



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF PHASE VI OF THE EAF- NANSEN PROGRAMME (2023-2028)

SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN REGION

28 SEPTEMBER 2022

14:00-17:00

1. Introduction

The Nansen Programme is well known among initiatives developed to tackle fishery and ocean-related challenges. Starting in 1975, its rationale and objectives have evolved, in broad terms, from gaining knowledge on the availability of fishery resources to improving the capacity of partner institutions in fishery research and management, including in the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

The coming Phase VI of the Nansen Programme (2023-2028) is a close follow-up of the current phase (2017-2023). Hence, both the overall rationale for the Programme and the expected impact remain the same, with an overall objective that: *“Sustainable fisheries improve food and nutrition security for people in partner countries”*,

Managing fisheries is complex, involving actions both to ensure that natural resources continue producing over long term and to meet people’s and countries expectations to improve income, food and employment, as examples. Fisheries management encompasses biological, technical, socio-economic and legal considerations directly related to fisheries, as well as considerations of external factors such as climate variability and pollution impacts.

Ideally, fisheries scientists and managers should work together with fishers and other stakeholders to understand the fisheries conditions as well as the issues at stake. Subsequently management responses should be prioritized in a consultative and participatory manner.

In the context of its long-term goal to improve food and nutrition security, the EAF-Nansen Programme aims at supporting countries to implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and to establish sound management systems with functional fisheries management cycles. It supports knowledge generation and the use of scientific data and knowledge in management, and development of capacities for fisheries research and management.

Taking into account the findings and recommendations put forward by various reviews and evaluations carried out, and following several consultations, including the 2021 Programme Forum, through which it was confirmed that the main objective and Outcomes of the current phase of the Programme remain still valid for the next phase. At the same time some suggestions for adjustments were made. Hence, based also on discussions at the Programme's Annual Meeting (March 2022), the outcomes of the current phase, will be revised to integrate suggestions made by the Nansen Programme's partners at the Nansen Forum (October 2022) and to reflect the evolving fisheries management and research environment:

Outcome 1- Fishery and other relevant research institutions provide timely scientific advice for fisheries management and ocean governance

Outcome 2 - Relevant institutions and stakeholders implement fisheries management consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries

Outcome 3 - Relevant institutions and stakeholders have the capacity to deliver sustainable fisheries taking into account broader ocean governance processes.

The 2023-2028 phase of the Programme, currently under development, will be presented at the next Programme Forum in October 2022, with the objective of the Programme having received all endorsements and clearances and being fully operational in May 2023.

National consultations have been completed through a questionnaire approach and regional consultations are underway as part of the consultative process with partners to review the ProDoc, in particular, to discuss thoroughly the logical framework, which is the backbone of the Programme.

Objective of the regional consultation The objective is to review work priorities of each RFB individually in the context of the Programme and their adequacy to the Programme's logframe for phase VI, in particular at output and activity levels. To facilitate the process common questions will be discussed with all RFBs, while issues specific to each will also receive particular attention (see Content) as agreed with the regional partners. An information note was sent to the RFBs of the Programme with indication of common elements to be discussed. Regions were also solicited to indicate specific topics they wish to discuss with the Programme.

2. Proposed agenda for the regional meeting consultation

- a) Short review of past achievements
- b) Introduction to the next phase
- c) Discussion and feedback from participants on regional priorities
- d) Wrap-up: Summary and recommendations

