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Implementation of the EU Funded E€OFISH Programme of the Eastern
African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region under Cross-
Regional Envelope of the 11th EDF

Relates to agenda item: 14.5

Proposal Working Paper Information Paper Other Document

Delegation of EU

SUMMARY

The E€OFISH Programme is funded to the tune of EUR 28 million under the cross regional envelope of the EDF11 Regional Indicative Programme of the Eastern African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region. The Financing Agreement was signed between the European Union (EU) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in September 2018.

The overall objective of the E€OFISH programme is to enhance equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region. The specific objective is to support sustainable management and development of fisheries, while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity.

It has three result areas which include marine related fisheries.

The main expected results are:

Result 1: Regional policies and institutional frameworks are enhanced to secure more sustainable fisheries management and contribute to marine biodiversity and climate resilience;

Result 2: Strengthened capacity to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the EA-SA-IO region;
and

Result 3: Concrete fisheries management and governance initiatives in small-scale inland and marine fisheries are supported with the possibilities of replication at regional level.

INFORMATION PAPER

Implementation of the E€OFISH Programme of the Eastern African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region under Cross-Regional Envelope of the 11th EDF

(Financing Agreement RSO/FED/39-977)

1.0 Background information

The E€OFISH Programme is funded to the tune of EUR 28 million under the cross regional envelope of the EDF11 Regional Indicative Programme of the Eastern African, Southern African and Indian Ocean region. The Financing Agreement was signed between the European Union (EU) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) in September 2018.

The **overall objective** of the E€OFISH programme is *to enhance equitable economic growth by promoting sustainable fisheries in the EA-SA-IO region*. The **specific objective** is to support sustainable management and development of fisheries, while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity.

It has three result areas and would address marine related fisheries and inland fisheries (focussing essentially on two lakes - Tanganyika and Victoria).

The **main expected results** are:

Result 1: Regional policies and institutional frameworks are enhanced to secure more sustainable fisheries management and contribute to marine biodiversity and climate resilience;

Result 2: Strengthened capacity to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the EA-SA-IO region; and

Result 3: Concrete fisheries management and governance initiatives in small-scale inland and marine fisheries are supported with the possibilities of replication at regional level.

Results 1 & 2 are implemented in indirect management with IOC for marine fisheries (EUR 9.5 mio through a Programme Estimate) and with FAO for Lake Tanganyika (EUR 2 mio) and through a Programme Estimate with Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO) for Lake Victoria (EUR 2 mio).

Result 3 is implemented through a Call for proposals (EUR 8 mio) managed directly by the EU Delegation Mauritius. A Technical Assistance Team (TAT) is being recruited by the EU Delegation for supporting EUD Mauritius and IOC in the implementation of the programme.

Support to RFMOs to address essentially Result 1 is foreseen under the marine related PE which is currently being elaborated jointly with IOC in consultation with other RECs and RFMOs.

2.0 Main activities

The **major activities** foreseen are:

Result 1: Regional policies and institutional frameworks are enhanced to secure more sustainable fisheries management (*indirect management with DMRO for marine fisheries & indirect management with two different entities in Burundi and Uganda for inland fisheries*)

Specific activities will be defined together with the RFBs and RFMOs (SWIOFC, IOTC, SIOFA, LTA and LVFO), based on their respective work plans. These activities may include possible support to coastal states to ensure compliance with agreed regional policies/recommendations. Coordination with the World Bank and DG MARE will ensure that

there is no duplication in interventions. Capacity building and technical assistance will be provided whenever warranted.

Strategic actions:

- Enhance regional cooperation in the sustainable management of shared resources in the inland and marine fisheries;
- Evaluate and review existing management plans and/or develop and support the implementation of new management plans for species and/or fisheries of regional interest;
- Promote coherent regional registration and licensing frameworks in the small-scale inland and marine fisheries;
- Strengthen the technical and administrative capacities of RFBs to improve service delivery at regional level;
- Facilitate collaboration with other regional institutions in charge of natural resources management (e.g. Regional Sea Conventions) and synergies with relevant programmes;
- Improve data collection and data management in support of more evidence based regional policies;
- Map changes in the range of fish species and strengthening the monitoring of fish stocks to determine the impacts on fish populations of climate change and other factors;
- Support the adoption and implementation of management measures aiming at protecting marine biodiversity with regional impacts.

Result 2: Strengthened capacity to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the EA-SA-IO region

Activity 1: Strengthening the capacity to fight IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean region through improved regional coordination mechanisms (indirect with DMRO and direct management with National Competent Authorities)

Strategic actions: With a view to fostering regional cooperation for combating IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean and in continuation of the PRSP, the following activities are proposed:

- Support inter-regional (at regional level), inter-agency (at national level) and inter-governmental MCS cooperation, coordination and harmonisation processes in the EA-SA-IO region in view of a more effective fight against IUU fishing at regional level;
- Support exchanges of experiences and the development of coordinated approaches to improve MCS of artisanal and semi-artisanal vessels targeting shared marine resources;
- Organise and coordinate joint sea and aerial patrols with National Competent Authorities in continuation of the Joint Regional Fisheries Patrol Programme of the IOC-PRSP (*Grant - direct management*);
- Facilitate the interoperability of systems and exchange of data at (sub)regional level;
- 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;
- Provide capacity-building and technical assistance on certification and traceability schemes;
- Encourage synergies with other regional initiatives including marine security programmes;
- Establishment of a regional risk assessment framework with the support of EFCA through a twinning programme.

If required, the programme could also support regional and national observer schemes, in complement to SWIOFish activities.

Activity 2: Develop regional MCS frameworks for the inland fisheries

Strategic actions:

- Establish and implement a regional MCS system that encompasses, among others, the development of regional guidelines or framework on fisheries licensing, the establishment of user rights-based management systems (control of open access);
- Build capacity to implement inland monitoring and surveillance programmes;
- Support capacity building for harmonised enforcement, compliance and prosecution procedures in the inland fisheries sector.

Result 3: Concrete fisheries management and governance initiatives in small-scale inland and marine fisheries are supported with the possibilities of replication at regional level
(direct management through Call for Proposals)

Strategic actions:

- Support the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security;
- Support activities that aim at reducing overfishing and excess capacity, including adjusting fleet composition;
- Strengthen community-based management of small-scale fisheries (inland and marine) including participative surveillance;
- Support to biodiversity conservation and rehabilitation measures;
- Encourage value addition and food losses reduction through value chain approaches;
- Support fisheries and fish product safety and standard from production to consumption;
- Support the continuation and/or replication at regional level of successful pilot initiatives initiated under the EDF10 SmartFish programme.

The call will focus on fisheries and value chains of regional interest i.e. shared fisheries or fisheries present in different countries of the region. The Regional Coordination Unit and Technical Assistance will monitor the implementation of these different projects to ensure synergies with the other components of the programme.

3.0 State of Play

i) Marine-related Programme Estimates (to be signed with IOC) – EUR 9.5 million
(to address Results 1 & 2)

This PE is currently under preparation by IOC in consultation with other RECs and RFMOs. Following meeting with the Executive Secretary of SIOFA on 07 June 2019, it appears that some actions related to the provision of technical assistance and stock assessment, control and management of catch and enforcement in favour of SIOFA could be supported under this PE.

ii) Call for Proposals to address Result 3 (EUR 8 million)

The **global objective** of this call for proposals is to strengthen economic, social and environmental sustainability of small scale fisheries in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region. The **specific objectives** of this call for proposals are to:

- a) Promote sustainable management of small scale fisheries;
- b) Increase the contribution of small scale fisheries to sustainable growth;
- c) Contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities.

The Call for Proposals was launched on 22 May 2019 with deadline to submit Concept Note the **31 July 2019**.

The Call is opened to non-governmental organisation, public sector operator (government bodies), local authority, a Non-State Actor (NSA), a business organisation (producer organisation, MSMEs, cooperatives and social enterprises), a research institute constituted in accordance with the legislation in force in the Member States of the five Duly Mandated Regional Organisations of the EA-SA-IO region, or an international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 43 of the rules of application of the EU Financial Regulation.

14 JUNE 2019