

ECOFISH 4TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – ADDIS ABABA 22-24 MARCH 2023

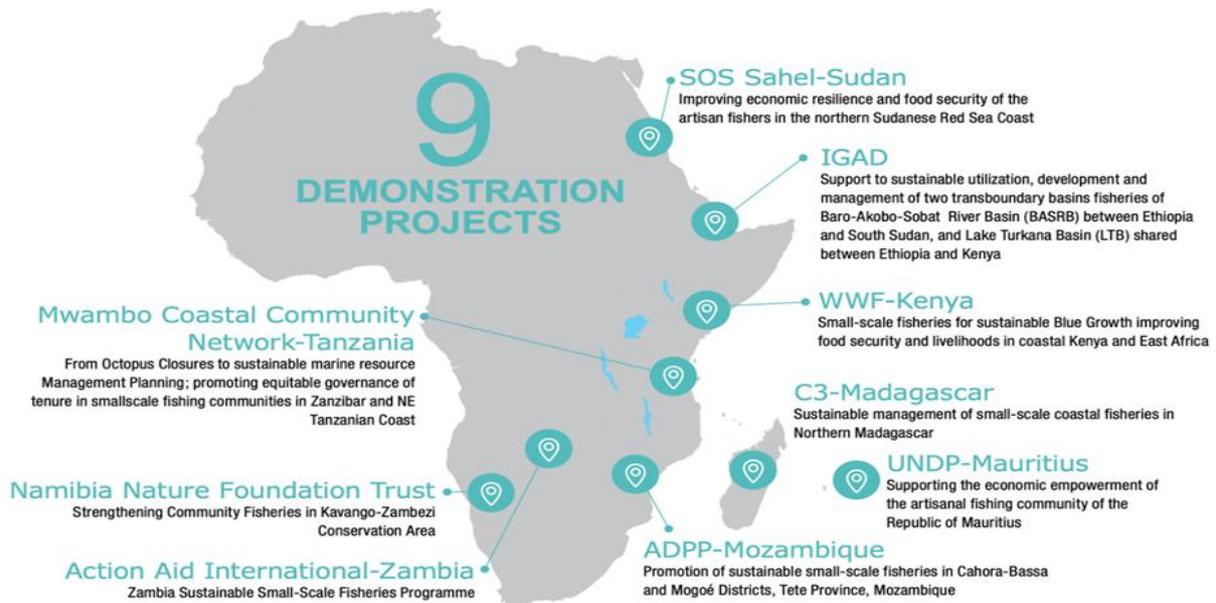
AN UPDATE ON RESULT 3 – CALL FOR PROPOSALS / WORK PLAN 4 AWARDED SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES PROJECTS¹

1.0 Introduction

ECOFISH is a Cross-Regional Programme of the 11th EDF that aims to foster sustainable management of *inland and marine fisheries resources* to contribute to the Blue Economy of Eastern Africa – Southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region. It is fuelled by 3 expected results, Result 1 – Re-engineered fisheries policy and institutional frameworks, Result 2 – Strengthened MCS capabilities and Result 3 – 9 awarded sustainable small-scale fisheries model project to mainstream the principle of sustainable development in local communities. The programme is chartered by EUD-Mauritius and implemented by the IOC Secretariat in collaboration with the mandated regional economic and fisheries organisation and several strategic partners. It has a budget of 28 million euros for five years from July 2019 and has constantly surfed the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic since July 2020. The following narratives relate exclusively to Result 3 [the nine aspirational projects], which constitutes the modus operandi of Work Plan 4 directly administered by EUD-Mauritius with the technical monitoring and coordination entrusted to the TAT. The report presents an update on these flagships.

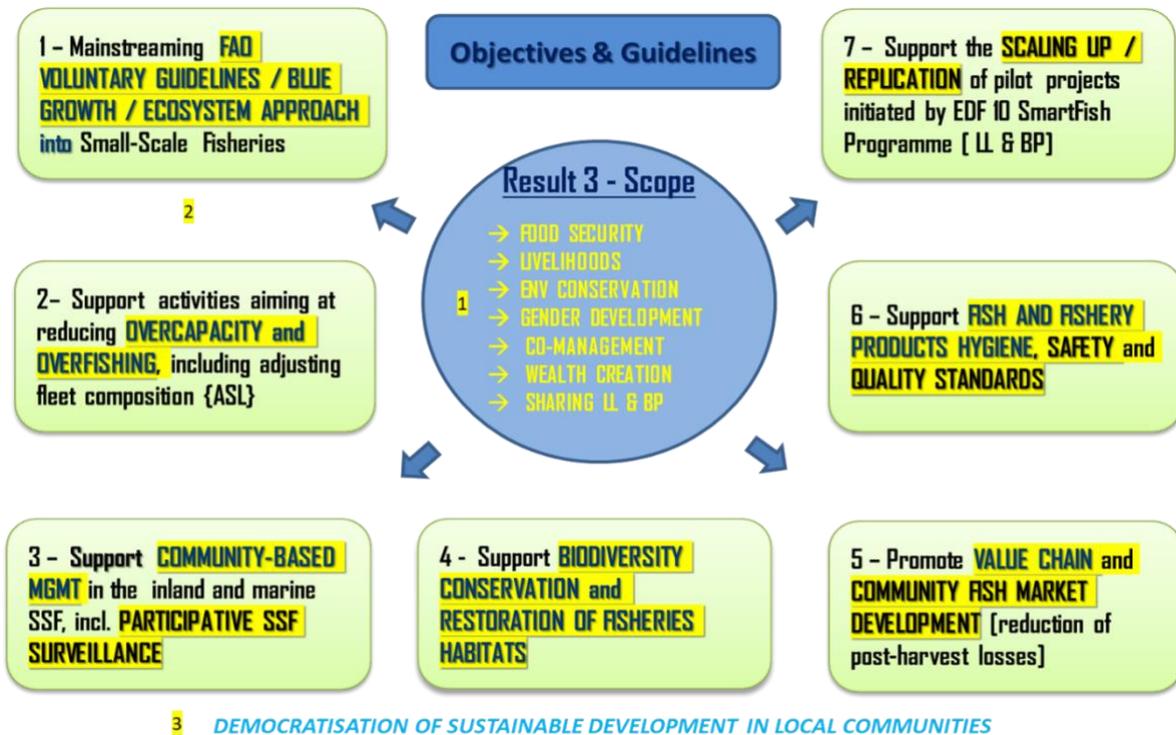
Result 3 demonstration projects comprise five marine-based and four inland initiatives involved in diverse, complex and dynamic socio-ecological contexts of the EA-SA-IO region. Collectively, they are conceived as a Policy Lab and an ecosystem of learning and working to influence institutional stakeholders, donor agencies and local communities in transitioning the small-scale fisheries into a growth engine for shared prosperity in the rural economies across the African continent. These flagships were officially launched two years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented travel restrictions. Consequently, the technical monitoring and coordination functions of the TAT have been conducted regularly through virtual meetings and a few targeted field visits. Overall, they are slightly behind schedule but are catching up fast. The first physical knowledge and experience exchange of the island fisheries cluster was organised on the side line of the ECOFISH 3rd Steering Committee meeting at Lusaka (Zambia) in March last year. It was a great learning experience for the project leaders, the inland regional fisheries bodies, and their corresponding RECs. The following chart shows the title and location of the awarded sustainable small-scale fisheries projects.

¹ Information derived from a virtual meeting with Result 3 Awarded Projects on the 15th of March 2023



2.0 Context

The EA-SA-IO region has *the world’s largest number of Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Fragile States*. They are home to the highest level of endemic poverty, food insecurity, social unrest, and weak governance on the African continent, exacerbated by environmental stressors, including climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The inland and marine wild fish resources are exploited by small-scale fisheries, predominantly subsistence and traditional artisanal fishing in open access and informal. The production is meant for household consumption, and any opportunistic surplus is sold locally. The post-harvest losses exceed 35% of the total annual output due to a lack of essential services and supply chain logistics. The average per-capita fish and fishery production consumption on the African continent is about 10 kg, less than half of the global average of 21 kg and is bound to decline further due to high population growth and policy failures. However, sustainably managed, small-scale fisheries can contribute significantly to the socio-economic and ecological development of rural communities. These field projects aim to vulgarise the tenets of sustainable and integrated management of small-scale fisheries in local communities. The objectives of these projects are summarised in the chart as follows:



3.0 Project Status and Outlook

Project 1 - Action Aids – Zambia

The project aims to enhance the social, economic and environmentally sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in Zambia by strengthening *small-scale fisheries management and governance* to protect livelihoods and build the resilience of local fishing communities, thereby contributing to UN Global Agenda 2030. The project targets about **5,400 artisanal fishers**, both men and women in Zambia, who rely on marine and inland fisheries for food and nutrition security, livelihoods and local economic development, which are still not correctly quantified. It also addresses climate change challenges, imminent drought, illegal fishing, overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. As of March 2023, the main achievements and milestones are as follows:

Output 1: Enhanced Livelihoods and Food Security of Vulnerable Small-Scale Fishing Communities through Sustainably Managed Small-Scale Fisheries

70% of the targeted fishers now understand the proposed voluntary guidelines, and at least 30% demand tenure rights by the end of the project in 2023. The guidelines have been translated into 4 local languages. Over 350 people have been trained, cascading to 10 committees in each of the 7 districts to achieve 3500 beneficiaries.

Output 2: Women and Youth Small-Scale Fishers have Strengthened Capacities in Value Addition of Fish and Access to Markets Resulting in their Increased Contribution to Sustainable Growth, including to SDGs

Regarding poverty reduction and marginalisation, at least 10% of surveyed small-scale fishers, including at least 30% of women, recognise improved equity and gender-focused best practices by 2023. 23 Fisheries committees were surveyed and transformed into multi-purpose cooperatives (10 in Southern, 3 in Luangwa and 10 in Western). Of the eight (8) surveyed women small-scale fishers during the monitoring field visit five (5) reported enhanced equity and an increase in income in the range of K 1,300 and K 12,000 from fish farming.

Output 3: Small-scale fishers, especially women and youth, are better able to advocate for the adoption and implementation of national and regional policy and legal

Over 3,486 of 5,400 small-scale fishers, including 215 females from 43 fishponds, had secured access to fisheries resources. There has been a remarkable increase in membership, from 593 to 3,486 people, and 32% of leadership positions occupied in community-level fisheries committees are occupied by women. In addition, the Fisheries department and key stakeholders developed a manual for the governance of fisheries co-management with communities that will be used in Zambia.

Overall, the project activities are on track, and the total disbursement is about 70%

Project Risks

- i) Kwacha’s fluctuation affects the EU project. However, kwacha strengthening did not translate into reduced inflation and goods and services remained high.
- ii) High cost of fuel for both motor vehicles and speed boats (Some communities are found on islands)
- iii) Poor relationship between community and government agencies
- iv) Stock being stolen from fishponds by thieves- two communities recorded incidences of theft which resulted in the loss of livelihoods- Communities want to reinforce security by putting wire fences around the ponds
- v) Human-Wildlife Conflict in Luangwa- The farming season has increased the number of elephants migrating between Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (Luangwa). It can affect meeting attendance by community members as most are afraid of elephants attacks

Project Opportunities

- i) The government’s pronouncement to finalise the formulations of the National Animal Health and National Aquaculture and Fisheries policies presents an opportunity to advocate for the rights of small-scale fishers.
- ii) The communities’ commitment to taking up alternative livelihood activities presents an opportunity to provide support
- iii) The establishment of the Zambia Forum for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture presents an opportunity to build collective power
- iv) The guiding manual developed by the project presents an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the government and communities

Lessons learned and Best Practices

- i) Collaborations with like-minded CSOs, government and collective actions achieved results and meeting goals.

- ii) The presence of external facilitators from other organisations and Government departments increased awareness, seriousness and concentration.
- iii) Not all communities that belong to the same landscape can have similar challenges in terms of livelihood.
- iv) Steady engagement and communication with communities slowly lead to a mindset change and increased participation and accountability amongst rural communities.
- v) The involvement of traditional leaders from the project’s inception helps achieve the intended results and builds the other stakeholders’ confidence on board. It has helped most of the different stakeholders coming on board to find it easy to filter through the communities

Project 2 – ADPP Mozambique

The objective is to strengthen the economic, social and environmental sustainability of small-scale fishing communities in Cahora-Bassa and Magoé Districts, Tete Province, Mozambique. It is supported by 3 interrelated expected outputs:

Output 1. Enhanced empowerment and capacity of fishing communities for sustainable resources management.

Output 2. Improved integration of fishing groups into value chains through market-related infrastructure and investments to ensure good quality fish handling and marketing under hygienic conditions.

Output 3. Increased access to drinking water for human consumption, productive use, and sanitation.

Implementation approach

Fisher Clubs are groups of fishers targeted with training and capacity building. As a result, they can aggregate more significant fish and supply stable quantities to contract buyers. In addition, they save money as a group and invest in production equipment such as cooling units. The project is working with 500 fishers organised in 10 Fisher Clubs.

Project achievement and potential impacts

Output 1 – Empowerment and capacity-building of fishing communities

- i) Ten (10) fishers’ clubs transformed into fishers associations and cooperatives. They play a prominent role in providing a platform for awareness-raising and capacity-building.
- ii) 531 fishers trained in community-based natural resources management. Fishers are complying with authorised/recommended gear (simple gill-netting).
- iii) 270 fishers participated in food production. The farms are established in the fishers clubs along with 10 solar water pumps.
- iv) Positive impact on food and nutrition security. The project has successfully integrated fishing households into agricultural production to diversify food sources. Last year, about seven tonnes of vegetables were produced.
- v) The operational capacity of the community fisher councils capacity has been enhanced. The project trained 10 community councils in fisheries monitoring.
- vi) 354 fishers have been licensed.
- vii) 2000 harmful fishing gear have been seized. It is evidence of the project’s contribution to the reservoir fisheries resources and ecosystem protection.

Output 2 – Enhance fish value chain development

- i) After several meetings with the local fisheries agency and authorities, a sustainable fish marketplace design was approved.
- ii) 291 fishers received basic literacy training. It enhances the fishers’ ability to read and count. In addition, they are integrated into the government’s 3-year literacy programme.
- iii) 10 fishers clubs created savings and credit groups. They boost their members’ capabilities to develop small businesses and trade in fishing gear.
- iv) Two big buyers identified target fresh fish export markets after the construction of the marketplace is completed

Output 3 – Increased access to drinking water and improved sanitation

- i) 1500 households have been granted access to clean water.
- ii) Five (5) water committees have been created and trained to benefit from the boreholes.
- iii) 100 fishers have been trained on the operation and maintenance of solar water pumps
- iv) 131 fishers adopted ecological latrines
- v) Over 500 fishers and 1500 community members were trained in COVID-19 prevention and open defecation.

Challenges encountered during implementation

- i) Constructions of marketplaces: Requirements imposed by the INIP (National Institute for Fish Inspection) have delayed the construction of fish marketplaces- After several meetings with government bodies, a suitable model has been developed and approved.
- ii) Covid-19 restrictions also needed change in some implementation strategies, e.g., the project had to do more door-to-door than big community-wide sessions.
- iii) It was impossible to build boreholes, as had been previously planned, since the water table is several meters deep, implying a high cost per borehole. Moreover, for the 5 boreholes installed, the company had to drill twice or thrice to find water in the same place, yet the water was salty or mixed. As a result, the project was able to install 5 boreholes out of the 10 planned.

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Savings groups and Revolving

- i) Savings and credit group activity in clubs was not envisaged as one of the critical interventions of the project.
- ii) It has shown significant potential for building resilience and developing small enterprises as a source of alternative income.
- iii) Future projects must consider this and design the Savings and Revolving credit clubs as intrinsic parts of the project.

Fishers’ Clubs -Social cohesion and gender dynamics

- i) They play a vital role in the ability of communities to adapt and work together.
- ii) The group approaches, such as Fishers’ clubs, that the project practices have shown considerable results in information dissemination, ensuring training for technical advancements in fishing and agriculture, among other activities.

- iii) The clubs’ approach has shown an excellent ability to promote promising strides towards creating a balance in gender equality and increasing women’s participation and involvement in this sector.
- iv) The club platform is an autonomous space to promote the evolution of practices based on the camaraderie between members.

Opportunities and Exit Strategies

ADPP invests extensively in fundraising for its contribution (co-funding) and expansion of Ecofish activities by engaging partners working in the fish industry:

- i) EDP: “Renewable Energy Access for Productive Uses to Small Scale Fishing Communities to Develop the Fish Value Chain in the District of Magoé in Mozambique”. This project is implemented by ADPP and financed by EDP - Energias de Portugal, SA, through its A2E CSR Fund Program.
- ii) UNIDO Towards sustainable energy for all in Mozambique promoting market-based dissemination of integrated renewable energy systems for productive activities in rural areas Call- A project proposal with a budget of \$ 155,000 has been submitted and is awaiting approval: The project aims at improving fish value chain by installing photovoltaic solutions in Magoé District

ADPP is at an advanced stage of signing a MU with the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries – IDEPA to introduce farmed fish in the clubs. It will positively impact women with another source of food and income. In addition, the Ecofish fishers’ club members will receive cages for fish, training and fingerlings.

Project 3 – IGAD – Co-management of fisheries in transboundary rivers

The project aims to support the Sustainable Utilization, Development and Management of Two Transboundary Basins Fisheries of the Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin (BASRB) between Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Lake Turkana Basin (LTB) shared between Ethiopia and Kenya.

Overall Objective: To develop gender-responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources and foster the use of fisheries for building resilience and bolstering food and nutrition security and local economies, especially for the fishing and “Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)” communities in the two basins.

RESULT 1: Finalise, adopt and establish basin-wide fisheries co-management system for each of the two basins with the needed “collaboration and communication arrangements” among critical stakeholders for sustainable fisheries exploitation, equitable access to fisheries resources, and efficient fisheries utilisation.

- i) Fisheries baseline study reports for both basins were reviewed, validated and served as a background document to prepare Fisheries Co-Management Plans,
- ii) The Fisheries Co-Management Plan for both basins were prepared and validated by the three project implementation countries,
- iii) BFCP for each shared basin established and has become functional following the terms of references approved,
- iv) The Research Sub-Committee of the BFCP Members prepared the fisheries data collection templates for both basins,

- v) The project facilitated to initiate of communication between the basins-sharing countries to discuss the fish resources in the basins sustainably
- vi) Fisheries Co-Management Units established in the three project implementation countries

RESULT 2: Capacity building and integrated database establishment that will address climate-smart, gender-responsive, socioeconomically equitable, and ecologically sustainable fisheries development and management for each of the two basins.

- i) Training on fisheries co-management principles and practices have been provided to the Co-Management Unit members (fish cooperatives and BMU members) in the three countries (Eth, Ken and SS)
- ii) Three studies in both OMT and BAS Basins have been conducted and validated:
- iii) Socio-economic Situation, Gender Inclusivity and Indigenous & Traditional Knowledge (ITK) integration in Fisheries Management in OTB and BAS River basin
- iv) Fisheries Sector Capacity Need Assessment and Climate Smart Fisheries Practices in OTB and BAS River basin
- v) Capacity Development Plan for Fisheries Management for Lake Turkana Basin Fisheries
- vi) Web-based database establishment for BE and Fisheries is in the process of development
- vii) ICT equipment procurement is in the process
- viii) Two meetings of IFCP conducted
- ix) Two Policy briefs were produced and posted

Lessons learned and best practices

- i) Transboundary fisheries co-management is logistics demanding and requires frequent consultation at all levels
- ii) The establishment of the Bilateral Fisheries Coordination Platform, composed of fishing community leaders, researchers, and officers in the two countries sharing fish resources, is an effective tool for transboundary fisheries co-management
- iii) Encouragement of Indigenous knowledge (IK) from the fishing Community is instrumental in regulating the fisheries. 'The Fish Father' system in Baro River fisheries in Ethiopia
- iv) BMUs already established in the Kenyan side of Lake Victoria can be easily customised to meet the requirements.

Overall Performance

- i) 65 % of the activities have been completed
- ii) 55% of the budget has been consumed.

Project 4 - NNF Strengthening community fisheries in KAZA

The project aims to strengthen fisheries management in the KAZA region through ecosystem-based adaptation, enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of communities. In addition, it intends to improve target fish stocks in the KAZA region.

Output 1 – Enhanced community governance [40 % achieved]

- 1.1 -Standardised tools and guidelines for increased community governance efficiency and effectiveness developed – 40 % achievement

1.2 - Functional community fisheries committees with at least 2 in each KAZA country in place – 30%

1.3 - Fisheries in (existing) CBO bodies dealing with natural resources management integrated – 30%

1.4 - Well-structured joint venture partnerships with the private sector in place – 0%

Output 2 - Creation of a network of community fish reserves [35 % achievement]

2.1 - Formal community fish reserves with at least 2 in each KAZA country established – 60%

2.2 - Fisheries management plans for at least 2 fisheries in KAZA (embedding community fisheries reserves in a network) developed – 30%

Output 3: Increased awareness of nutritional aspects, local recreation and cultural aspects of fish [15 % achievement]

3.1 - Economic study and documentation of the social and cultural value of fish to the region completed – 25%

3.2 - Support making the Zambezi Bream festival a KAZA celebration and connection to the social and cultural value of fish to the people of KAZA provided – 20%

Output 4 - Strengthening of research, monitoring and adaptive management of fisheries resources [45 % achieved]

4.1 - Protocols for joint research and monitoring taking place - 30 %

4.2 - Standardised community fisheries monitoring and evaluation protocols and actions across KAZA - 30 %

4.3 - Development and iteration of management recommendations on various levels of interventions for adaptive management - 35 %

4.4 - Informed and improved decision-making regarding sustainable fisheries management - 40 %

- Protocols for joint research
- Standardised community fisheries monitoring and evaluation
- Informed and improved decision-making
- Development of management recommendations for adaptive management

Output 5: Enhanced transboundary collaboration on the objectives - 10 % achieved

5.1 - Effective running of the KAZA Fisheries Sub-working group, with at least two meetings per year [0 %]

5.2 - Integration of fisheries issues into existing community transboundary fora [40 %]

5.3 - Joint fisheries enforcement and patrol actions on the Zambezi [25 %]

- Transboundary fisheries management plan for the Cubango-Okavango river

Challenges

- i) Visibility of short-term benefits
- ii) Success rates of different models
- iii) Absent but influential residents

- iv) Law enforcement to be improved and formalised
- v) Transboundary collaboration due to COVID-19
- vi) Rivers are open access
- vii) Equitable sharing of benefits
- viii) Sustainable financing mechanisms

Lessons learned and best Practices

- i) Fisheries strengthen socio-ecological resilience
- ii) new rules often traditional rules
- iii) Adaptive management combined with traditional knowledge and (citizen) science
- iv) Peer-to-peer approach is the most successful
- v) Window of opportunity due to depleted stocks

Conclusions

- i) Policy and practice harmonisation of the management of shared rivers and resources
- ii) Ownership of communities pivotal to successful management and governance of reserves;
- iii) Long-term sources of funding needed
- iv) Strategic document for the network of fisheries reserves
- v) Capacity among partners and stakeholders required to create such a network

Overall Performance

- i) Overall Budget execution – 46%
- ii) Overall achievement – 45%
- iii) Fish stock enhancement – 10%

Project 5 - Mwambao

Objective

The project aims to transition from octopus closure to sustainable marine resource management planning in selected communities in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Output and Rate of achievement

Output 1 - Sufficient knowledge and incentives are given to enable 4 BMUs (Tanzania mainland) and 7 SFCs (Zanzibar), including membership of 25% women, to engage equitably in collaborative and sustainable marine resource management – [81%]

Output 2 - Local marine resource management plans were implemented for 4 BMUs (Tanzania mainland) and 8 SFCs (Zanzibar) (including fisheries closures where relevant), and the condition of marine resources improved - [49 %]

Output 3 - Knowledge and perception of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fishers (VG-SSF) is improved amongst policymakers and small-scale fisheries stakeholders in North Tanzania - [26%]

Overview and Update

Disbursement

Output 1 – 71%

Output 2 – 17%

Output 3 – 7%

Note: A total of Euro 349,088.40 was used to finance the project activities, where ECOFISH contributed 231,949.61, which is equal to 66.4%, and other matching grants contributed 117,138.78 which is equivalent to 33.6%

Project Risks

- i) Community-based marine resource management approach takes a long time for the community to recognise, accept and adopt.
- ii) Minimal alternative ways of livelihood opportunities at the community level threaten the conservation initiatives

Opportunities

- i) Establishment of a Collaborative Fisheries Management Area (CFMA) for mainland Tanzania and a Collaborative Management Group (CMG) for Zanzibar
- ii) Support increasing livelihood opportunities to reduce community dependence on marine resources.

Lesson Learnt

- i) Establishing any marine resources management measure can vary from one community to another. However, the need to have neighbouring communities and other users on board cannot be underestimated.
- ii) Marine resource users’ conflicts within and outside of the community hurt the locally-led community’s marine resources management

Best Practices

- i) Active and effective collaboration of all respective stakeholders increases as improving livelihood opportunities and social mobility
- ii) Continuous awareness raising and education is a long-lasting change (solution) for challenges facing community-based marine resources management and conservation.

Project 6 - C3M

Objective

The project aims at the small-scale fisheries at three locally-managed marine areas, and key biodiversity areas in Northern Madagascar managed more sustainably.

Expected Outputs

Output 1 - Small scale fisheries at the Bay of Rigny, Ambodivahibe and Nosy Hara were assessed, identifying more effective monitoring and management opportunities. **25% achieved**

Outcome 1 (Specific objective) Small-scale fisheries at the Bay of Rigny, Ambodivahibe and Nosy Hara were comprehensively assessed, identifying opportunities for more effective monitoring and management

- 1.1 - Technical report describing small-scale fisheries at each site and management recommendations, including monthly landing site surveys of artisanal fishing and socio-economic surveys of fishery-dependent households.
- 1.2 - Long-term community monitoring protocol developed, followed by training 30 landing site surveyors at each site and regular quality control and evaluation of data collected by landing site enumerators.

Output 2 - Local fishing syndicates and management bodies trained in fisheries and marine ecosystem ecology and management, where relevant. **[25% achieved]**

- 2.1 - High capacity of communities for protected area management and monitoring, including training of fishers in basic marine ecology and the importance of fisheries management and development of community-based fisheries management structures.
- 2.2 - Data-informed policies for local management bodies recommending best practice management interventions, including documenting lessons learned in the development of community enforcement programmes through stakeholder consultation and development of policy briefs in conjunction with local fisheries management bodies
- 2.3 - High public awareness about LMMA and fisheries management needs supported by training of local junior eco-guard teams (30 per site), with a focus on fisheries management and quarterly social marketing events held at each site

Output 3 - Management interventions implemented, focusing on opportunities yielding rapid, measurable results. LMMA and fisheries management programmes executed on the ground. **[25% achieved]**

- 3.1 - Community and local management structure consultations and to identify critical areas to focus fisheries management and development of community-endorsed management plans, including:
 - At least 1 fisheries management measure implemented at each site
 - Consensus attained on the most likely management measure for success
 - Implementation of measures
- 3.2 - Ongoing monitoring of implementation success and impacts on fish stocks and catch, including Exchange visits held with other LMMAs through the MIHARI national network to share success stories, and lessons learned and encourage replication of successful models
- 3.3 - Collaboration with MIHARI to promote exchange meetings with other successful LMMAs to exchange information

Main challenges

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Partenaires de mise en oeuvre



- i) Dealing with uncertainties regarding coordination of activities at the sites, competition, reluctance to communicate openly
- ii) Low levels of awareness on fisheries and marine threats and biodiversity necessitate intensive outreach at the start to provide a basis for understanding principles, an opportunity to be on the ground discussing issues in advance of collecting data, solidifying trust with fishers and leaders
- iii) Political issues with big international NGOs lead to delays with the implementation of our fisheries landing surveys scheduled for the start of year 1 (need to start simultaneously at all sites)

Opportunities

- i) Collaborating with communities convinced by the importance of sustainable fisheries management and eager for assistance on the ground
- ii) Demonstrating success using efficient, responsive and respectful engagement with communities
- iii) Assisting the Ministry of Fisheries through an MoU to achieve some of their intended outcomes, good synergy and support
- iv) Ministry of Education signed a 4-year MoU to support the proliferation of C3’s Junior Ecoguard programme

Conclusion

The overall implementation level is about 25%.

Project 7 - SOS Sahel – Sudan

The project title is Improved Economic Resilience and Food Security of the Artisan Fishers in the Northern Sudanese Red Sea Coast.

Objectives

Output 1 - Improved practices and techniques applied

Target: 1015 fisheries. Achieved 906. [89%]

Output 2 - Packages of appropriate fishery inputs and technologies

Target: 725 fishers. Achieved: 1535. [212%]

Output 3 - Improved capacities of artisanal fishers to break highly dependent relationships with traders and gain access to services (financial, social, legal).

Target: 735 fishers. Achieved 125. [29 %]

Opportunities

- i) Presence of many traders and importers specialised in providing various types of fishing gear.
- ii) Increased acceptance of sea products.
- iii) Availability of ports for fish exports
- iv) Presence of funding institutions, especially the microfinance institutions
- v) Presence of many donors and organisations mandated improving the fishery sector.
- vi) Increased interest of decision makers to support economising marine fishing;
- vii) There is dedicated fishery administration in the state to support, regulate and monitor the fishery activities within the state.

- viii) Extensive coastline of more than 740 km;
- ix) A multidisciplinary coral reef utilisation committee is formed comprising the Ministry of Agriculture, Red Sea University, Fishery Administration, and marine security to oversee the production rate and pattern

Project Risks

- i) Contradictory regulatory acts and ad hoc issues of high-level authority to satisfy the particular interest of politically influential figures;
- ii) Overlapping of international maritime boundaries with neighbouring countries.
- iii) Illegal/unauthorised fishing activities, especially by trawlers from neighbouring countries, severely devastates the marine resources
- iv) Pollution of the terrestrial environment;
- v) Organised crimes.

Lessons learnt and Best Practices

- i) Development modality in areas that witnessed free Humanitarian services requires a long time to change the mindset of beneficiaries.
- ii) Engaging the private sector in development projects to maintain sustainability beyond the project duration.
- iii) Well-established fishers’ Associations have access to finance more than individuals
- iv) Providing support only at the input level will not have a significant impact unless other fishery sector issues, such as marketing, infrastructures, policies and laws, are addressed accordingly.
- v) The support provided by the project has linked sectors that were not cooperating before the intervention, such as the private sector, to the fishers community and the marine fisheries administration. This has contributed to the successes achieved.

Conclusion

Overall project performance

Total Disbursement: 83%

Activities to expenditure: 93 %

Beneficiaries: 106 %

Impact indicators

Target fisheries have increased their fish yields

51 % of the target fishers increase their catch from 70 kg to 171 kg per trip.

Target fishers have increased their net income

36% of target fishers increased their net income for SDG 20,200 to SDG 194,500 per day trip

Food security in target fisher households has been reduced because of increased purchasing power

The food gap in target fisher households has been reduced from 66.5 % to 37.5%

Project 8 - WWF – Kenya [KECOFISH]

The project title is “Small-scale fisheries for sustainable Blue Growth improving food security and livelihoods in Coastal Kenya and East Africa”.

It aims to enhance the capacity of small-scale marine fisheries in Kenya and the Coastal East African region to contribute to sustainable Blue Growth, Poverty Reduction, Food Security and Job Creation.

Two demonstration sites scaled to deliver organised, and effective co-management and innovative solutions to address remaining challenges will be adapted.

Output 1.0 - Community-led, low-cost fisheries data collection system implemented in at least 10 BMUs

1.1 - Improved data collection system in 7 key strategic locations in Coastal Kenya.

1.2 - Rolling out the mobile phone for data collection system to at least 7 new BMUs

1.3 - Use of data by communities to make informed fisheries management decisions.

The key achievements and works-in-progress are as follows:

- i) Training of data collectors;
- ii) Monthly data collection initiated in 7 BMUs
- iii) Phones and associated equipment acquired;
- iv) Regular monitoring and evaluation of the data collected
- v) Analysis of the collected data
- vi) Data to be used in the formation of JCMA in Lamu Seascape

Output 2.0 - 20 Village Savings & Loan Associations established VSLAs (5 in Lamu and 15 in Shimoni-Vanga for increased financial literacy

2.1 - Adaptation and roll out of VSLAs model to form 20 new VSLAs, including successful community-based village savings and loans prototypes in the Lamu seascape and the Shimoni-Vanga seascape

2.2 - Roll out financial literacy and small business training for women and youth participating in the VSLAs

2.3 - Developing 4 bankable business plans and facilitating linkages to financial services

The following activities have been undertaken:

- i) A consultancy study was commissioned to review and document the achievements and impacts of VSLAs in the Lamu Seascape to establish relevance and key lessons
- ii) 17 and 7 VSLAs selected in Shimoni-Vanga and Lamu seascape, respectively
- iii) Business plans developed; One has been funded by the KEMSFED project approx. \$ 2500

Output 3.0 - Capacity is built for at least two joint Fisheries Co-Management Areas (JCMAs)

3.1 - Building capacity of members and leaders of the 10BMUs

3.2 - Train at least 30 TOTs, who will then train 2500 fishers in both Lamu and Shimoni-Vanga Seascapes on responsible fishing

3.3 - Operationalising ecosystem-based co-management in the two existing joint CMAs

The progress is as follows:

- i) 25 ToTs in Lamu (13) and Kwale (12), followed by the training of at least 16 BMUs (9 in Lamu and 7 in Kwale)
- ii) Mentorship program to the BMUs underway; mentorship programme developed and rolled out;

Output 4.0 - New and innovative prototypes to address post-harvest losses and improved market access

- 4.1 - Building on lessons from other projects on efficient cooling solutions
- 4.2 - Demonstrate successful technologies prototypes
- 4.3 - Building capacity on post-harvest handling of fish and fisheries products

The progress made is as follows:

- i) Consultative session organised by relevant partners
- ii) Demonstration site was selected, and the off-grid cooling solutions chosen
- iii) ORRA project developed a business plan for the cooling solution installed
- iv) Training on fish post-harvest handling techniques and value addition (25 ToTs in Lamu (13) and Kwale (12), followed by the training of at least 16 BMUs (9 in Lamu and 7 in Kwale).

Project Opportunities

- i) BMU Leadership training and mentorship programme
- ii) Regional work; Synergies with other WWF practices such as food, Climate Energy and Oceans to facilitate a robust cross-learning in Kenya;

Lessons learnt and Best Practices

- i) The need to hire additional project staff in the marine programme
- ii) Engage staff from the County Governments who are not involved in ongoing government projects
- iii) Manual data collection in the episodes when the ODK system crashed
- iv) Provision of data collectors with the species guide to ease the identification of species and to bring uniformity in the name of the species identified across different regions
- v) Suggested re-allocation of funds to other more sustainable interventions
- vi) Proposed project no-cost extension

Project 9 – UNDP - Mauritius

The project title is “Supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius”.

The main objective of the project is to support the artisanal fishing community in the sustainable management of coastal fisheries and to improve their economic situation, which will be achieved by:

Output 1 - Development of a community of empowered and environmentally responsible artisanal fishers who are economically independent

Output 2 – Support artisanal fishers’ cooperatives to inform fishers of available financial support and to add value to their catch by the post-harvest process.

The project comprises three (3) components

Component 1 Harvest Phase

- i) Procuring 2 sets of single Buoy FADs fitted with satellite imagery devices. They were deployed in December 2022.
- ii) Relevant data is being received from deployed Single Buoy FADs.
- iii) Development of Mobile application for fisher community
- iv) Training fishers in coastal FAD tuna long-line fishing started in February 2023;

Component 2 - Post-Harvest Infrastructure Development

- i) Supply, Installation and commissioning of solar-powered ice flakes-making machines. A containerised system has been recommended;
- ii) Procurement launched in November 2022 & Evaluation is ongoing, and award expected shortly;

Component 3 - Post-Harvest Processing

- i) Training of fishers, especially women and young people, in fish hygiene, fish processing and marketing
- ii) Training syllabus and training materials submitted by Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and have been approved after incorporation of comments received,
- iii) The focus will be on training and capacity-building during 2023.
- iv) Sensitisation and awareness raising on reducing post-harvest waste through appropriate communication and social innovation strategies.

Project Updates as of December 2022

Total fund disbursement of EUR 720,926.00

Total expenditure: EUR 398,034.46 + EUR 114,000 in the Pipeline

Expected expenditure by 2023: EUR 789,187.41 and EUR 210,812.53 available for re-allocation.

Project 10 – ECOPECHE – OI

The project is promoted by the small-scale fishing community of France/Reunion in collaboration with the ECOFISH TAT and facilitated by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF/INTERREG) since the latter as an EU territorial in the Indian Ocean is not eligible for European Development Fund reserved exclusively for ACP countries. The project will enable Reunion to participate in various components of the ECOFISH programme, mainly Result 1 of the Marine Fisheries work plan and Result 3 / work plan 4. It embeds a pro-business approach to promote sustainable small-scale fish value chains through innovative financing and partnerships in the SWIO countries. The project is still in starting block because the 7th ERDF programme will be operationalised in mid-2023. Its high-level log frame is presented as follows:

Overall objective

To improve the socio-economic and ecological conditions of artisanal fishing communities and Society through the sustainable and inclusive development of small-scale fish value chains in Reunion Island and neighbouring countries in the South-West Indian Ocean.

Specific objective

Promu et financé par

Partenaires de mise en oeuvre



To undertake sustainable, responsible, and inclusive modernisation of small-scale marine fishery value chains and supply chain logistics to optimise socio-economic benefits, including the creation of wealth, jobs, and cultural diversity by emphasising the protection of marine biodiversity and adaptation to climate change of the Blue Economy Strategy within the framework of the Regional Fisheries Program – ECOFISH.

Strategic Action 1 – Project/Business Incubator

Activity 1.1 - Promoting an improvement in the Business Climate

Activity 1.2 – Facilitate public-private projects and investments

Activity 1.3 – Set up a Techno-Economic Observatory / Technological Watch

Strategic Action 2: Technical and Human Capacity Building

Activity 2.1 - Professionalize and enhance the fishing professions

Activity 2.2 - Strengthening Professional Organisations

Activity 2.3 - Exchange of knowledge and experience

Strategic Action 3: Valorization of Fishery Products

Activity 3.1 - Raise awareness of market-related health and hygiene standards

Activity 3.2 - Developing a Regional Quality Label for targeted products

Activity 3.3 - Develop a regional strategy for the marketing of export products

Strategic Action 4: Awareness and Communication

Activity 4.1 - Create the Branding/Branding of the project and a website

Activity 4.2 - Communication Strategy for Strategic Actions 1 to 3

Activity 4.3 - Raise awareness of the need for adequate policy and institutional frameworks

Strategic Action 5 – Governance and Project Management

Activity 5.1 - Install the Project Office and governance procedures

Activity 5.1 - Ensure the implementation of strategic actions at the regional level

Activity 5.3 - Organise statutory and technical meetings

Conclusion and Way Forward

Mainstreaming sustainable development in local communities, particularly in renewable natural resource sectors of developing countries, has been challenging. The concept was born after the Brundtland Report 1987, followed by the three Multilateral Environmental Agreements 1992 facilitated by the UNDP. Then came the UN Millennium Development Goal 2000, carried forward by the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030 in 2015. In between, the world has embraced new approaches, such as the Green and Blue Economy, to operationalise the fundamentals of global sustainability. Inspired by the existence of several international policy instruments, such as the FAO Code of Conduct

for Responsible Fisheries 1995 and associated International Plans of Actions and the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale fisheries, the African Union Commission formulated the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Africa, 2014 to engage its members in the sustainable management of the inland and marine wild and farmed fisheries resources attain the socio-economic and ecological aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063. However, all the international policy instruments and conceptual frameworks lack operationality and emphasise a top-down approach. Global strategy requires a local agenda to adapt to the local socio-ecological context where the action takes place.

The socio-economic significance of small-scale fisheries in the developing and fragile economies of the EA-SA-IO region can hardly be emphasised regarding their contribution to food and nutrition security, employment, cultural diversity, wealth creation and foreign exchange earnings. Almost 100% of inland and 80% of wild fisheries resources are harnessed by small-scale fisheries, predominantly unregulated subsistence and traditional artisanal fishing in open access and informal. With the high population growth rate and demand for fish and fishery products, the open access to fisheries resources amount to the Tragedy of the Commons or a resource curse, exacerbating rivalry and social conflicts in local communities. Sustainably managed, natural renewable resources can contribute many folds to the local and national economies. However, the small-scale fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region are still in a cautious expansive mode. The fish stocks in the nearshore waters near densely populated areas are dwindling due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. But there are underfished and new fishing zones in deeper waters because of inadequate fishing assets, technologies, onshore infrastructure, and logistics. Therefore, the small-scale fishery industry should be promoted as a growth sector for shared prosperity and cultural identity.

In Africa, over 70% of the labour force is engaged in natural resource sectors, such as rain-fed agriculture, farming, animal husbandry and fishing. However, they work only about four months a year. The post-harvest physical and economic losses in these sectors are about 40 % due to policy failure and a lack of essential socio-economic services and market logistics. However, the objectives of Transforming Africa 2063 cannot be achieved with the sustainable and inclusive modernisation of the primary sectors, including fisheries. Moreover, the misconception of the African Common market may negatively impact small enterprises due to indiscriminate corporatisation and financialisation of the primary sectors. Therefore, the local fishing communities must be supported to enhance their income-generating activities and well-being for the present and future generations amidst the growing challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and inequalities.

From the ECOFISH viewpoint, none of these demonstration projects is tackling all sustainability issues in the small-scale fisheries in their respective constituent. However, they have selected their priorities to usher in the desired transformative changes. However, the greatest challenge is anticipating a feasible exit strategy to up-scale and replicate these activities. In addition, the concept must go viral to mobilise additional resources and partnerships. The Community of Practice uniting all these projects and relevant institutional stakeholders, aims to work and learn together and anchor social and policy labs to design a model project for the sustainable and profitable development of small-scale fisheries across the African Continent. It will also inform donor and development agencies to focus on social and environmental impact investment as a game changer for Africa. The interaction between the TAT and the awarded project will intensify for sustainable take-off.

ECOFISH Result 3 – Awarded projects Infographics

