



EN

This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 1

of the Commission Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2017 (Part 1) in favour of Western Africa to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund

Action Document for improved regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO)

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012), applicable to the EDF by virtue of Article 37 of the Regulation (EU) 2015/323 in the following sections concerning calls for proposals: 5.4.1; and in the following sections concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.4.2.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Improved regional fisheries governance in Western Africa (PESCAO) CRIS number: ROC/FED/038-922 financed under 11 th European Development Fund (EDF)	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	West Africa (Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS zone and Mauritania)	
3. Programming document	West Africa – European Union Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) 2014-2020 funded from the 11 th European Development Fund	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	(a). Peace, Security and Regional Stability (b). Resilience, Food and Nutrition Security and Natural Resources	DEV. Aid: YES
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 15 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 15 000 000 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 500 000.	
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality: Direct management - call for proposals; Direct management - grants – direct award;	

	Indirect management with the European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA (Senegal) and with the ECOWAS Commissions			
7 a) DAC code(s)	31310 31320			
b) Main Delivery Channel	SRFC - Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission FCWC - Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea EFCA - European Fisheries Control Agency			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not applicable		
10. SDGs	SDG 14 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development' SDG 02 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture' SDG 12 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns'			

SUMMARY

The fisheries sector is of social, economic and political importance in the West African region in several ways, including: as a source of employment, income in coastal communities and foreign exchange earnings; as a key contributor to regional food security and as the most

important supplier of animal protein to the diets of many West Africans; but also as an element of maritime security.

In general, the contribution of fisheries to the economic development of West Africa is sub-optimal and the current management of fisheries threatens food security, means of subsistence and marine biodiversity. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this situation. Key problems and issues to be addressed include: i) Poor management of fish stocks; ii) The importance of Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; iii) Lack of coordination and cooperation among regional institutions and national competent authorities.

Underpinning these issues there are common underlying causes that originate in the fact that the fisheries sector in West Africa suffers from a lack of political consideration and conflicting economic interests both at national and regional levels. The sector is characterized by limited resources from national governments, a lack of information and often a lack of integration into national development strategies.

Fisheries can only be managed effectively through minimum regional cooperation. The interventions foreseen under this action will enhance regional fisheries management in a number of ways, including by: first, addressing regional fisheries policy at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) level, which will provide both a framework for regional fisheries priorities and also strengthen the impact of regional fisheries bodies by defining more effectively the role and relationships of each organisation; second, by building the capacities of competent national and regional Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) authorities to deter IUU fishing; third, by demonstrating the added value of coordinated approaches for shared fisheries management. The intervention is completely consistent with the regional strategic agenda and will complement EU and other donors actions at national level.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The fisheries sector is of social, economic and political importance in the West African region in several ways, including: as a source of employment, income and foreign exchange earnings; as a key contributor to regional food security and as the most important supplier of animal protein to the diets of many West Africans; and as a key component in coastal communities and maritime security. West African countries together benefit from some rich fishing grounds in a maritime area that extends (in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZs)) to over 2 million km², and taking in two of the most productive large marine ecosystems (the Canary Current and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems). While estimates are variable, the most reliable indicate that the total annual catch in West Africa waters is over 2.6 million tonnes with a commercial value of at least USD 3 billion and supporting around 9 million people who depend directly or indirectly on the fisheries sector. Artisanal fisheries constitute a significant proportion of total fisheries production in many countries (particularly in Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia).

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

In 2005, at the Summit 'Fish for All', the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) adopted the **Abuja Declaration** on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, to support regional cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture. In 2014, the AU adopted the **Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa**, which recognizes the importance of these sectors in terms of employment, their economic

growth potential and their contribution to food security and nutrition. Notably, the pan-African strategy is to be devolved regionally through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs). The Lomé Charter adopted in October 2016 during the AU Summit on maritime security and safety highlighted the importance of proper fisheries governance in that context.

In 2007, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (**WAEMU**) set up an advisory committee on the harmonisation of fisheries and aquaculture policies of its member states. In 2014, it adopted two directives on fisheries management and MCS in 2014. WAEMU has also developed several projects on stock assessment and data collection, co-management, MCS or aquaculture.

Fishing is also fully within the mandate of **ECOWAS** and it has set up a regional committee comprising representatives of the ministries of fisheries and adopted a regional program for the development of fisheries. It strives to contribute to the achievement of development objectives of ECOWAP (Regional Agricultural Policy in West Africa) and identify the main areas of intervention to preserve the economic and social viability of the fisheries sector and increase the benefits for present and future generations of citizens of ECOWAS. The ECOWAS States have also pledged to coordinate their management policies and actions against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) through:

- the **ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy**, which counts among its objectives and sets of actions strengthening maritime governance and addressing IUU fishing;
- the **Code of Conduct on the prevention and repression of acts of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activities in West and Central Africa**, adopted in Yaoundé, 2013.

For its part, the European Union adopted in 2013 a **strategy for the Gulf of Guinea** and has developed in 2015 an action plan with several measures in the fisheries sector and including the fight against IUU fishing. Moreover, as part of its reformed **Common Fisheries Policy** and its external dimension, the EU conducts an external policy to "ensure the sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of biological resources of the sea and the marine environment" in the world in making the fight against IUU fishing one of its priorities. The EU also has Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) -mainly covering tuna – with several West African countries, under which the EU contributes financially to fisheries sector support, in particular in the field of MCS.

Finally, the **Economic Partnership Agreement** (EPA) initialled with 16 West African states, ECOWAS and WAEMU contains important provisions on Fisheries - including the development of a regional policy, cooperation on MCS, sustainable management of resources and strengthened political dialogue.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

At the continental level: At the African Union level, the **Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources** (AU-IBAR) and **NEPAD¹ Planning and Coordination Agency** (NPCA) are responsible for the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

At the regional level: Regional cooperation is characterized by a large number of actors, with inadequately defined and often overlapping responsibilities. **ECOWAS** and **WAEMU** are

¹ *New Partnership for Africa's Development*

beginning to explore their mandates in the field of fisheries. The RECs need to coordinate with the regional fisheries bodies in West Africa, which include two sub-regional entities:

- The **Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF / CSRP)**, established in 1985, and which includes seven member States: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone. SRCF in 1993 adopted a Convention on the determination of the conditions of access and exploitation of fishery resources (MCA agreement) which was revised in 2012, and in 2015 was the subject of an advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the sea (ITLOS). SRCF has also developed a draft MCS convention aimed at setting up a regional register of industrial vessels, facilitating data exchange and creating a regional observers network. SRCF has a good level of expertise in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and to an extent in resource management but it has only an advisory mandate and suffers from divisions between countries in the sub-region.
- The **Fisheries Committee for the West Central of Gulf of Guinea (FCWC / CPCO)** established in 2007 and comprising Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. FCWC's experience is still limited and mainly focuses on MCS issues. The Secretariat is based in Ghana.

Other fisheries bodies (operating beyond the West Africa region) include: the **Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)**, the **Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT)** and the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**. In addition to regional fisheries management and advisory organisations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional seas agreement for West Africa - the **Abidjan Convention**² - oversees two subregional large marine ecosystem (LME) projects (CCLME³, GCLME⁴). While fish resources fall within the ecosystem approach taken by these projects, it is understood that responsibility for fisheries management lies with the regional RFBs.

At national level: At national level, situations vary greatly from country to country. However, in general, while each country has a fisheries department with a mandate to manage inland and marine fisheries, the departments are often weak and the sector is accorded low visibility / priority in government (meaning also inadequate funding). Poor governance mechanisms, weak and incomplete legislation and an absence of effective licensing, operational and MCS capacities exacerbates sectoral difficulties. Professional organisations are relatively well developed in some countries (e.g. Senegal, Mauritania) but largely non-existent in the rest of the countries and poorly integrated at the regional level with a coherent regional agenda. Weak participation in decision making in fisheries management, such as community-based MCS, is common though progress is being made in this area.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

In general, the contribution of fisheries to the economic development of West Africa is sub-optimal and the current management of fisheries threatens food security, means of subsistence and marine biodiversity. On the region's scale key problems and issues to be addressed include:

² Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

³ Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem

⁴ Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem

Poor management of fish stocks: Very few stocks in West Africa are managed based on management plans. The countries in the region lack data and scientific expertise to develop such management tools and management decisions are therefore mostly not informed by evidence. When management plans have been formulated they are often not adopted or implemented. The lack of participatory planning approaches leads in ineffective management and discourages compliance.

Threats to marine environment: Marine ecosystems in Western Africa are threatened not only from the consequences of overfishing and the use of destructive fishing methods but also from the development of uncontrolled human activities on the coast that impact important habitats for biodiversity, including fish spawning and nursery areas. Climate change will further affect marine ecosystem productivity.

The importance of IUU fishing: The Gulf of Guinea is the region most affected in the world by IUU fishing, accounting for up to 37 % of catches, representing up to EUR 1.5 billion⁵. Links have been established with other criminal activities such as drug trafficking. In a report published in September 2014⁶, INTERPOL identifies the main weaknesses in dealing with IUU fishing as being: 1) outdated legal frameworks, not in line with international obligations and providing inadequate sanctions against vessels engaged in IUU fishing; 2) lack of capacity to control fishing vessels in the EEZ; and 3) limited regional cooperation. Consequently, several countries in the region have from time to time been identified by the USA or the EU as inadequately addressing IUU fishing.

Insufficient added value from fisheries: The processing industry is underdeveloped, except in a small number of countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Mauritania). Only some countries / operators are authorized to export to the EU, and most products are sold with minimal added value from processing. Concurrent national strategies may affect the sustainable development of the sector. Regional trade remains hampered by many hurdles.

Lack of coordination and cooperation among regional institutions: There are existing institutions mandated to promote regional cooperation in fisheries management (e.g. SRFC, FCWC, CECAF, COMHAFAT, ICCAT) but these institutions do not have technical cooperation or linkage with the political organisations mandated for regional integration, the RECs (ECOWAS and WAEMU) or with each other.

Underpinning these issues there are common underlying causes that originate in the fact that the fisheries sector in West Africa suffers from a lack of political consideration and conflicting economic interests both at national and regional levels. The sector is characterized by limited resources from national governments, a lack of information or accepted mechanisms for sharing information and often a lack of integration into national development strategies.

The absence of a strategy to define a policy in West Africa fisheries has also led to uncoordinated donor interventions in the form of projects and programs, without consistency and strong institutional anchor. Despite substantial budgets, these interventions have struggled to translate into concrete and sustainable results.

1.2 Other areas of assessment

Not applicable.

⁵ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al., "Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing" (Marine Resources Action Group and University of British Columbia, 2009).

⁶ INTERPOL, Study on fisheries crime in the West African coastal region, Project SCALE, September 2014

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of expertise in the field of fisheries in RECs and low administrative and financial capacities in RFBs 	H	A fishing expert based in ECOWAS has been recruited through the EU / FAO FIRST ⁷ . Budgets allocated to the various partners of the project will take account of their technical, administrative and financial capacities. These capacities will be strengthened through the project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of coordination between ECOWAS / WAEMU and RFBs 	M	ECOWAS / WAEMU, the SRFC and the FCWC enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate cooperation between organisations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of expertise and resources of the national authorities in the field of the fight against IUU fishing and the management of fishery resources 	H	This program will provide technical support to national authorities (cf result 2) and will complement work at national level done by other donors and other EU programs (under SFPAs and bilateral cooperation).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of political will and capacity in member states to implement or adopt the provisions of the regional policies 	H	Sensitisation at highest political on the objectives and benefits of the project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of coherence between multiple recommendations arising from regional fisheries bodies (in particular) but also lack of coordination among donor activities (national and regional). 	M	Enhanced regional coordination of fisheries activities at member states level. Cooperation between donors will be strengthened.
Assumptions		
<p>It is assumed that the following provisions will assist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There will be sufficient coordination and willingness for cooperation amongst the various actors involved (AU/AU-IBAR, RECs, RFBs, along with implementing partners) to enable project actions to be carried out effectively and efficiently. 2. Member States of ECOWAS and the RFBs work for the establishment of a regional policy framework and ensure compliance and implementation of decisions taken regionally. 3. Fisheries sector support is made available at the national level (including support 		

⁷ Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability, Transformation mechanism

channelled through SFPAs and projects funded by other donors) which provides coastal countries to deploy MCS capabilities.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The experience of cooperation with Pacific countries in the field of fisheries has demonstrated benefits from long-term cooperation based on regional organisations with clear mandates and opportunities to develop expertise and technical capacity over time. In the Indian Ocean, the EU has set up an operational regional MCS mechanism for exchange of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) data and the conduct of joint monitoring exercises, in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission.

In West Africa, some progress has been made in developing national and regional planning, responses and legislation through the ACP-Fish2 program, which funded many small projects, certainly meeting a need but which did not develop a real strategy and make a durable impact. The mid-term evaluation of GOWAMER⁸ program demonstrated the importance of working with actors with a mandate and expertise in the field of fishing, which by nature is technical, complex and touches on national sovereignty. The budget GOWAMER program was largely divided into national allocations to fund local activities / national, culminating in a dusting of activities whose impact may be limited.

The final evaluation of the MCS project with the SRCF shows the low absorption capacity under regional fisheries organisations and the need for a realistic approach, while strengthening administrative and financial capacities of these organisations. The project also demonstrated the limits of "ad hoc" technical assistance and highlighted the need to consider long term technical cooperation. Finally, the project suffered from a lack of political commitment, stressing the importance to match project activities with a political dialogue.

The ENRTP⁹-IUU project funded an analysis of the capacity of 51 developing countries to cope with the implementation of EU Regulation against IUU fishing. While the reports by consultants provided a detailed analysis, their recommendations were often ignored due to lack of proper monitoring. However, progress has been made in developing responses to IUU fishing in those countries which have been subject to extensive political dialogue under the EU IUU Regulation.

3.2 Complementarity, Synergy and Donor Coordination

Complementarity and synergy will be sought with the intervention of the following EU projects and initiatives in the Western African Region;

- **FISHGOV Project:** The project aims to strengthen governance of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa by supporting the implementation of the pan-African strategy developed by the AU. It is implemented by AU-IBAR. This regional project is part of the strategy adopted by the AU Heads of States and contribute to its implementation at the regional level.
- **FishTrade Project:** The project (implemented by WORLDFISH in cooperation with AU-IBAR and NEPAD) is to facilitate intra-regional trade in Africa. One of the

⁸ Gouvernance, politiques de gestion des ressources marines et réduction de la pauvreté dans l'écorégion WAMER

⁹ Environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy

corridors studied is the sub-Saharan Africa (Dakar-Bamako-Ouagadougou-Niamey-Kano-N'Djamena). The results of FishTrade will feed this regional program, particularly on fish trade policy at the level of ECOWAS.

- **GoWamer Project:** The program aims to improve governance and the adoption of good practices in sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the ecoregion Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Capo-Verde. This project will end in 2017.
- **ADUPES Project:** Project for the implementation of management plans for octopus and demersal shrimp in Senegal for better inventory management in the region. The lessons deserve to be shared with the countries of the sub-region.
- **Atlantic Ocean Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP):** This program implemented by ICCAT is to ensure the sustainable management of Atlantic tropical tunas by strengthening scientific advice to support the adoption of effective Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).
- **EU maritime security programmes¹⁰:** Several EU-funded projects (under the 11th EDF and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - IcSP) aim to strengthen the regional architecture and cooperation (including that established under the Yaoundé Code of Conduct) on combatting maritime security and encompassing all illicit activities.
- **MESA Project:** This is a research project to develop satellite monitoring tools to improve knowledge and management of the marine environment and food security (including, in both cases, fisheries). The project supports the ECOWAS Coastal and Marine Resources Management Centre (Ghana).
- **EU projects at national level:** In Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the EU supports local projects developed by NGOs with fishing communities to co-manage fish resources, secure tenure rights and establish participatory monitoring to fight against IUU fishing in the coastal band. Under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, two projects will support employment in the artisanal fisheries sector in Mauritania (for a total of EUR 23 million). The EU Liberia Agriculture Programme (EULAP) includes a EUR 7 million component on fisheries value chain.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements: The EU has agreements and protocols with Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Under these agreements, the EU is supporting the fisheries policy of the country, through sectoral support payments. It is action at the national level. Sectoral support contributes in particular to strengthen the MCS building (including via the purchase of equipment), to support fisheries research, improve the conditions of landings, etc.

Other donors:

- **World Bank:** The objective of the West Africa Regional Project on Fishing (WARPF - EUR 45 million) is to "sustainably increase the overall wealth generated by the exploitation of marine resources from fishing in West Africa, and to increase the proportion of this wealth that goes to West African countries". Despite its name, this is actually a set of national programs to support sectoral policies (Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana). Nevertheless, the SRFC plays a

¹⁰ Current programmes (e.g. GoGIN, SEACOP, etc) and programmes in preparation (e.g. SWAIMS - Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy).

coordinating role, particularly in program monitoring and indicators and data collection regionally (*dashboard*).

- **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO):** FAO conducts national actions in some countries of the region in the context of its "blue growth" initiative. Furthermore, the FAO runs the Coastal Fisheries Initiative which aims to support environmentally, economically and socially sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries in three regions including West Africa (focussing on Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal).

- **Norway:** the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has launched a 3-year project of support to the FCWC countries to strengthen research expertise and information sharing to fight against IUU fishing . The project is expected to develop the capabilities of the organisation and its member countries. Norway also funds the INTERPOL working group on the crime in the fishing industry (SCALE project).

- **AWA Project:** This is a trilateral research initiative involving Germany (*Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung - BMBF*), France (*Institut de recherche pour le développement - IRD*) and the SRFC. The project aims to 1) Strengthening fisheries management mechanisms of the member states of the SRFC by a better knowledge of stocks; 2) To improve knowledge of the effects of climate change on living marine resources in relation to the operation of their habitats; 3) train students and researchers of institutions and universities in West Africa.

ASECMAR: French cooperation supported the Academy of Science and Technology of the Sea (ARSTM) in the creation of the Maritime Security Institute Inter-regional (ISMI) based in Abidjan.

There are many other ongoing programs, especially at national level. The action aims to complement these initiatives by strengthening regional coordination, via relevant organisations, ensuring consultation between actors / donors and facilitating a political anchor.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

According to studies, West African countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change that is a serious threat to fishing communities as well as sustainability of fish stocks. Fishing communities are vulnerable to flooding, coastal erosion and extreme events that affect the safety and efficiency of fishing operations and increase damage and disruption to coastal and riparian homes, services and infrastructures. Climate change also affects the productivity and distribution of fishery resources. Ecosystem productivity is likely to be reduced in most tropical and subtropical oceans. Fish distribution will be affected with possible changes in fishers migration patterns. This potential spatial displacement of aquatic resources and people, and reduced supply predictability, call for regional structures and processes to be strengthened (result 1). Improved management of fisheries resources (including measure to reduce the impact of fisheries on marine habitats and biodiversity) will contribute to build ecosystem resilience to climate change impacts (result 3).

A major weakness in fisheries management across the region is the marginalisation of women and youth in decision-making processes. This is compounded by low capacity among the marginalised groups. The action would promote advocacy for inclusiveness in fisheries governance involving all stakeholders. Due consideration of gender issues will be taken in the development of the regional sectorial policy and implementation of pilote projects under result 3.

The question of fishing tenure rights and "ocean grabbing" is more and more important. Competition with new activities at sea, corruption, IUU fishing and overfishing are putting at risk traditional fishing rights owned by coastal communities. In IUU fisheries, forced labour

and unsafe working conditions are key areas of concern. By promoting transparent legal frameworks and fighting IUU fishing, the action will follow a right-based approach.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

4.1. Objectives/results

This programme is relevant for the the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", but also promotes progress towards Goals 02 "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" and 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns". This does not imply a commitment by the countries benefiting from this programme.

The overall objective of this programme is to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa. The specific objective is to improve regional fisheries governance in Western Africa through better coordination of national fisheries policies. The expected results or outputs are:

Result 1: A Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy is developed and coordination of regional stakeholders is improved

Result 2: Prevention of and responses to IUU fishing are strengthened through improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) at national and regional levels

Result 3: Marine resources management at the regional level is improved, building resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to perturbations

4.2 Main activities

Result 1: A Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy is developed and coordination of regional stakeholders is improved

Result 1.1. ECOWAS disposes from a solid understanding of regional fisheries issues

- Activity 1.1.1: Collect existing information available on fisheries in Western Africa and create a reference databasis;
- Activity 1.1.2: Produce a mapping of the possible interactions between fisheries and aquaculture policy and other ECOWAS policies such as trade, environment, maritime security, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, gender, etc.;
- Activity 1.1.3: Based on the analysis of data collected under activity 1.1.1, produce short policy notes on key issues relating to fisheries in Western Africa (e.g. fish trade, food and nutrition security, impact of climate change, the role of women in fisheries, etc.).

Result 1.2 At the ECOWAS level, a regional fisheries and aquaculture policy is drafted and adopted contributing to better integration of fisheries issues in regional polities and strategies as well as ensuring consistency with global, continental and regional instruments

- Activity 1.2.1: Consult various stakeholders on the future policy;
- Activity 1.2.2: Draft a regional policy consistent with global, continental and regional instruments (e.g. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, African Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMOs) resolutions, etc.)

- Activity 1.2.3: Based on the input of the FISHTRADE programme, propose and implement specific actions to facilitate fish trade in the ECOWAS area;
- Activity 1.2.4: Organise high level meetings to facilitate the adoption and the monitoring of the ECOWAS regional fisheries policy;
- Activity 1.2.5: Develop and implement a communication strategy to facilitate the implementation of the ECOWAS regional fisheries policy;
- Activity 1.2.6: Support countries to facilitate the translation of the regional fisheries policy into their national strategies;

Result 1.3 Institutional anchorage between Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS and WAEMU) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (SRCF and FCWC) is defined, consolidated and operationalised - resulting in strengthened regional organisations

- Activity 1.3.1: Develop strategic partnership (MoU) between regional partners and support exchange of experience between RFBs;
- Activity 1.3.2: Support the review of the institutional mandate of RFBs if needed;
- Activity 1.3.3: Strengthen financial and administrative capacities of RFBs and identify possible mechanisms for sustainable funding.

Result 1.4 An network of stakeholder's is developed at ECOWAS level

- Activity 1.4.1: Produce a mapping of stakeholders involved in fisheries and aquaculture issues in the ECOWAS region;
- Activity 1.4.2: Develop a participative platform¹¹ to facilitate exchange of information with and between these actors;
- In these implementation of these activities, specific attention will be put to ensure due representation of women and artisanal fishermen.

Result 1.5 Coordination between fisheries projects and donors in Western Africa is reinforced

- Activity 1.5.1: Produce and update a mapping of key projects in Western Africa;
- Activity 1.5.2: Improve coordination with other regional projects (e.g. WARFP, etc.) and institutions involved in the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in West Africa through regular exchange of information, joint actions and possible back to back meetings / steering committees.

Modalities: *This component will be implemented through procurement (service contract) in cooperation with the fisheries officer funded by EU-FAO FIRST programme and based in ECOWAS premises. Support will consist mainly in the provision of long term and short term technical assistance and organisation of regional workshops/ high level meetings.*

Result 2: Prevention of and responses to IUU fishing are strengthened through improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) at national and regional levels

Result 2.1 Fisheries legal frameworks are harmonised and consistent with international standards to ensure proper fight against IUU fishing

- Activity 2.1.1: Review and update of national laws/regulations in compliance with international fisheries instruments conventions (including RFMOs);
- Activity 2.1.2: Develop national plans of action to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU Fishing;

¹¹ Cf example of the EU Sarnissa project - <http://www.sarnissa.org> - <https://www.facebook.com/sarnissafrica/>

- Activity 2.1.3: Promote ratification and support implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.

Result 2.2 Cooperation between countries, administrations and organisations is facilitate

- Activity 2.2.1: Operationalise / develop cooperation agreements for monitoring, control and surveillance (right of pursuit, exchange of information, coordination of interventions, etc.).
 - SRFC: Support the implementation of the MCS Convention (including meetings of the MCS technical commission);
 - FCWC: Support the MCS task force (including meetings, maintenance of the regional communication platform and data basis).
- Activity 2.2.2: Support the development and implementation of Information reporting and data exchange systems (procedures and platforms to exchange licencing information, vessel permits, inspections undertaken and infringements, etc.);
- Activity 2.2.3: Develop intelligence, risk management and enhanced MCS strategic planning (including regional workshops and development of risk categorisations, assessment and management framework);
- Activity 2.2.4: Establish / strengthen interagency and interministerial cooperation at national level (notably with the ministers of Justice, customs services, port authorities and the Navy);
- Activity 2.2.5: Develop/strengthen community based MCS through exchange of experience on community based MCS and improved cooperation between fishing communities/NGOs and MCS national / regional authorities;
- Activity 2.2.6: Strengthen cooperation with other organisations involved in the fight against IUU fishing and other criminal activities (ICCAT, INTERPOL, UNODC, ECOWAS Coastal and Marine Resources Management Centre ...).

Result 2.3 Infrastructures and equipment of Regional Centre for MCS is improved as well as linkage with national MCS structures.

Based on assessed needs, this may include:

SRFC:

- Activity 2.3.1: Improving telecommunications links between the operations rooms of the Member States and of the SRFC MCS coordination unit (e.g. acquire transmitter / receiver high-frequency voice and data);
- Activity 2.3.2: Providing the SRFC MCS coordination unit with regional VMS system and regional AIS;
- Activity 2.3.3: Ensuring reliable supply of electric energy facilities of the regional facilities.

FCWC:

- Activity 2.3.4: Providing the FCWC regional task force with a regional VMS system that could cover also countries that don't have national VMS systems (based on the introduction of VMS requirement and secured access to regional VMS data).

Result 2.4 Countries' and RFBs' capacities in operational MCS is strengthened, along with their ability to sustain this in the long-term through enhanced training programmes

- Activity 2.4.1: Develop a Common Core Curricula/Sectoral Qualification Framework (SQF) based in particular on Annex E of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement

(PSMA) to ensure comparability of fisheries inspector's qualifications operating in the sub-regions.

- Activity 2.4.2: In cooperation with national training institutes when relevant, organise on-the-spot national training and exchange of experience sessions for:
 - National fisheries inspectors (training for trainers and national inspectors);
 - Operators/staff working in national Fisheries Monitoring Centers (FMC), including operational aspects;
 - Staff of other agencies and ministries.
- Activity 2.4.3: Organise of on-the-spot regional training and exchange of experience sessions for:
 - FMCs staff working in Sub-regional FMCs (SRCF/FCWC);
 - Prosecutors/Justice staff, possibly in cooperation with the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) and EU funded maritime security programmes.
- Activity 2.4.4: Organise specific training and exchange of experience sessions on catch certification schemes adopted by RFMOs and the EU-IUU Regulation for officials in charge of verifying and validating catch certificates;

These activities shall contribute to strengthening compliance with RFMOs rules.

Result 2.5 Joint regional fisheries/patrol missions are organised in the Gulf of Guinea

- Activity 2.5.1: Support to the organisation and implementation of Joint MCS operations, including exchange of personnel and means, and provision of operational briefings (regional);
- Activity 2.5.2: Plan and conduct joint operations (air and sea), including possible chartering of vessels / aircraft;
- Activity 2.5.3: Look for synergies with operational activities carried out under EU funded maritime security programmes (e.g. joint exercises, exchange of information, etc.).

Result 2.6 A network of regional observers is set up to improve the monitoring of the industrial fleet operating in the region

- Activity 2.6.1: Analyse lessons learnt from pilote projects / recent studies and consult relevant stakeholders (shipowners, ICCAT, RFBs, scientists and national fisheries administrations) to design a cost efficient and practical programme;
- Activity 2.6.2: Select regional observers among the national observers and train them;
- Activity 2.6.3: Equip the observers;
- Activity 2.6.4: Ensure the coordination of the regional observer programme;
- Activity 2.6.5: Develop mechanisms for sustainable funding.

Modalities: *This component will be implemented by RFBs (direct grants) and by EFCA (indirect management) in cooperation with national authorities. A MCS expert will be recruited by procurement (service contract) to support FCWC.*

Result 3: Marine resources management at the regional level is improved, building resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to perturbations

Result 3.1 – Knowledge on the state of shared stocks and/or fisheries of common interest is improved notably through enhanced data collection, harmonised assessment methodologies and better consideration of climate and hydrologic changes, etc.

Result 3.2 – Management measures / plans for shared stocks and/or fisheries of common interest are developed and implemented, with full association of stakeholders – including small scale fishermen and women involved in trading and processing activities.

Result 3.3 – These management measures may include specific measures to reduce by-catches of endangered species, the impact on marine habitats and / or post-harvest losses.

Modalities: *This component will be implemented through a call for proposals (grants). Specific activities will be proposed by the applicants in their proposals.*

4.3 Intervention Logic

As highlighted in the recent advisory opinion of ITLOS, fisheries can only be managed effectively through minimum regional cooperation. The interventions foreseen under this action will enhance regional fisheries management in a number of ways, including by: first, addressing regional fisheries policy at the ECOWAS level, which will provide both a framework for regional fisheries priorities and also strengthen the impact of regional fisheries bodies by defining more effectively the role and relationships of each organisation; second, by building the capacities of competent national and regional MCS authorities; third, by demonstrating the added value of coordinated approaches for shared fisheries management. The intervention is completely consistent with the regional strategic agenda.

Under component 1, the programme will raise awareness on fisheries at Western Africa level and facilitate the integration of fisheries related issues into other policies. Through its steering committee it will provide a platform for policy dialogue between the different regional organisation, development partners and stakeholders.

In recent years, public debate on IUU fishing has raised political awareness on the cost of poor fisheries management and has pushed for more accountability. Several countries in the region have decided to reform drastically their fisheries policy and this starts to bring fruits. By building on these changes and reinforcing regional cooperation against IUU fishing, component 2 will bring concrete results and demonstrate the added value of regional approaches. The proposed partnership with the EFCA will contribute to strengthen capacities through a twinning approach between EU / Member States experts and West African RFBs and coastal states.

Through a call for proposals under component 3, pilot projects will be selected to improve the management of 2-4 selected shared fisheries. These pilot projects will offer an opportunity to bring together fisheries stakeholders (including small scale fishermen and women involved in trading and processing activities) and scientists and propose concrete improvements to fisheries management of shared fisheries. Competent national authorities and regional fisheries bodies will be associated to these initiatives so that they can result in management decisions. This approach will allow feeding regional discussions on fisheries management with concrete examples demonstrating the added value of regional cooperation.

Each component of the programme will contribute to overall objective of the programme while being independent. Possible delay in the implementation of one contract should not jeopardise the others.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with ECOWAS, referred to in Article 17 of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the actions described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute non-substantial amendment in the sense of Article 9(4) of Regulation (EU) 2015/322.

5.3 Implementation of the budget support component

Not applicable.

5.4 Implementation modalities

5.4.1 Call for proposals for improved management of shared marine resources in Western Africa (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The grants shall contribute to improve coordinated management of marine resources in West Africa and resilience of marine ecosystems notably through enhanced scientific knowledge, development and implementation of management measures and empowerment of fisheries stakeholders and communities. Proposals shall demonstrate a (sub)regional interest either by focussing on shared stocks or fisheries spread over minimum two countries.

This call for proposals should allow to fund 2 to 4 pilot projects to demonstrate the added value of (sub)regional approaches to fisheries management. Responsible regional fisheries bodies and national fisheries administrations will be closely associated to these projects.

The EU delegation in Nigeria will launch the call for proposal, coordinate the evaluation of the proposals and award contracts. The contracting with the beneficiaries and contract management will be done by the most appropriate EU delegation, to be identified by the EU Commission in due time.

(b) Eligibility conditions

The applicants should be West-African or international NGOs, scientific institutes and/or international organisations.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 1 500 000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 48 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % in order to encourage the participation of West African stakeholders.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, if full funding is essential for the

action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

2nd semester 2017.

5.4.2 Grant: direct award with:

A) SRFC (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) will be in charge of strengthening regional cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing (result 2) in its area of competence (i.e. Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone). It will more precisely be in charge of coordinating all the activities (including meetings of the SCS commission, identification of training needs and planning of training activities, establishment of a regional network of observers, etc.). SRFC will also be responsible for planning and coordinating surveillance campaigns at sea and will have the possibility of chartering vessels through contracts. SRFC will also have the possibility to buy equipment (result 2.2) under the ex-ante control of the Commission. Therefore, sub-contracting exceptionally, will not be restricted to the limited portion of the action.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the beneficiary is in a legal monopoly situation (cf. Financial Regulation, Article 190.1C). SRFC is the only inter-governmental organisation that has the mandate to ensure coordination in the field of fisheries MCS in the ECOWAS area. It has developed legal instruments to facilitate this cooperation and has already carried out sub-regional surveillance campaigns.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 100 % in accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) Regulation 2015/323. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

4th trimester 2017.

B) FCWC (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The Fisheries Committee for the West en Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) will be in charge of strengthening regional cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing (result 2) in its area of competence (i.e. Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Ghana and Nigeria). It will more precisely be in charge of coordinating all the activities (including meetings of the SCS task force, identification of training needs and planning of training activities, regional communication platform, etc.). In order to implement the different activities, FCWC will have the possibility to buy equipment (result 2.2) under the ex-ante control of the Commission. Therefore, sub-contracting, exceptionally, will not be restricted to the limited portion of the action.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Fisheries Committee for the West en Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the beneficiary is in a legal monopoly situation. FCWC is the only inter-governmental organisation that has the mandate to ensure coordination in the field of fisheries MCS in the ECOWAS area. It has set up a regional MCS task force.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 100 % in accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) Regulation 2015/323. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

4th trimester 2017.

5.4.3 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
MCS long term expert FCWC	Service	1	2 ^d trimester 2017

5.4.4 Indirect management with the European Fisheries Control Agency

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the European Fisheries Control Agency in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. This implementation entails providing technical assistance to Regional Fisheries Bodies (SRFC and FCWC) and their member countries in order to improve regional cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing (result 2). This implementation is justified because EFCA has an outstanding experience in coordination of MSC activities in the EU. Long term partnership between EFCA and West African RFBs will allow a twining approach (peer to peer) that will be demand based and operational oriented.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks like chartering of vessels and airplanes, possible recruitment of complementary technical assistance, etc.

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred by the entrusted entity may be recognised as eligible as of the adoption of this decision as EFCA will support EU delegations in the preparation of the grant contracts with SRFC and FCWC.

5.4.5. Indirect management with a regional organisation

A part of this action with the objective of developing a Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy and improving coordination of regional stakeholders (Result 1) may be implemented in indirect management with the ECOWAS Commission in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323 according to the following modalities.

The regional organisation will act as the contracting authority for the procurement procedures. The Commission will control ex ante all procurement procedures. Payments are executed by the European Commission.

In accordance with Article 190(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 262(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable pursuant to Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323 and Article 19 (1) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, the ECOWAS Commission shall apply the procurement rules of Chapter 3 of Title IV of Part Two of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. These rules as well as rules on grant procedures in accordance with Article 193 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, will be laid down in the financing agreement concluded with the Commission of the ECOWAS.

A single service contract is intended to facilitate overall implementation of activities under result 1. It will include long term and short term technical assistance to assist ECOWAS but also RFBs (cf result 1.3) and facilitate the overall coordination of the programme. Incidental expenditure is foreseen for the organisation of seminars, workshops, communication activities, etc.

In order to permit rapid start-up of activities, the invitation (s) to tender relating to technical assistance will be launched under suspensive clause of the Commission's final decision on this programme.

5.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 22(1)(b) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership.

5.6 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified	TOTAL
Nigeria	7 070 000		7 570 000
<i>5.4.1– Call for proposals (direct management) – Result 3</i>	<i>4 500 000</i>	<i>500 000</i>	<i>5 000 000</i>
<i>5.4.5 Indirect management with ECOWAS – Result 1</i>	<i>2 320 000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2 320 000</i>
5.9 Evaluation – 5.10 Audit (Nigeria)	250 000	0	250 000
Ghana	1 720 000		1 720 000
<i>5.4.2 b)– Direct grant FCWC (direct management) – Result 2</i>	<i>1 120 000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 120 000</i>
<i>5.4.3 – Procurement MCS expert at FCWC (direct management) – Result 2</i>	<i>600 000</i>		<i>600 000</i>
Senegal	6 210 000		6 210 000
<i>5.4.2 a)– Direct grant SRFC (direct management) – Result 2</i>	<i>3 625 000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3 625 000</i>
<i>5.4.4 – Indirect management with EFCA – Result 2</i>	<i>2 585 000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2 585 000</i>
5.11 - Communication and visibility	Integrated in various contracts	0	0
Total	15 000 000	500 000	15 500 000

5.7 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A technical committee will be set up for each contract to ensure regular monitoring of the contract implementation, approve the reports of activities and validate Work Plan and Annual Budget (AWPB).

A regional programme steering committee will be established, chaired by the ECOWAS Commission and the European Commission. This committee will constitute a platform for policy dialogue on fisheries issues in Western Africa, associating key regional organisations and development partners. It will also be in charge of the overall monitoring of the programme.

The committee will notably consist of:

- ECOWAS Commission;
- WAEMU Commission;
- European Commission;

- SRCF;
- FCWC;
- EFCA;
- A representative of a Member States of the FCWC (annual and rotating representation);
- A representative of the Member States of the SRFC (annual and rotating representation).

The implementing partners of the projects selected under the call for proposals and regional stakeholders representatives may be invited. AU-IBAR, FAO, the World Bank and other development partners will be invited as observers. The organisation of the Regional programme steering committee will be facilitated by the technical assistance based at ECOWAS. The technical assistance will also be responsible to ensure regular information of the different implementing partners, possibly through the participative platform set up under activity 1.4.2.

5.8 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.9 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to identifying whether the specific activities being carried out are meeting the ongoing needs of the regional institutions.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular that this is the first fisheries programme in Western Africa funded under the Regional Indicative Programme.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner

country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

As an indication, it will be concluded two assessment services contracts respectively after three years maximum and by the end of the program (lead delegation Nigeria). Indicatively, two contracts for evaluation services shall be concluded under a framework contract in 2018 and 2019.

5.10 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

As an indication, it will be concluded at least two audit service contracts after three years maximum and by the end of the program (lead delegation Nigeria).

Indicatively, two contracts for audit services shall be concluded under a framework contract in 2018 and 2019.

5.11 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.6 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

No separate modality for communication and visibility is foreseen - communication and visibility measures shall be integrated within individual project modalities.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable.

APPENDIX 1 - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines 2016	Targets 2021	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	The overall objective is to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa	Fish consumption per capita	Sub-saharian Africa: 9.1kg (2009)	Reduction is less than that estimated by recent studies ¹²	FAO, WB, OECD reports	Political will amongst member States and adequate cooperation among stakeholders
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	A Western African fisheries and aquaculture policy is developed and coordination of regional stakeholders is improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ECOWAS Fisheries Regional Policy. ▪ Anchorage between RECs and RFBs. 	<p>None</p> <p>Only informal relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy Document adopted - Signed MoU 	Documents publically available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political will amongst member States ▪ Willingness amongst regional institutions
Outputs	<p>Result 1.1. ECOWAS disposes from a solid understanding of regional fisheries issues</p> <p>Result 1.2 At the ECOWAS level, a regional fisheries and aquaculture policy is drafted and adopted contributing to better integration of fisheries issues in regional polities and strategies as well as ensuring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of policy notes ▪ ECOWAS Fisheries Regional Policy. ▪ Strategy to facilitate fish trade in ECOWAS area ▪ Examples of other fisheries policies integrating fisheries issues considerations 	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Policy Document and strategy adopted</p> <p>3</p> <p>Signed MoU</p>	<p>Documents publically available</p> <p>Projects report</p>	

¹² The OECD expects that per capita consumption in Africa will decrease by a further 10 % by 2024. The World Bank-FAO-IFPRI projection (World Bank 2014) is even more alarming with per capita fish consumption expected to decline in sub-Saharan Africa by 1 % annually to 5.6 kg in 2030.

	<p>consistency with global, continental and regional instruments.</p> <p>Result 1.3 Institutional anchorage between Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS and WAEMU) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (SRCF and FCWC) is defined, consolidated and operationalised - resulting in strengthened regional organisations</p> <p>Result 1.4 An informal network of stakeholder's is developed at ECOWAS level</p> <p>Result 1.5 Coordination between fisheries projects and donors in Western Africa is reinforced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anchorage between RECs and RFBs ▪ Establishment of a regional stakeholders network° 	<p>Only informal relations</p> <p>None</p>	<p>Number of organisations being part of the network (incl. number of women organisations)</p> <p>Participative platform in place</p>		
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	Prevention of and responses to IUU fishing are strengthened through improved regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IUU fishing is reduced 	<p>Estimated to 37 % of catches / 1.5bn EUR (2014)</p>	<p>Reduction by 20</p>	<p>Interpol and other international / regional organisations reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political will amongst member States ▪ Willingness amongst regional institutions
Outputs	<p>Result 2.1 Fisheries legal frameworks are harmonised and consistent with international standards to ensure proper fight against IUU fishing</p> <p>Result 2.2 Cooperation between countries, administrations and organisations is facilitate</p> <p>Result 2.3 Infrastructures and equipment of Regional Centre for MCS is improved as well as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of countries having a national action plan to combat illegal fishing that is operational* ▪ Regional FMCs equipped with regional VMS ▪ Number of sub-regional fisheries patrols surveillance carried out ▪ Number of trained 	<p>1</p> <p>0</p> <p>1 (2016)</p>	<p>National plans adopted in half of the countries</p> <p>2</p> <p>4 /year</p> <p>Min. 5 per country</p>	<p>FAO site listing national action plans¹³</p> <p>Projects report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective involvement of member states in the process ▪ Cooperation and collaboration amongst regional institutions and Member States

¹³ <http://www.fao.org/fishery/ipoa-iuu/npoa/en>

	<p>linkage with national MCS structures.</p> <p>Result 2.4 Countries' and RFBs' capacities in operational MCS is strengthened, along with their ability to sustain this in the long-term through enhanced training programmes</p> <p>Result 2.5 Joint regional fisheries/patrol missions are organised in the Gulf of Guinea</p> <p>Result 2.6 A network of regional observers is set up in due cooperation with relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>fisheries inspectors (including women)^o</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of regional observers embarked 	-	50		
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>Result 3: Marine resources management at the regional level is improved and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to perturbations is enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of shared stocks / fisheries managed at (sub)regional level 	0 (except tuna species covered by ICCAT)	3	Management plans and other regulations	Cooperation and collaboration amongst concerned stakeholders Involvement of national competent authorities
Outputs	To be proposed by applicants to the call for proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				

Data collected in the programme will be disaggregated by sex when relevant (see notably ^o).

APPENDIX 2 - LIST OF ACRONYMS

AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal resources
CECAF: Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
COMHAFAT: Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains riverains de l’Océan Atlantique
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
EEZ: Exclusive Economic zone
EFCA: European Fisheries Control Agency
EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement
FCWC: Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
ICCAT: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ITLOS: International Tribunal for the Law Of the Sea
IUU Fishing: Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
MCS: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
PMU: Project Management Unit
PSMA: Port State Measures Agreement
REC: Regional Economic Community
RFB: Regional Fisheries Body
RFMO: Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SFPA: Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement
SRFC: Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
VMS: Vessels Monitoring System
WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union
WARPF: West Africa Regional Fisheries Programme