



IMPROVING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' COMPLIANCE WITH IOTC CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. It aims to promote cooperation among the Contracting Parties (Members) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (collectively referred to as CPCs) of the IOTC, with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the organization's establishing Agreement, and to encourage sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. The proposed actions of this project were related to the implementation of Article X of the IOTC Agreement and the IOTC's Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), which the beneficiary countries continue to have difficulties implementing. The primary objective of the project was to strengthen the ability of fisheries administrations of IOTC developing coastal States CPCs to meet their obligations to sustainably manage the fish stocks under the mandate of the IOTC. The project focused on IOTC CPCs.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project provided legal support to IOTC developing States to review fisheries and related national legislation, identify legislative gaps, and determine how these gaps could be filled using the IOTC Legislative Framework. Assistance was also provided in the drafting of legislation required to give full effect to the IOTC Resolutions. A Compliance Support Mission was undertaken, comprising, among other things, a review of reporting requirements on vessels, mandatory statistical requirements, management standards and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) tools, and the implementation of management measures on bycatch and non-IOTC species. As a result of capacity-building activities organized in this area, fisheries administrators and officers from Bangladesh, Malaysia and Somalia were better prepared to implement IOTC CMMs. Support was also provided to the developing coastal States CPCs responsible for the implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM), to promote the implementation of PSM to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Funding was provided to support the participation of CPCs classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), resulting in greater participation by the least developed IOTC Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties at the second and third meetings of the Working Party on the Implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (WPICMM). In addition, an Infractions Guide for Fisheries Inspectors in the Context of the IOTC was developed, to support IOTC CPCs to enforce IOTC CMMs.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 216 346

Duration

January 2018 – June 2020

Resource Partner

European Union (EU)

Partners

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Beneficiaries

All IOTC Contracting and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (which are also FAO member nations)



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IMPACT

The project is expected to contribute to Strategic Objective 2 (Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner), by improving the compliance of CPCs to the objectives of the IOTC.



ACTIVITIES

- Fisheries legislation of one CPC (Malaysia) reviewed.
- Final technical report containing draft Fisheries (High Seas Fishing) Regulations produced, together with explanatory notes providing the rationale underlying each proposed regulation.
- Compliance Support Mission and PSM/electronic PSM reporting platform (e-PSM) training session undertaken in Malaysia for seven participants from Department of Fisheries; and similar capacity-building exercise held at IOTC Secretariat, Seychelles, for five officers from Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Federal Government of Somalia.
- Compliance Support Mission undertaken in Bangladesh; and Compliance Action Plan produced, outlining a range of actions to improve implementation of requirements and resolutions.
- Manuals to guide IOTC members to implement CMMS training package produced, and delivered to IOTC CPCs.
- Draft IOTC MCS scheme and draft Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) developed, and presented at IOTC workshop held in Maputo, Mozambique.



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Project Title
Technical Assistance to Developing Countries to improve compliance with IOTC Conservation and Management Measures

Contact
Gerard Domingue (Lead Technical Officer)
Gerard.Domingue@fao.org



Business Development and Resource Mobilization Division
Outreach, Marketing and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org