**Subject: Expression of Interest to support the adoption and implementation of fisheries management measures aiming at protecting marine biodiversity with regional impacts**

Dear Potential Organisations,

One of component of the E€OFISH programme is to support the adoption and implementation of fisheries management measures aiming at protecting marine biodiversity with regional impacts.

Strategic action 1.8 of the E€OFISH Marine Fisheries Work Plan intends to reconnect the local fishing communities to responsible stewardship of the coastal marine ecosystems as part and parcel of sustainable fisheries. In other words, the fishing communities are engaged to contribute more actively to the conservation management of fisheries resources and the environment along with other stakeholders on a win-win or no regret policy. The concept of marine protected areas, no-take zones and close seasons is proven to help threatened species and damaged habitats recover by restricting fishing and other human activities. In addition, are wealth of success stories, learning investments and best practices in the region and elsewhere available to the fishing communities and other public and private stakeholders to accelerate sustainable, integrated and inclusive fisheries resources and environment conservation management in the EA-SA-IO region. Therefore, a series of activities have been earmarked under this strategic action to promote and support the conservation, restoration and protection of the coastal fisheries resources.

To overcome the operational difficulties related to the overlapping mandates and memberships of the REC/DMRO, the E€OFISH Programme has adopted a whole-of-the region approach to implementing its Marine Fisheries Work Plan. In other words, the maritime facade is promoted as a unified space for collaboration and cooperation in coastal marine fisheries. The REC/DMRO are implementing the E€OFISH Marine Fisheries Work - Plan partners. Thus, they are placed in the driving seat and are supported by the other REC and partner countries. The approach is inspired by the existing SADC-COMESA-EAC Tripartite Agreement 2007. Owing to its extensive knowledge and experiences in inland water and marine wildlife protection and conservation in Southern Africa, SADC is leading Strategic Action 1.8. As an integral part of the Marine Fisheries Work Plan, the Strategic Action is supported by the E€OFISH Technical Assistance Team (TAT)and the Integrated Programme Management Unit (IPMU). The planned activities will be rolled out following the EU administrative and financial procedures.

A Concept Note is drawn to define the scope of the activities, theory of change and implementation modalities of Strategic Action 1.8. It is thought as part of the consultative process to harness the feedback and/or approval of the REC/DMRO and other 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 organization’s, 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.

 **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.

**Application**

**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.