

THE REPUBLIC

OF THE GAMBIA











Minutes / Report of the meeting: "Establishment of a National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIC) of the CCLME Project", Fisheries Department, 6, Marina Parade, Banjul, The Gambia, 22nd January 2013.



Ebou Mass MBYE National Focal Point, EAF-NANSEN.

National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIC) Meeting of the CCLME Project, The Gambia. Tuesday, 22nd January 2013 Fisheries Department, 6 Marina Parade, Banjul.

Agenda

Times	Agenda Items		
9H30 – 9H45	Official opening of the meeting by the Director, Fisheries Department.		
9H45 – 10H	Presentation of the Participants and Group Photo		
10H-10H30	Coffee-Break		
10H30-11H10	CCLME Project presentation (by Dr. Abubacar Sidibe, CCLME Office, Dakar).		
11H10-11H40	Presentation of the actions undertaken in the Gambia and having an impact on the results of CCLME (by Technical Coordinator and National Project Focal Point)		
11H40-12H30	Discussion		
12Н30-13Н30	 The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF): Basic Principles and Tools (by the Focal Point of the EAF-Nansen, The Gambia). Presentation of national priorities assets and issues for sustainable management of small pelagic (pp) based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) (by Mr. Famara Darboe and Mr. Ebou Mass Mbye) 		
13H30-14H30	Lunch		
14H 30-15H30	Presentation on the Conception and Elaboration of a National Action Plan (by National Technical Coordinator and Focal Point of CCLME)		
15H 30-15H45	Coffee-Break		
15H45-16H40	Discussion		
16H00-16H45	Finalization and adoption of the national action plan CCLME		
16H45-17H00	Closure of the meeting by Official of the Ministry of Fisheries & Water resources.		

The meeting to 'Establish a National Inter-Ministerial Committee of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME), was held at the Fisheries Department in Banjul, on Tuesday, 22^{nd} January, 2013. A total of twenty-one (21) participants representing nine (9) Ministries, some Technical Government Institutions, the National Environment Agency (NEA), Non- Governmental Organization (NGO), the fisher-folk communities and a representative from the CCLME Head quarters in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, attended (List of participants attached). The opening ceremony was covered by the following Media Institutions:

- 1. The Gambia Radio & Television Services (Television).
- 2. The Gambia National Radio.
- 3. The Daily Observer Newspaper.
- 4. The Point Newspaper.
- 5. Yunus Jah Professional Photographer.

The programme was broadcast by The Gambia National Radio, on 22^{nd} and 23^{rd} January, 2013, at the 20H00 and 07H00 National News respectively. It was also published by The Observer and Point Newspapers on their 23^{rd} January, 2013, edition (copies attached). It was also broadcast by the Television on 26^{th} January, 2013, at the 22H00 National News. The Newspaper publications and the radio / TV broadcasts were meant to sensitize the Gambian public about the purpose of the committee which was established on 22^{nd} January, 2013.

Four Power Point presentations were made, including discussions, comments, questions and answers.

Presentations:

- 1. The CCLME Project by Dr. SIDIBE, Abubacar, CCLME Regional Coordinating Unit, Dakar, Senegal.
- 2. Actions undertaken in The Gambia and having an impact on the results of CCLME, by Mr. SUWAREH, Momodou Jama, National Environment Agency (NEA).
- 3. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF): Basic Principles and Tools, by Mr. MBYE, Ebou Mass, Focal Point of the EAF-NANSEN.
- 4. National priorities assets and issues for Sustainable Management of the Small Pelagics, by Messrs DARBOE, Famara S. & MBYE, Ebou Mass, Fisheries Department.

Silence prayer was observed followed by introducing the agenda. Changes to the official opening by the Director of Fisheries instead of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries & Water Resources were made and it was adopted. The meeting was officially opened and speech by the Director of Fisheries, Mr. N'famara Jerro Dampha.

Opening speech by the Director of Fisheries.



The Director of Fisheries read the televised speech as follows:

Mr. Chairman, the CCLME & EAF-NANSEN Focal Points, representative from CCLME, Mr. Abubacarr Sidibe, participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here today, on this auspicious occasion to mark the opening of this meeting for the establishment of a National Inter-Ministerial Committee for the CCLME Project.

Mr. Chairman

The fisheries sector will continue to occupy centre stage in The Gambia Government's development agenda due to the indisputable contribution this sector makes in promoting the health of Gambians through good nutrition as well as addressing poverty and employment in the population. The Government of The Gambia is extremely concerned about the threats of unsustainable resource use and the threats of human made damages to the aquatic environment. The Government is addressing these threats through various measures. First, it has created policy and legal frameworks in support of sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine resources and the environment. In this context, the Government is implementing relevant provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Mr. Chairman:

During the preparatory phase of the CCLME project, the participating countries and several development partners undertook a series of national consultations and regional meetings leading to a preliminary Trans-boundary concerns and actions to address them. The CCLME project was designed based on the outcome of this analysis.

The project consists of three main components (process, marine living resources and biodiversity, habitat and water quality). Key outcomes of the project will be:

- Multi-country agreement on priority trans-boundary issues, governance reforms and investments to address priority trans-boundary issues.
- Stakeholder's involvement in trans-boundary water-body priority setting and strategic planning, including seven functioning National Inter-Ministerial Committees.
- Improved knowledge and capacity to address concerns on 'Marine Living Resources' and 'Biodiversity, Habitat and Water Quality.

A number of demonstration projects will be implemented in the participating countries to support the activities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of The Gambia deem it as a necessity, the issue of sustainable use of the country's fisheries resources. Integrated fisheries management through application of the broader principles of ecosystem-based management through the application of Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD). Priority will be accorded to directing efforts at encompassing fisheries research and management activities into the evolving state-wide natural resource management framework.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to optimize the social and economic returns of the fisheries resources, accelerated efforts will be needed to facilitate increased participation of nationals (especially youths) in the fisheries sector for employment opportunities and effective participation in the management of the resources for future generations.

Mr. Chairman,

I must take this opportunity to thank FAO / GEF and the members of the Regional Coordinating Unit for their support and professionalism during project implementation.

I now have the honour and privilege, to officially open this meeting for the 'Establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the CCLME, and to wish you all success in your deliberations.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

The speech was followed by introduction of participants and the Institutions they represented and followed by family photo before the 1st coffee break.



A cross-section of NIC-CCLME meeting in progress at the Fisheries Department Conference Hall, Banjul, 22nd January, 2013. Representatives of Institutions is provided in Annex 1.



The National Focal Point of the EAF-Nansen (Mr. Ebou Mass MBYE) and the Registrar General & Barrister at the Ministry of Justice (Dr. Henry D. R. Carrol) are being interviewed about the importance of the NIC by The Gambia Television.

Presentation by Dr. Abubacar Sidibe on the CCLME Project.



Dr. Abubacar Sidibe of the CCLME Bureau, making presentation about the CCLME Project.

The presentation commenced with some useful information about the CCLME:

➤ 2004 – 2006, Preparatory phase of the project.

- > 1st April, 2010, Implementation of the project commenced.
- > FAO and UNEP (through the Abidjan Convention) play the role of the GEF Agency.
- > The seven member countries in Northwest Africa are the participating coastal states (Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and The Gambia).
- > The Head quarters of the project is in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.
- ➤ International Partners are: FAO, UNEP, GEF, ADAR, EAF, SRFC, afc, Sida, PRCM and Wadeningen UR.

CCLME Project Objectives.

The long-term goal of the CCLME Project is to implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries by reversing the degradation of the CCLME caused by over-fishing, habitat loss and changes in water quality.

Project components.

The project is structured by a central process components:

- 1. Multi-country processes and frameworks for understanding and addressing transboundary concerns.
- 2. Strengthened policies and management, based on improve knowledge and demonstration actions, to address priority trans-boundary concerns on declining marine living resources of the CCLME.
- 3. Strengthen the knowledge based; capacity and policy base for trans-boundary assessment and management of habitat and biodiversity and water quality critical to fisheries.

Each of the three components are composed with Working Groups (WG) and described as follows:

Project Components

The project is structured around a central *process* component and two *hematic* components:

Component 1: Multi-country process and frameworks for understanding and addressing priority transboundary concerns

Component 2: Strengthened policies and management, based on improved knowledge and demonstration actions, to address priority transboundary concerns on declining marine living resources of the CCLME

Component 3: Strengthened knowledge, capacity and policy base for transboundary assessment and management of habitat and biodiversity and water quality critical to fisheries



Necessary information about the CCLME Project.

- 1. The NIC have been encourage to visit the CCLME website (http://www.canarycurrent.org), launched in June, 2010, to have a clear picture of the project.
- 2. Completion of the CCLME Communication and Stakeholder participation Strategy document.
- 3. Publication of 5 CCLME Newsletters.
- 4. CCLME posters.

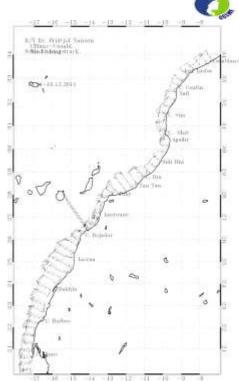
The four above could be found on the CCLME website.

Fisheries research of the Small Pelagic Fish Resources & the Ecosystem. Knowledge improvement on Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem and Resources

- From 4 to 18 July 2011: Cap-Verde Ecosystem survey
- From 22 June to 7 July 2011: Acoustic survey in CCLME area with Dr. Fridtjof Nansen (from Senegal to Guinea) R/V Al Amir (Morocco) and Al Awam (Mauritania)
- From 20 October to 21 December 2011: Regional Ecosystem Survey from Guinea to Morocco
- From 08 May to 22 July 2012: Regional Ecosystem Survey from Guinea to Morocco







Map showing tracks of the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen survey in the CCLME.

The following questions were raised:

- 1. Are there any Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Inter-Ministerial Committee?
- 2. What is the relationship between the NIC and the CCLME.
- 3. Is there any possibility to have a common Co-management system of the shared stocks (small pelagic) for all the seven participating countries.

The CCLME representative was requested to provide the status and composition of the NICs and here it is below:

Status and composition of the NICs

National Inter-Ministerial Committees (NICs) are officially constituted committees comprising functionaries of the key Ministers concerned by the CCLME project, such as the Departments responsible for Fisheries, Environment, research, petroleum exploitation, planning, finance, maritime transport etc. (to be judged country by country). The precise composition of the NICs will depend on the national context. The national GEF Operational Focal Point must be included as a member of the Committee. The NICs will not integrate non-governmental stakeholders, whose interests will be represented in specific national stakeholders for a as part of the stakeholders participation strategy. However, non-governmental resource persons can be called upon to assist the NICs.

General role of NICs

The general role of the **NICs** is to support the conduct of national project implementation activities. The Committee must ensure that the (National Focal Points of the Projects (**NFPPs**) and the National Technical Coordinators (**NTCs**) are sufficiently briefed and mandated to ensure the national interests at **CCLME** Steering Committees and other **CCLME** project meetings.

Specific roles of the NICs include:

- Support national participation in the project implementation process and ensure an integrated approach across sectors
- Support and assist the NFPPs and NTCs when necessary in carrying out their functions
- Approve the annual national project workplan
- Facilitate the provision of official data as required for project implementation
- Facilitate official participation in national implementation

- Ensure government feedback on project activities and outputs (TDA, SAP, EcoQOs)
- Help development, approval and adopt National Action Plans under the SAP
- Structure, functioning and meetings of NICs
- Ensure adequate communication on national and regional activities to all stakeholders.

The precise structure and functioning of the NICs is a matter for official preference. However, it is strongly recommended that the NICs should be streamlined and limited to those key ministries directly concerned with the issues addressed by the project (e.g fisheries, environment, research, energy and petroleum, water). Chairmanship could be permanently held by one member, rotated between ministries or chosen at the start of each meeting. The NICs should meet approximately twice a year.

Presentation on the actions undertaken in The Gambia and having an impact on the results of CCLME, by Momodou Jama Suwareh, NEA.

- The Gambia is reviewing and identifying adaptation measures, which were anticipated to be addressed by the project.
- Development and implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- Developing measures to safeguard the spawning sites.
- Halt the destruction of mangroves.
- Organize sensitization workshops on conservation, and conducting research to further assess the feasibility and scope of fish farming (aquaculture) in The Gambia.
- Operationalise Gambia's established CCLME National Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Presentation: The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF): Basic Principles and Tools (Ebou Mass Mbye, National Focal Point of the EAF-NANSEN).

The NIC were encouraged of stakeholder participation in the sustainable management of the fisheries resources based on EAF. The EAF Principles and Tools were presented as follows:

- Strengthening the knowledge Base for and implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries.
- Assessment and management of marine fishery resources in developing countries.
- The project works in partnership with governments, LME projects in Africa supported by GEF and other interested projects.
- Manage the fisheries to an acceptable level by limiting their impact on the ecosystem.

- Ecological relationships between species should be maintained (maintaining ecosystem integrity)
- Precaution in decision-making and action is needed because the knowledge on ecosystems is incomplete; development of adaptive management systems is essential (applying the precautionary approach)
- Governance should ensure both human and ecosystem well-being and equity.
- Ensuring compatibility of management measures (across jurisdictions).
- Promoting cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Strengthening stakeholder participation.
- Improvement of research-based to better understand all components of the ecosystem.
- Conservation and management decisions on the best available knowledge.
- Management of the living resources to be a matter of community participation and that the approach should involve all relevant sectors of the society and scientific disciplines.

Users of the fisheries resources to understand the effects of their illegal activities as opposed to the ecosystems.



A healthy ecosystem.



Unsustainable fisheries



The present fisheries may not be able to improve livelihood of the fisher-folk comm.



The Industry is affected which could led to increase on unemployment.

These principles underscore the importance of a broad-based participation in natural resources management, the importance of scientific and traditional knowledge and the need for lateral thinking in search of solutions to problems facing natural systems.

Presentation of National Priority Assets and issues relevant for sustainable management of the Small Pelagics based on EAF, by Messrs Famara S. Darboe & Ebou Mass Mbye.

- Fisheries research of the Small Pelagics and the ecosystem in general.
- Monitoring & Control mechanisms due Sustainable management base of EAF.
- Limit the number of fishing efforts.
- Implement the Fisheries Regulations, 2008, on mesh size, aimed at reducing capture of juvenile fish species.
- Protection of the fisheries resources.
- Establishment of Co-management Groups base on EAF.
- Sensitization programmes about sustainable fisheries.
- Encourage bottom-up approach.
- · Control of mesh sizes of fishing nets.

Fisheries Survey of the Small Pelagic Fish Resources.

The NIC members were sensitized about the Small Pelagic Surveys conducted in the Gambian waters as follows:

- A total of 18 Pelagic surveys were conducted in the Gambian marine waters by Dr.
 Fridtjof Nansen (FAO / Norad), 1992 2011.
- Three (3) ecosystem surveys (2011 2012).
- Biomass estimates about the small pelagic fish stocks are available at the Fisheries Department, Banjul.
- Information on the different fish species are also available.

Fish species of the small pelagic.

Sardinella's: aurita & maderensis (yaboye).

Ethmalosa fimbriata (bonga / kobo / chaloo).

• Horse mackerel: Trechurus trecae; t. trachurus (jai).

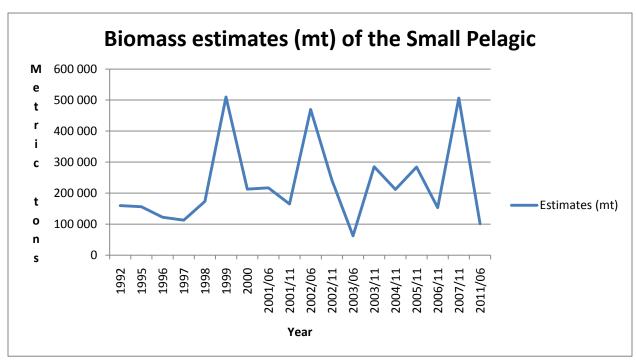
• Carangidae: 4 species.

Scombridae: 3 spp.

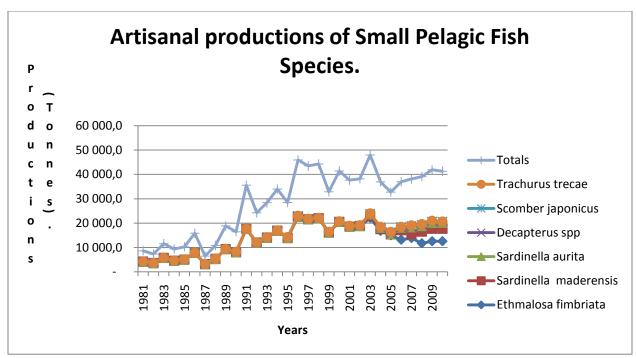
Sphyraenidae: 2 spp.

• Others: zeus faber

The graphs below were presented for the information of the NIC members to be aware of the small pelagic stocks and production from the Artisanal Fisheries Sub-sector.



Fisheries surveys of the Small Pelagics conducted by R/V. Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.



Fish catches of the Small Pelagic Fish Resources from the Artisanal Fisheries Sub-sector.

National Action Plan.

The National Action Plan will be further review to identify and incorporate lead Technical Institutions for implementation and also identify the time and cost of the activities.

- 1. Inauguration of the National Inter-Ministerial Committee (NIC).
- 2. Familiarization of the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- 3. To be acquainting with all reports of the project.
- 4. Fisheries Department and the National Environment Agency (NEA) to provide all the necessary documentations.
- 5. Different Institutions to facilitate the provision of relevant data for the benefit of project implementation.
- 6. The National Focal Point and National Coordinator of the CCLME to provide reports and Project Work Plan to the NIC.
- Review of the Annual Work Plan and budget of the National Focal Point's Subcomponents.
- 8. Promote and encourage sensitization on Ecosystem Management Approach.
- 9. Visit to Project Sites.
- 10. Capacity building.
- 11. Awareness campaign of the CCLME activities for the Gambian populace.

Recommendations.

- 1. Three meetings to be held by the NIC every year.
- 2. There must be a ToR between the CCLME and the NIC.
- 3. Fisheries Department is requested to work on the text of the ToR.
- 4. Inauguration of the NIC.
- 5. The NIC to co-opt the NGO's relevant to fisheries and all stakeholders.
- 6. The Chairmanship of the NIC should be held by the Ministry of Fisheries & Water Resources.
- 7. There should be a secretariat house at the Fisheries Department.
- 8. Develop an Action Plan for year 2013.
- 9. Inclusion of the Ministries of Energy & Petroleum and Local Government, Lands and Surveys to the NIC.
- 10. Have one Co-management strategy for all the countries of the CCLME.
- 11. The NIC should be the umbrella of all fisheries committees in The Gambia.
- 12. Co-opt the National Small Pelagic Fisheries Committee of the SRFC to the NIC.
- 13. Fill the position of Focal Point for the Socio-economic & Governance component.
- 14. Fisheries Department & NEA to provide all necessary documentation to the Secretariat and who will forward the compiled documents to members of the NIC.
- 15. Promote awareness of the fisher-folk communities to the EAF principles.
- 16. Review the annual Work Plan and Budget of the NIC.
- 17. Capacity building on EAF to the NIC members.
- 18. Visit fishing sites to familiarize with the fish landing sites, fishing gears, and advice on sustainable fisheries.
- 19. The National CCLME Coordinator and Focal Point to review the Regional CCLME Work Plan for identification of activities to be executed in The Gambia.
- 20. The Project Coordinating Unit should endeavour the possibilities to fund the two remaining meetings of the NIC.

Views of the participants about the organization of the NIC meeting.

In general, members of the NIC expressed their satisfaction on the organization of the meeting.

The meeting was published by the Point & Daily Observer Newspapers and herewith attached.



Gambia establishes CCLME Inter-Ministerial Committee

be Amadou Jellow

An Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (OCMLE) for The Gambia was Tuesday established at the Fisheries Department in Banjul

The CCLME project is jointly implemented by the United Nations Food DIMER

FAO is responsible for the overall implementation of components 1 and 2 of the project, while UNEP is mainly responsible for component 3.

The activities are implemented in close collaboration with the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission and the Abidjan

Convention Secretariat.

In his inaugural statement, the director of Fisheries, Namura Dampha, assured the committee members that the fisheries sector will continue to occupy centrestage in the Gaussia government's development agenda. He diluted on the importance of the sector's contribution to implemented by the United Nations Food the health of Gambians through the and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and provision of good autrition as well as addressing poverty and employment.

The government of The Gambis, he said, is extremely concerned with the threats of unsustainable use of resources and human damages to the aquatic opeliconment. He told the gathering that during the preparatory phase of the CCLME project, the participating

countries and several development partners undertook series of national leading to a preliminary Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

He said this preliminary TDA identified and analysed specific priority transboundary concerns and actions to address them. The project was designed based on the outcomes of this analysis." he added.

According to Dampha, the project consists of three main components, which are; multi-country agreement on priority trans-boundary issues, stakeholder involvement and improved knowledge and capacity to address concerns on marine resources and bring development.

biodiversity, habitat and water quality

"Priority will be given to directing consultations and regional meetings efforts at encompassing fisheries research and management activities into the evolving state-wide natural resource management framework," he remarked.

in conclusion The Fisheries director thanked the FAO and the GEF project for

their valuable support.

Ebou Mass Mbaye, a senior liaberies officer and the national focal point of the ecosystem approach to fisheries in The Gambia, said the catalyishment of the committee is significant for The Gambia's fisheries sector. He also noted that the country's waters are rich with resources that need to be effectively managed to

Stakeholders Meet To
Establish CCLME's National
Inter-ministerial Committee Stakeholders Meet To Days, panels land and control of the PARAMETER NO. 10 CONTROL OF TH New Health Care Facility Balling the property of the pr

Names, Institutions and contact details of the NIC members.

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