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Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)**

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**REPORT ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS DURING
THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2016-2017**

Guidance Sought From The Commission

The Commission is invited to:

- (i) review the technical material provided in the Information Notes generated by the regional activities during the intersessional period;
- (ii) provide feedback and recommendations to the Secretariat on completed CACFish activities;
- (iii) report on any country-level follow-up to the CACFish regional activities and share achievement of results from this follow-up.

INTRODUCTION

1. This document informs on the status and results of activities undertaken in the intersessional period 2016-2017 based on the approved activities under paragraph 31 of the Report of the Fifth Session of the Commission. The first section informs on the status of the CACFish second regional work programme (RWP2) approved and budgeted for by the 5th Session of the Commission for 2016-2017. The second section reports on additional FAO results achieved at country and regional level in the CACFish region, related to the FAO Regular Programme as well as voluntary contributions that contributed to the goals of the RWP2 of the Commission. The third section informs on efforts by the Secretariat and CACFish Members to provide additional resources for implementation of the activities in the RWP2. Activities in the RWP2, as approved by Members, contribute to the FAO Strategic Programme and the three regional initiatives of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU). Namely, RI1-Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for Improved Rural

Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, RI2-Improving Agrifood Trade and Market Integration, and RI3-Natural Resource Management in a Changing Climate.

CACFISH ACTIVITIES APPROVED FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

Completed activities

2. In the period 2016-2017, the Secretariat was able to organize several regional activities in the RWP2, as well as the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), held in Tbilisi, Georgia, 28-30 November 2017.

3. National surveys on country-level implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Central Asian and Caucasus region were prepared by participating Members. Two regional expert meetings were organized by the Secretariat. A Turkish research institute (Egirdir) under a Letter of Agreement with FAO prepared the synthesis report of the national surveys, which was discussed at the second expert meeting in Isparta, Turkey, September 2017. The results under RWP2 Reference 1.2.4 were the provision of the survey findings and technical / policy recommendations for implementation of the SSF Voluntary Guidelines in the CA region. Results are presented in an Information Note (CACFish/VI/2018/Inf.4).

4. A regional expert meeting on conservation of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) of fish was organized in Trabzon, Turkey, May 2017. This activity addressed RWP2 Reference 5.1. Technical findings and policy recommendations from this CACFish event, as well as an ongoing global FAO initiative on AqGR and a sub-regional meeting that took place in the West Balkans are presented in an Information Note (CACFish/VI/2018/Inf.3).

5. A regional training to raise awareness and capacity on best practices for cage culture in reservoirs and lakes was held in Elazig, Turkey, December 2017. The training was organized by a Turkish research institute (ELSAM) under a Letter of Agreement with FAO. Countries participating in this training included: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The result of the training was increased knowledge of cage culture, which is highly relevant for lakes in countries of CACFish region and can improve productivity of freshwater resources for food security and livelihoods of fish farmers. Technical information on cage aquaculture practices, as well as materials from the Elazig training, are provided in an Information Note (CACFish/VI/2018/Inf.5).

Postponed activities

6. Some activities approved by the Commission at its Fifth Session were not carried out due to various administrative constraints facing the Secretariat during the intersessional period:

- Regional training on the establishment of national fisheries and aquaculture data and information management systems (RWP2 Ref. 1.3);
- Regional workshop on habitat rehabilitation for inland fisheries (RWP2 Ref. 3.3);
- Inland fisheries stock assessment pilot study in Tajikistan and regional training (RWP2 Ref. 3.1);
- Analysis of available fisheries and aquaculture data and information in Central Asia and the Caucasus (RWP2 Ref. 1.3);
- Harmonization of catch certification documentation in Central Asia and the Caucasus for export/import (RWP2 Ref. 4.1).

7. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, at the request of the Committee for Fisheries (COFI), prepared global Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS). This was accomplished through expert meetings and technical consultations funded by the Government of Norway. The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on CDS were approved by the FAO Conference in July 2017. The Secretariat presented information on the new Voluntary Guidelines on CDS to the Fourth Meeting of TAC and proposed that implementation of the CDG Guidelines in the CACFish region be included as a priority activity in 2018-2019. However, this activity was not chosen as one of the priority activities recommended for the intersessional period 2018-2019 in the Report of the Fourth Meeting of TAC (CACFish/VI/2018/6).

8. An overview of the FAO publications relevant for CACFish region can be found in Annex Table I. During the intersessional period, the following two CACFish Reports were published as FAO Circulars:

- Report of the Fifth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1176. Ankara, 2016 (CACFish/VI/2018/Ref.1);
- Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1227. Ankara, 2018 (CACFish/VI/2018/6).

RESULTS IN CACFISH REGION FINANCED BY FAO AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

9. In the intersessional period, the FAO led activities achieving results in fisheries and aquaculture development, along with governments in the CACFish region. These were mainly accomplished through FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects and bilateral donor Trust Fund projects. Two Trust Fund projects (CACFish & EastMed) provided direct support to CACFish members. Various other projects in the region are ongoing or are in the pipeline/formulation phase (see Annex Table II).

10. Following are brief descriptions of some of the FAO TCP projects and donor Trust Fund projects delivered in CACFish Member or Observer states. A TCP project in Armenia on “Alternative utilization of water resources in Armenia in the field of fish production” was completed in 2017. Under the project (TCP/ARM/3504) a water recirculation system was installed on a beneficiary farm to reduce water use and improve efficiency in trout production. The farmer is cooperating with Government in using this model farm to demonstrate the state-of-the-art technology installed by FAO to encourage other farmers in the Ararat Valley to adopt similar water-saving technology. This project is expected to improve water conservation while increasing Armenian fish production for food security. This project was successfully completed in 2017. A small TCP facility project (TCP/TAJ/3601/C1) on “Restarting and Modernization of Fish Seed Production in Tajikistan” ended in April 2018. Another FAO funded TCP project (TCP/GEO/3603) on “Capacity Building for Sustainable Wildlife Management in Georgia” includes a component on inland fisheries focused on recreational fishing. This wildlife project is ongoing.

11. A Trust Fund project (GCP/KYR/012/FIN) financed by the Government of Finland on “Towards Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Kyrgyz Republic” is currently in its third phase. This project investigates value chains and provides business model training for small-scale fish farmers. A Trust Fund project (GCP/UKR/001/NOR) financed by

the Government of Norway was implemented in Ukraine on “Contribution to the Technical and Policy Support to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food”. One of four components of the Ukraine project was in the fisheries sector, namely FAO organized national stakeholder meetings to identify priority development areas in fisheries and aquaculture sector and prepared a national report on the recommendations of the meetings.

PROJECT PROPOSALS IN THE PIPELINE

12. A number of FAO projects to address issues raised in the Commission’s RWP2 are underway in the 2018-2019 biennium (see Annex Table II). Two regional TCPs were approved by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), namely: “Improved methodology for sustainable management of inland fish resources in Europe”, and “Improved technical capacity of fish farmers and authorities on fish feed development in CA”. Both regional TCPs address development needs outlined in the RWP2 that so far lack funding in the autonomous budget of the Commission.

13. The Secretariat prepared Concept Notes for submission to bilateral donors under partnership agreements with FAO. A concept note for a project on “Capacity Building for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia (FishCAP – Phase I)” was prepared by the Secretariat jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey. The FishCAP Concept Note was submitted to the Steering Committee of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPPII) in 2018. The Secretariat prepared a proposal for funding under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme, namely: “South-South Cooperation for Freshwater Aquaculture Value Chain Development and Food Security in Western Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia”. This was submitted in May 2018.

Annex Table I: List of CACFish and related FAO publications (2012-2018)

Author(s)	Title	Year/languages
FAO/CACFish	Report of the First Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Istanbul, Turkey, 19-21 December 2011. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 997. Ankara, FAO. 2012. 96 pp. http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i2704b/i2704b.pdf	2012 (English/Russian)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Second Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 16-17 April, 2013. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1045. Rome, FAO. 2013. 39 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3374b.pdf	2013 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Third Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2-4 June, 2014. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1075. Ankara, FAO. 2014. 39 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3988b.pdf	2014 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	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, FAO. 2016. 65 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5161b.pdf	2016 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the First Session of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Kiev, Ukraine, 20-22 November, 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1025. Ankara, FAO. 2013. 39 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3149b.pdf	2013 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Second Session of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 21-23 April, 2014. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1074. Ankara, FAO. 2014. 38 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4001b.pdf	2014 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Third Session of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 16-18 February, 2015. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1107. Ankara, FAO. 45 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5167b.pdf	2016 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Guidelines on the application of the environmental impact assessment procedure in aquaculture in the Central Asia and Caucasus region. 2013. Ankara, FAO. 71 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3220e.pdf	2013 (E)

FAO	Hygiene Requirements, Controls and Inspections in the Fish Market Chain. 2013. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1079. Ankara, FAO. 101 pp. http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3221b/i3221b.pdf	2013 (E/R)
FAO	Private standards and certification in fisheries and aquaculture: current practice and emerging issues. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 553. Rome, FAO. 2011. 181 pp. http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1948e/i1948e.pdf Частные стандарты и сертификации в рыболовстве и аквакультуре: современная практика и возникающие проблемы. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 553. Rome, FAO. 2013. 211 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i1948r.pdf	2011 (E) 2013 (R)
FAO	Fisheries Policy and Strategy Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic. 2014. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1092. Bishkek, 50 pp, 2014 No link available.	2014
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Fifth Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 10-12 October 2016. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1176. Ankara, 2016. 95 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7415b.pdf	2017 (E/R)
FAO/CACFish	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, 28-30 November 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1227. Ankara, 2018. 30 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/I9036EN/i9036en.pdf Доклад о работе Четвертого совещания Технического консультативного комитета Региональной комиссии по рыбному хозяйству и аквакультуре в Центральной Азии и на Кавказе, 28-30 ноября 2017 г., Тбилиси, Грузия. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1227. Ankara, 2018. 30 pp. http://www.fao.org/3/I9036RU/i9036ru.pdf	2018 (E/R)

Annex Table II: Completed and ongoing FAO projects for fisheries and aquaculture development in CACFish region

Project Name	Project Code	Country or region	Main activities	Period	Status	Implementing agency	Budget (USD)
Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV - CA)	GCP /RER/031/TUR	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Regional capacity building activities on fisheries and aquaculture	2009-2016	Completed	Responsible agencies on fisheries and aquaculture	1 785 230
Alternative utilization of water resources in Armenia in the field of fish production	TCP/ARM/3504	Armenia	Aquaculture, capacity development	2015-2017	Completed	FAO and Ministry of Agriculture of Armenia	400 000
Enhancing aquaculture production for food security and rural development through improved feed value chain, production and use	TCP/KYR/3502	Kyrgyzstan	Support to Development Aquaculture, Value Chain	2014-2017	Completed	FAO / DoF	326 889
Towards Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Kyrgyz Republic	GCP /KYR/012/FIN	Kyrgyzstan	Sustainable aquaculture management, capacity development	2014-2017	Ongoing	FAO / DoF	1 744 933
Protecting and restoring valuable species of fish (Amudarya trout)	TFD-16/TAJ/002	Tajikistan	Conservation of fish species, fisheries	2016-2017	Completed	FAO	9 870

			management				
Restarting and Modernization of Fish Seed Production in Tajikistan	TCP/TAJ/3601/C1 (TCPF)	Tajikistan	Capacity development, especially of trout production	2016-2017	Ongoing	FAO	49 700
Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed)	GCP /INT/041/ITA	Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Gaza strip and West Bank, Greece, Italy	Sustainable fisheries management, scientific based research, capacity development	2009-2018	Ongoing	FAO, GFCM and Research Institutes of the Eastern Mediterranean countries	1 108 245
Capacity Building for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia (FishCAP – Phase I)	<i>Concept Note pending submission to FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme II Steering Committee as of July 2018</i>	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Capacity building for aquaculture management	2018-2019	Pipeline	FAO and MAF, Turkey	1 000 000
South-South Cooperation for Freshwater Aquaculture Value Chain Development and Food Security in Western Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia	<i>Concept Note submitted to FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme is under consideration as of July 2018</i>	Albania, Armenia, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	Capacity building for aquaculture value chains, markets and trade	2018-2020	Pipeline	FAO	3 000 000
Improved methodology for sustainable management of	<i>Technical Assistance planned to be provided</i>	Albania, Macedonia,	Scientific based research and capacity	2018-2019	Pipeline	FAO and EIFAAC	370 000

inland fish resources in Europe	<i>through the Technical Cooperation Programme, Pro Doc in development</i>	Montenegro, Serbia	building on data methodology for management of inland fisheries				
Improved technical capacity of fish farmers and authorities on fish feed development in Central Asia	<i>Technical Assistance planned to be provided through Technical Cooperation Programme, Pro Doc to be developed</i>	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan	Capacity building for small-scale fish farmers in efficient feeding	2018-2019	Pipeline	FAO	400 000