**FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MARINE FISHERIES ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS NEXUS IN EASTERN AFRICA-SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**Introduction**

The ECOFISH Marine Fisheries Work Plan aims ***to foster sustainable, integrated and inclusive management of coastal marine fisheries resources and ecosystems*** to contribute to the socio-economic and ecological aspirations of the UN Global Agenda 2030 and Africa We Want 2063 – No poverty, No Hunger and Nobody is left behind in the island and coastal countries of East Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region. The component is indirectly managed by the European Union Delegation to Mauritius and ***implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission in partnership with several duly mandated regional multilateral economic, fisheries and environmental agencies and strategic partners in the region***. It leverages the value added of effective collaboration and cooperation to empower regional, national and local institutional stakeholders to unleash the development potential of sustainable management of marine aquatic resources as an economic growth and resilient sector for shared prosperity ***amid the human-induced stressors, such as overcapacity, overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, land-based and marine pollution, the impacts of climate change and inequalities***.

Result 1.8 aims to strengthen the symbiosis between local fishing and fish worker communities and other stakeholders, including government and civil society organisations, ***in the stewardship – conservation, maintenance, protection, restoration and rehabilitation - of coastal and marine environments as a natural wealth*** for the greater good of the present and future generations. The purpose of this Concept Note is to inform the diverse stakeholders at various geographic scales about the collaborative opportunities provided by the ECOFISH marine fisheries ***to facilitate ongoing projects in areas of healthy and equitable coastal fisheries – environment nexus from the perspective of local fishing communities***.

The Concept Note describes the scope, objectives, guidelines and implementation modalities of the ECOFISH Marine Fisheries Project to facilitate practical initiatives for protecting or restoring the health of damaged or vulnerable coastal marine ecosystems and marine protected areas impacting/influencing the lives and livelihoods in society, particularly the local fishing communities. It calls ***for interest*** to diverse public and private organisations, including NGOs, CSOs, Science and Research, Academia, etc., availing a current initiative about the coastal marine ***fisheries-environment-sustainable livelihoods nexus***. In addition, the document provides information on the process of applying for technical and financial support/facilitation.

**2.0 Background**

**2.1 ECOFISH programme**

The global objective of ECOFISH is ***to enhance sustainable management of the inland and marine wild fisheries resources to contribute to the Blue Economy of the EA-SA-IO region.*** The programme has a budget of EUR 28 million over nearly five years starting from July 2019. However, its implementation was significantly delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme consists of three (3) synergistic Results and a series of strategic actions: ***Result 1*** - Re-engineered fisheries policy and institutional frameworks; ***Result 2*** - Strengthened fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (Compliance and Enforcement); and ***Result 3*** - Call for proposal for aspirational small-scale fisheries projects to accustom local fishing communities with the principles of global sustainability. Moreover, it has five (5) work plans (WP) operated through integrated management and decentralised governance systems. ***WP 1 and 2*** relate to two African Great Lakes fisheries resources management (Lake Victoria & Lake Tanganyika). ***WP 3*** focuses on the coastal marine fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region, and it also supports the IOC Regional Fisheries Surveillance Regional Plan, commonly called COI-PRSP. ***WP 4*** embraces nine (9) awarded sustainable inland and small-scale inland and marine projects across the EA-SA-SA region. Finally, ***WP 5*** is a cross-cutting one which includes a Technical Assistance Team of 3 experts to assist the EUD–Mauritius in implementing the programme. It also caters for communication, visibility, and financial grants to undertake regional fisheries patrols.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Apart from the mandated regional multilateral economic, fisheries and environmental agencies, the ECOFISH Marine fisheries Component benefits twelve (12) island and coastal countries in the EA-SA-IO region. The area is promoted as a fertile ground for effective collaboration and cooperation. However, from the operational perspective, the region is differentiated into two interconnected clusters: ***i) South-West Indian Ocean (SWIO Cluster) and ii) Horn of Africa (HOA Cluster),*** which are led by the IOC and IGAD Secretariats. The SWIO sub-region consists of the five IOC member countries: ***Comoros, La Reunion/France[[2]](#footnote-2), Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles***, and three East-African countries – ***Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. In addition, the HOA Cluster*** comprises four active coastal states*[[3]](#footnote-3)*, ***Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan.***

**2.2 Rationale**

The fisheries resources and environments are public goods managed by the government in consultation/collaboration with the stakeholders for the well-being of society.[[4]](#footnote-4) The socio-economic and hedonic significance of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems can hardly be overstated regarding livelihoods, food and nutrition security and cultural diversity in low-income countries. However, the fisheries resources in the nearshore waters are dwindling due to overcapacity, overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices exacerbated by the high fertility rate, land-based and maritime pollution and environmental stressors, including climate change.

The marine fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region exhibit a contrasting landscape, with about 80% of the coastal fisheries resources harvested in the territorial waters by subsistence and traditional artisanal fishing. These fishing zones are often reserved by Law for the domestic/local fishing communities to avoid unfair competition from industrial fishing. They are predominantly multi-gear and multi-species, involving full-time, part-time and seasonal fishers. The fishing assets, technologies and operational strategies deployed are rudimentary and determine the fishing types and the extent of the fishing grounds. Hence, the fishing operations are primarily non-selective and diversified, technically closer to the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries. However, the small-scale fisheries are characterised by overcapacity, overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices in the nearshore fisheries ecosystems neighbouring densely populated agglomerations and under/ unexploited in remote coastal communities and offshore fishing grounds. The remaining 10 % of the regional fisheries catch/landings consist of industrial value chains that target high-value fish species such as tunas, shrimps, and lobsters, mainly for the export markets. They are vertically integrated, locally-based foreign corporations that have obtained attractive economic and fiscal incentives from the coastal states. These industrial fisheries resources are relatively well-managed, but their socio-economic contribution to national economies remains unclear.

Small-scale marine fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region are mostly common property rights or open access with some minor catch or input control measures, which are sparsely implemented. The current situation is responsible for the wicked problems of underdevelopment of the sub-sector. It exacerbates economic inequalities in the fishing communities and leakages of much-needed government revenue in the form of resource rent. Moreover, the fishing activities are subsistence, informal/non-registered, with an emerging pseudo-commercial traditional artisanal and extended artisanal or semi-industrial fishing types. The catch is mainly destined for household consumption and occasional surplus sold locally. The post-harvest losses are about 35 % - due to inadequate fish landing stations, essential socio-economic services and supply-chain logistics. The per-capita fish consumption on the African continent is less than 10 kg, i.e., less than half the global average and is projected to decline to 7 kg by 2030 if appropriate measures are not expedited.

Development must be sustainably carried out by everyone and anywhere based on universal ethics and moral standards inspired by the conventional wisdom of humankind. However, greed, driven by an indiscriminate free-market economy, neo-liberal capitalism and globalisation, is pushing the world to the next human holocaust by the turn of this Century if appropriate measures are taken. However, The operationalisation of global and regional policy instruments must cascade into national policies, strategies and programmes to enable local actions – ***where the rubber meets the road***. The Top-Down policy development deepens the disconnect between local communities – Governments – Markets. It is, therefore, critical to promote a synergistic approach by placing the local socio-ecological dimensions on the radar screen. ***Simple Action – Great Impact***.

Consequently, sustainable management of fisheries resources can not be disassociated from protection, and conservation implies stewardship of natural habitats and biodiversity. ***Moreover, fisheries management imposes harvest rules to restrict human behaviours to indulge in overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices contributing to the degradation of marine ecosystems, such as coral reef areas, mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, estuaries and wetlands***. However, fishing is not the only issue that degrades coastal marine ecosystems.[[5]](#footnote-5) The local population is part of the socio-ecological trap, an otherwise antagonistic relationship between the human and environmental systems. Coastal communities can break this vicious circle by adopting the principles of a circular economy and neo-protectionism to drive sustainable livelihoods and a healthy environment. It will entrench a shift from competition or rivalry to cooperation.

**3.0 Objectives**

Sustainability is the ultimate pathway of humanity, and it is how Nature does. It is not necessarily costly but pays back many folds. Ecosystem services are public goods and must be optimally managed by governments with the participation of stakeholders for the benefit of society in multiple and diverse ways. The UN-SDG Target 14.2 ***– “By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans***”. The initiative entails a paradigm shift from the “silos approach or business-as-usual” to an interdisciplinary, multidimensional and cross-sector collaboration against the backdrop of the UN SDG 14 ***- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources”***. However, poorly regulated common property rights of tenure in small-scale fisheries are responsible for the Tragedy of Common and the Prisoners’ Dilemma in the local and national fisheries economy. It is, therefore, critical to address the wicked issues of open access and informal practices in fishing communities to manage fisheries resources and ecosystems effectively. The conventional top-down and coercive approach to fisheries resource and ecosystem management without engaging local stakeholders has proven counterproductive.

The coastal marine ecosystems are not only suffering from the effects of climate change but can also be part of innovative solutions. For instance, they are helpful as the first line of defence against storms and extreme weather events. In addition, they can contribute significantly to ***carbon sequestration or Blue Carbon projects***. Establishing marine protected areas and similar mechanisms are commonly used to preserve biodiversity and recover overfished or endangered species worldwide. Protected areas in the ocean are helpful in the same way as sanctuaries and parks on land to protect habitats, organisms, and resources. These ocean sanctuaries are often called Marine Protected Areas.

These MPAs are delimited areas where human activities are controlled to preserve meaningful natural or cultural resources. According to the UN’s World Database, ***over 15,000 MPAs protect more than 27 million km2 of the ocean. However, in 2020, only 6.4 % of the global ocean was covered, and 2.7% of it has strong protection against harmful activities, despite marine scientists calling for solid protection of at least 30 %***.[[6]](#footnote-6) The MPA has been around since the 1990s, but the uptake has been slow due to a lack of scientific data on the health of fisheries resources and habitats. It is complemented by other mechanisms, such as close seasons and no-take zones, to restore threatened species and habitats by restricting fishing and other human activities in those areas.

Until recently, the authorities established MPAs in nearshore waters without local fishing communities' cooperation, resulting in a conflicting relationship that could have been avoided. The latter are considered poachers/predators. Therefore, environmental conservation cannot be sought by increasing human suffering, particularly among the most vulnerable. Thus, the initiative can create alternative sustainable jobs and economic opportunities in MPA stewardship, ecological and cultural tourism, blue carbon project, and restoration work for redundant fishers and fish workers.

Some reputed fisheries scientists feature artisanal fishing in developing countries close to ***the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.*** However, the political and socio-economic dimensions of policy debates on sustainable fisheries subside to populism instead of addressing the root causes of the problem, e.g., open access and informality, resource user conflicts, misallocation of resources and inequalities. The region is not short of good policies but lacks the resources and capacity to implement them effectively. It is also critical to restore trust and high moral and ethical standards based on customs and traditional wisdom to reduce the influence of market-based greed and rivalry in local communities as a requisite for the expected transformational change.

Following the above narratives, the scope of the strategic action provides a multidimensional platform to promote sustainable fisheries, environment and livelihood integration in local communities. It consists of the work packages[[7]](#footnote-7).

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| ***i)***  | *Support regional, national and local initiatives for* ***coastal and marine integrated management****;* |
| ***ii)*** | *Promote the concept of* ***Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas*** *in local communities in collaboration with other key stakeholders;* |
| ***iii)*** | *Facilitate initiatives for* ***conservation and management measures*** *for protecting marine biodiversity;* |
| ***iv)*** | *Assist countries in* ***maintaining and restoring their aquatic resources and ecosystems****.* |

**4.0 Activities**

The areas or ideas relevant to the island and coastal states of the EA-SA-IO region are as follows.

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| ***i)*** | *Management, expansion and replication of community-based marine protected areas and similar concepts for the* ***protection and restoration of marine habitats*** *such as coral reefs, seagrass, mangrove, estuaries and wetlands;* |
| ***ii)*** | *Use of* ***coastal and marine habitats, including artificial reefs and mangrove forests, as a natural defence system*** *in the fight against climate change and extreme weather events;* |
| ***iii)*** | *Regional/national frameworks and guidelines derived from existing proof of concept, success stories, lessons learned and best practices for promoting* ***Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas*** *and* ***Transboundary Marine Conservation Areas*** *in the EA-SA-IO region;* |
| ***iv)*** | *In alignment with the* ***UN Decade of Ocean Science****, to support Research and Science regarding climate-resilient corals, acidification and carbon sequestration (Blue carbon Projects) in the coastal marine ecosystems, including satellite data to support science-based policy and management decisions.*  |
| ***v)*** | *Support* ***Integrated Coastal Zone Management and associated tools and techniques*** *such as Marine Spatial Planning, Geographic Information System, Local Sustainable Livelihood Approach, Circular Economy – Sustainable Production and Consumption* |
| ***vi*** | *Professional learning and awareness-raising in Ocean literacy, Sustainability Education, Blue Economy and Fisheries Resources and Environmental Management, and Climate Change., including* ***Degree & Short Learning Programmes, Massive Open Online Courses and webinars*** |
| ***vii)*** | ***Awareness-raising and sensitisation campaigns*** *on the negative impacts of illegal and unsustainable fishing practices, destruction of coral reefs, extraction of sand and coral and cut-down of mangroves, littering of beaches, and user-rights of tenure in small-scale fisheries today way with open access and informal practices;*  |
| ***viii)*** | *Advocacies for the reduction of land-based household, agricultural and industrial run-offs, including single-use plastics, sediments and sewerage discharge into the ocean through rivers; for declaring* ***Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) as protected areas or no-take zone until an effective global governance system is in place****, and for international recognition of the human rights to a healthy ocean as a lifeline for coastal and island populations, etc.* |
| ***ix)*** | *Any other interventions relating to the earmarked objectives* |

**5.0 Implementation Modalities**

**5.1 Geographic Scope**

The ECOFISH Marine Fisheries Programme Estimates embrace the maritime façade of the EA-SA-IO region comprising twelve beneficiary island and coastal countries, namely ***Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and Sudan***.[[8]](#footnote-8) The initiative also includes decentralised territories or islands to respond to their specific socio-ecological contexts. For example, ***Zanziba***r (Republic of Tanzania), ***Rodrigues*** (Republic of Mauritius), ***Anjouan and Moheli*** (Republic of Comoros), ***Praslin and Silhouette*** (Seychelles), etc.

## **5.2 Administrative and Financial Management**

The approved interventions will be facilitated by the ECOFFISH Marine Fisheries Project Management Unit based at the Indian Ocean Commission Secretariat and supported by the Technical Assistance Team. They will be implemented following the EU administrative and financial procedures in collaboration with the awarded organisations. The PMU and each awarded organisation will sign a Letter of Agreement based on the approved actions and implementation modalities.

**5.3 Means of intervention**

Following the scope of activities and areas defined in this document[[9]](#footnote-9), the types of action or means of intervention supported by the Strategic Action include Short Term Expertise, technical workshops, training and capacity building, communication and awareness-building campaigns, exchange of experiential learnings, success stories and best practices, and procurement of affordable tools and equipment.

**5.4 Budgetary requirements**

Each proposal will have a maximum duration of **eight months** and will be accompanied by an estimated budget[[10]](#footnote-10). The budget must be consistent, accurate, complete, and cost-effective, considering the proposed actions. The implementing organisation shall contribute to the intervention/s through its financial and human resources in financing or in-kind. The financial resources will not cover the operating costs of the implementing organisation but only earmarked means of intervention described in section 5.3 following Section 5.2.

**5.5 Technical Coordination and Monitoring**

Besides the expert advice and backstopping services, the ECOFISH technical staff will coordinate and monitor approved interventions in collaboration with the awarded organisation. The latter will ensure that these activities are implemented per the established Letter of Agreement, particularly the scope, budget, schedule and quality. These interventions are considered a part of the ECOFISH National Chapter; therefore, its National Focal Point will also be involved in the process.

**5.6 Selection criteria**

The expression of interest is broadly publicised to avail an opportunity to all prospective organisations. The Strategic Action has a total budget of € 411,000 (Four Hundred and Eleven Thousand Euros). It provides for about 18 Short Term Expertise and 14 Workshops to be judiciously allocated on the merit of each intervention in the geographic area described in Section 5.1. The ECOFISH PMU reserves the right to select or reject any application.

**5.7 Implementation period**

The project cycle of the approved intervention is eight (8) calendar months and consists of six months for planning and implementation, including procurement of technical expertise, equipment and associated services, and two months for final reporting, documentation of lessons learned and sign-off. It assumed all works under this Strategic Action would be completed in 2023.

## **5.8 Governance Framework**

The ECOFISH programme promotes a decentralised governance framework whereby a multistakeholder Technical Committee[[11]](#footnote-11) oversees the performance of the Marine Fisheries Work Plan. It has developed several regional hand-holding networks for working and learning together, including Result 3/ Work Plan 4 – awarded demonstration/aspirational projects showcasing sustainable and integrated small-scale fisheries in local communities, which are also related to these interventions. Therefore, the selected organisations must share their knowledge, experiences and best practices through these platforms.

**5.9 Applicants**

Any regional, national, and local public organisations or not-for-profit entities, including Research, Science and Academia active in fisheries and related environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and sustainable local livelihoods, can apply following the modus operandi of the Strategic Action.

**5.10 Target stakeholders**

The interventions target all relevant ***Public, Private and Non-State Organisations*** engaged in coastal fisheries and ecosystem conservation, rehabilitation, and protection along with local livelihoods improvement, including Community-based organisations (NGOs & CSOs), such as fisher and fish worker associations, civil society organisations, cooperative societies, Social Enterprises, Science, Research and Academia, etc. The list is not exhaustive, and interventions may target other relevant stakeholders aligned with the project's final objective.

**5.11 Reporting requirements:**

The implementing organisation shall provide the ECOFISH PMU with complete information on implementing the approved intervention/s. Accordingly, it shall submit a final narrative report upon completing the work.

Regarding meetings, workshops and communication campaigns, appropriate original supporting documents will include concept notes, agenda, the name of persons facilitating the event, a signed list of participants, and a report on the event's outcomes.

**6.0 Application**

**6.1 Who can apply?**

Any public organisation or a not-for-profit entity active in coastal marine sustainable fisheries, environmental protection, and local livelihoods can apply. Each proposal shall contain one duly completed and signed application form (Annexe 2), which includes a log frame and budget estimates.

**6.2 Question**

Prospective applicants can e-mail the ECOFISH IPMU at [subhas.bauljeewon@coi-ioc.org] for additional information and clarification. The question and answers will be published on the programme website: [www.ecofish-programme.org](http://www.ecofish-programme.org)

**6.3 Deadline for submission**

The duly completed and signed application form and supporting documents must be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address [subhas.bauljeewon@coi-ioc.org]

Applications must be received on/before **15 June 2023**. Any application received after the date mentioned above will not be considered.

**7.0 Eligibility criteria:**

To be eligible for a grant, an organisation must:

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| *i)* | *be legally constituted as a not-for-profit structure or a public entity.* |
| *ii)* | *be entitled to carry out the activities described in the project proposal* |
| *iii)* | *have the sufficient financial capacity to maintain its activity through the period for which the awarded interventions and to participate by way of its resources, including human resources or in-kind contributions.* |
| *iv)* | *have the sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal;* |
| *v)* | *Multiple applications from the same institution are not allowed* |

**8.0 Award criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

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| *i)* | *Appropriateness and relevance of the proposal following the objectives and scope of the Strategic Action as described in this document.* |
| *ii)* | *Potential impact on the Coastal marine fisheries resources, environment, and livelihoods.*  |
| *iii)* | *Estimated budget and cost-effectiveness of the application* |
| *iv)* | *Potential for awareness-raising at local, national, and regional levels.* |
| *v)* | *Participation of NGOs, Youth and Women Associations, Research, Science and Academia in the project design and implementation;* |

**9.0 Notification and signature of Letter of Agreement**

On completion of the selection process, all organisations will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their respective applications and the following steps to be undertaken.

**Annexe 1 – Indicative List of Thematic Areas**

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| **1.** | Economics of MPA or Cost-Benefit Analysis of MPA or No Take Zone. |
| **2.** | Biodiversity conservation / Rehabilitation of damaged coastal and marine habitats |
| **3.** | Community-based management of MPA |
| **4.** | Alternative Sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities for fisher communities |
| **5.** | Drafting regional framework-guideline for promoting Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas |
| **6.** | Awareness-raising and communication on illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. |
| **7.** | Environmental and Social Assessment  |
| **8.** | Research & Academia (professional learning in ICZM & Area-based management… |
| **9.** | Economics of MPA or Cost-Benefit Analysis of MPA or No Take Zone. |
| **10.** | Capacity building, social innovation and awareness-raising |
| **11.** | Coastal erosion and associated oceanographic processes |
| **12.** | Reduction of Post-harvest losses  |
| **13.** | Mangrove reforestation/seagrass research and training / Ocean Acidification research |
| **14.**  | Blue Carbon Projects |
| **15.** | Gender and Vulnerable groups |
| **16** | Ocean literacy and communication of sustainable fisheries-environment nexus |
| **17.** | Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries / Voluntary Guidelines for sustainable SSF |
| **18.** | Capacity building – ICZM / MSP / GIS … |
| **19.** | Local traditional Knowledge and Empirical Knowledge |
| **20** | Fisher Safety at Sea  |
| **21** | Impact of climate change on coastal marine fisheries ecosystem and fish production |
| **22** | Coastal ecological Fish Aggregating Devices – small-scale fisheries |
| **23** | Conflict Management |

**Annexe 2 - Application Form**

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| 1. **APPLICANT**
 |
| Official name ► |  |
| Legal form ► | Are you a public entity? Yes □ No □Are you a non-for-profit organisation Yes □ No □Others (specify): |
| Full address ► |  |
| Website (if any) ► |  |
| Name of the person(s) entitled to commit on behalf of the implementing Partner (indicate name and position) ► |  |
| 1. **CONTACT DETAILS**
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| Contact person ► |  |
| Position of the contact person ► |  |
| E-mail address ► |  |
| Phone number ► |  |

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| 1. **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN PROJECT**
 |
| ***Title ►*** |  |
| ***Global objective ►*** |  |
| ***Specific Objectives ►*** |  |
| ***Geographic Area ►*** |  |
| ***Funding Agency ►*** |  |
| ***Expected results ►*** |  |
|  ***Duration ►*** | *Started :**Closing date :*  |
| ***Any other pertinent information ►*** |  |

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| 1. **DESCRIBE THE INTENDED INTERVENTION TO BE FACILITATED BY ECOFISH**
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| ***Please explain how each project activity***  |
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| 1. **ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE INTERVENTIONS**
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| ***Please provide information on the cost of each activity to be funded by ECOFISH***  |
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| 1. **WORK PLAN**
 |
| ***Briefly present your plan for the implementation of these activities as follows▼*** |
| **Activity** | **2023** **( 6 months + 2 months for closing)** |
| **Month** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **3** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
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| **6. TRACK RECORDS** |
| 1. ***Describe briefly the main projects completed or being carried out in the field concerned during the last 2 (two) years ▼***
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| 1. ***Indicate below grants obtained from States or international institutions during the last 2 (two) years (if any) ▼***
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| **7. APPLICANT’S FINANCIAL CAPACITY** |
| ***Indicate below any information reflecting the applicant’s financial capacity, such as funding sources, annual budget, etc. ▼*** |
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| **8. APPLICANT’S PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY** |
| ***Indicate below the number of permanent and temporary staff ▼*** |
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| **9. APPLICANT’S OPERATIONAL CAPACITY** |
| ***Explain briefly below how the applicant intends to implement the proposed activities ▼*** |
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| **10. CO-FUNDING** |
| ***Please explain your available resources and needed resources to implement the activities. Indicate below how the applicant intends to contribute to the project (either by its resources or by contribution from third parties). Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contribution or income generated by the action.*** *▼* |
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| **9. DECLARATION** |
| *By signing this form, I, the undersigned, authorised to represent the applicant, hereby certify that the information in this application is correct. Furthermore, I hereby affirm that my organisation (if applicable)**a. has not been sentenced by a final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, or money laundering;**b. is not in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or is not subject to a procedure of the same kind;**c. has not received a judgment with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects its professional integrity or constitutes serious professional misconduct;**d. complies with its obligations regarding payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of the country where it is established.**e. is not in a situation of conflict of interest.* |

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| **10. SIGNATURE** |
| Name / First name of the Signatory ► |  |
| Title of position in the organisation ► |  |
| Place and date of signature ► |  |
| Signature & Stamp ► |  |

1. *Visit* [***www.ecofish-programme.org***](http://www.ecofish-programme.org) *for more updated information.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *La Réunion/France as part of the EU is not eligible to the EDF but participates in and provides additional technical and financial resources the Ecofish programme through the European Regional Development Fund. Ecofish also promotes an open-door policy to encourage neighbouring countries to join the programme activities with their own or tiers resources.*

 *3 Eritrea has not responded to the call of E€OFISH, and it is given to understand that its membership to IGAD is currently suspended. It is hoped that working arrangement with the latter could be normalized earnestly. Moreover, three landlocked states of the Horn of Africa,* ***Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda*** *are not served by ECOFISH marine fisheries work plan but benefit from the other components of the programme.*

*4 It is argued that developing countries does suffer from poor governance but a deficiency of formal governance where they fall back on informal and non-formal governance systems combining altruism and greed in local communities. Good policies are essential for improving lives and livelihoods on Earth. However, government tend to make bad policies in good time and difficult ones during in hard time. Developing countries constantly require economic, fiscal, and monetary policy reforms to surf the waves of business, political and economic cycles impacting sustainable development.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *The three mutually enriching human-induced and environmental stressors contributing to a decline of the coastal marine ecosystems health and productivity are socio-economic factors, including inequalities and unsustainable fishing practices, land-based and marine pollution, and different pathways of climate change and climate variability.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *So far only Seychelles in the world to allocate about 30% of maritime space as marine protected areas.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *An indicative list of prospective projects/activities is provide in Annexe 1* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Reunion Island, being a French overseas department and an EU territory in the Indian Ocean, precluded as it is not entitled to the European Development Fund reserved for ACP countries. Moreover, there is a complete backout on the part of Eritrea.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Cf. Section 4.0 – Proposed Activities and Annexe 1 – Indicative list of proposed thematic areas*  [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *Cf Annexe 2 – Project Proposal / Application Form* [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Apart from the PMU staff and members of the Technical Assistance Team, the Sub-Regional Technical Committee includes representative of the EU Delegation to Mauritius, the relevant regional multilateral economic, fisheries and environmental organisations, the beneficiary countries, NGOs and CSOs, and other programmes / projects.* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)