, e.g., fisheries registration and licensing system. And the current definition

is in contradiction with the fundamentals of fisheries sustainability which is prone to increase overcapitalisation, overfishing and unethical fishing practices.

The Consultant also remarked that the world fisheries sector lacks a clear definition of what is small-scale or industrial fisheries. This report under review shows a simple way of defining the five main categories of the fisheries sector, namely subsistence fisheries, artisanal fisheries, small-scale fisheries, semi-industrial fisheries, and industrial fisheries. Two matrixes with 30 different types of indicators are developed with five columns of clear definition and characterization representing the five main fisheries sectors.

In the EA, SA & IO region various countries have differing definitions based mainly on type and length of boat used and type of fishing. The size is an important part of the definition, but it is generally linked to additional information, which can be the size of the motor or the mechanization of the gear. Yet another important point is that the laws generally talk about artisanal rather than small-scale fisheries, but things are changing, for instance the recent Seychelles Fisheries Plan talks about small-scale, while the law talks about artisanal fisheries.

[Download Definition of SSF Annexe 4: Click here](#)

The consultant then proceeded on the presentation of the characterisation of the SSF. The consultant used 30 different characteristics with regards to the various categories of the small-scale fisheries/fishers. The characterization of the activity is predominantly subsistence with some daily production levels which exceeds the 3 kg per participant. The relative isolation of the fishing communities leads to a very important role of the middlemen, leading to low prices being paid to the fishers, less than USD 1 per kg.

[Download Characteristics Annexe 5: Click here](#)

4.1 COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

Very few comments were received relating to the definition and characterisation of the SSF. The following were discussed at the meeting:

1. Kenya: mentioned about the fishing factors and the 3 pillars namely the social, economic and environmental aspects of the SSF.
2. Mozambique: Capacity and economic aspects are important criteria which needs to be considered.
3. Tanzania: mentioned the complex issues relating to the definition of the SSF.
4. Dr. S. Sweenarain: mentioned on the fishing unit as an economic unit and people who are taking undue advantages and the concept of the household enterprises.

The consultant thanked everybody for their valuable comments and promised to amend the report as guided by the discussion for sharing.

See annex 6 for comments and proposals

[Download comments and proposals Annexe 6: Click here](#)

Dr. S. Sweenarain presented the landscape of the EA, SA and IO Region fisheries which includes the small-scale and industrial fisheries targeting different species and the type of gear used. He also spoke on the need for a functional definition of the small-scale fisheries and the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in the region.

[Download Presentation Annex 7: Click here](#)

5. DAY 2 - FOCUS ON THE NATIONAL & REGIONAL REPORTS

The second day of the workshop focused on the country presentations, basically the presentations of their national fisheries management plan reports.

5.1 PRESENTATION BY DR. S. SWEENARAIN

To kick start the day, Dr Sweenarain presented some background information and a simplified model for sustainable management of fisheries resources. He also spoke on the potentials of the Small-scale fisheries, the barriers and constraints and other critical factors affecting the fisheries small-scale sector. Dr. S. Sweenarain gave a brief of the terms of reference of this study and the methodological approach taken by Ecofish. Lastly, he spoke on the need for regional cooperation to open up new horizons for the region.

[Download Presentation Annex 8: Click here](#)

5.2 PRESENTATION BY DR. K. THABITI - COMOROS

Dr. Thabiti reviewed the country's fisheries sector and spoke on the objectives of the National study. He spoke on the methodology used for the collection of quantitative and qualitative information, the model used and explained the SWOT analysis carried out. The following were also touched upon: co-management financed by the SWIOfish 1 project, the implements used in the sector, gaps & challenges and way to tackle these gaps.

He concluded by noting the open access of the small-scale fisheries and lack of community-based norms and standards. The health and productivity of the fisheries is compromised due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, environmental stressors and extreme weather events. Thus, management plans would play an important role in the fisheries small-scale sector.

[Download Comoros Presentation Annex 9: Click here](#)

5.3 PRESENTATION BY MR. V. MUNBODHE- MAURITIUS

Mr. Munbodhe gave an overview of the fisheries sector including the various types of Fisheries. He spoke on the objectives of the management plans and the status of the bank fisheries, and the management plans being implemented.

He also briefly mentioned the management plans being implemented for the Octopus fishery and the FAD fishery. He also provides a situational analysis i.e Facts, Gaps Opportunities and needs of the sector. He touches on the Aquaculture sector and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Reef restoration. protection and conservation.

Mr. Munbodhe provides the legal framework governing the sector and the way forward.

Download Mauritius Presentation Annex 10: [Click here](#)

5.4 PRESENTATION BY DR. S. SITOE- MOZAMBIQUE

Sr S. Siteo spoke gave a summary of the fisheries sector in Mozambique. He then profiled the fishing industry, the management plans, challenges and perspectives. Mozambique has now the Ministry of the sea, inland waters and Fisheries with additional staff for the management of the inland and marine fisheries resources. He gave an overview of the fisheries sector in Mozambique including the small-scale sector.

Dr Siteo spoke About the management plans governing the Shrimp industry at all levels. The management plans governing the shallow water shrimp on the Sofala bank and the deep-sea management plans for deep sea crustaceans. He mentioned the various challenges facing the small-scale sector and well as the industrial sectors and looks at some of the perspectives for the future.

Download Mozambique Presentation Annex 11: [Click here](#)

5.5 PRESENTATION BY DR. J. MAIRI AND DR Y. MGAWWE – TANZANIA

“If you fail to plan, you’re planning to fail”

98% of the Fisheries sector of Tanzania are small-scale. The Tanzanian team spoke on the existing Fisheries management plans (FMP), relevance and adequacy of FMPs, the Open Access dominating the fisheries sector, National priority and transboundary resources, capacity needs and Gaps and keynotes for policy dialogues. They noted that some 126 respondents in all walks of life responded to a questionnaire on FMP.

The identified and laid down the various challenges affecting the sector. They spoke also on the many areas’ specific management plans and fishery-based management plans, performance of FMP, fisheries still under open access, national priorities, capacity needs, financing, regional cooperation.

They conclude by providing some tips on the way forward. “You can’t be doing the same thing every day and expect different results.”

Download Tanzania Presentation Annex 12: [Click here](#)

5.6 PRESENTATION BY MS S. RADEGONDE AND J. LUCAS – SEYCHELLES

Ms S. Radegonde provided an overview of the fisheries sector in Seychelles while Ms Lucas spoke on the co-management plan of the Mahe Plateau trap & line fisheries.

Through the ‘Seychelles Fisheries Sector Policy’ the Government recognizes the importance of the sustainable management of our ocean and fish resources to the Seychelles economy. Seychelles aims to have all its fisheries under management plans . Some of the fisheries under management regimes include the sea cucumber fishery, Lobster and tuna and tuna like spp. Other fisheries management plans are being envisaged these include the Octopus fishery, spanner crabs, net fisheries, trap & line and NPOA sharks. The Mahe Plateau due to decreasing catch was subjected to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. This was endorsed in 2019 and is presently under co-management. However, much more remains to be done.

Download Seychelles Presentation Annex 13: [Click here](#)

5.7 PRESENTATION BY DR I. RASHID AND DR. J. MAKOSI - KENYA

The Kenyan constitution defines two levels of National and county government responsibilities are shared. At the County level co-management, demarcation of breeding areas, extension, seed bulking and farm trials whilst policies licensing, development and other measures, MCS activities etc are dealt at the National level. Various agencies have been established with including an advisory council and the Kenya Fish levy trust Fund, which in itself is innovative for the region as part of its governance structure.

Various management plans are operational with various challenges. Limited funding, high pressure and user conflicts. The process of formulation and approval of management plans are tedious and long time. Inadequate information limited scientific information and limited investments are also barriers to good operation.

A way forward is also given.

Download Kenya Presentation Annex 14: [Click here](#)

5.8 DISCUSSIONS, COMMENTS & PROPOSALS

From the discussions on the different presentations, a lot of commonalities emerged. These may be summed up as follows:

- Lack of finances.
- Legal aspects and policies, Policy impact assessment, Institutional and Framework policies, need to renegotiate the fisheries Agreement.
- Co-management, Structure of BMU's & Modernisation
- Capacity Building & identify Gaps.
- Specific management Plans, Resources & lively hood, Banking systems etc.
- Gender issues.
- Open Access, communication, multi stakeholder dialogues,
- Monitoring Control & surveillance, Weak enforcement capacities, Networking.
- Climate Change, & Extreme Weather Events, high pressure on target species.
- Fisheries & Aquaculture development. Develop management plans & Implementation. Address declining catch in Fisheries.
- Enhance regional cooperation.

6. DAY 3 - REGIONAL REPORT

The consultant Mr. Dave Russell presented his report.

6.1 CONSULTANT REPORT

These coastal marine fisheries are important for food security, livelihoods, and cultural diversity. Governments have consistently considered small-scale fisheries as a social safety net, providing cheap protein nutrition and livelihoods. However, a disconnect has arisen between local communities and the market economy, due to growing individualism and profit-making opportunities. Community values and rules are being sacrificed in favour of competition.

Most of these fisheries being open access, are often compromised due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. This is aggravated by the population growth, including migration from inland to coastal areas, and has resulted in significant pressure on limited fisheries resources. Governments prioritise fisheries based on bio-economic and social importance.

Over 200 fisheries in nine distinct sectors throughout SWIO, involving 16 main types of fishing gears, are often widely spread, creating significant manpower and financial strain on government fisheries management agencies. This also results in difficulties for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance. To enable sustainable multi-species and multi-gear fisheries management, some small-scale fisheries may require a management regime.

The seafood value chain for small-scale fisheries is mostly underdeveloped, with fishers not always having access to ice for preservation of caught fish. Once ashore, marketing infrastructure for processing and sale of fish, including cold storage facilities is limited or non-existent. In some countries, fishers are left at the mercy of middlemen to complete sales. Thus, fisheries in the SWIO region are severely underperforming in terms of both employment, food and nutrition security, wealth creation and distribution at local, national and regional levels.

Policy and governance failures, lack of reliable scientific and economic information; and basic socio-economic enabling environment, fisheries infrastructures and market logistics all lead to low productivity and economic inefficiencies of the sub-sector. The

challenge of marine ecosystems containing multiple fish species in small quantities complicates the development of large-scale fisheries, making it inappropriate to transpose external fisheries management strategies onto the EA-SA-IO.

Governments have been lacking the financial, staff and skills capacity resources to properly manage the small-scale fisheries to ensure long-term sustainability and meet the socio-economic needs of small-scale fishers. Value chain stakeholders are also affected by poor management and ought to both play a more active role in management decision taking, and in taking responsibility for encouraging good practices.

Fisheries management plans are generally regarded as the best tool to overcome the unsustainability of open access fisheries. However, tackling issues such as financing, capacity building, MCS, research and data assessment resulting in good implementation decisions, developing socio-economic priorities, and facilitating modernisation of the SSF sector will also contribute positively to better management.

SWIO countries have been introducing Fisheries Management Plans as a means to control fishing effort in a sustainable manner and as a way to tackle the issue of open access fishing. The small-scale fisheries management plans are however more complex, because of the multiplicity of fish species involved and varying financial capacity.

Co-management, introduced in incremental steps, is being promoted as the mechanism to overcome these challenges. All key stakeholder groups are involved and take on responsibility, including on local government level. This also involves fishing communities in management, thereby resulting in community policing, which saves on monitoring, control and surveillance costs. In some countries, Beach Management Units comprising a broad representation of stakeholders facilitating the process. Due to limited expertise at the fisher community level, NGOs are increasingly encouraged to be involved as administrative and financial facilitators.

[Download Management Plans Consultant Presentation Annex 15: Click here](#)

6.2 DISCUSSIONS:

Perhaps the most important point raised by the participants relates to regional cooperation. Countries were unanimous in pointing out that Regional Cooperation is a must if the countries of the region were to move to the next level of Development in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector including the governance of the sector in question.

6.3 ISSUES RAISED

- Data collection & analysis & database management. Use of electronic systems.
- Capacity Building (Various levels)
- Implementation, institutional & infrastructural issues, Financing,
- Addressing gender problems (equality, equity, and diversity), awareness and Entrepreneurship. Empowering fishers.
- Climate change impacts and extreme weather events
- Socio economic challenges, co- management and wealth management approach.
- Different levels of development in the region
- Creating synergies.

7. CONCLUSION

Dr Yahya Mgawe from Tanzania presented a vote of thanks and thanked all, and everyone concerned in one way or the other with the activity and the workshop in Nairobi. Mr Satish Hanoomanjee from Ecofish also thanked all the participants present and all online participants, the consultants, translators,, the hotel management, the service providers and all people concerned with the event.

The meeting was closed at 16.45 hours.

Annex 17 - PRESS RELEASE

Fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean

Only 16.7% of existing fisheries have management plans currently being implemented in the region.



Nairobi, 28th April 2022:- Two preliminary reports on (1) the fisheries management plans and (2) the re-definition and characterisation of the small-scale fisheries of the region were submitted for discussion and validation to seven Southwestern Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries at an ECOFISH workshop from 26 to 28 April 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. These reports draw particular attention to the fact that 216 fisheries have been identified in the WIO region, out of which 61 have fisheries management plans and only 36 management Plans are currently being implemented.

"The small-scale fisheries, and the fishing industry in general, are plagued by overfishing, unsustainable fishing practice, pollution, population growth and a lack of management standards in place and enforced. The reports are essential as they provide a clearer picture of the status quo, highlight the lessons and best practices from past experiences, and provide recommendations leading to sustainable management of the fisheries resources for the future generations", says Vincent Degert, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles.

Small-scale fishing: a poorly exploited social safety net

Small-scale fishing represents 78% of the catches in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania. This sector contributes significantly to food security and livelihood of the populations, particularly those considered poor. Around 42% of the total catch from small-scale fisheries is for personal consumption, and the sale of fish accounts for about 32% of fishing households' income in the region.

However, the sector can better contribute to development in terms of employment, food and nutritional security, and wealth creation at local, national and regional levels. The potential of small-scale fishing is estimated at USD 4 billion, with a wasted economic rent of approximately USD 400 million a year.

Inclusive management of the sector for greater efficiency and sustainability

The SWIO countries have introduced fisheries management plans to capitalise on the sector's potential and to sustainably manage their resources. However, *"the reports highlight that the lack of inclusion of the various stakeholders, shortage of skills, inadequate financing and lack of updated legal frameworks hinder the development and implementation of these plans at the regional level"*, says Vêlayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission.

The first report relates to the re-definition and characterization of the small-scale fisheries. How do we characterise who is an artisanal fisher? It is interesting to note that many well to do people are still classified as artisanal fishers. The data and recommendations relating to fisheries management plans for the SWIO countries provide the basis for informed decision-making about the development of programmes and strategies on the future of fishing in the region.

These two reports were commissioned by the E€OFISH Programme which aims to make sustainable fishing an economic lever for East Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region. Funded and promoted by the European Union, this programme is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Lake Tanganyika Agency (LTA), Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).

Recommendations and Way Forward/Road Map - Management plans

The participants at the workshop discussed and approved the recommendations and way forward/road map as proposed by the regional consultant to move the small-scale fisheries away from open access, and improve fisheries management plans across the SWIO Region and this requires:

1. Undertaking effective stakeholder dialogue at the grass-roots fisher community/association level, including NGO's that are assisting fishers, talking

to national fisheries management administration and scientific research staff, as well as regional fisheries management organisations, and donor agencies, the intention being to leverage ideas, resources and co-operation; and to create momentum for positive moves towards better fisheries management through a team approach of co-management, harnessing different strengths of the involved stakeholders.

2. Stakeholders jointly taking on more ownership and accountability of resource management challenges, will provide opportunities to deal with resource access issues, and move to introduced MCS controls that can be policed, improving the socio-economic status of fish communities and allowing gradual introduction of resource management tools such as resource rents to help fund fisheries management administration.
3. Through a co-management team approach, broadening the traditional focus on bio-ecological sustainability factors, to include socio-economic features prevalent in the region.
4. Leverage regional co-operation, involving collaboration between partner countries to avoid duplication of effort and wastage of resources. Promote synergies for better efficiency.
5. Reconnection to political and national policies – so that governments are walking the talk.
6. Potentially move away from business as usual and focus on transformation.
7. Understand fisheries management plans, and how effective they potentially can be in terms of earning money for the country, if effectively implemented.
8. Start moving towards a “wealth management approach” to reach financial sustainability, including a modernisation and financing strategy for the small-scale sector.
9. Becoming more commercially orientated, considering the complete fisheries value chain. Commercial efficiency will result in the opportunity to charge a fair economic rent, including funding fisheries management, promoting better resource utilization, and long-term benefit to stakeholders.
10. Develop an “enabling environment” architecture with necessary data collection and assessment, both biological and socio-economic, in terms of providing management direction, and monitoring project implementation.

Small Scale Fisheries: Re-definition and characterization

1. The main recommendation here is to apply the matrix with its definition of the various fisheries sectors to all EA-SA-I0 regions, for later inclusion in the relevant laws. With respect to the reformulation of laws, a standard law should be prepared with regard to these definitions, for inclusion into the reformulated laws.



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