



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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**Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций**

SEC/R1113 (Bi)

**FAO
Fisheries and
Aquaculture Report**

**Доклад ФАО по
рыболовству и
аквакультуре**

ISSN 2070-6987

**CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS REGIONAL FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE COMMISSION
РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ КОМИССИЯ ПО РЫБНОМУ ХОЗЯЙСТВУ И
АКВАКУЛЬТУРЕ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ И НА КАВКАЗЕ**

Report of the

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN AND CAUCASUS
REGIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE COMMISSION**

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 18–20 May 2015

Протокол мероприятия

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РЫБНОМУ ХОЗЯЙСТВУ И АКВАКУЛЬТУРЕ В ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ
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ISBN 978-92-5-008984-3

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the Fourth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), which was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 18 to 20 May 2015. The report was prepared by CACFish Secretariat.

The material in the appendixes is reproduced as submitted.

FAO. 2016.

Report of the Fourth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 18–20 May 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1113. Ankara. 65 pp.

ABSTRACT

The Fourth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 18 to 20 May 2015. The session was attended by the representatives of five member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The session was also attended by the following invited States: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan. The Commission adopted the following thematic scientific and technical recommendations produced by the Technical Advisory Committee at its third meeting held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 16–18 February 2015: (i) Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) Inland fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The Commission reviewed the progress made in implementing the CACFish Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2015) and endorsed the second-term Five-Year Regional Work Programme covering the period 2016–2020. The Commission adopted its autonomous budget for 2015. In addition, the Commission decided to hold its regular sessions every two years after its fifth session in 2016.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Fourth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 18 to 20 May 2015 at the kind invitation of the Government of Mongolia. The following countries attended the session as members of the Commission: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The session was also attended by the following invited States: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan. The list of participants is provided in Appendix 2.

2. The Chairperson of the Commission, Dr Nihat Pakdil (Turkey), opened the session, welcomed the delegates and cordially thanked the Government of Mongolia for hosting the session. Referring to the objectives and mandate of the Commission, he underlined the progress made by the Commission in a relatively short time on conserving, managing and developing fisheries and aquaculture resources. He gave a number of examples of the technical recommendations produced by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) related to the regional priorities. He urged the session to properly translate the recommendations into national practices. He thanked those present for their support during his tenure, starting with the Inaugural Session of the Commission. He then invited Mr Tsengel Tsegmid, State Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia, to address the audience.

3. In his welcoming speech, Mr Tsegmid provided a brief historical overview of the Mongolian fisheries. He added that fish consumption and recreational fisheries had witnessed a rapid increase in the past decade despite not yet attaining the required level. Protection of fisheries resources, restoration of the environment, fish cultivation, and promotion of ecotourism were identified as national key priority policy issues. He briefed the session about the successful national framework that sets the legal rules for the management and conservation of fisheries resources. The organization of the session in Mongolia was seen as a promising opportunity for enhancement of multilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries. The opening remarks are given in the Appendix 3.

4. A welcoming address was also made by Thomas Moth-Poulsen, the CACFish Secretary, who welcomed those attending and thanked the Government of Mongolia for its hospitality and support in hosting the session. He highlighted the importance of the protection and conservation of the fish biodiversity and high number of endemic species that Mongolia is characterized by. He addressed the relevance of the technical assistance provided by FAO, which cover a wide range of technical areas, including recreational fisheries and ecosystem-based fisheries management. He thanked the delegates and representatives of the invited States for contributing much to the notable outcomes of the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Commission adopted the provisional agenda without changes, as provided in Appendix 1 to this report. Appendix 4 contains a list of documents submitted to the Commission before the session.

SECRETARIAT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE, OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

6. Discussions were based on working document CACFish/IV/2015/2. The CACFish Secretariat briefed the session on the administrative, operational and financial issues addressed during the 2014–15 intersessional period.

7. Information on the activities of the intersessional period was provided. In respect of the Five-Year Regional Work Programme of the Commission (RWP) (2011–15), it was stated that the RWP had been partially implemented owing to budget limitations.

8. The Secretariat informed the session that the Commission had adopted a considerable number of scientific recommendations since the Inaugural Session (2011).

9. In addition, details were given on the status of member contributions to the autonomous CACFish budget. Details on intersessional period expenditures as well as budget highlights were also provided. The Secretariat reiterated the need to receive prompt payment of annual contributions, as well as contributions in arrears, in order to facilitate the smooth implementation of the activities of the Commission.

10. The Commission appreciated the Secretariat's continued efforts to increase the visibility of the Commission, while at the same time looking for ways to enhance the operational efficiencies and technical capacity of the Commission.

REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME (2011–15) OF THE COMMISSION

11. The session was given an update by the Secretariat on progress with the implementation of the RWP (2011–15) based on the document CACFish/IV/2015/3. It was stressed that certain programme activities had not been fully implemented owing to budgetary limitations. However, it was stated that the programme had delivered considerable outputs, particularly in respect of its governance and aquaculture components. The external supports provided, either directly or indirectly, by the regional FAO projects were identified as the key driving factors, contribution to overall performance of the RWP. The session acknowledged the significant contribution of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, which was implemented in the period 2009–14, to the RWP.

12. Several delegations and representatives of the invited States acknowledged the positive momentum of regional cooperation gained in recent years, particularly through the donor-supported programmes and projects. The significant support and contribution of Turkey as well as the high-quality region-wide technical assistance provided by FAO were noted by the session. It was mentioned that CACFish had become more and more visible as it had registered many achievements in a relatively short period. Further contributions and technical assistance were seen as vital considering the fact that many countries in the Central Asian and Caucasus region continued to face challenges caused by significant declines in total fish production in recent decades. Promotions of adaptive management and conservation measures in accordance with FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries were suggested. Attention was also paid to seafood traceability as well as the monitoring of trade in endangered species. The representative of an invited State recommended that flyers, brochures and posters of the outcomes of the projects and programmes be disseminated to stakeholders.

13. It was stated that Component 4 (Post-harvest Activities) and Component 5 (Research and Capacity Development) of the RWP had registered comparatively less progress than other components. Therefore, it was highlighted that a proper focus should be placed on the research and capacity development component of the RWP, which critically relies on the development of a regional education and training programme as well as a researcher exchange scheme. The Secretariat expressed a need to explore possible ways of securing external financial resources for the full implementation of the RWP, by addressing donor agencies active in the region.

SECOND-TERM FIVE-YEAR REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME (2016–2020)

14. The Secretariat presented the proposed Second-term Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2016–2020) of the Commission (RWP2). It was explained that previous monitoring and evaluation remarks and recommendations of the TAC in respect of the first RWP had been taken into consideration in the formulation of the RWP2, which had been prepared by the Secretariat. It was noted that RWP2, as contained in the document CACFish/IV/2015/4, also included the amendments made by the TAC at its third meeting, all of which related to the proposed activities of the five technical components of the RWP2. It was highlighted that the RWP2 should seek to achieve the following key objectives while also assuming a close collaboration with non-member States: strengthening the institutional, scientific, technical and legal capacities in order to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living aquatic resources in the CACFish area of coverage.

15. The Programme was then reviewed by the Commission, which expressed its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat and the TAC. Numerous comments were made, by both member States and invited States, in support of the implementation of the RWP2. Discussion revolved around the total budget and the regional education and training programme foreseen under Component 5 of RWP2. The session was invited to explore possible ways of finding external funding for the implementation of the education and training programme. Turkey expressed its interest in supporting the regional education and training programme.

16. The programme was found essential for the further enhancement of regional capacities in the management, conservation and development of fisheries resources. The due implementation of the programme in collaboration with key stakeholders was regarded as important for the achievement of medium-terms targets of the Commission, which assume a gradual expansion of its area of coverage with relatively increased administrative, advisory, management and financial power. Few suggestions were made for a strengthened collaboration mechanism under the proposed RWP2; included were assignment of two subregional coordinators and the splitting of the coordination efforts into two identified separate technical fields: fisheries and aquaculture. However, the session agreed to keep the original collaboration mechanism set for RWP2.

17. Following the review discussions, the Commission adopted RWP2 covering the period 2016–2020 as amended by the TAC. The adopted second phase of RWP is provided in the Appendix 5. It was stated that, as with the first RWP, RWP2 would be subject to regular monitoring, evaluation and updates, both by the TAC and Commission, in order to keep pace with changing conditions, requirements and budget resources.

18. The Commission noted the importance of the support, ownership and proper involvement of both the member and non-member States for accelerated achievement of the RWP. The session generally agreed that the RWP would significantly serve for the strengthening of an overall region-wide institutional capacity upgrade through ad-hoc training sessions, workshops, technical assistance and guidance. Appreciation was also expressed for the likely cooperation instruments between FAO regional projects and programmes, and the RWP.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE GENERATED BY THE TAC

19. Dr Chinara Imankulova, the Chairperson of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), gave a presentation of the recent scientific and technical advice of the TAC generated at its third meeting held on 18–20 February 2015 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The presentation included the following TAC scientific and technical advice as contained in the document CACFish/IV/2015/5: (i) Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) Fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The session found these issues highly relevant to regulation and development of fisheries and aquaculture within the CACFish area of coverage. The implementation of the Guidelines presented by FAO in 2014 was, among other things, seen as a useful international instrument for increasing the profile of the small-scale fisheries in the CACFish area of competence.

20. Following brief supportive comments, the recommendations and associated actions of the TAC were adopted in the form proposed by the Committee (see Appendix 6). More discussions took place regarding the proposed intersessional activities of the TAC, in particular, the workshop on conservation of genetic resources and sample analysis for fish genetic identification. The Commission noted the limited knowledge and expertise on advanced molecular biology and genetic techniques in the Central Asian and Caucasus region. Possibilities for the conservation of aquatic genetic resources of the region in the national gene bank established in Trabzon by the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock were discussed. The Turkish delegation expressed its support for such requests. This was greatly appreciated by the Commission, which agreed on the need to build institutional capacity as well as theoretical and practical skills in respect of conserving rare, endangered and endemic species.

COMMISSION'S BUDGET AND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2015

21. The CACFish Secretary introduced the Commission's proposed budget and member contributions for 2015 on the basis of document CACFish/IV/2015/6. The Secretariat stated that despite the existing arrears, the proposed budget of USD180 000 would still allow the Commission to stay on target. The Secretariat underlined that the proposed budget, i.e. USD180 000 had previously considered by Commission as a minimum level and had been expected to be applied for a short transitional period. The Secretariat called the Commission to consider the need to increase the autonomous annual budget for 2016 as the transitional period was approaching its end. Following discussions, the Commission adopted unanimously its autonomous budget of 2015 at the unchanged level of USD180 000. A detailed breakdown of the members' contributions for 2015 is given in Appendix 7.

22. The good budgetary performance of the Commission was noted. Prompt and on-time collection of the contribution was emphasized by the Secretariat. It was explained that some payments of membership contributions had been transferred to other budgets of FAO bodies or projects owing to mistakes made by member States miscoding the CACFish budget codes. The payments should always contain the code letters sent to member States for their deposit of membership contributions for each year. It was stressed that the following code should be sent by each deposit with clear information about the year against which the payment (contribution or arrears) is made: MTF/SEC/005/MUL.

23. A few delegations stated that internal procedures would be in place between respective government authorities in respect of payments of their arrears. Representatives of the invited States reiterated the keen interest of their countries in becoming members of CACFish.

24. The Commission mentioned the national internal procedural difficulties in the allocation and deposit of member contributions to the autonomous CACFish budget. However, the Secretariat emphasized the importance of timely deposits for the implementation of the work programme.

25. The Commission agreed to continue providing financial support for attendance of both the members States and invited States at the events of Commission and its subsidiary bodies. In this regard, the Commission decided to support financially the participation of two representatives and one representative from members and invited States, respectively.

CACFish WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2015–17

26. Referring to document CACFish/IV/2015/5, the Secretariat presented the draft work programme of the TAC as proposed by the Committee at its third meeting. In principle, the Commission supported the activities proposed by the TAC. The Commission agreed on the organization of a regional expert group workshop back-to-back with the Fifth Session of CACFish. The following table includes the details of the endorsed intersessional work programme of the Commission.

Activity	Time/ deadline	Place	Estimated budget (USD)
Regional expert meeting on conservation of genetic resources of fish	TBD	Trabzon, Turkey	30,000
Regional expert group work on small-scale fisheries	2016	Uzbekistan	10,000
Workshop on the collection of fisheries data and information	2016	Kyrgyzstan	25,000
Workshop on habitat restoration	2016	Tajikistan	30,000
A pilot study of inland stock assessment in Tajikistan	2016	Tajikistan	30,000
Fourth meeting of TAC	February 2017	Georgia	30,000
Fifth Session of CACFish	2016	Uzbekistan	35,000

ANY OTHER MATTERS

27. The Commission noted Turkey's proposal to consider organizing the regular sessions of the Commission biennially. The following principal reasons were given for that proposal: (i) to accommodate harmonization with the regular meetings of the TAC, whose frequency shifted to a biennial basis starting from 2015; and (ii) allocation of more budget resources to technical activities of the TAC or the RWP.

28. The session later had extensive discussion on the frequency of the CACFish annual sessions that included varying views. The Secretariat informed the Commission that following the provision set out in Article II(4) of the CACFish agreement would allow the Commission to organize its regular sessions at different intervals: "The Chairperson of the Commission shall normally convene an annual session of the Commission unless otherwise directed by a majority of the members." It was further highlighted that organization of biennial sessions would bring a requirement to enforce the Commission budget for two consecutive years. The Commission finally approved the holding of biennial sessions after the Fifth Session of CACFish, which was scheduled for 2016 as a transitional period, while noting the possibility of organization sessions annually if deemed necessary. In accordance with the approved change, the yearly schedule of the subsequent two regular sessions of the Commission and the meetings of TAC will be as follows:

2016: Fifth Session of the Commission

2017: Fourth meeting of the TAC

2018: Sixth Session of the Commission

2019: Fifth meeting of the TAC

29. The Chairperson, Dr Pakdil, on many occasions linked the regional challenges and targets of the Commission in the context of food security, hunger, nutrition security as well as fair exploitation of the resources. In this regard, he also addressed the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 7–8 May 2015, and emphasized that a lack of capacity to solve fisheries and aquaculture problems in other CACFish member countries was also the responsibility of Turkey, and as such Turkey was ready to assist.

30. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Mongolian Government for hosting the session, great hospitality, and well-organized work.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

31. The representative of Uzbekistan offered to host the Fifth Session of CACFish, in 2016, subject to final official confirmation by the Government of Uzbekistan. This was welcomed by the Commission.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

32. The report was adopted on 20 May 2015.

Agenda

18 May 2015

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Morning Session
09.30-12.30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the Session 2. Adoption of the agenda 3. Secretariat report on administrative, operational and financial issues (document: CACFish/IV/2015/2) 4. Review of Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) (document: CACFish/IV/2015/3) <p style="margin-left: 2em;">Lunch break</p> |
| Afternoon Session
14.00-17.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Second-term Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2016-2020) (document: CACFish/IV/2015/4) 6. Report on recommendations and activities of Technical Advisory Committee (document: CACFish/IV/2015/5) |

19 May 2015

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Morning Session
9.00-12.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Commission Budget and Member Contributions for 2015 (document: CACFish/IV/2015/6) <p style="margin-left: 2em;">Lunch break</p> |
| Afternoon Session
14.00-17.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Work Programme for 2015-2016 inter-sessional period 9. Any other matters 10. Date and place of the next session |

20 May 2015

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Morning Session | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Free time |
| Afternoon Session
15.00-17.00 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Adoption of the Session report |

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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Opening remarks by Dr Nihat Pakdil, CACFish Chairperson

Mr Tsengel Tsegmid,

FAO Esteemed Representative,

Distinguished Delegates,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as the CACFish Chair, first of all, I would like to welcome everyone and wish you a successful meeting and fruitful deliberations. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Mongolia, represented here by Mr. Tsegmid, for hosting this session and for the warm hospitality extended to us.

Since its establishment in 2010, which indicates comparatively short time, the Commission has done remarkable works with gradual achievements in a wide range of areas, including the following: responsible fisheries; aquaculture; protection and exploitation of fisheries resources; development of aquaculture and inland fisheries; and contribution to national food security. In this regard, I thank to the Commission and the countries that provided support to these works and associated achievements.

In line with the objectives envisioned behind its establishment, at its sessions the Commission technically and scientifically discussed numerous prioritized regional issues which led to the generation and adoption of management and conservation recommendations by the Commission. Included area: collection, and dissemination of fisheries data and information; environmental impact assessment in aquaculture; responsible introductions and transfers of fish; inland fish stock assessment; fish breeding and broodstock management. I would like to stress the importance of the translation of the recommendations that produced by researchers and scientists, into national practices in terms of development towards the targets sets for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

I would like reiterate the need for the Commission to have more members in terms of achievement of its aims specified on the CACFish Agreement; continuation of its work in a successful and effective manner while contributing to development, management and conservation of fisheries resources in its competence area. In this context, I thank the non-CACFish members in attendance from whom we expect to become a CACFish member.

Again, thanks to the host country and to those who contributed to the organization of the event. On behalf of the Commission, I again welcome all of you to the Fourth Session and wish a fruitful gathering. I expect to have interactive interventions and discussions from the participants with respect to the agenda items. I believe that the current family-friendly atmosphere would allow us to realize it. Finally, I would like to express that I have had the honour and privilege of being the Chair of this Commission for over the two consecutive terms since the establishment of the CACFish. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all your help, support and collaboration.

**Opening remarks by Mr Tsengel Tsegmid,
State Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia**

Water is an essential component for the existence of life on the Earth.

There are 75 species out of 14 freshwater fish families registered in Mongolia. Fishing for household consumption started in Mongolia in the late 1930s, whereas specialized industrial fishing has been operating since 1956. There is evidence that 800 tons of fish have been exported annually from Buir lake in Dornod Province, Tsagaan Lake in Khubsgul Province and Ugii Lake in Arkhangai Province since the mid-1960s.

Fisheries products for household consumption and sport fishing are expanding rapidly over the past decade, although the demand for fish products in the food consumption of Mongolians is 7.7 times less than the global consumption.

Protecting fish reserves, ensuring natural restocking and cultivating fish, all of these support efficient use of available resources in order to increase the range of food products and to effectively develop fisheries by promoting ecotourism, and as a means of addressing environmental issues.

Activities related to the protection of fish reserves and adequate use are reflected in the Law “On Fauna” (2012) and included into the “National Program for Fish Protection and Cultivation” (2008-2015), which was approved by the Government. In addition, these issues are mentioned in the “National Program for the Protection of Taimen” (2007-2012), approved by the order of the Minister of Environment in 2008. All these programs are implemented successfully.

Fish protection is directly related to the use and conservation of freshwater resources. I am pleased to see that Ulaanbaatar is hosting the 4th session organized by the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations together with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism of Mongolia.

The participation of our country in this session will promote and help to protect fisheries resources, to consume fish efficiently and to enhance multilateral cooperation with Central Asia and the Caucasus. Moreover, I believe that it is important to involve donor organizations in order to protect and efficiently use fisheries resources, and to implement concrete actions.

We still aim to achieve natural restocking of endangered species, to eliminate illegal fishing and to promote sport fishing as one of the main touristic elements in Mongolia by using modern practices and technologies.

I wish you successful session and thank you for attention.

List of documents

Working documents

CACFish/IV/2015/1	Provisional Agenda
CACFish/IV/2015/2	Secretariat Report on Administrative and Financial Issues
CACFish/IV/2015/3	Review of CACFish Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015)
CACFish/IV/2015/4	CACFish Second Five-year Regional Work Programme (2016-2020)
CACFish/IV/2015/5	Report on Recommendations and Activities of the Technical Advisory Committee
CACFish/IV/2015/6	Commission Budget and Member Contributions for 2015

Information documents

CACFish/IV/2015//Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.2	Provisional list of the participants
CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.3	Report of CACFish Third Session (2-4 June 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan)
CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.4	Report of the Third Meeting of TAC (16-18 February 2015, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)
CACFish/IV/2015/Inf.5	Five-year Regional Work Programme (2011-2015) of CACFish

Reference documents

CACFish/IV/2015/Ref.1	Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission
CACFish/IV/2015/Ref.2	Financial Regulations of the Commission
CACFish/IV/2015/Ref.3	Rules of Procedures of the Commission

CACFish Second Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2016-2020)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The second 5-Year Regional Work Programme (2016-2020) (RWP2) replaces the previous work programme covering the period from 2011 to 2015. It however builds on and complements the previous work programme which was, to a significant extent, relied upon external support. RWP2 instead places relatively more focus on the activities that would be undertaken under the autonomous budget of the Commission. Implementation of a regional five-year work programme was an idea suggested by the inter-governmental meetings towards establishment of a Regional Fisheries Organization in the Central Asian and Caucasus region. The preparatory inter-governmental meetings led to the establishment of the Regional Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) in 2010.

The Establishment of the CACFish is seen as a successful result of the regional initiatives to which the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (2009-2014) (FishDev-Central Asia) made profound contribution. The combined outputs of the following interlinked activities/initiatives accelerated the establishment process of the Regional Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish):

- Regional Inter-Governmental Meeting to Initiate the Establishment of a Central Asian Fisheries Organization (Dushanbe, Tajikistan; 10-12 November 2008),
- Second Inter-Governmental Meeting (Trabzon Meeting), which was held in June 2009 at Trabzon and kindly hosted by Government of Turkey, to draft the Agreement on the Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission,
- A written official request made by Turkey, on behalf of the delegations of the other countries that attended the Trabzon Meeting, to the Director General of FAO to support the establishment process of the Commission,
- Review of the Agreement, as drafted at the Trabzon Meeting, by the Eighty-eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) of FAO and its submission by that Committee to the FAO Council for approval (September 2009),
- Approval of Agreement, as reviewed and submitted by CCLM, by FAO Council at its Hundred and Thirty Seventh Session (1 October 2009) through Resolution No 1/137 under Article XIV, paragraph 2 of the FAO Constitution,
- Submission of the Agreement and related information on the instrument of acceptance by the Director General of FAO (December 2009) to the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, People's Republic China, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Ukraine,
- Organization of the Second Steering Committee Meeting to prepare for the Third Inter-Governmental Meeting on the Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 February 2010).
- The Third Inter-Governmental and Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (Trabzon, Turkey; 30 November – 1 December 2010), and
- The Fourth Inter-Governmental Meeting on the establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, 22-24 June 2011).

Development and implementation of a 5-year work programme under CACFish was discussed technically at the Third Inter-Governmental and Preparatory Meeting listed above. Implementation of five-year work programme was included as a part of operational work of Commission. The Meeting approved a 5-year work programme which was developed by FAO Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee of Meeting. At its Inaugural Session (Istanbul, Turkey; 19-21 December 2011) the Commission enforced the First 5-Year Regional Work Programme (RWP1) of CACFish covering the time period from 2011 to 2015. RWP1 originally addressed the request of countries for additional technical support to regulate better the fisheries and aquaculture by facilitating a capacity building development, strategic planning and practical works.

RWP1 originally envisaged external technical assistance, particularly from FAO fisheries/aquaculture projects because of its limited budgetary resources. In this regard, the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FishDev-Central Asia), which was operational between 2009 and 2014 under the FAO – Turkey Partnership Programme, made significant contributions to RWP1.

It was assumed that CACFish Regional 5-year Work Programme would have a self-sustaining budget after a medium-term transition period. It was considered as an instrument for cooperation under CACFish aiming to serve both for the CACFish Member States and for invited non-CACFish Members States. RWP1 included a wide range of outcomes and associated outputs which were geared to promote a region-wide sustainable development of fisheries and aquacultures, taking into account the needs and priorities identified by the countries. RWP1 has contributed to: (i) increased knowledge and technical capacity of decision makers, researchers, farmers and representatives of fishers' organizations; (ii) increased production capacity; and strategic planning. However, more actions and improvements are required to create enabling conditions for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Central Asia and Caucasus region. There exists a need to more effectively regulate the inland fisheries and aquaculture in the region in order to increase a diversified production and realize a more sustainable fisheries management. Some examples of improvements include: Production technologies and systems; institutional capacity development for the use and management of fisheries resources; environmental protection; hygiene and fish safety; access to markets; fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; compliance; enforcement; use of economic incentives, and fisheries research.

Main target groups of RWP2 are the national competent authorities for fisheries and aquaculture, universities and research institutions, fishers, farmers, representatives of fishers' organizations, and traders.

The RWP2 assumes that, as a complementary project to the FishDev-Central Asia (2009-2014), the Regional FAO project "Strengthening Regional Capacities for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia" (FishCap) will be effective in 2015 under the second phase of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES, VISION, REGIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The guiding principles, vision, regional goals, and objectives of the Second 5-Year Regional Work Programme (2016–2020) (RWP2) are as follows:

2.1 Guiding principles

The RWP2

- Builds on the First 5-Year Regional Work Programme (2011–2015) of Commission,
- Seeks collaborations with CACFish Member States, non-CACFish member States and key stakeholders from the region,
- Reflects the common interests and priorities of all parties to the Commission,
- Seeks partners' ownership and responsibility,
- Comprises progress review, updating, monitoring and follow-up processes to be undertaken by TAC and Commission,

- Emphasizes the need for institutional capacity building,
- Emphasizes on knowledge sharing, information and better management practices,
- Seeks external funds,
- Seeks contribution of FAO fisheries/aquaculture projects, and
- Includes partnership with non-CACFish member States from the Central Asia and Caucasus region.

2.2 Goals

- Continually promote sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector in the Central Asian and Caucasus region, and
- Contribute to the increased production of inland capture fisheries and aquaculture (including culture based fisheries).

2.3 Objectives

- Strengthen the institutional, scientific, technical, legal and structural capacities in order to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living aquatic resources, and
- Continue collaboration with non-CACFish member States, and key industry stakeholders.

2.4 Vision

The vision of RWP2 is to be a self-reliant and effective regional cooperation mechanism that promotes sustainable and responsible inland fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia and Caucasus.

The following are some of the main factors that could best contribute to achieving the vision:

- Promotion of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries,
- Partnership and collaboration,
- Policy coherence for management and development of sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture,
- Concerned regional effort to regulate fisheries and aquaculture in a better and sustainable manner,
- Strengthened networking among key stakeholders,
- Enhanced research capacity,
- Education and training,
- Implementation of incentive programmes, and
- Promotion of co-management.

2.5 Key regional priority areas addressed by RWP

Regional priorities of RWP2 are in line with those of the previous 5-year work programme:

- Increased inland fisheries and aquaculture production,
- Fisheries planning and policy; food safety and rural development,
- Fisheries and aquaculture production as well as handling, harvesting, processing, and marketing of fish and fish products,
- Fisheries research and technology transfer,
- Institutional capacity building for management and conservation of fisheries resources, and
- Fisheries co-management.

3. CONTEXT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The content of RWP2 falls primary into two sets of inter-linked categories: (i) technical components; and (ii) programme coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation. RWP2 comprises a non-exhaustive list of activities, taking into account the technical component of the RWP1 (2011-2015). The sets one and two are elaborated in detail in Section V and VI, respectively. As seen in Section V, the activities of the technical components are organized under 5 thematic areas: (i) Fisheries management; (ii) aquaculture; (iii) inland fisheries and conservation; (iv) post-harvest and marketing; and (v) fisheries research and technological development.

The Rules of Procedures of the Commission comprise a range of varying specified responsibilities and tasks to TAC, including technical oversight, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programme of work activities of Commission.

There are six essential considerations for the RWP2:

1. As an operational programme of Commission, it will function towards, among others, developing institutional capacity for data and information exchange, promotion of better management practices, and enhanced research capacity.
2. The Commission provides the essential financial and human resources required for smooth running of the RPP2. However, external donor funds and technical support from and collaboration with other projects/programmes of FAO and donors and partners are thought to be necessary.
3. As with RWP1, RWP2 runs on a rolling basis. In other words, the programme activities do not necessarily be finalized at the end of the 5-year programme period. If it is deemed necessary, new additions and amendments can be made to RWP2 during inter-sessional implementation period by the Commission at its annual sessions. The programme thus embarrases flexibility to incorporate arising issues and reflect future demands.
4. The development and implementation of specific projects/programmes and activities under the work programme shall be undertaken by the CACFish members with the assistance of the CACFish Secretariat.
5. The implementation of the programme and the activities under it shall be coordinated by the CACFish Secretariat. TAC, on the other hand, shall monitor and evaluate the programme while the Commission has full autonomy to manage the programme.

The work programme shall consist of varying types of activities. Key RWP2 activities include:

- Trainings and workshops,
- Technical and institutional assistance on the better management practices and technology transfer,
- Projects/programmes,
- Policy development, planning and fisheries legislation updating.

4. INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

A crucial set of outcomes of the work programme is the adoption of institutional strategies, procedures and processes that will sustain the Commission. These outcomes for the Commission itself as an organization will enhance its ability to achieve the over-arching outcomes desired for the better sector governance, stronger institutional support, and improved technology and production systems. The institutional outcomes shall be:

- 1) **A higher profile of inland fisheries and aquaculture in national plans and development programmes:** A major outcome of the work programme would be the due recognition of the importance of the sector in national development and its capacity to contribute to poverty alleviation and the achievement of food security. Successful results would cumulatively raise the profile of the sector in national development plans, rural development

plans and poverty reduction strategies and programmes. The indicator or practical proof of this would be an increased allocation of state budgetary funding for the management and development of the sector.

- 2) **Stronger working relations among stakeholders:** The five-year implementation period of the work programme should enable the sector to establish and strengthen important working relations among the primary stakeholders within the sector including governments, producers, consumers, suppliers of technical inputs, service providers, NGOs, donors and regional and international institutions and development agencies. Participatory approaches to be adopted by the work programme will involve stakeholders in policy-making, planning, implementation and monitoring. The desired outcome of such relations would be an easy and open flow of information, closer cooperation, and trust between stakeholders.
- 3) **Integration into rural development programmes:** The work programme will seek to integrate aquaculture and inland fisheries planning within the overall rural development planning, taking into account multi-sectoral developments and views. Sectors that need to be collaborated with include among others water/irrigation, hydropower, tourism, education, agriculture, food, import/export and health. Multi-sectoral co-ordination will bring agencies together; raise awareness of the potential of inland fisheries and aquaculture in other rural development sectors to improve national and local economies, as well as community livelihoods and household incomes.
- 4) **Synergy with programmes of other institutions and organizations.** To add value to its own projects and to other projects in the region, to build on other related efforts rather than competing with or duplicating them, the work programme shall be designed to establish functional linkages with projects and donors that have fishery- and aquaculture-related mandates in the region.

5. TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

The technical part of RWP2 has the following objectives and consists of five thematic components:

Overall objective: Promotion of robust management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Central Asian and Caucasus regions	
Components	Specific objectives
1. Fisheries management	Improved regional management of the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector for a more orderly, rapid and sustainable development and increased economic opportunities.
2. Aquaculture	Improved production technology and systems for increased aquaculture production.
3. Inland fisheries and conservation	Improved inland fisheries management and conservation practices in the region.
4. Post-harvest and marketing	Increased quality and safety of fisheries and aquaculture products available in the markets in the region.
5. Fisheries research and technological development	Improved capacities for fisheries research and technology development, extension, education and training in fisheries and aquaculture

The RWP1 comprised an ambitious list of activities and projects relying mostly on external grants to realize the expected outcomes requiring a total budget around 3,8 million USD. Instead, RWP2 includes a relatively low number of activities in order to keep the programme within the realistic possibilities for financing. Further details of the technical part of RWP2 are given in tables below for each component.

Component 1: Fisheries management

Specific objective: Improved regional management of the inland fisheries and aquaculture sector for a more orderly, rapid and sustainable development and increased economic opportunities.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
<i>1.1. Technical assistance for enhancing legal, regulatory frameworks and institutional structures</i>	<i>Improved legal, institutional and regulatory framework</i>				
1.1.1. Review of Fisheries Law of Kyrgyz Republic	Updated national laws and regulations governing the fisheries and aquaculture in Kyrgyzstan and other Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft national law - Draft updated national bylaws and technical regulations 	2016-2020	55,000	Regional Fisheries Project “Strengthening Regional Capacities for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia” (FishCap) or other external budget
<i>1.2. Capacity development for fisheries policy, management, and planning</i>	<i>Improved institutional capacity for fisheries policy, management, and planning</i>				
1.2.1. Review of technical fishing regulations, licensing and logbook systems	Updated technical fishing regulations, licensing and logbook systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions and/or recommendations 	2017	35,000	RWP budget
1.2.2. A preliminary study on Geographic Information Systems in fisheries management and planning	A preliminary project on Geographic Information Systems is in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary study report - Recommendations for TAC and CACFish 	2018	40,000	RWP budget
1.2.3. Regional Workshop on Incorporation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into planning and management	Strengthened capacity for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries into planning and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop and TAC recommendations, - Number of participants 	2019	30,000	RWP budget

1.2.4. Capacity development of key stakeholders to enhance co-management	Improved involvement of key stakeholders in fisheries decision-making and research and improved fisheries management mechanisms	- Number of new Fisher's Organization established - Number of fisheries management and advisory committees	2018	30,000	FishCap
<i>1.3. Fisheries data collection and management</i>	<i>Strengthened fisheries data collection and management</i>				
1.3.1. Technical assistance for establishment and improvement of fisheries and aquaculture data and information systems at national level	Improved capacity for Fisheries data collection and management	- Mission reports of experts	2016- 2020	40,000	RWP budget
Sub-total budget:				230,000	

Component 2: Aquaculture

Specific objective: Improved production technology and systems for increased aquaculture production.

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
2.1. Capacity building for production systems	<i>Improved inland aquaculture production systems</i>	Renewed or new facilities and production systems			
2.1.1. Provision of technical assistance for aquaculture production techniques and systems	Enhanced capacity building for inland aquaculture production systems of hatchery, pond, cage culture, polyculture and recirculating		2016-2020	45,000	RWP budget
2.1.2. Capacity building for artificial propagation of fish seeds	Ad-hoc training on artificial propagation of fish seeds of cold-water and warm-water species	- Number of participants - TAC report	2017	35,000	FishCap or other external budget
2.1.3. Ad-hoc training on hatchery production of trout	Improved hatchery production capacity	- Number of participants - TAC report	2018	30,000	FishCap or other external budget
2.1.4. Farming of new fish species	Diversified aquaculture production	- Mission reports of experts	2016-2107	30,000	RWP budget
2.2. Provision of technical advice on broodstock management	Increased capacity of aquaculture entrepreneurs and hatchery managers on broodstock management	- Mission reports of experts	2016- 2020	50,000	RWP budget
2.3. Provision of technical advice on fish feed manufacturing	Increased capacity for fish feed development	- Mission reports of experts	2016-2020	30,000	RWP budget
Sub-total budget:				220,000	

Component 3: Inland fisheries and conservation

Specific objective: Improved inland fisheries management and conservation practices in the region.

Project and activity titles	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
3.1. Support to inland fisheries management and conservation objectives	<i>Increased regional capacity in inland fisheries management and conservation</i>				
3.1.1. Inland stock assessment in selected large bodies	A stock assessment study in Tajikistan Review of national fish stock assessment models and techniques	- Results of assessments submitted to national fisheries authorities and TAC - Suggested fish stock assessment models and techniques	2016-2018	60,000	FishCap or other external budget
3.2. Provision of technical advice on preservation of genetic resources	Increased knowledge on preservation of fishery genetic resources	- Workshop recommendations - Number of trainers - IUCN Red List of threatened species	2016-2018	35,000	RWP budget
3.3. Workshop on the Habitat Rehabilitation for Inland Fisheries	Increased capacity of fisheries management authorities to guide rehabilitation works of water bodies	- TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions and/or recommendations	2019	35,000	RWP budget
3.4. Provision of technical advice on the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in inland fisheries	Improved fisheries inspection services through generated capacity on MCS systems among fisheries authorities in the region	- TAC Recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations	2016-2020	40,000	RWP budget.
3.5. Provision of technical advice on stocking, restocking and culture based fisheries	Increased knowledge of feasible restocking and culture-based fisheries practices in the region	- Study report - Draft Recommendations - TAC endorsement of recommendation	2016-2020	45,000	RWP budget
<i>Sub-total budget:</i>				215,000	

Component 4: Postharvest and marketing

Specific objective: Increased quality and safety of fisheries and aquaculture products available in the markets in the region.

Project and activity titles	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
4.1. Provision of post-harvest management, food safety and quality and HACCP certification	<i>Increased availability of high quality and safe fish and fisheries products in the domestic markets in the region</i>				
4.1.1. Development/updating of post-harvest management by development/effective implementation of marketing measures, rules, standards for safe and quality fish and fish products	Enhanced post-harvest management and creased quality and safety of fish and fish products	- TAC recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations	2016-2020	65,000	FishCap or other external budget
4.1.2.Provision of technical advice on fish marketing and fish processing and diversification of processed fish and fish products	Enhanced capacity for processing and diversifies processed fish and fish products	- Mission reports of experts	2016-2020	60,000	RWP budget
4.2. Provision of fish market information	<i>Enhanced access to fish market information</i>		2016-2020		
4.2.1. Development of a (national) fish market information system	An operational fish market information system	- Fish market information system - TAC recommendations - CACFish decisions or recommendations	2017	60,000	FishCap or other external budget
Sub-total budget:				185,000	

Component 5: Research & capacity development

Specific objective: Improved capacities for fisheries research and technology development, extension, education and training in fisheries and aquaculture

Activities	Outputs	Key performance indicators	Timeframe	Total budget (USD)	Budget sources and status
<i>5.1. Support to research, technology development, training and education in fisheries and aquaculture</i>	<i>Improved capacities for applied research and technology transfer</i>				
<i>5.1.1 Advice and training on fish genetics resources</i>	Improved capacities for application of genetics techniques in fisheries and aquaculture	- Training reports - Number of people trained	2016-2018	50,000	RWP
<i>5.2. Training of researchers, technical ministerial staff, hatchery managers and representatives of fishers' organization</i>	Increased institutional and technical capacity	- Regional Training Programme	2016-2020	800,000	External donor budget
Sub-total budget:				850,000	

6. PROGRAMME COORDINATION, MANAGEMENT, AND MONITORING

6.1 Coordination

Overall coordination of RWP falls under the responsibility of the CACFish Secretariat represented by the Secretary of Commission. Key coordination task includes the following: (i) assist Commission with the implementation of RWP; (ii) organisation of timetabled RWP programme activities; (iii) progress and budget reporting to TAC and Commission; (iv) communication, correspondence and visibility activities; and (v) liaison and coordination between Commission, TAC, National Focal Points and donors.

National Focal Points have assigned roles of facilitation, coordination and nation-wide implementation of RWP. They would propose work programme activities as well as appropriate scientific and other research programmes, including possible annual revisions, within the limits of the available project budget.

6.2 Coordination and implementation at national and regional levels

6.2.1 National level coordination and implementation

National level implementation of the activities and projects will be a major responsibility of the National Focal Points and their respective organizations designated by the member governments. They will provide national level coordination of the work programme (i.e. the activities and projects under the work programme) and, as needed, the manpower and material resources for such coordination function. It is anticipated that a national coordinator should be designated for each project.

6.2.2 Regional level coordination and implementation

A proven structure for a regional cooperative arrangement is one that comprises a few (two or three) (sub) regional centres that have responsibilities for certain species and production systems; national centres that will adapt for national application the results of the work from the regional centres. These regional centres conduct research, training and information dissemination at the regional level as well as in the countries where they are located, while the national centres perform the adaptation work and extension activities to promote the technology at the national level. All centres as well as the National Focal Points and their respective organizations are engaged in information exchange.

6.3 Management and Monitoring

The Commission has overall responsibility and oversight of management, implementation and monitoring of RWP. Being a fishery body established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the Commission has an authority to establish region-wide policies, strategies, approaches, guidelines, rules and methodologies in respect of management and development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in its competence area. It shall also decide on revisions between programme periods i.e. between the start and the end of the 5-year period. It shall oversee the implementation and evaluation of projects under the work programme. It shall promote the uptake of positive and relevant lessons and results from the work programme in policies and development programmes at the regional, national and sectoral levels.

TAC is empowered by Commission to technically review and monitor RWP on regular basis. TAC would formulate the work programme with the assistance of the Secretariat and provide the technical advice and inputs to assist the Commission in monitoring and evaluating the work programme. The TAC may propose the establishment of subsidiary bodies to work on specific technical issues or to provide a specified output; these subsidiary bodies deal with specific technical subjects, projects or activities.

The Secretariat will assist the TAC in formulating, monitoring, evaluating and following-up the work programme.

The table below summaries the principle roles and responsibilities of key actors in the implementation processes of RWP:

Key activities	Responsible	Frequency
<i>Formulation of RWP</i>	CACFish Secretariat	Every 5 years
<i>Technical review and assessment of formulated RWP</i>	TAC	Every 2 years
<i>Technical approval of RWP for endorsement consideration by Commission</i>	Commission	Every 5 years
<i>Coordination of submission of technically approved RWP to Commission</i>	CACFish Secretariat	Every 5 years
<i>Technical and budgetary review, final approval and endorsement of new RWP</i>	Commission	Every 5 years
<i>Technical review and monitoring of operational RWP</i>	TAC (on Commission behalf; with assistance from Secretariat)	Every 2 years
<i>Overall management, oversight, progress review and monitoring of operational RWP</i>	Commission	Annually
<i>Coordination and assistance in monitoring of operational RWP</i>	CACFish Secretariat	Annually
<i>National coordination and monitoring</i>	National Focal Points (in cooperation with Secretariat)	Annually

The Terms of Reference of the Secretary, National Focal Points and Technical Advisory Committee can be found in Annex A and Annex B, Annex C to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, respectively.

6.4. Personnel for work programme development, management and implementation

The technical expertise to develop, organize and implement the programme, as well as to provide specialist advice and inputs to the component activities, will come from a number of sources, and a combination of schemes.

6.4.1 Secretariat staff

The basic technical expertise for programme development and a coordination mechanism will be provided by the Secretariat personnel. The Secretariat will consist of an appointed Secretary (the FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Officer of FAO Sub-region for Central Asia). Other temporary Secretariat staff (i.e. bilingual secretary and technical experts) will also help for the RWP2. RWP' will also be supported by the Regional FAO project "Strengthening Regional Capacities for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia" (Fish Cap) which is expected to be operational in 2015 under the extended FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme.

National staff supported by the members of the Commission could be seconded to the Secretariat at any time for specific technical tasks and or general secretariat support tasks. A member or collaborating national centre or agency can assign, for a short period, staff to work at the Secretariat on certain aspects of a project being jointly implemented by the agency and the regional body. The honorarium and expenses made by these national staff will be covered by the member of the Commission seconding these staff.

6.4.2. Staff of (sub) regional and national centres

The staff of centers will provide specialist technical inputs in formulating and implementing at the regional and national levels projects and activities under the work programme. Experts of the centres can take part in disciplinary or multidisciplinary or systems oriented research, training and information development activities.

7. FUNDING AND FUNDING SOURCES

7.1 Project budget

RWP2 requires an estimated total budget of USD 1,800,000. The table below details itemized budget breakdown.

	Total Budget (USD) (2016-2020)
<i>Budget for technical activities</i>	
Fisheries management	230,000
Aquaculture	220,000
Inland fisheries and conservation	215,000
Post-harvest and marketing	185,000
Fisheries research and technological development	850,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	1,700,000
<i>Budget for administrative and coordination activities</i>	
Administrative and coordination expenses	100,000
<i>Sub-total</i>	100,000
<i>Total</i>	1,800,000
<i>External budget:</i>	1,235,000
<i>Autonomous RWP budget:</i>	565,000

In accordance with article III of the Financial Regulations, the autonomous budget shall comprise an Administrative budget and an operations budget. CACFish is a Regional Fisheries Management Organization established under the framework of FAO. The Commission should cover its administration and operational expenses through its autonomous budget. Financial resources of the Commission shall come from (i) the autonomous budget of the Commission (through regular contributions of Members) and (ii) donations and other forms of assistance received from organizations, individuals and other sources. This means that the core funding of the work programme (including funding for secretariat support/staff positions) should take place by all Commission members together under the autonomous budget of the Commission.

FAO will provide in-kind support for RWP2 years through CACFish Secretariat. Donations (i.e. extra-budgetary resources, provided by members of the Commission, FAO and others) in assistance of the Commission, its meetings and the work programme, shall be required. To make efficient use of international donor resources, a recurrent programme approach to multi-sectoral development under which donors can more effectively cooperate and collaborate is preferred.

The Secretariat will assist the Commission and the individual parties in the development of partnerships with donors to adopt more cohesive approaches and procedures to support development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

As described in the Agreement on the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Article X (Expenses), will be covered as follows:

Article X.1: Expenses of one delegate of a Party or his alternate to attend the annual session of the Commission would be covered under the budget of the Commission. Expenses incurred by other delegates, their alternates, experts and advisers when attending, as government representatives, sessions of the Commission and meetings of its subsidiary bodies including the Technical Advisory Committee, as well as the expenses incurred by observers at such sessions and meetings, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations. The expenses of experts invited by the Commission to attend, in their individual capacity, sessions of the Commission and meetings of its subsidiary bodies including the Technical Advisory Committee shall be borne by the budget of the Commission.

Article X.4: The expenses incurred in connection with cooperative research or development projects undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Article III, paragraph 2 (d), unless otherwise available shall be determined and paid by the Parties in the form and proportion to which they shall mutually agree. Contributions for cooperative projects shall be paid into a Trust Fund which shall be established by the Organization and shall be administered by the Organization in accordance with the General Rules and Financial Regulations of the Organization.

7.2 Implementation of the technical work programme

RWP2, as detailed in Section V (Technical Components) and VII (Funding and Funding Sources), largely rely on extra-budgetary funding from regional fisheries projects and ad activities and external donor contributions.

RWP2 partly relies on the Regional FAO Fisheries Project “Strengthening Regional Capacities for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia” (FishCap) which is expected to be operational in 2015. Additional (financial and in-kind) contributions from the members of the Commission (and other donors) would be required. Further and continued extra-budgetary assistance for member countries and other donors will be required. Wherever appropriate and applicable, activities will be implemented through technical cooperation in line with the objectives of cost-effectiveness and regional self-reliance in programme implementation.

7.3. Linkages with other regional organizations

Some of the experiences, lessons, technology, information as well as expertise of other regional organizations working in inland fisheries and aquaculture (such as NACEE, NACA, Mekong River Commission, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, EIFAAC, GFCM, and others) will likely prove valuable for the Central Asian and Caucasus regions. Linkages with these bodies will be useful. An information exchange mechanism, in line with the relevant activity, will be established by the Secretariat to facilitate these linkages.

7.4 Participation in international events and forum

In order to support the interests of the members of the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission in global forums, such as the FAO Committee on Fisheries and its subcommittees on Aquaculture and Trade, the Secretariat will advise the National Focal Points of such events and facilitate participation of members in these events, where possible. Development of joint statements by the members for use in these global forums will be assisted by the Secretariat (when required).

Adopted TAC recommendations

Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

- Development of more directed works on MCS and combatting IUU Fishing under CACFish,
- Consideration of establishment of a Compliance Committee under CACFish,
- Participation of Central Asian region into the universal MCS network,
- Establishment of a regional MCS network in Central Asia,
- Encouragement of attendance of experts of Central Asian and Caucasus region to the related works of FAO, i.e. expert meeting, technical consultation, and sub-committee meetings,
- Application of precautionary approach in the absence of updated scientific national data and information,
- Development/improvement of fishing licensing system,
- On-board overseas training of ministerial staff on fisheries MCS,
- More regional and national focus on MCS in small-scale fisheries,
- Study visits and observations on MCS tools, including vessel monitoring system, fisheries information system, fishing license system, and vessel registry system,
- Formulation and implementation of a regional project on MCS and combatting IUU fishing,
- Review and updating of national fisheries legislation for strengthened frameworks for deterring, eliminating and preventing IUU fishing,
- Harmonization of national technical regulation at regional level,
- Development of better management practices for MCS,
- Promotion of development of national policies to combat IUU fishing.
- Promotion of the development and implementation of internationally agreed market-related measures to combat IUU fishing,
- Strengthening institutional, administrative structuring for MCS and enforcement against IUU fishing,
- Review of current national fisheries legislation for strengthened frameworks for MSC,
- Promotion of preventative controls and monitoring,
- Ad-hoc trainings on vessel monitoring system, fisheries information system, fishing license system, and vessel registry system, and fisheries controlling,
- Promotion of the establishment national/regional databases and other information systems, including data/information on fishing vessels, catch, effort, etc,
- Promotion of voluntary compliance with law and management rules through a process of education, awareness and participatory approach, and
- Promotion of public awareness of the impacts of IUU fishing.

Inland fish hatchery management

- Development of national and regional hatchery programmes,
- Assessment of impact of farmed-fish on wild aquatic genetic resources
- Development of technical guidelines and protocols of hatchery production cycle,
- Promotion of better management practices for hatchery production and operations, and
- Implementation of standards for certification.

Prioritized research

- Undertaking an inventory of fish hatchery research activities in the CACFish area;
- Undertaking a study on economic profitability of fish hatcheries,
- Upscaling of certified fry production,
- Fish hatcheries development strategy,
- Introducing modern full hatchery production cycle,
- Larval production and feeding of new species,
- Developing technical criteria and minimum requirements for aquaculture site selection,
- Developing technical criteria and minimum requirements for hatcheries,
- Undertaking research and on-farm trials for possible species for diversification of aquaculture production,
- Science-based broodstock management, including pedigree-based genetic selection.

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

- Enforcement of the framework for a regional strategy and associated principles for aquatic animal health management in CACFish area.
- More management attention to less-focused areas (i.e. decent work, gender roles in fisheries, etc.),
- Analysis and characterization of small-scale fisheries in Central Asian and Caucasus Region,
- Collection, analysis and dissemination of small-scale fisheries data and information,
- Promotion of co-management and traditional knowledge,
- Promotion of the implementation of integrated fisheries management systems in line with the international fisheries instruments, including the Guidelines, FAO's Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
- Development and implementation of technical measures and applications (i.e. certification systems for fish introductions; certification in the export and import of live fish, seed and eggs) and technical guidelines for these trade-based measures, and
- Networking among research institutions and researchers with a focus on interdisciplinary fisheries research with respect to small-scale fisheries.

APPENDIX 7

CACFish Member contributions to the 2015 Autonomous Budget

COUNTRY	Contribution Total (USD)	Wealth			Production			Basic Fee (USD)
		GDP-per capita USD	Share	USD	Production total (Tonnes)	% of Total	USD	
Armenia	18 179	3 208	1	3 500	16 390	9.23%	7 479	7 200
Azerbaijan	25 212	7 899	5	17 500	1 121	0.63%	512	7 200
Kyrgyzstan	10 849	1 280	1	3 500	327	0.18%	149	7 200
Tajikistan	11 422	1 044	1	3 500	1 583	0.89%	722	7 200
Turkey	114 338	10 815	10	35 000	158 093	89.06%	72 138	7 200
TOTAL	180 000		18	63 000	177 514	100.00%	81 000	36 000

* 2013 per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/02/weodata/weoselser.aspx?c=912&t=1>

** 2013 inland capture and inland aquaculture production figures of FAO
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/global-capture-production/query/en>

BUDGET AND CRITERIA

Year	2015
Budget	180,000

BUDGET COMPONENTS

Wealth	63,000	35%
Production	81,000	45%
Basic fee	36,000	20%
TOTAL	180,000	100%

WEALTH CATEGORIES

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	10 849	1280	1	3500	327	0,18%	149	7200
	11 422	1044	1	3500	1 583	0,89%	722	7200
	114 338	10 815	10	35000	158 093	89,06%	72 138	7200
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The Fourth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 18 to 20 May 2015. The session was attended by the representatives of five member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey. The session was also attended by the following invited States: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. The Commission adopted the following thematic scientific and technical recommendations produced by the Technical Advisory Committee at its third meeting held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 16–18 February 2015: (i) Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); (ii) Inland fish hatchery management; and (iii) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The Commission reviewed the progress made in implementing the CACFish Five-Year Regional Work Programme (2015) and endorsed the second-term Five-Year Regional Work Programme covering the period 2016–2020. The Commission adopted its 2015 autonomous budget for 2015. The Commission agreed to hold its regular sessions every two years after its fifth session in 2016.

Четвертая сессия Региональной комиссии по рыбному хозяйству и аквакультуре в Центральной Азии и на Кавказе (CACFish) прошла в Улан-Баторе (Монголия) с 18 по 20 мая 2015 года. В работе приняли участие представители пяти стран-членов: Армения, Азербайджан, Кыргызстан, Таджикистан и Турция. В ней также участвовали представители следующих стран-наблюдателей: Грузия, Казахстан, Монголия и Узбекистан. Комиссия приняла следующие тематические научно-технические рекомендации, разработанные Техническим и консультативными комитетом (ТКК) на его третьем совещании, прошедшем в Бишкеке (Кыргызстан) с 16 по 18 февраля 2015 г.: Мониторинг, контроль и наблюдение (МКН) в рыбном хозяйстве; (ii) Управление рыбопитомниками во внутренних водах; (iii) Добровольные руководящие принципы обеспечения устойчивого маломасштабного рыболовства в контексте продовольственной безопасности и искоренения бедности. Комиссия рассмотрела прогресс, достигнутый в деле реализации Пятилетней региональной рабочей программы CACFish (2015 г.) и утвердила вторую Пятилетнюю региональную рабочую программу, охватывающую период 2016-2020 гг. Комиссия приняла свой автономный бюджет за 2015 год в размере 180 000 долл. США. Комиссия согласилась с тем, чтобы проводить свои регулярные сессии каждые два года, начиная с 2016 года – после своей пятой сессии.

ISBN 978-92-5-008984-3 ISSN 2070-6987



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