

## First Steering Committee Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 5-6 February 2020 Final Conclusions and recommendations

### 1. Introduction

The First Steering Committee Meeting of the Ecofish Programme was held on the 5-6 February 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya at the Conference Hall of AU-IBAR, as a strategic partner of the programme. The meeting was organised and chaired by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in the capacity of the Regional Authorising Officer (RAO). The delegates of the meeting were from the following economic, fisheries and development organisations:

- Duly Mandated Regional Organisations: COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC and SADC
- Regional Fisheries Management Organisations [Shared Inland Fisheries]: LTA and LVFO
- Regional Fisheries Management Organisation [Marine Fisheries]: IOTC
- Regional Fisheries Body [Marine Fisheries]: SWIOFC
- Regional Development Partner: AU-IBAR
- Funding Agency: EU Delegation of Mauritius, Burundi and Tanzania

Apologies received from the Regional Fisheries Body, SIOFA and Development Partner, EFCA and EU Delegations covering IGAD, COMESA, SADC and LVFO. The World Bank's SWIOFish 1 Project was represented by the SWIOFC.

[Cf. Participants list is at Annexe 1.](#)

### 2. Objectives of the Meeting and Adoption of Agenda

The modus operandi of the meeting was to appraise the evolution of the programme since the 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting of 14-15 November 2018 in Dar Es Salam, Republic of Tanzania. It entailed an update on the status of the major components of that multi-faceted programme leading to a deeper dive into the intended multi-layer governance architecture and First Annual Work Plans to carve the way forward. The meeting was useful to appreciate the progress made in the setting up of the Integrated Programme Management Unit as the launching pad of the programme.

In all, the Ecofish Programme consists of 3 interconnected Result Areas that are mainstreamed into 5 distinct Work Plans based on the thematic and geographic as well as the inherent management modalities. The five Work Plans of the programme are as follows:

- Work Plan 1** Shared Inland Fisheries – LVFO. [Semi-Direct Management]
- Work Plan 2** Shared Inland Fisheries – LTA. [Semi-Direct Management]
- Work Plan 3** Marine Fisheries - Implemented by IOC. [Indirect Management]
- Work Plan 4** Call for Proposals & other directly managed components. [EUD of Mauritius]
- Work Plan 5** Cross-Cutting Themes: TAT and IPMU [EUD + IOC]

[Cf. A synopsis of the Ecofish Programme is given at Annexe 2](#)

[Cf. The provisional Agenda of the meeting was adopted – Annexe 3.](#)

### 3. Opening remarks

The opening ceremony was graced by four eminent guests

### 1. Dr Mohamed Sessay representing the Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR

*Acknowledging the representatives of the Government of Kenya, the Indian Ocean Commission and the European Union, Dr Mohamed Sessay, on behalf of the Director, AU-IBAR, expounded on the mandate of AU-IBAR in supporting and coordinating the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources for nutrition, food security, economies and wellbeing of the people of the member states of the African Union. He highlighted the exclusive roles of AU-IBAR in coordinating the implementation of two key initiatives: The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa; and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.*

*The Director, AU-IBAR recalled the excellent history of collaboration between AU-IBAR and IOC on the EU-funded Continental Fisheries Governance Project (FishGov 1) and the EU-Smartfish programme as an example of institutional collaboration between continental and regional institutions on food security, enhanced livelihoods and wealth creation. FishGov 2, the imminent successor to FishGov1, resonates well with Ecofish's key pillars of knowledge management and good governance for sustainable fisheries.*

*These collaborative activities are consistent with the objectives of the pan African Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and the African Union Agenda 2063. The overlap between continental and regional initiatives underscores the need for creating synergies and minimizing duplications in the respective geographic areas of the projects.*

*The Director expressed sincere gratitude to the EU for their support in enhancing governance in fisheries and aquaculture, and to IOC and Ecofish management for their collaboration with AU-IBAR.*

#### [Cf. Annex 4](#)

### 2. Mr Raj Mohabeer, representing the Secretary-General of the IOC

*Mr Mohabeer introduced Ecofish as a programme for the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. Ecofish aims to reconcile economic growth and sustainable management of the region's natural resources. Thus the "ECO" of "ECOFISH" signifies "Eco" for the economy but also for ecology, which expresses the commitment of the region as well as that of the European Union.*

*In implementing the Ecofish programme in close collaboration with not only the Delegation of the European Union to Mauritius but also with IOC partners - AU-IBAR, SADC, COMESA, IGAD and EAC as well as LVFO and LTA - IOC was keen to ensure that the results as set out in the Financing Agreement are achieved. By coming together, the stakeholders would avoid duplication of efforts and ensure coherence in actions while optimizing the limited resources available under Ecofish.*

*Mr Mohabeer urged Ecofish to capitalize on the positive results of the concluded SmartFish programme in order to consolidate them, amplify them and lead to full ownership of best practices in governance and sustainable management of fisheries.*

*The Ecofish programme would, therefore, have to become a catalyst by providing a coherent framework for collective actions to ensure that capture fisheries and aquaculture sustainably contribute to growth, food security and employment.*

*Mr Mohabeer acknowledged the growing support of the World Bank, alongside the European Union, for the governance of fisheries in the South-West Indian Ocean. He recognized the Regional Economic Communities of COMESA, SADC, IGAD, EAC and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations - IOTC, LVFO and LTA - for their spirit of cooperation that would be expected to prevail through the Ecofish programme, as cooperation was the only way to address the challenge of efficient and directed fisheries governance for the benefit of national economies.*

## Cf. Annex 5

### 3. Mrs Carla Osorio, Head of Cooperation, EUD of Mauritius

*Mrs Carla Osorio appreciated the realization of the first EU Ecofish Programme steering committee meeting, recalling that Ecofish was cited as one of the 23 EU commitments at "Our Ocean Conference" in 2018.*

*Reminding participants of their important roles within the framework of Ecofish to promote sustainable fisheries, Mrs Osorio stated that Ecofish is meant to complement several other EU projects targeting ocean governance, marine conservation, maritime security, anti-piracy actions through navy operations, as well as blue economy-related projects. In addition, the EU has signed fisheries partnership agreements with Seychelles, Mauritius, and soon, Madagascar, which also target support to coastal fishermen.*

*These partnership agreements reflect the high commitment that the EU places on fisheries, be it inland or marine, due not only to the impacts on food security but also in terms of income-generating revenues for the communities and commercial opportunities for the export market.*

*Stressing that Ecofish follows SmartFish and it is NOT another phase of SmartFish, Mrs Osorio explained that Ecofish was designed to focus on sustainable fisheries at the regional level; it strictly reflects the aid modalities and strategies of the EU i.e. inclusive, impact-related and cost-effective, proactive and oriented towards sustainable changes by enhancing a cross-regional impact.*

*The strategic partnership of IOC in implementing Ecofish and its influential role in the Indian Ocean were lauded. The technical assistance team comprising three key experts contracted by Incatema Consulting were introduced as Dr Sunil Sweenarain, Team Leader; Mr Pedro Güemes; MCS Expert; and Mrs Elizabeth Lawson, Communication Expert. Non-key experts would also be availed under certain modalities.*

*Mrs Osorio concluded her speech with a quote from a former EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development – Mr Neven Mimica: "Oceans are not only our commonwealth but our future. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are healthy and protected worldwide. In our future partnership with ACP countries, we will continue acting as an international driving force by championing sustainable management of marine resources, while fostering blue economy and opportunities to improve people's lives".*

## Cf. Annex 6

### 4. Mr Kassim Farrah Mohamed, representing the Permanent Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Fisheries Aquaculture & Blue Economy

*Mr K. M. Farrah, representing the Permanent Secretary, acknowledged and appreciated the European Union for funding Ecofish and congratulated the organizers of the meeting.*

*Recognizing the economic importance of Lake Victoria and its Basin, where over 8 million people depend on the fisheries resources of the lake, the PS noted the myriad environmental and economic challenges impacting negatively on the fisheries and livelihoods of local communities.*

*To reverse the destructive trend, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives would ensure that all initiatives to conserve and transform fisheries and improve livelihoods within the Lake Victoria Basin are supported so that maximum benefits are realized. The Government of Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to partnerships and cooperation with the stakeholders in order to improve collaborative management of Lake Victoria.*

*The PS urged the fast implementation of the regional fisheries frameworks (Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan and EAC Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy) for a better managed blue economy of Lake Victoria. He highlighted the Government's reforms on fisheries laws and regulatory standards that led to the enactment of the Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016 and the Kenya Coast Guard Service Act 2018.*

*The FMD Act 2016 provides for fisheries management and resource utilization, sustainable aquaculture development, fisheries resources monitoring and research, fish value addition, trade and marketing, institutional frameworks, fisheries infrastructure development, private sector investments, and sustainable funding mechanisms. The Kenya Coast Guard Act 2018 provides for a specialized maritime force for law enforcement in national waters, including the ocean, lakes and rivers.*

*In conclusion, the PS affirmed that the Government would continue partnering with Ecofish in its implementation, for the benefit of the people of Kenya, and encouraged participants to provide clear policy direction for better management of Lake Victoria fisheries.*

[Cf. Annex 7](#)

### Module 1 - Recall of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting

Dr Sunil Sweenarain presented the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Meeting of 14-15 November 2018 in Dar – Es - Salam and actions taken by the relevant stakeholders as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 were presented. With the exception of Point 1 (v) and (vi) related to the commitment of SADC and COMESA for Fish Trade Facilitation and Fish Value Chain Development & Quality Assurance through their respective Regional Indicative Programme under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF, the other items were cleared.

[Comment: None](#)

[Cf. Annexe 8](#)

### Module 2 – Synopsis of the Ecofish Programme

The module consisted of two components:

#### Module 2.1 - Overview of the High-level Log Frame of the Ecofish Programme with an emphasis on Result 1 and 2 which are predominantly under semi-direct or indirect management.

Dr Sunil Sweenarain presented an overview of Result 1 – Policy and Institutional Frameworks and Result 2 – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance which are at the core of the LVFO, LTA and IOC - marine Programme Estimates and Work Plans. He emphasised that there are some similarities between SmartFish and Ecofish, but they are different in terms of objectives and strategies. It is critical to understand the implications of this cross-initiative of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF that aims at enhancing the valued-added of regional economic cooperation through sustainable fisheries. In other words, the programme aims at unleashing the development potentials of the shared inland and marine fisheries to attain the socio-economic aspirations of the UN SDG 2030 and the Africa Agenda 2063. The main focus of the programme is on the sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries with an overweight on the MCS operations in the SWIO industrial tuna fisheries.

[Comment: None](#)

[Cf. Annexe 9](#)

#### Module 2.2 – Overview of the various components of Ecofish which are managed directly by the EUD of Mauritius.

Mr Madev Balloo presented an overview and update on the following components

### Module 2.2 (i) - Result 3 - Call for Proposals

The Result 3 has a budget of 8 M EUR which is allocated by sub-region as follows: Eastern Africa: 3 M EUR, Southern Africa: 3 M EUR and the Indian Ocean: 2 M EUR. The Call for Proposals was launched at the beginning of July 2019. The evaluation processes are completed, and a letter of award issued to the selected applicants. In keeping with the due diligence and contractual procedures, it is anticipated that the awarded projects would touch the ground by June 2020. The awarded projects are regarded as social labs to demonstrate sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient small-scale fisheries in action through innovative technical and social innovations as well as iterative and participatory management. They would be accompanied by a tailored communication strategy.

#### Comments

- a) The reallocation of any unused resources under Result 3 for other purposes is not permitted by the existing EDF Rules.
- b) The awarded projects are conceived on a stand-alone basis and are not entitled to additional Non-Key Expertise from the Ecofish programme.
- c) The sharing Lessons Learned and Best Practices with other regional analogous fisheries should be prioritised. They ought to be encouraged without increasing the financial burden of the awarded projects.
- d) Best Practices are often context-specific and should not be generalised as a rule of thumb. It is proposed to establish the guidelines/framework for harnessing experiential learning and best practices.

#### Conclusions/Decisions

- a) An appropriate mechanism would be explored by the IPMU to promote synergies and learning investments between the awarded projects and other relevant fisheries/fishing communities.
- b) A tailored communication strategy is to be designed and implemented for Result 3

### Module 2.2 (ii) – Service Contract with Incatema Consortium

Mr Madev addressed the component by highlighting the key features of the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) and the pool of Non-Key Experts (NKE). The TAT comprises the Fisheries Economist and Team leader (1,140 working days); the MCS Expert (900 working days) and Communication and Visibility Expert (690 working days). The FE/TL also acts as the Technical Coordinator of the Programme. The TAT arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 on the contract of 62 calendar months.

The NKE consists of a pool of 700 working days of assorted Short-Term Expertise that can be accessed by bona fide regional economic and fisheries organisations as well as the development partners in line with the objectives and guidelines of the Ecofish Programme, i.e. the Financial Agreement and Approved PE/Work Plans.

He affirmed that the fisheries sector is not short of policies or strategies but capacities to implement them effectively. The financial and technical resources provided by the Ecofish Programme should be sought a catalyst/lever to resources mobilisation and partnerships at regional, sub-regional and national levels to ensure the project sustainability.

#### Comments:

- a) It is critical for the IPMU to plan the deployment of the MCS and C&V Expert based on the programme requirements instead of a linear approach, i.e. an average number of working days per calendar month.

b) The programme should focus on the operationalisation or adaptation of existing regional small-scale fisheries policies and strategies instead of overturning the switch on developing new ones.

### Conclusions/Decisions

- a) The scope and guidelines for mobilising NKE under the Service Contract to be communicated to key stakeholders by the EUD of Mauritius
- b) Guidelines to capture Learning Investments, Best Practices and Sustainability Standards across the awarded projects to be designed and implemented when Result 3 is operational.
- c) The intended Regional Collaboration and Coordination Platform should integrate or create synergies with the awarded projects under Result 3

### Module 2.2 (iii) – Direct Grants to partner states for Regional Fisheries Surveillance Patrols in the SWIO industrial tuna fisheries through the IOC – PRSP

Mr Madev explained that an amount of 2 M EUR is earmarked for the mobilisation of regional patrols assets and on-the-job capacity building that would be allocated judiciously among the eligible participating countries of the IOC-PRSP. There should more visibility about the work plan after the operationalisation of the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) and the Extended-RCU which regional governance of the regional MCS mechanisms.

Comment: None

### Module 2.2 (iv) – Communication and Visibility

A budget of 500 K EUR is provided under direct management that cuts across the different components of the programme, including the IPMU. It is placed under the responsibility of the Communication & Visibility Expert. A proportional part of this budget is earmarked for the LVFO and IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plans.

Comment:

- a) Apart from the Branding and external communication device, the component should formulate a comprehensive and iterative communication strategy for the Ecofish programme, i.e. *to integrate the different work plans and components, including the IOC - Marine Fisheries, LVFO, LTA as well as the awarded projects under Result 3.*
- b) Communication should also be understood as a **proactive tool** for influencing social innovations positive cultural development and paradigm shift among key stakeholders and policy-makers in the regional fisheries and fisheries-related sectors.
- c) The PSC agreed that involvement of Director-level persons from the Fisheries Ministry/Department in each country is going to be vital to the success of the project. However, these interactions would be ensured by the LVFO, LTA and IOC Marine Fisheries at the sub-regional levels.

The discussion is continued at Module 6.3

### Conclusions & Recommendations

- a) With regard to the Visibility Impact, it is proposed to create an impressive **Regional identity** in the form of a logo and a powerful **Mission Charter** for the Ecofish Programme in consultation with the strategic partners and key stakeholders. This would systematically avoid using a large number of logos without belittling the exposure and strategic role of the different partners.

- b) To develop *a comprehensive and integrated regional Communication Plan* for the Ecofish Programme in collaboration with the communication shells of the frontline beneficiaries and partners.
- c) To develop/strengthen *regional physical and digital networks* for sharing communication materials and receiving feedback on the programme activities.
- d) The Communication and Visibility plan should be overarching and integrative to include all stakeholders and relevant policymakers at all levels.

### Module 2.2 (v) – Ad hoc Financial Audi and External Mid-Term and Final Evaluations

The presentation of the sub-component was informative at that stage. These management tools would be triggered as appropriate by the EUD of Mauritius when the programme would attain its cruising speed.

Comment: None

Cf. Annex 10

### Module 3 – Proposed Multi-Layer Governance Architecture for the Ecofish Programme

Dr Sunil Sweenarain presented the conceptual framework of a multi-layer Governance System for the complex, multi-faceted and geographically widespread programme, Ecofish. The importance of responsive programme governance architecture can hardly be overstated for the success of a programme or project. In other words, the absence of a well-thought Organisation and Management Architecture is often the main cause for project inefficiencies and failures.

The presentation spotlighted the different layers of the programme governance hierarchy, i.e. the Funding agency (EU), the Programme Steering Committees and the Programme Management Units. He explained that Each Work Plan of the programme is bound to establish its own project management mechanism which is rooted in its *organisational culture and process assets*. Generally, as in the case of LVFO and LTA, it entails the setting up of *a Programme Steering Committee and National Focal Points*. Dedicated Technical Working Groups are often created to address specific projects or issues.

The scope and context of the IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plan differ from the other work plan since it is hosting the IPMU at its Secretariat. In other words, *the IOC in its capacity as the Regional Authorising Officer bears two caps*, one as a PMU for the IOC as DMRO to cater for its member states like the other DMRO and as the apex or integrated PMU for the Programme Integration Management of Ecofish. Thus, to avoid any confusion in the mind of the stakeholders, the Steering Committee for the IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plan is labelled as a *Sub-Regional Technical Committee*. Additionally, to ascertain a judicious coverage of the beneficiary coastal countries of the Horn of Africa, it is proposed to set up *Sub-regional Technical Working Group* at IGAD which is connected to the IOC Sub-Regional Technical Working Group. The approach would integrate all the beneficiary countries of the IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plan. Nobody is left behind.

The DMRO are the frontline beneficiaries and promoters of the cross-regional fisheries policies and economic strategic tools. The creation of a Sub-Regional Technical Working Group (SR-TWG) at the marine-related DMRO is imperative for the strategic orientation, coordination and oversight of the sub-regional chapter of those cross-regional initiatives. The latter is expected to facilitate effective collaboration with the relevant Ministries and competent agencies of their partner countries. It was thought necessary for the DMRO to resolve the existing issues of overlapping memberships which responsible for the potential duplication of efforts and wastage of resources. The Ecofish Programme,

particularly the IOC Marine Fisheries WP should avoid by-passing the DMRO to work directly the beneficiary countries as it would undermine the expected regional value-added.

Regional projects require a National Focal Point (NFP) to coordinate and facilitate their activities at the national level. Ecofish intends to build on lessons learned of SmartFish to improve the concept of NFP to make it more responsive to the principles of Sustainable Development. It requires a paradigm shift from silo or linear to a more integrative or multidisciplinary approach. Without no significant additional cost or any institutional upheavals, the integrative NFP would constitute a panel of national thematic experts under the leadership of the representative of the parent Ministry. In this case, the NFP would play a more proactive role by providing strategic orientation, expert advice, multi-stakeholder consultation, coordination and monitoring of national chapter of the sub-regional/regional projects. In other words, it expected to act as one-stop-shop for the mainstreaming of the Ecofish initiatives.

### Comments

- a) Bottom line, the setting up of the devolved programme governance mechanisms is critical for the success of the Ecofish Programme. It is a reality check of the influence and interest of the DMRO in national policies and institutions. It is a bet worth making for enhancing regional economic cooperation in the fisheries sector.
- b) The proposed arrangement would iron out the issues of overlapping mandates and memberships between the DMRO and beneficiary countries and would contribute to the development of adequate institutional linkages between the DMRO, RFB/RFMO and partner countries.
- c) There is no risk of duplication of regional and national mechanisms because they are conceived as an ad hoc and temporary vehicle of the programme. The Ecofish Programme is a unique initiative for promoting the political economy of regional sustainable fisheries.
- d) A Concept Note, including the specified frameworks or guidelines for the setting up of the devolved programme governance structures, would be prepared and circulated to the DMRO and Development Partner for feedback and approval.

### Conclusion / Recommendation

- a) The proposed programme governance mechanisms would overcome the inefficiencies related to the existing overlapping membership among the DMRO without undermining their political influence and interest whatsoever. The DMRO are invited to adopt and support these Best Practices.
- b) The DMRO are in the driving seat of the IOC - marine fisheries Work Plan and are therefore advised to examine the Concept Note and the frameworks /guidelines for the setting up of the appropriate programme governance structures, e.g. the SR-TWG and NFP in their respective constituency.
- c) The DMRO were encouraged to propose alternative options, if any, that can fulfil the objectives of the devolved programme governance mechanisms.
- d) Actions should not be delayed on the setting up of the aforementioned structures as they are the backbone for rolling out the intended regional strategic projects. The risk of falling back to a bilateral arrangement between the programme and member states as in the case of SmartFish should be systematically avoided.
- e) DMRO would be eventually assisted by a STE for establishing/operationalising the sub-regional and national programme governance structures.

[Cf. Annex 11](#)

### Module 4 – LVFO PE and Work Plan

LVFO has been granted a total amount of 2 M EUR by the Ecofish programme to implement its Work Plan that would be managed indirectly by the EUD of Mauritius in collaboration with the EUD of Uganda.

Dr Rhoda Tumwebaze talked briefly about the genesis of the LVFO PE and Work Plan since the approval of the Start-Up PE in October 2019. A regional multi-stakeholder consultative meeting that led to the Steering Committee Meeting for approving the LVFO PE and Work Plan took place on 20-24 January 2020 in Kisumu, Kenya. Members of the TAT were present to assist in the formulation of the programme documents.

The PE and Work Plan are ready to be submitted to the EUD of Uganda and Mauritius for approval. The presentation consisted of an overview of the multi-annual Work Plan which is related to Result 1 and 2 with a spotlight on the intended activities of Year 1.

### Comment

- a) At the recent LVFO Steering Committee, the partner states were solicited to contribute an amount of 35,000 EUR each to make up the shortage of fund for the implementation of the Regional Frame Survey of the Lake Fisheries. The proposal ought to have been highlighted in the presentation.
- b) The NKE requirement for the LVFO Work Plan has been identified and would be finalised jointly by the LVFO PMU and the TAT in due course.
- c) The LVFO Work Plan would also benefit from the backstopping services of the TAT, including a regionally integrated Communication Plan.

### Conclusion/Recommendation: None

The meeting took note of the status of the LVFO PE and Work Plan.

### Cf. Annex 12

### Module 5 - LTA Work Plan

The Ecofish Programme has allocated a total budget of 2M EUR to the LTA Work Plan which is managed by the EUD of Burundi. The preparation of the Contribution Agreement Work Plan was delayed due to the process of amendment to the Ecofish Financial Agreement to replace ENABEL by the FAO as the implementing partner.

Dr Beatrice Marva presented the high-level log frame of the LTA Work Plan. She informed the gathering that the Contribution Agreement between LTA and FAO would be signed soon.

She recalled that in October 2019 a STE for 10 working days was procured by the EUD of Mauritius through the NKE pool to her organisation for drafting the LTA Work Plan. The MCS and Communication and Visibility Expert of the TAT also visited the LTA and partners in last October to contribute to the strategic orientation of the programme.

### Comment

- a) The future NKE requirements of the LTA Work Plan would be planned jointly by the TAT and LTA PMU shortly after the approval of the Contribution Agreement and Work Plan.
- b) To explore the prospects of effective collaboration between LTA and LVFO in fisheries management under the EAF (East African Federation). The initiative may be extended judiciously to other regional inland water systems for sharing lessons learned and best practices.
- c) The LTA Work Plan would also benefit from the backstopping services of the TAT, including a regionally integrated Communication Plan.

### Conclusion/Recommendation: None

The meeting took note of the status of LTA PE and Work Plan.

### Cf. Annex 13

### Module 6 - Status of the IOC - Marine Fisheries Multi-Annual and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Work Plans

The module is decomposed into 3 interconnected components that provide comprehensive view Result 1 and 2 as well as the Communication & Visibility which is a cross-cutting area.

### Module 6.1 Result 1 - Enhanced Policy and Institutional Frameworks

Dr Sunil Sweenarain emphasized on the strategic orientation of the Result 1 to capitalise on the regional value-added of the regional economic and fisheries organisations in promoting sustainable, inclusive and climate-smart small-scale fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region. He presented an updated situational analysis that was accompanied by a realistic theory of change, Work Plan and hypotheses for rolling out the IOC - Marine Work Plan. He pointed out that the Ecofish programme is a unique/golden opportunity for empowering the DMRO to play a more proactive and iterative role in unleashing the development potentials of the small-scale fisheries for attaining the socio-economic aspirations of the UN SDG 2030 and the Africa Agenda 2063.

Dr Sunil presented a business case for significant savings on the Result 1 budget by adopting an integrative project engineering instead of the convention *“one problem at a time”* approach. The activities earmarked under the eight strategic actions were transformed into a series of meaningful regional fisheries economic projects to enable informed policy-making and monitoring. A detailed Work Plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year of operation, including the implementation modalities, relevant input and output indications and milestones were revealed.

To ensure a smooth cruise of Result 1, it would be imperative to provide ***an immediate STE of 60 working days over 3 calendar months*** to boost the fisheries capabilities of the DMRO. Dr Sunil also anticipated the recruitment of a home-based ***Regional Programme Coordinator*** to support the four African REC in the implementation of the intended cross-regional projects and a ***Programme Assistant*** at the IPMU to cope with the projected workload. Those two appointments were foreseen by the end of the first semester of 2020. Against the backdrop of the above narrative, the IOC Secretariat and the EUD of Mauritius are to ascertain that their existing functional capacities are adequate to cope with the projected workload to avoid bottlenecks/inefficiencies in the project management processes.

### Comment

IGAD reaffirmed its willingness to undertake an in-depth situational analysis for the setting up of a tailored Regional Fisheries Body to thrive the sustainable management of the inland and marine capture fisheries in the countries of the Horn of African. The activity is inscribed at 1.4.4 of the IOC - Marine Fisheries Log Frame

### Conclusions and Recommendations

- a) To procure an initial STE for 60 working days over 3 calendar months for the each of the 5 DMRO to support their Focal Point in the operationalisation of the relevant Programme Governance Structures and in the strategic planning of the sub-regional chapter of regional strategic projects through synergistic collaboration. The TOR would be developed jointly by the IPMU and DMRO.
- b) To appoint a home-based Regional Programme Coordinator or Liaison offer to facilitate and support the activities of Result 1 and 3 across the 4 African REC/DMRO. The arrangement should be completed at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2020.

- c) To recruit an experienced Programme Assistant at the IPMU to assist in the project management activities of the Ecofish Programme, particularly Result 1.
- d) The IOC Secretariat and EUD of Mauritius to ensure that their existing functional services are adequate to cope with the projected workload generated by the Ecofish Programme.

[Cf. Annex 14](#)

### Module 6.2 Result 2 - Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Mr Pedro Güemes presented the 1st Year Work Plan for the IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plan Result 2. He explained that the top priority of the programme was to reactivate the IOC PRSP which is dormant since the closing of SmartFish in April 2018. The IOC-PRSP is considered as the springboard to strengthening the MCS operations in the SWIO region. The programme bands 8 participating countries namely 5 IOC member states and 3 East African countries: Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya. It has its own institutional governance structures in the form of a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) and an Extended-RCU. The RCU is due to be restarted soon since most of the participating countries have already nominated their national MCS Focal Points.

#### **Comment**

- a) SADC proposed to stretch the IOC-PRSP to South-East Atlantic Ocean by including Republic of South Africa (RSA) and Namibia. However, it might not be a feasible option since the Atlantic Ocean is not covered by PRSP neither ECOFISH.
- b) The Republic of South Africa and Somalia have expressed their willingness to join the IOC-PRSP at the Ministerial Conference of July 2017 in Madagascar. The process would be reactivated soon.
- c) IOC-PRSP would continue to collaborate with IOTC on strengthening several MCS mechanisms to improve the Compliance Indices of the SWIO states and capacity building activities related to the Port State Measures Agreement, National and Regional Observers Programme and so on.
- d) LVFO requested clear guidelines to assure the appropriate use of drones under the current national legislations

#### **Conclusion & Recommendation**

- a) The sustainability of the regional MCS operations in the capture fisheries is a major challenge that should be addressed by the Ecofish in collaboration with the regional and national stakeholders.
- b) The IOC-PRSP would consider the possibilities of exchange MCS information with existing regional and global networks. Appropriate protocols would be established with other regional MCS Centres.
- c) ECOFISH Programme technical assistant will visit and meet IOTC Secretariat to discuss the approaches of collaboration with Ecofish in Port State Measures, National and Regional Observers Programme and small-scale fisheries MCS.
- d) IOTC recommend lobbying Directors General of Fisheries to strength governments commitments and encourage to the Ministries in funding some of the activities to assure sustainability of actions

[Cf. Annex 15](#)

### Module 6.3 - Communication and Visibility (cross-cutting)

Mrs Elizabeth Lawson presented the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Ecofish Programme. She emphasised on a Branding Strategy and on various communication tools for awareness building, cultural development and social innovations.

#### **Comments**

- a) It was reminded that the Ecofish Programme is a cross-regional initiative and all the partners are to be involved in the communication strategy.
- b) The Communication and Visibility Strategy should also focus on the interactions between the EUD and DMRO

**Conclusion and Recommendation:**

- a) The next stage is to complete the Branding of Ecofish and the development of appropriate communication tools and regional networks.

Cf. Annex 16

**Module 7 – Activities of the TAT**

Dr Sunil made a short presentation to provide salient information on the terms of reference of the TAT. He pointed out that only the FE/TL is on a full-time basis. It might be necessary to review the schedule of the other two team members to cope with the projected workload soon after the operationalisation of the IPMU. He also stressed on the fact that the TAT is overarching and cross-cutting in the sense that it supports all the Work Plans, including the programme integration management. Due emphasis was laid on its mandatory reporting requirements. As an indication, Dr Sunil assumed that the time allocation of the TAT is as follows: IPMU (20%); IOC - Marine Fisheries Work Plan (Result 1 and 2): 40%; Result 3 – CFP: 20%, LTA: 10% and LVFO 10%.

Comment: None

Cf. Annex 17

**Module 8 - Programme Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan**

Dr Sunil claimed that there has been much speculation about the MEL processes with regard to the Ecofish Programme and it was high time to demystify it. He informed that the MEL is neither an afterthought nor an exogenous activity but an integral part of the project management activities that are initiated at the planning phase. The proposed MEL and Quality Assurance Plan of the Ecofish Programme are in-built in the project cycle management processes to establish Key Performance Indicators, in terms of Inputs, Processes, Intermediate Outputs and verified deliverables. Due emphasis is laid on project sustainability criteria such as ownership, sustainable financing and appropriate exit strategies. Several tools and techniques developed by the latter during the final phase of SmartFish Programme, including a projectized approach whereby work package is considered as a project of its own; a Factsheet or Dashboard which is a synthesized Concept Note or Road Map accompanied by Key Performance Indicators. He also stated that it would not be realistic and cost-effective to undertake an ex-post impact assessment of the Ecofish Programme. In keeping with the above intricacies of MEL, a pragmatic approach has been developed meet up the expectations of the Ecofish Programme.

Comment: None

Cf. Annex 18

**Module 9 – Programme Administration and Finance**

There was no much of reporting in this area since the Ecofish Programme is predominantly at the pre-operational phase. The LVFO PE and LTA Contribution Agreement and Work Plans are still in the pipeline. The IOC - Marine Fisheries PE and Work Plans were approved on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 but the IPMU is expected to be operational by the end of March 2020. Regarding Result 3 – Call for Proposals, the EUD of Mauritius informed that the letter of award has been issued and due care is being taken to

minimise the amount of unused fund on the component. It is expected that the awarded projects would touch the ground latest by June 2020.

Some extra-budgetary resources are anticipated from La Reunion/France, an IOC member to participate and contribute to the objectives of the Ecofish Programme. The latter would mobilise additional financial resources through European Union Regional Development Fund (EU-RDF) and Inter-Regional (INTER REG) Funds to support Regional Fisheries Surveillance Patrols in the SWIO industrial tuna fisheries (Result 2) and the Sustainable Modernisation of the small-scale tuna value chain in the region (Result 1). These budgets are managed directly by the stakeholders in La Reunion/France.

**Comment:** The Chairman has highlighted that during the next meeting, the projects have to present the engagements and the disbursements according to the annual plans. The TAT to prepare a template for the next meeting.

[Cf. Annex 19](#)

### Module 10 – Policy Dialogues & Partner Interactions

The DMRO presented an update on the fisheries sector of their respective constituency, including the inherent prospects and challenges for sustainability and their short-term expectations from the Ecofish Programme. The narratives are captured in the following annexes.

[Cf. Annex 20 - EAC](#)

[Cf. Annex 21 - COMESA](#)

[Cf. Annex 22 - IGAD](#)

[Cf. Annex 23 – SADC](#)

The RFMO and RFB of the IOC - marine fisheries, IOTC and SWIOFC were also invited to brief the delegates on the health of the fish stocks and ecosystems as well as the challenges of sustainable management of industrial and small-scale fisheries in the region.

[Cf. Annex 24 - IOTC](#)

[Cf. Annex 25 – SWIOFC](#)

### [Closing of the Meeting](#)

Mr Raj Mohabeer thanked the EUD of Mauritius, the TAT and all the delegates for the fruitful deliberations during the meeting. He extended his gratitude to the host country and to AU-IBAR for its seamless collaboration in the organisation of the event.

The representative of SADC was nominated as the Chair for the next PSC meeting while the dates and venue of the event would be finalised at a later stage. Dr Motseki took pride in accepting the chairmanship while acknowledging the responsibilities that go along with it.

Ms Carla Osorio congratulated the members of the high table and the delegates for the excellent job done. She acknowledged that Ecofish has been a brainchild of the EUD of Mauritius that she has nurtured since 2017 and proud to see it flying its own wings now. Having completed four years as the Head of Cooperation at the EUD of Mauritius, she would be probably relocated to the HQ in Brussels.

Dr Mohamed Seisay expressed his content to the innovative inter-organisational friendship promoted by Ecofish. He apologized for walking in and out of the meeting because he was committed to another high-profile event that was running side-by-side. He looked forward to strengthening the collaboration



## Ecofish Programme for the EA-SA-IO Region Cross-Regional Envelope of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF



with Ecofish through the upcoming Fisheries Governance Programme 2. He wished all the delegate a safe journey back home before closing the meeting.

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