

ECOFISH PROGRAMME
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM SCOPE OF WORK
BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT
AS OF FEBRUARY 2023

Promoted and Funded by

Implementing Partners



Technical Assistance:



in consortium with:



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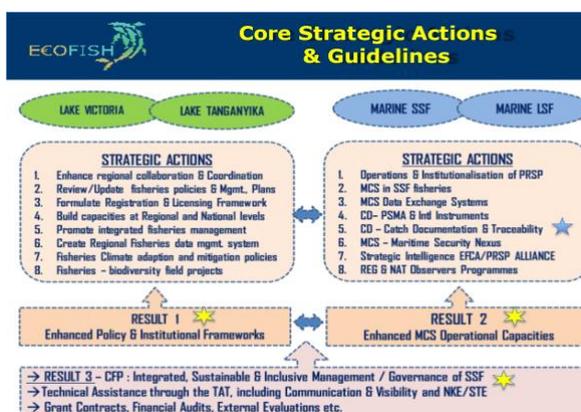
1.0 Introduction

The memorandum provides some insights into the scope of work of the permanent Technical Assistance Team contracted by the EUD – Mauritius through INCATEMA Consortium to technically assist the latter in executing, monitoring and coordinating the ECOFISH programme. The frame service contract included a pool of Non-Key Experts (NKEs) and back-stopping services. The TAT comprises three experts: a Fisheries Economist who acts as the Team Leader and Technical Coordinator, a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Expert and a Communication and Visibility Specialist. It resumed work on the 19th of July 2019 for 62 months. However, the programme is behind schedule mainly due to the COVID-19 upends and may probably obtain an extension of 15 to 18 months at no additional cost to finish its work. It works closely with the IOC Secretariat hosting the Programme Management Unit, but since October 2022, it has had an autonomous office in the same building. Finally, the brief presents the TAT Terms of Reference TAT of the ECOFISH programme and an update on its performance review to benefit the 4th Technical Coordination and Steering Committee to be held in Addis Ababa on the 21st to 23rd March 2023.

2.0 Background

E€COFISH is a cross-regional and multifaceted programme of the 11th EDF enhancing 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 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 Economy -, i.e., economic efficiency, ecological productivity and social well-being amid the unprecedented challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and inequalities.

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 series of mandated strategic actions and administrative guidelines defined in the Financing Agreement. Furthermore, they are delivered by **five synergistic work plans** diversely administered by the EUD-Mauritius. The operational work plans, such as LFVO, LTA and IOC, benefit from a decentralised management and governance framework to ensure ownership and long-term sustainability of the interventions. Each work plan is overseen by a multistakeholder Technical Committee and coordinated at the apex by an overarching Steering Committee. Please refer to the **ECOFISH Technical Handbook, 2020**, for more detailed information on the logical framework, theory of change, delivery partners and implementation modalities of the programme.



3.0 TAT Terms of Reference

The Technical Assistance Team assists the EUD - Mauritius and other implementing partners as required to achieve the expected results of the E€OFISH programme in three specific areas.

3.1 Technical

- i) Regional collaboration and cooperation in the sustainable management of shared fish resources in the inland and marine fisheries;
- ii) technical Support to National FMCs in preparing project proposal to access ECOFISH GRANTS for joint regional patrols (PRSP)
- iii) Technical assistance to (delivery partners) DMROs/RFMOs in preparing their work plans and detailed budget for activities related to Results 1 and 2;

3.2 Institutional

- i) Capacity-building to fight IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean region and on two African Great Lakes (Victoria and Tanganyika) through improved regional coordination mechanisms;
- ii) Improved Coordination mechanism to consolidate the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (known as IOC-PRSP);
- iii) Facilitate access to short-term expertise (STE and NKE) in various fields of fisheries management and development, including Monitoring and Surveillance
- iv) Ensure adequate communication and visibility of the programme

3.3 Organisational

- i) Improved coordination with Member States, Regional Organisations and other related programmes in fisheries issues to ensure complementarity and coherence in intervention in the sector;
- ii) Timely launch of Call for Proposals and award of grants to support small-scale fisheries;
- iii) Organise statutory meetings such as Technical Committees and Programme Steering Committees accordingly;
- iv) Ensure optimal use of the ECOFISG programme resources

3.4 Target Groups

The direct and indirect beneficiaries of this programme are multiple, but the main target groups are as follows:



EA-SA-IO BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES [Inland & Marine Fisheries]

ECOFISH WORK PLAN	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	ESA-IO ISLAND AND COASTAL COUNTRIES										ESA-IO LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES							
		COM	REU	MAU	MAD	SEY	MOZ	TAN	KEN	SOM	DJI	SUD	UGA	BUR	NAM	ROD	ETH	S-SUD	ZA
MARINE FISHERIES NP (RESULT 1 & 2)	IOC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
REGIONAL FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE PLAN (PRSP)	IOC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
RESULT 3 - SSF FIELD PROJECTS (MARINE)	EUD			1	1			1	1			1							
RESULT 3 - SSF FIELD PROJECTS (INLAND)	EUD							1	1						1		1	1	1
LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES	LVDI							1	1					1					
LAKE TANGANYIKA FISHERIES	LTA								1					1		1			1
(At the national level (counts)		2	2	3	3	2	3	5	5	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2

Ecofish National Chapters Beneficiary Countries : 18 [11+7] Magnitude : 1 to 5

Legend: Marine Capture Fisheries (yellow), Inland Capture Fisheries (grey)

- i) Five Duly Mandated Regional Organisations of the EA-SA-IO REGION: IOC, SADC, COMESA, IGAD and EAC;

- ii) *The Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of two African Great lakes: LVFO and LTA;*
- iii) *Participating countries of the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (IOC-PRSP), including their National Competent Authorities;*
- iv) *The Regional Fisheries Bodies and Management Organisations, such as IOTC and SWIOFC, and other national and regional institutions addressing ocean governance issues;*
- v) *The ultimate beneficiaries of the programme are the fishermen and the populations of the ACP States of the EA-SA-IO region concerned by the 11th EDF Regional Indicative Programme;*

3.5 Specific work

The role of the Technical Assistance Team will be to conduct the necessary activities of the programme to achieve the contract outputs described above under the direct supervision of the EUD – Mauritius. In addition, the TAT will collaborate with the IOC Secretariat hosting the Programme Management Unit. In a nutshell, the TAT will support EUD Mauritius in achieving the objectives of the ECOFISH programme through its mandated result areas and strategic actions. Furthermore, it will have, but not be limited to, the following task as part of their terms of reference.

Output 1 - PE and Work Plan addressing Strategic Actions of Results 1 and 2

- i) *Formulate work plan and budget estimates with the delivery partners and all relevant stakeholders; [Completed. However, technical support is provided for any modifications or strategic orientations through riders]*
- ii) *Assist in drafting Programme Estimates to address Result Areas 1 and 2 of the projects; [Completed. Under PRAG II, a single PE is formulated for the programme duration]*
- iii) *Organise Programme Steering Committee to validate the Programme Estimates before submission to the EU Delegation for endorsement. [Completed]*
- iv) *Develop concept notes TORs and provide technical input in the implementation of activities and scrutinise Inception, interim and final reports and outputs of assignments.*

Output 2 - Grant contracts Participating States of the PRSP as part of Result 2

- i) *Elaborate Guidelines for Applicants based on EU's template documents for joint regional patrols (air and sea) under the PRSP; [Completed]*
- ii) *Prepare negotiation reports (based on the EU's template) after consultation with all the National Competent Authorities of the Participating States of the PRSP for organising joint regional patrols (air and sea); [Completed]*
- iii) *Draft grant contracts to be signed with the National Competent Authorities and monitor implementation of the activities afterwards. [Completed. Monitoring is on-going]*
- iv) *Provide technical support and historical knowledge for the day-to-day management and institutionalisation process of the PRSP*

Output 3 - Grant contracts awarded under Call for Proposals of Result 3

- i) *Drafting of Guidelines for Applicants for one Call for Proposals under Result 3 in consultation with the DMROs and RFMOs to ensure that their requirements are addressed adequately. The*

Guidelines for Applicants must follow the EU's template documents. They must be in line with the overall project strategy and EU and regional policies; **[Completed]**

- ii) Assist in conducting information sessions on the Call for Proposals; **[Completed]**
- iii) Assist EU Delegation in the evaluation of offers. **[Completed. Awarded Projected Launched and Technical Monitoring is on-going]**

Output 4 - RFMOs (LVFO and LTA) supported in implementing their activities

- i) Provide Technical Assistance to the two RFMOs in elaborating their costed work plans related to Results 1 and 2 for inland fisheries; **[Assured]**
- ii) Assist in drafting Programme Estimates in consultation with the corresponding EU Delegations and other relevant stakeholders; **[Completed. Same for strategic orientations]**
- iii) Assist the RFMOs in implementing their activities and provide STE for specific strategic actions and budget monitoring. **[On-going]**

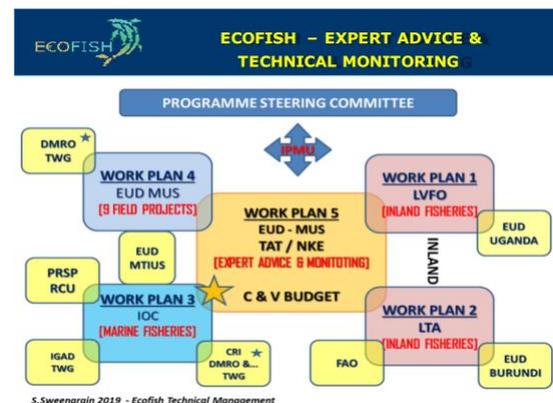
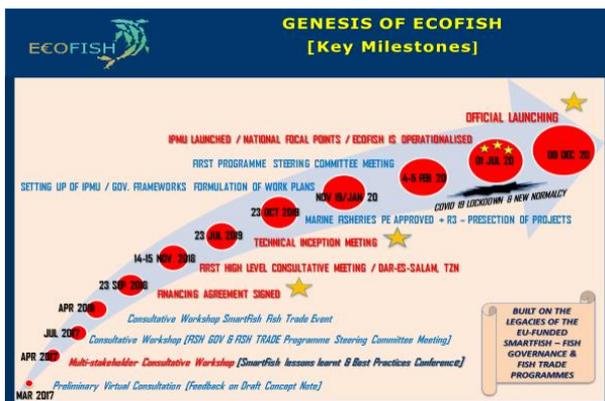
Output 5 – Statutory Meetings and Reporting are done timely

- i) Organise Programme Steering Committee meetings, Technical Committees and Technical Evaluation Committees and any other relevant meetings that may be required for the smooth implementation of the programme; **[On track]**
- ii) Organise PRSP Regional Coordinating Unit meetings as planned in the Programme Estimates; **[On track]**
- iii) Interim Reports, Final reports and Mission reports are submitted timely **[On track]**

Output 6 – Visibility of the E€OFISH programme is adequately ensured

- i) Ensure visibility of the programme in line with the approved Communication & Visibility Strategy of the E€OFISH programme; **[Followed]**
- ii) Set up a dedicated website for the project and update information on the website at regular intervals; **[Done and functional]**
- iii) Organise visibility events to raise awareness of the achievements of the project; **[On-going]**
- iv) Contribute to preparing visibility materials, e.g., newsletters, videos, press releases etc. **[On-going]**

The following chart summarises the scope of the ECOFISH programme and the TAT's mandate, and for more information, consult the Ecofish Handbook,2020, at www.ecofish-programme.org. The genesis and governance architecture of the ECOFISH programme are illustrated as follows.



4.0 Summing Up

The TAT is not directly involved in implementing any activity for or on behalf of the implementing as it is the sole responsibility of the latter. However, it facilitated the processes by providing expert advice and work closely with the delivery partners on the technical monitoring and coordination following the mandated objectives and guidelines of the ECOFISH programme.

Besides the specified tasks and expected output assigned to the TAT in the approved TOR, the latter has been instrumental in strengthening and widening the scope of practical cooperation in the sustainable management of inland and marine fisheries resources in the EA-SA-IO. It enhances effective collaboration among the RECs to avoid overlapping and overstretched mandates and membership, exacerbating duplication of efforts, waste of scarce resources and conflicting interests. Moreover, regional economic and fisheries organisations have no binding institutional relationship. It depends on the vested interest or expectations of their common memberships or the value proposition of the regional organisations. Any regional organisation can perform as much as its member countries allow. The TAT has created a shared vision for sustainable and inclusive fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region.¹

Conventionally, the exploitation of shared fisheries resources has been guided by the Conservation and Management Measures (CMM) following the UN Fish Stocks Agreement 1992, and the socio-economic dimensions were timidly introduced by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and followed by the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the Voluntary Guideline 2015, etc. The TAT has tried to go beyond the doctrinal/philosophical concepts to facilitate the transition between CMM, Sustainable Fisheries and Blue Economy. It weaves a new type of relationship among stakeholders at various levels. It introduces appropriate strategies, tools and techniques, such as a Regional Project Tracking System, the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account, the Regional Fisheries Information Management System, the Fisheries-Climate Change Observatory for informed adaptation and mitigation policies, local Biodiversity – Fisheries – Livelihood nexus, etc.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is high on global agendas, but the generalisation of the issue is intoxicating. For fisheries managers, it results from policy and governance failures at various geo-political levels. Monitoring, control and surveillance is the executive arm of fisheries management. According to an FAO Report 2022, illegal fishing has declined significantly in industrial fishing, and there has been significant improvement in the management of the artisanal fisheries in the SWIO region. However, the reduction of Unreported and Unregulated fishing pertains to surgical fisheries management. The TAT emphasises strengthening the fisheries MCS capacities in the beneficiary countries, exchanging strategic intelligence and pooling national resources for prompt regional responses.

It is expected that TAT will lay down the foundation for sustainable fisheries management aligned with the emerging Blue/Green Economy paradigm in the EA-SA-IO region. It entails mainstreaming to the triple-bottom line of global sustainability, economic, social and ecological along the principles of good governance. ECOFISH is entrenched in empowering the institutional stakeholder at various geo-political scales to foster sustainable management of the inland and marine wild fisheries resources as a growth sector for shared prosperity.

¹ An updated Dashboard of the TAT performance is given in Annexe 1

5.0 Update of the TAT Activities as of December 2022

The overall performance of the current year has been satisfactory, although some work plans have been better than others. Moreover, the global objective and expected results of the programme are diversely appropriated by the implementing partners of Results 1 and 2 in the inland – Work Plan 1 and 2 - and marine fisheries industries - Work Plan 3. However, they lag slightly behind schedule mainly due to the COVID-19 social restrictions, the internal administrative procedures to establish and operate the project management unit, and the mastery of the new EU administrative and financial procedures (PRAG II). On the other hand, result 3/Work Plan (Call for Proposals) Awarded Demonstration Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Projects, and Work Plan 4 – Cost Centres directly managed by EUD-Mauritius had a V shape performance. The contribution of the TAT can be appreciated through the project management and governance framework put in place and the quality of technical support and monitoring delivered to the EUD-Mauritius and the implementing partners across the programme. The following provides an update on the contribution of the TAT across the different work plans.

5.1 Work Plan 1 – LVFO

LVFO ECOFISH Chapter progressed significantly during the reporting period, including:

- i) *Formulation and validation of its 4th Fisheries Management Plan;*
- ii) *Development and assessment of an institutional and organisational framework to transform the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation(LVFO) into Eastern African Fisheries Organisation(EAFO) following an EAC Fisheries Ministers Council Directive.*
- iii) *Gap analysis to reinforce national legal and judicial capacities to combat illegal fishing*

The delay in implementing the project activities is partly due to a lack of understanding of the EU's mandatory administrative and financial procedures. For instance, some invoices and documents were not readily available during a recent visit of an EU financial auditor. During its last Steering Committee meeting, the management team proposed to review the approved work plan to accommodate new activities, such as identifying and marking multiple breeding and fish nurturing sites in its riparian countries and undertaking a new biennial lake-wide survey. As a result, a new rider to the Programme Estimates and the 2nd financial replenishment was significantly delayed. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reinforce the PMU capabilities in the EU Administrative and Financial procedures.

Apart from attending its Steering Committee meeting and ad hoc visit of the TAT members, a quarterly virtual meeting is organised with the Project Leader. As of last meeting in January 2023, the issues about the reallocation of budget were resolved and the procedure for procuring MCS assets and equipment was underway. An STE for undertaking a re-assessment of the existing fish traceability and documentation framework for Lake Victoria was launched.

5.2 Work Plan 2 – LTA (LATAFIMA)

The LTA ECOFISH project is implemented by the FAO Regional Office in Burundi through a direct contribution Agreement with EUD-Burundi. In practice, it is beyond the direct scrutiny of EUD-Mauritius and the TAT. Nevertheless, the TAT collaborates diligently with the implementing partners to provide solicited expert advice and technical assistance. In second half of 2023, the TAT leader visit LTA for the launching of the regional campaign for sustainable artisanal fishing around Lake Tanganyika. Subsequently, the MCS and C & V experts were also there for a rapid situational analysis in their respective field.

The performance of LATAFIMA during the reporting period has been moderate. The socio-economic studies led by the LTA Secretariat and its national experts, especially the vulgarisation and awareness-raising campaign on the Regional Charter for Sustainable fisheries around Lake Tanganyika. However, some critical MCS activities (Result 2) lagged due to FAO tedious procurement procedures. Moreover, there has not been a proper assessment of the existing hard and soft MCS capacities at the national

level. Although the project intends to conduct regional fisheries patrols, but it has not yet developed a Regional Standard of Practice for these operations.

Although, the LTA Secretariat has adequate in-house and a regional network of national fisheries and environmental capabilities, its position as a Regional Fisheries Body and a strategic partner in the EA-SA-IO region has been underestimated in the conceptualisation of the ECOFISH programme. In other words, LTA's role has been reduced to a passive beneficiary and sub-contractor of its own project. However, the Letter of Agreement signed between LTA and FAO-Burundi is limited a total amount of disbursement of EUR 100,000 annually, which is not feasible.

The project is overseen by a tripartite Project Management Committee (LTA - EUD – FAO). It is therefore proposed to establish an adequate Multistakeholder Steering Committee to conduct periodic performance reviews, strategic orientations and effective coordination of the project activities. The membership to this statutory meeting should be extended to a representative of EUD-Mauritius and the TAT. Moreover, an LTA representative is invited to attend the LVFO ECOFISH project Steering Committee, and the same principle can be applied to enhance synergies between the two African Great Lakes.

Based on scientific recommendations, LTA will enforce a three-month fishing close season annually. However, the main challenge is the availability of sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities for the fishing communities. The TAT intend to assist LTA in performing a socio-economic scoping and mapping study.

5.3 LVFO – LTA Collaborative Arrangement

The TAT is behind the LVFO-LTA Collaborative Arrangement 2023-27 endorsed by the recent EAC Fisheries Ministers Council in 2022. Based on their comparative advantage, these Regional Fisheries Management Organisations can complement each other to enhance their knowledge base and technical capabilities. Moreover, they can emerge collectively as a powerhouse for managing fisheries resources and aquatic environments of other African lakes and inland water bodies. ECOFISH has provided an STE to develop a realistic action plan to roll out the collaborative arrangement.

On the side-line of the 3rd ECOFISH Steering Committee at Lusaka (Zambia), a workshop for sharing knowledge and experiential learning between the Result 3 - inland demonstration small-scale fisheries were organised in collaboration with LVFO and LTA. It was a learning experience for all stakeholders.

5.4 Work Plan 3 – Marine Fisheries Work Plan

The work plan is implemented by the IOC Secretariat/PMU in collaboration with the duly mandated regional economic and fisheries organisations, strategic partners and other programmes to benefit 11 Eastern African island and coastal countries. The major achievements and milestones during the reporting period are as follows:

Result 1 – Enhanced fisheries policy and institutional frameworks

Despite the absence of the Fisheries Management Officer at the PMU since July 2022 due to retirement, the FE/TL has upheld the activities. However, the activities slowed down when the latter went on a two-month vacation in November 2022.

Result 1.1 – Strengthened regional collaboration and cooperation

The 2nd annual IGAD Fisheries Coordination Platform was organised in Addis Ababa and helped finalise the first annual work plan for the Horn of Africa cluster. Several priority interventions had been for

implementation but were on standby. The FE/TL facilitated a three-day Blue Economy – Sustainable fisheries workshop through the SIDA project. The latter has also contributed to several Fish GOV 2 fisheries management workshops. An internal assessment of the web-based Regional Coordination Platform for fisheries and related projects, funding agencies and implement organisations was done after the trial phase, and some improvement is required. However, the PMU ITC officer is slack, and he does respect any time limit.

Result 1.2 – Re-engineered Fisheries Policies and Management Strategies and Plans

After the regional consultative and validation of the following technical studies:

- i) Inventory and status of various fishery management strategies and plans at the national level in the SWIO region.*
- ii) A review of the definition and characterisation of the different segments of the small-scale fisheries to promote transparency and equity;*
- iii) Formulation of a Sustainable development Reference Framework or Dashboard to balance the triple bottom line: Economic Efficiency, Social Well-being and Environmental Integrity in the management of small-scale fisheries;*

The strategic action is now ready to roll out these activities in the HOA region (the ball is in the court of the PMU and IGAD) and undertake the second wave of interventions in the SWIO region that include the following:

- i) Plan a regional interdisciplinary network to facilitate the management and to share scientific, socio-economic, technical and management best practices in the selected common fisheries, such as sea cucumber and octopus in the SWIO region.*
- ii) Formulate a regional framework for registration of fishers, fishing boats, fish transport boats, fishing gears, fishmongers, fish processors, etc., in small-scale fisheries. Building on the recent works completed in the sub-sector, the research will start with an inventory and assessment of the various systems in the SWIO countries.*
- iii) Develop a regional Technical, Socio-Economic Frame Survey Framework for the small-scale fisheries sub-sector, including an assessment of the national capacity and procedure for implementation.*

Result 1.3 – Mainstreaming the principles of the FAO VGSSF

The technical studies carried out by Result 1.2 have indirectly assessed the status, prospects and challenges for the SWIO countries to adopt the principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries 2015. The intended activities under the same will drill deeper into the subject matter in the following semester. Recently, FAO has completed the implementation of a pilot project in local fishing communities of Tanzania, and the MWAMBAO Project (Result 3/Work Plan) has participated in the endeavour. In a nutshell, most coastal countries of the region are interested in adopting the framework. However, the main obstacles to operationalising it are a lack of financial, human and technical resources. Therefore, after completing the foundational activities, the work plan will focus on domestic and external resource mobilisation and partnerships to resolve these wicked problems by thinking of innovative financings, such as establishing a Sustainable Fisheries Trust Fund or any Special Purpose Vehicle.

Result 1.4 – Strengthened Regional and National Agencies

There has been no activity under this chapter, but several activities are in abeyance, namely, support to the SWIOFC in the implementation of a Fisheries Socio-economic Working Group, the creation of tailored Regional Fisheries Agencies for the countries in the greater Horn of Africa within the IGAD institutional ecosystem. The Open University online BA (Hons) Law, Blue Economy and Sustainable Fisheries are going strong, and there is the possibility of adding new professional courses on this platform. Discussion is on-going with the African Centres (University) of Excellence for island states'

Universities that could benefit from these initiatives. In the following semester, an inventory and assessment of the fisheries Non-State Actor organisations will be carried out to improve their organisational and functional capacities.

Result 1.5 – Improved Fisheries Information Management System

The work plan has formulated a Small-Scale Fisheries Sustainable Development Dashboard previously validated by a regional multistakeholder workshop that must be operationalised in the SWIO countries in the following semester. The activity will also feed the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Accounts developed by Result 1.6.

Result 2 is also engaged in developing a regional fisheries management information system for PRSP, which can be enhanced progressively to embrace other datasets. Once these strategic tools are used at the national level, an integrated fisheries information management system will be promoted. More important, it is critical to avoid potential information overload in “paradoxically” data-scarce fisheries of the region.

Result 1.6 – Integrated Knowledge and Information Management

It is closely related to Result 1.5, which aims to enhance the science-policy-community interface, i.e., informed policy-making and management decisions and monitoring in the sustainable management of wild fisheries resources. This intervention consists of stock-taking various scientific, technical, social, economic and management databases to create a meta-database to facilitate an interdisciplinary and multidimensional approach to fisheries knowledge and information management. The current hype of the scientific community worldwide and several regional marine fisheries and environmental organisations, as well as concurrent fisheries programmes, are interested in creating this fishery metadata base. Therefore, the intervention will be held back to avoid potential overlaps and duplication.

The Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA) framework is an adequate statistical tool to analyse economic, social and environmental data for informed decisions and monitoring. The concept was well accepted by the SWIO countries. Accordingly, Kenya has started implementing it in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team at the Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

The following semester, BEFSA will be launched in Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles as part of the ECOFISH national chapter. The toolkit was presented to the 2nd IGAD Regional Fisheries Platform delegates and, again, to a broader audience during the IGAD Blue Economy Training Workshop supported by SIDA. In addition, a regional training workshop is planned under COMESA’S leadership.

Result 1.7 – Marine Fisheries – Climate Change Nexus

Building on the work-in-progress of the preceding semester, participating SWIO countries have been informed to contact the PMU for technical assistance to mainstream climate adaptation and resilience building into their fisheries policies and management plans.

Furthermore, the Concept Note and budget have been finalised between the PMU and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) for operationalising the Regional Fisheries-Climate Observatory. Finally, the initiative is ready to take off, and a regional inception workshop will be organised soon.

Result 1.8 – Rehabilitation of degraded fisheries ecosystems

SADC was supposed to lead this strategic action. However, its focus was limited to voluntary transboundary conservation initiatives in the WIO region. The project concept was presented at a regional virtual workshop hosted by SADC/GIZ and the SWIOFC Scientific Committee Session.

The documentation is ready to launch a call of interest to the prospective public, private and non-state organisations to apply for technical and financial assistance to support their projects. But, again, the ball is in the PMU's court.

Result 2 – Strengthened Fisheries MCS Capacities

Result 2, apart from supporting the operations of PRSP and finalising the MOU with EFCA for delivery of strategic intelligence capabilities, has progressed on several strategic fronts. It includes developing a national and regional framework for fisheries observers in the SWIO region, formulating a comprehensive fisheries information sharing protocol, including MCS data and promoting effective collaboration between PRSP and other regional MCS and MASE Coordination Centres. In addition, work is in progress on strengthening intra- and inter-agency collaboration for efficient MCS operations at the national and regional levels.

R2.1. Support inter-regional (at regional level), inter-agency and inter-governmental MCS cooperation, coordination and harmonisation processes in the EA-SA-IO in view of more effective fight against IUU fishing at regional level

2.1.1.1. Technical supports to the existing WG and regulatory/enforcement national institutions actively engaged against IUU fishing:

A contract was signed with Trigg Mat Tracking (TMT) on the 9th October 2022, to undertake a nine-months country specific consultancy work to develop and/or strengthen national fisheries MCS interagency cooperation in seven (7) beneficiary countries.

This work entails an assessment of the level of interagency collaboration at national level and hold country specific interagency capacity building workshops for fisheries MCS

Work undertaken so far includes the country assessment on the status and level of interagency national that involves a series of questionnaires and virtual meetings with national authorities, that took place during the months of November and December 2022.

The second phase of this work are country specific interagency workshop. Workshops have been completed in the Comoros and Tanzania and others will follow during the next six months.

2.1.1.2. Specific TA supports in MCS to the Participating States and RFBs

Under the framework of E€OFISH Country Chapter initiatives, meetings have been held with Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and Somalia to identify capacity needs and TA assistance support to strengthen National MCS capacity. Further work will be undertaken to fulfil these commitments. Same exercises will be undertaken with Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique.

2.1.1.3. MCS assessment and scorecard

Assessment completed and score card developed. The assessment proved significant improvement in the region with regard to MCS capacity at national and regional level in the past decade. The Score card mechanisms developed for continuous assessment.

2.1.5.1. Inventory of regional inspectors and regionwide inspector SOPs is established

The Inventory of regional inspectors has been undertaken internally with support of the PRSP RCU. The Inventory will require annual update. This shall be done through the PRSP RCU members to provide the update.

The tender for a technical assistant to develop SOPs for regional fisheries surveillance was launched this past semester, but no proposal was received. IOC is expected to relaunch it during the second quarter 2023.

2.1.6.1. Roadmap with annual plans set for the implementation of joint MCS patrols (PRSP) with other partners in the region

Roadmap with multi annual and annual planned have been developed internally by the MCS expert and approved by the PRSP ERCU.

Despite PRSP recommendation to have the two MASE regional centres attending the RCU meetings to collaborate in the in planning of joint patrol and possible combine patrol with RCOC, to date both regional centres failed to confirm participation.

2.1.7.1. Re-evaluate the performances of the FMC and re-design the subregional VMS centre

One of the recommendations of the 2021 ERCU meeting was for an **independent expert** to assess the present situation with regards to confidentiality, physical and visual security and accessibility of the subregional VMS at the level of the IOC secretariat, in line with the 2014 MOU.

After numerous attempts to recruit an expert for the work, a regional expert has been identified and the work is expected to start in April.,

The work was also due to relook at the 2014 VMS related MOU. Given the urgency of reviewing the 2014 MOU, this portion of the work was done internally by the EEOFISH MCS expert. However, in 2021, the 10th ERCU recommended that the 2014 MOU be replaced by the new information sharing Agreement and annexed to it a VMS sharing procedure.

The draft Agreement was technically approved by the RCU has been legally scrutinised by a legal expert and validated in a legal workshop by national legal experts.

2.1.8.1. Study on the assessment of MCS legislation and propose amendments along with validation workshop

Study on the legal capacity in the region completed. Result indicates significant level of improvement in the legal structure, most particular countries that were lagging behind a decade ago. Some countries such as Mauritius and Seychelles are in the process of updating the existing legislations. However, there are still work to be done to improve and aligned MCS legislation in the region.

A model MCS guidelines was develop and published.

2.1.9. Institutionalisation of the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (PRSP)

As recommended by the 10th ERCU meeting, several operational and administrative documents are in need of development or update prior to third Fisheries Ministerial Conference in the context of PRSP institutionalisation.

The process of institutionalisation will be two-phased, where phase one addresses the operational and administrative aspect of the proposed institution. This will be presented at the 2023 fisheries Ministerial Conference. The second phase will look into the cost-benefit, social and economic impact of having a subregional institution and funding mechanism. This will boost the proposals for funding mechanism alongside donor funding.

As part of the institutionalisation process a consultancy work was undertaken to review the governance framework, rebranding and hosting of an institutionalised PRSP (*cf. sub-activity 2.1.9.5 below*).

The following documents have been technically and legally validated after being legally scrutinised by an international expert;

- Amended Administrative Arrangement between PRSP participating states and the IOC secretariat.
- Agreement for the sharing of fisheries information for the purpose of MCS
- Terms of Reference for RCU and ERCU.
- Terms of Reference for the Working Group of National Observer Program Managers (WG-NOPM).
- MOU for the accreditation and coordination of Southwest Indian Ocean coastal State Scientific Observers at sub-regional level and the exchange of Observer data.

2.1.9.1 Assist PRSP Participating States to organise (including publicising and monitoring) regional joint patrols (earmarked under direct management) in the zone of cooperation.

The following were implemented; the 58th 59th and 60th PRSP regional patrols that were undertaken with Madagascar, Seychelles and Reunion Island patrol vessels respectively. The 59th joint patrol also involved a 4 h air surveillance mission by the Seychelles.

Madagascar and Seychelles made use of the respective grant to deploy their patrol vessels and other participating states involved in the patrol financed their respective inspectors travel, per diem and sea allowances.

2.1.9.4 Meetings of the Regional Coordination Units.

Three physical RCU meetings were held in 2022 and three virtual meetings were held inter-seasonally to finalise preparation for the 58th 59th and 60th joint patrols. An extended ERCU meeting was held in February 2023 in Reunion Island

2.1.9.5 Review of the governance structure of the PRSP.

As part of phase one of the institutionalise process, a consultant was recruited to develop a formal governance framework for the PRSP. The objective of this assignment was to reviewed the governance structure of PRSP under an institutionalise framework. It also addresses rebranding of PRSP to better represent MCS and observation activities being undertaken and the hosting of an institutionalised PRSP, the latter given that IOC does not have the operational, human and financial capacity to sustain PRSP activities, as it was shown in the period between the end of SmartFish and beginning of E€OFISH.

The work was presented to; and validated by the PRSP ERCU in February 2023.

R2.2. Support the exchange of experience and the development of coordinated approaches to improve MCS of artisanal and semi-artisanal vessels targeting shared marine resources

2.2.1. Country specific capacity building through the provision of equipment and logistics

Equipment for regional fisheries inspectors were acquired and distributed to the seven PRSP participating states who were provided with grant for joint fisheries patrols, and these were Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania.

2.2.2. Awareness raising and sensitization campaigns

Active Fisheries management plans in regions are being identified through the E€OFISH country chapter for support with awareness raising and sensitisation of active management plans in the small-scale fisheries. These supports will take effect during 2023 and 2024.

2.2.3. Capacity building programme for national MCS Unites on ad hoc basis

This activity is being planned under the E€OFISH country chapter initiative whereby capacity requirement of the MCS competent Authorities are being identified for assistance and will be assisted during 2023 and 2024.

R2.3. Facilitate the interoperability of systems and exchange of data at (sub)regional level

Terms of reference has been developed for the redevelopment of the web based Standard Realtime Fisheries Information System Hub (StaRFISH) for the sharing of fisheries information for the purpose of MCS. However, the process for recruiting an expert has been extremely slow. Recruitment process of the necessary expertise is ongoing.

R2.4. Support capacity building for regionally harmonised Enforcement, Compliance and Prosecution procedures in the fisheries sector – including support to the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement

2.4.1.1. A Needs Assessment to be undertaken in view of PSMA coherence of the legal procedures

Needs assessment undertaken jointly with activity 2.1.8.1 on the Study on the assessment of MCS legislation: capacity needs identified next step to implement in collaboration with IOTC.

R2.5 Provide capacity building and technical assistance on certification and traceability schemes

There are two activities under this result area;

- Training to the Competent National Authorities in the validation of EU catch certificates and RFB catch certificate schemes (where applicable); and
- Develop and implement training & capacity building programs for the fisheries sector.

This strategic action was initially plan to be integrated in the service contract with EFCA alongside that of strategic action 2.7. However, it was later decided that a service contract is not the right procedure to work with EFCA and an MOU was agreed as the modality to collaborate with EFCA.

R2.6. Encourage synergies with other regional initiatives including marine security programmes

2.6.1. Technical support for exchange of information on maritime security issues

Since PRSP does not directly involve in maritime security and is developing its own web-based fisheries information exchange system for the purpose of MCS under activity 2.3, the MASE Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre in Madagascar (RMIFC) was approached to implement this activity, by developing a coastal states information exchange mechanism for the centre. Unfortunately, on the 10th October 2022, during a collaborating meeting with RMIFC they confirmed that they do not require such support as same support is being provided by CRIMARIO on the EU IORIS platform.

2.6.2. MCS Networking mechanism put in place by establishing a working relationship with other regional initiatives in maritime security in the region for information sharing

A Concept Note had been developed during the first half of 2022 for setting up a regional platform to exchange information between regional fisheries MCS and Maritime Security initiative in the region. This concept note was submitted to the IOC Secretariat on the 7th June 2022, for validation before we can proceed with setting up this regional platform. Approval was given by the IOC on the 3rd November 2022, during the 18th IPMU meeting. The work has now been scheduled for the second semester 2023.

2.6.3. Harmonise fisheries MCS tools and processes of PRSP with EU-funded MASE programme

A Concept note and ToR were developed for technical assistance to undertake a feasibility study on harmonising fisheries MCS tools and processes with those of the EU-funded Maritime Security (MASE) programme under a collaborative architecture. The work has been tendered out and proposals were received until the 24th April 2022, but to date the IOC secretariat has kept on hold the evaluation and the TAT has been informed that directive will be provided in due course on the way forward.

This work was highly recommended by the 10th ERCU meeting in October 2021 and the PRSP-MASE consultative meeting of the 1st December 2021.

On the 3rd November 2022, the IOC advise the IPMU to proceed with the proposals' evaluation, but unfortunately the timeframe for the recruiting process as per EU rules has lapse and IOC will need to relaunch this tender.

The TAT has received no guarantee that the MASE programme will collaborate on this activity, let alone collaborate with PRSP, and the consultancy will be of no value if there no willingness by MASE to collaborate with PRSP.

R2.7. Establishment of a regional risk assessment framework with support of European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) through a twinning programme

A service contract for the collaboration of the IOC and EFCA was in development, mainly to strengthen technical and strategic alliance between the two MCS initiative (PRSP & EFCA). The service contract was to comprise all activities under this result areas and those of result area 2.5, to provide capacity building and technical assistance on certification and traceability schemes.

However, EFCA informed the IOC that they cannot undertake such collaboration under a service contract because they are an EU institution and not a private firm. A meeting was held between the IOC, EFCA and the EUD to address the issue and to decide on the way forward. Looking at all possible options in line with EU procedures all parties agreed to proceed under the framework of an MOU.

The first draft of the MOU was developed by the E€OFISH TAT and the two parties exchanges inputs and MOU has now been finalised and signature is now due.

A first regional workshop for certification and traceability is plan for April-May.

R2.8. Support regional and national observer schemes

2.8.1. Support the Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Scientific observers / MOUs/ data sharing procedure/ Training needs / Working group followed by technical validation workshops and implementation meetings.

The Reviewed MOU for the Certification and Coordination of Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) Coastal State Scientific Observers at Sub-Regional Level and the exchange of Observer Data and the TOR to formalise Working Group of National Observer Programme Managers (WG-NOPm) has undergone legal scrutiny and legally validated in a legal workshop in March 2023

2.8.2. Development of Information Exchange Protocol followed by workshop for validation workshop.

As stipulated under activity 2.1.9 -institutionalisation of PRSP- an Information exchange agreement is in the context of fisheries information sharing for the purpose of MCS and observation has been finalised by a legal expert, that also include observer data. With regards to observer information exchange, a procedure has been developed in the context of the MOU for the certification and coordination of Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) coastal State scientific observers at sub-regional level and the Exchange of observer data. The MOU has also been scrutinised and legally validated in March 2023.

2.8.3 Setting up of National Observer Programmes (NOPs) in beneficiary States where they are inexistent and improving existing NOPs.

A comprehensive review on the status of national and regional observer programmes in the EA-SA-IO region was undertaken and validated by the Working Group of National Observer Managers. WG-NOM

Emanating from this report, ToR for a fifteen-month (190 working days) technical assistant work to assist 8 countries to implement NOP, where there is none, and improve existing one, has been finalised. The work will not only meet the IOTC requirement for setting up NOP in relation to IOTC species, but to other non IOTC species covered by NOPs, including SIOFA species. Hence having a broader scope instead of just meeting IOTC requirement.

The work will be country specific and consist of developing training modules, physical training workshop, e-learning training solutions and practical training.

Due to busy schedule in first semester 2023, works is expected start in the early second semester of 2023.

Other issues related to result 2 of marine fisheries programme

PRSP MASE Collaboration

All efforts to assist IOC for the collaboration between IOC-PRSP and IOC MASE two regional centres were in vain during 2022, and the TAT is not convinced that MASE programme is willing to collaborate

with PRSP, but rather to integrate PRSP into their structure, as was their unilateral recommendation at the 35th Council of IOC foreign Affairs ministers.

The above impacted negatively in our effort to implement activities under strategic action 2.6.

CFRIM & RCOC attendance to PRSP RCU meeting

The participation of the two MASE regional Centres in the PRSP RCU meeting was recommended by the 51st RCU meeting on 28th February 2022 in Nairobi – Kenya. Despite inviting both MASE regional Centres to participate in the IOC PRSP RCU meetings, the two centres failed to attend the RCU meetings held in July and December 2022.

Tripartite MOU between CFRIM, PRSP & RCOC

As Recommended by the 10th ERCU meeting in October 2021, a 1st draft of a tripartite MOU has been developed and forwarded to IOC secretariate on 2nd June 2022 for comments and inputs and the two regional centres. To date we've had had no feedback from the two centres and the IOC.

Letter of Understanding (LOU) with IOTC

IOTC is one of EEOFISH strategic partners with whom collaboration to implement some activities under the Marine Fisheries Workplan should be considered. Since January 2021, IOTC has requested that there must be collaborative framework between IOC and IOTC to enable them to be able to collaborate in implementation of agreed EEOFISH activities.

Despite regular reminders of IOTC request, it was not until recently on the 11th October 2022 that a virtual meeting with IOTC took. IOTC reiterated on the need for an LOU before they can fully collaborate with EEOFISH. To date, said LOU has not been signed between IOTC and IOC. However, recent exchange between IOC and IOTC it was confirm that the way forward is to collaborate under an MOU framework.

A draft MOU has been developed and being finalised. The MOU is expected to be finalise and signed before June 2023.

This is long process to establish a collaborative framework with IOTC has caused significant delays in implementing certain activities under result 2 of the marine fisheries workplan. .

5.5 Work Plan 4 – [Call for Proposal] Demonstration Sustainable SSF Projects

It related to the technical monitoring and coordination of the nine sustainable small-scale fisheries projects by the EUD – Mauritius and TAT. It consists of four continental and five maritime projects spread across the EA-SA-IO region. The TAT developed an operational, robust technical monitoring and coordination system. Unfortunately, only five projects - Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania/Zanzibar, Kenya and Zambia – have been visited. However, based on periodic performance reports, internal assessments and various audio-visual communications, it is considered that these projects are on course. They will soon proceed with their external mid-term evaluation providing a deeper understanding of these model projects' reality, prospects and exit strategies.

Moreover, a site visit will be undertaken by a representative of EUD-Mauritius and TAT to the other four projects in the following semester. Eco-pêche – OI, promoted by the local fishing associations and

social enterprises in La Reunion in collaboration with the TAT, is seen as the 10th project of Result 3. However, it has take-off due to a delay in the new funding programme of the ERDF.

The nine projects under Result 3 / Work Plan 4 are more dynamic as they are under the direct supervision of EUD Mauritius and the Technical Assistance Team. Besides the direct impact on livelihoods alongside conservation of the fisheries resources and ecosystem in the localities, sharing experiential learnings, management best practices, and self-help capacity building is on-going regional networks – Community of Practice and Hand-holding ecosystems within and beyond the EA-SA-IO boundaries.

5.6 Cross-Cutting / Communication and Visibility

The communication and visibility structure started to be fully operational in 2021. For 2022, activities under this component focused on stakeholder **engagement** and **awareness**, while ensuring that **E€OFISH becomes a reference in the fishing sector**. This approach was adopted to ensure as many fisheries stakeholders as possible can **join, support, promote and adopt the Programme's actions to bring about positive change** in the region.

E€OFISH website now records more than 1,000 visits per month (3,441 for 2022 last quarter); 895 people voluntarily signed up for the newsletter; 6,077 people follow E€OFISH Facebook account; the number of appearances of an ECOFISH link as a search result on Google has increased by 26.95% (from 2,820 to 3,580).

As part of the progress in public engagement, E€OFISH **target audiences have now begun to participate in promoting and raising awareness on sustainable fishing issues in the region**. Following the training sessions for journalists and E€OFISH implementing partners, the media coverage of the initiatives and topics covered by the programme has substantially increased. Over 125 media materials mentioned ECOFISH during 2022 ([see list of media material links](#)), with an overall average of 2.28 articles per week, as opposed to 2021, with an average of 0.94 article per week.

In addition, through the interactions promoted among stakeholders, the **programme is becoming a fisheries reference in Africa**, and E€OFISH and its website are increasingly associated with activities related to sustainable fishing. While the website only appeared in the first 10 search results with the keyword “*ECOFISH*” at the end of 2021, today it is associated with the keywords “*sustainable fishing Africa*” and appears 1st ranked in the region and 16th worldwide. This proves that the programme is increasingly recognized for its contribution to sustainable fishing.

E€OFISH team also began to **work on its achievements sustainability**. In anticipation of the end of the Programme, its website has been revamped (www.ecofish-programme.org) to align with the Content Management System (CMS) of the IOC. This will allow an easy migration of all data from E€OFISH to IOC website at no additional cost when the Programme is over.

Finally, special attention was also given to **strengthen the capacities of the organizations and institutions working for the fisheries sector**, beyond the lifespan of E€OFISH. Among other things, LTA and LVFO have been equipped with the tools that will allow them to communicate better, not only during the duration of the programme, but even after it ends.

With this in mind, the following communication and visibility efforts have been undertaken as regards the 5 work plans of E€OFISH Programme:

Work Plan 1: LVFO

- ECOFISH-LVFO's website was launched: <https://lvfo.org/node/133>;

- LVFO introduced the 7th Newsletter of ECOFISH and two (2) articles related to LVFO were featured in 2 newsletters;
- LVFO's works are showcased through ECOFISH's communication channels (website, newsletter, social media...).

Work Plan 2: LTA

- ECOFISH-LTA's website was launched (<https://latafima.org/fr/bienvenue/>);
- LTA's works are also showcased through ECOFISH's communication channels (website, newsletter, social media...);
- LTA's branding guidelines were drafted and approved ([see guidelines](#));
- LTA's human resources profile to assist in communication, knowledge management and IT management has been drafted through ToR submitted to LTA ([see ToR](#));
- Consultations were carried out with LTA's stakeholders for the development of a communication strategy ([see data received up to now](#)).

Work Plan 3: Marine fisheries

- The visibility and proper communication of the following initiatives were ensured:
 1. Launching of the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA): <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/befsa-1;>
 2. Validation of the reports on fisheries management plans and the redefinition and characterisation of small-scale fisheries: <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/fmp;>
 3. Workshop to set up a regional network to assess and mitigate the impact of climate change on small-scale, launch the Regional Coordination Platform and initiate the Regional Fisheries Coordination Platform: <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/cc;>
 4. Event to end the 57th regional patrol of PRSP: <https://lagazettedescomores.com/soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9/fin-de-la-57%C3%A8me-patrouille-r%C3%A9gionale-de-surveillance-des-p%C3%A8ches-.html;>
 5. Launching of the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA) in Kenya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmOLYCX6vPU;>
 6. Second workshop of the IGAD's Fisheries and Blue Economy Coordination platform: [https://igad.int/igad-strives-for-a-better-coordination-of-sustainable-fisheries-initiatives/;](https://igad.int/igad-strives-for-a-better-coordination-of-sustainable-fisheries-initiatives/)
 7. Materials and equipment delivery to inspectors from countries participating in the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan: <https://mbradio.tv/article/le-journal-t%C3%A9l%C3%A9vis%C3%A9-%E2%80%93-d%C3%A9cembre-12-2022>
- Euro news Oceans documentary series showcased the activities of the PRSP: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/06/21/how-a-european-project-is-reducing-illegal-fishing-in-the-western-indian-ocean;>
- Over 350 photos and 1,000 video footages related to Results 1 and 2 were added to the photobank and video bank;
- For PRSP 15th year, a retrospective video is being finalized, and over 100 photos and 50 video footages related to Results 1 & 2 were added to the photo and video banks.

Work Plan 4: Demonstration Projects

- 22 field stories are now available online: <https://www.ecofish-programme.org/stories>;
- The activities of the 9 demonstration projects are showcased on the various communication channels of E€OFISH: website, newsletter, social media, traditional media...;
- A video showcasing the impact of the ECOFISH ADPP has been finalized and the edition of another one for the ECOFISH-ActionAid Project in Zambia is ongoing. A script to showcase the impact of the ECOFISH-IGAD Project in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya was approved and video shooting will start.

Work Plan 5: Cross-cutting Activities

- The media advocacy training for implementing partners was completed.
- A network of journalists specializing in sustainable fisheries has been set up.
- The website and website indexing were enhanced.
- E€OFISH community on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn is growing.
- 4 newsletters have been edited and released.
- Seven (7) press releases relating to ECOFISH have been issued
- Administrative procedures for a framework contract for programme contents editing and translation has being initiated.
- E€OFISH website was revamped
- All ECOFISH's visibility material were produced and delivered.

Overall, the activities implementation and budget consumption of the Communication and Visibility component are on track. One year and 9 months before the end of E€OFISH, **around 26% of the budget has been disbursed and 56% committed.**

As regard the activities, out of **28 activities planned, 6 have been completed, 19 are ongoing and 4 remain to be initiated.**

5.7 Work Plan 5 – Grant Contract and other functional services

The activities under the Work Plan 5 are administered directly by EUD-Mauritius in consultation with the TAT. It includes the grants allocated to PRSP participating countries to undertake regional fisheries patrols, selected domestic operations and capacity-building, coordinated with the relevant activities of Result 2 of the work plan 3. The external mid-term evaluation of the programme is completed, and the findings and recommendations will be discussed soon. The Communication and Visibility component is a significant part of the work plan, which is implemented by a member of the TAT following an approved strategic plan.

The TAT has been on the tip of its toes to provide timely expert advice and strategic guidance to the implementing partners throughout the semester. In addition, they strengthened ties between the programme and various relevant regional fisheries and related institutions and programmes, especially AU-IBAR/ FishGOV 2, to drive transformative change across the African continent. Furthermore, following the facilitation of the LVFO-LTA collaborative arrangement, short-term expertise is in the pipeline to formulate a strategic framework and work plan for its operationalisation.

After entrenching cross-fertilisation and synergies among various strategic actions and work plans, the TAT shifted attention to consolidating the E€OFISH chapter in the coastal beneficiary countries to ensure a holistic and integrative approach at the national level. Accordingly, the initiative will be anchored in Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles in the following semester. Finally, the Team leader was on vacation leave for the first time from the 2nd of November 2022 to the 10th of January 2023.

6.0 Conclusion and Way Forward

The TAT will leave no stone unturned to enhance effective collaboration and team spirit with the PMU and the delivery partners. It will entrench a performance-based management approach to avoid further schedule creep. Due emphasis will be laid on the following areas:

- i) *Consolidate the ECOFISH National Chapter in the Coastal countries to build ownership at the national level;*
- ii) *Sharing experiential learnings, success stories and management best practices within and beyond the EA-SA-IO region in collaboration with AU-IBAR and the RECs.*
- iii) *Facilitate the programme steering, management and technical committee meetings at all levels.*
- iv) *Deliver expert advice, strategic orientations and capacity-building to regional and national institutional stakeholders*
- v) *Site visit to sustainable small-scale fisheries demonstration projects*

7.0 TAT Performance Dashboard as of the 31st of December 2022

Ref	Description of tasks / TOR	Tasked	Progress as of the 31st of December 2022
1.0 Technical level			
1.1	Deepening the regional cooperation in the sustainable management of inland and marine fisheries	Results 1-3 TAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant mechanisms developed are either active or in gestation, including: - LVFO – LTA Collaboration Arrangements - Regional Community of Practice for working and learning together. - Interaction with SWIOFC, SIOFA & IOTC
1.2	Technical support to National Competent Authorities in preparing their project proposals for the joint regional patrols	Result 2 MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant contracts operationalised. - First sea and joint air patrols in progress
1.3	Technical support for the smooth and timely launch of the Call for Proposals	Result 3 FE/TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The projects are cruising. - Monitoring & coordination assured
1.4	Technical support to DMROs/RFMOs in elaborating their work plans and detailed budget for activities.	TAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-going - Expert advice to IOC, LVFO and LTA
2.0 Institutional level			
2.1	Update regional and national political economy of the marine fisheries	Result 1 FE/TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy advice is provided through TAT and STE, meetings and workshops. - 5 Regional Patrol performed. - VMS & STARFISH restarted.
2.2	Enhance capacity to fight IUU fishing in the marine and continental fisheries	Result 2 MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for intra and inter-agency collaboration. - Nat & Reg Observers Programme developed ; - Review the existing Information Sharing Protocol in the pipeline;
2.3	Reactivation of the Regional Coordination Unit of the IOC-PRSP	Result 2 MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced collaboration with MASE Regional Centres - NKE: Almost ¾ already consumed; Balance reserved for emergencies.
2.4	Rapid access to STE and NKE	Results 1&2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Fisheries WP: STE recruitment procedures mastered. - Up to date
2.5	Proper communication and visibility of the programme	C&V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication and Visibility Strategy fully operationalised. - Communications materials delivered
3.0 Organisational level			
3.1	Effective Programme Governance Structure to engage all stakeholders	FE/TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management and Governance structures are functional.
3.2	Improved Coordination with Member states, Regional Organizations, and other related programmes	Result 1 FE/TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On-going and strengthened
3.3	The timely launching of CFP and award of grants to support small-scale fisheries.	Result 3 TL + C&V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed - Regularly technical monitoring + communication coverage ensured;
3.4	Programme Steering Committees and Technical Committees are organised promptly.	TAT /IPMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Up to date
3.5	Ensure optimal use of E€OFISH resources.	FE/TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitored