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FAO implemented projects in the Adriatic and Straits of Sicily: GCP /RER/010/ITA AdriaMed and MedSudMed; GCP /RER/021/EC and GDCP/INT/010/ITA

Follow-up report to the Management Response

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Office of Evaluation (OED)

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Follow-up report of the Management response to the FAO implemented projects in the Adriatic and Straits of Sicily: GCP/RER/010/ITA AdriaMed and MedSudMed; GCP/RER/021/EC and GDCP/INT/010/ITA

Introduction

1. Since 1999 FAO has collaborated with the riverine countries in the Adriatic Sea and in the Straits of Sicily, to improve the sustainable management of the shared fish stocks, by enhancing scientific collaboration and overall capacity on these themes.

2. Evaluation recommendations focused essentially on three areas: a) the strengthening and streamlining project management and administration by FIRF; b) the strengthening of projects activities and support in some area of research and networks; c) the integration of AdriaMed and MedSudMed achievements within the 2013-2018 GFCM Framework Programme. The matrix below summarises the main action taken with this respect. Key actions undertaken include, inter alia, the following:

- **Strengthening and streamlining project management and administration by FIRF:** this has been pursued by FIRF with: a) the appointment of a new specific Budget Holder for the projects as well as an alternate Budget Holder, and b) with the recruitment of a new consultant in Operation.
- **Strengthening of projects activities and support in some area of research and networks:** key actions relevant to this recommendation include: a) a series of technical documents of the two projects has been prepared and published; b) joint research activities with common methodologies (acoustic surveys; eggs and larvae surveys; bottom trawl surveys) were supported; c) support was given in the field of training to the capacity development of the participating institutions; d) technical meetings and specific activities on Small Scale Fisheries have been established; e) the Projects reinforced the support to the socio-economic component of fisheries and to the study of interaction between fisheries and aquacultures;
- **Integration of AdriaMed and MedSudMed achievements within the 2013-2018 GFCM Framework Programme:** a concept note to ensure long term funding to the Mediterranean Regional projects in support to GFCM Framework Programme has been prepared and discussed preliminarily with countries and GFCM.

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Evaluation Recommendation	Action Agreed	Comments on actions taken, including reasons for actions not taken	Impact (changes) of actions taken in terms of programme, policies and/or procedures
<p>Recommendation 1 FIRF should review and re-define areas and levels of responsibility including criteria of assignment of functions; rationalise overlapping and duplications of roles among the Lead Technical Unit, Operations and the Chief Technical Advisor.</p>	<p>A meeting will be called to discuss how the assigning of responsibility, coordination, and sharing of functions can be improved, involving all the relevant FIRF technical and operations officers and the Chief Technical Advisor together with the project management team. FIRF will make effort to attend more regularly the project meetings.</p>	<p>Meeting has been called and relevant discussion took place. The recruitment by FIRF of a new consultant in Operation has greatly improved the situation. FIRF attended main project meetings (e.g. Coordination Committees) in 2013.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 FIRF should: a) review attribution of Budget Holder Responsibility respecting the principle of best placed knowledge-cum responsibility; and b) appoint the Alternate Budget Holder and document appointment accordingly</p>	<p>The FIRF will lead the process of reviewing the attribution of budget holder responsibility and the necessity of assigning an alternative budget holder, together with the operations and the project management team.</p>	<p>a) A new specific Budget Holder for the two projects has been nominated. b) An Alternate BH is now automatically appointed among the Senior Officers of FIRF when the primary BH is unavailable, with first line given to the Service Chief. This is automatically documented in the system for Vacation Rules.</p>	<p>Streamlined procedure for appointment of alternate BHs of all Projects when the primary BH is not available.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 The projects should strengthen the following areas of work: a) improve the development and diffusion of scientific publications on activities and researches carried out within the projects, contribute to international scientific literature; b) enhance focus on multidisciplinary research in support of fisheries management compatible with EAF, by supporting the organisation of joint cooperative research</p>	<p>a) a greater attention and an increase of effort will be devoted to this task through the re-organization of workflow, b) the Projects will put further effort to addressing training needs c) the projects will continue working towards this direction by involving relevant stakeholders in the cooperative framework established by the Projects. In addition, collaboration with the GEF funded MED-LME project will continue on these topics, and in practice through the organization of specific meetings, involving</p>	<p>a) Meetings to rearrange the organization of the workflow have been done. As result, a series of technical documents of the two projects has been prepared and published; peer reviewed article has been published as contribution to the international scientific literature b) The Project continued the support to joint research activities with common methodologies (acoustic surveys; eggs and larvae surveys; bottom trawl surveys). In addition the Projects continued in the training support to the capacity development of the participating institutions (e.g. training on fish age determination, methods for stock assessment, on use of data management tools). The Projects jointly organized, with the other FAO Mediterranean Project, the GFCM and the EC-JRC</p>	<p>NA</p>

<p>activities with common and standardised procedures and reinforcing the activities on training and human capacity development of staff of fisheries institutions;</p> <p>c) enhance the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), by strengthening the capacity of the national institutions in terms of both human resources and organization, as well as direct support to the consultation process necessary for achieving this goal.</p>	<p>stakeholders, to support the consultative process needed. The projects will also explore alliances/partnerships with other FI projects with regard to the implementation of the EAF.</p>	<p>training on improving the analysis of fisheries data.</p> <p>c) The Projects co-organized with the other FAO Mediterranean projects and the Project MedSea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) the training workshop “Atelier de formation sur les plans d'aménagement en accord avec l'approche écosystémique des pêches et de l'aquaculture”. In addition, a series of meeting with fisheries administration have been organised to discuss the Management Plan for small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic; other meetings with fisheries administrations have been organized to discuss the problem of the harmonization of closed season to trawling in the Gulf of Gabes (Central Mediterranean; the Projects have been deeply involved in the entire process of the preparation of Mediterranean fisheries Management Plans lead by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4 The projects should include activities aimed at:</p> <p>a) increasing the understanding of the role of small-scale and recreational fisheries (including biological, technological, and socio-economic aspects) and reinforce the institutional capacity to address and manage also this component of the fisheries systems;</p> <p>b) strengthening the capacity to explicitly include the interactions between capture fisheries and aquaculture in the management process;</p> <p>c) reinforcing research and capacity development on the socio-economic component of fisheries, including ad hoc studies on consumer's expectations, marketing problems, eco-labelling and product certification.</p>	<p>a) an AdriaMed technical Consultation on SSF has been already planned for this year and it will take place in November 2012. The expected outputs will be a series of guidelines for future activities of the Project on this subject;</p> <p>b) Further actions will be brought forward and discussed in the next meeting of the Coordination Committee of the AdriaMed project, to envisage the strengthening of this activity;</p> <p>c) a specific proposal on this subject could be drafted and discussed before and during the next Coordination Committees.</p>	<p>a) The AdriaMed Project organized the technical meeting in November 2012 and as follow up the AdriaMed Working Group on Small Scale Fisheries has been established. A second meeting on Small Scale Fisheries has been organised in October 2013; the Projects contributed to the organisation of the GFCM Small Scale Fisheries Symposium in Malta (Nov 2013).</p> <p>b) The Projects continued providing technical support to the countries, in particular regarding the activities prioritised by the Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) of the GFCM. In particular the Adriamed Project initiated a Pilot study on the identification of indicators for sustainable aquaculture in Montenegro in cooperation with the GFCM-CAQ-InDAM Project (Indicators for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Guidelines for their use in the Mediterranean). A meeting has been held in Montenegro (Kotor, 9-12 July 2013) for a preliminary identification of indicators and Allocation Zone for Aquaculture (AZA).</p> <p>c) Both the Projects reinforced the support to the socio-economic component of fisheries. AdriaMed organized socio-economic surveys in Albania and foreseen one for Montenegro; the proposal for a marketing study for small pelagic fisheries in</p>	<p>NA</p>

		<p>the Adriatic has been approved by the Coordination Committee of Adriamed in 2013; MedSudMed initiated the inventory of bio-economic data in the area for a multidisciplinary analysis of fisheries.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5 All parties concerned, i.e. the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, GCP/RER/010/ITA and GFCM Secretariat, should develop by end of 2012 a road-map to be proposed to partners for discussion, endorsement and funding that would allow the integration of AdriaMed and MedSudMed achievements within the 2013-2018 GFCM Framework Programme.</p>	<p>As a first step the projects are involved in the preparation of the GFCM Framework Programme funding proposal. This proposal foresees funding for 5 years from 2013 to 2018, and during this period the Projects might begin and complete the process of integration with the GFCM Framework Programme.</p>	<p>A concept note to ensure long term funding to the Mediterranean Regional projects in support to GFCM Framework Programme has been prepared, preliminarily discussed with Donors as European Commission and Italian Government, further discussions are in progress.</p>	<p>NA</p>