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content review of the questionnaires for regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), along with the introduction of web-based reporting for these entities.

In 2013, the C/FA Secretariat developed a tailor-made web-based questionnaire (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/code/codequest>) for Members (in 6 official languages), RFBs and NGOs, together with a related database and information system, with inbuilt data management and data processing tools, useful in analytical and monitoring processes. The questionnaire online system is accessible through a dedicated portal on the FAO domain using unique usernames and passwords, and meets the necessary confidentiality, security and usability requirements.

Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance

The Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 May 2011, and resumed from 5 to 9 March 2012 and from 4 to 8 February 2013. In accordance with the request given by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (C/FA) the Technical Consultation resumed negotiations on the basis of a draft document with the following structure: statement of purpose and principles; scope of application; performance assessment criteria; procedure for carrying out assessments; cooperation between flag States and coastal States; encouraging compliance and deterring non-compliance by flag States; cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries with a view to capacity development, and the role of FAO. The Technical Consultation came to a close at the second resumed session with agreement being reached on "Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance". The Guidelines will be presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries at its 31st Session for consideration.

FAO Conference on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

The FAO Conference on 22 November 2009 approved the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (D28-DCYnBGBs)1J28E-J992J-Bn)12P8D000B)1J-28)178J-0P-;Bl7JB)1J28;-70Bwi)78J-P-PBl)178J9PE;7

activities include 13 workshops around the globe, bringing together climate change experts with fisheries and aquaculture experts to review current scientific knowledge and define priorities activities to guide actions and investments in the near future. FAO has initiated

- Formulation of a Strategy, Action Plan and Programme Proposal on Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change Adaptation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the CARICOM and Wider Caribbean Region. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Proceedings.
[http://www.crfm.net/~uwo_xjxf/images/CCA and DRM Regional works op Report final 4.doc](http://www.crfm.net/~uwo_xjxf/images/CCA%20and%20DRM%20Regional%20works%20op%20Report%20final%204.doc)
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FAO continues to support the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species in association with the Convention on Biological Diversity et al. FAO also continues to support the Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS) and is producing Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries-“Responsible Use and Control of Introduced Species in Fisheries and Aquaculture”. However, work on the guidelines has stalled due to lack of resources.

In light of the fact that alien species and genetically altered

- Through the operations of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, and as part of the Norway funded EAF Nansen Project, important data and information are being collected on marine resources and the marine environment in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Plans for a new programme to be funded by Norway entailing building a new research vessel (Dr. Fridtjof Nansen) and a research and management programme addressing sustainability of fisheries, impacts of climate change on fishery resources and ecosystems and impacts of pollution and other human activities on fishery resources and ecosystems. This programme will build on the results and efforts obtained through the EAF Nansen project.

In most EAF activities strong partnerships have been established with relevant regional and national

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Seeking to generate a catalytic change, in November 2011, the Council of GEF approved the “Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program” (ABNJ Program) also known as “Common Ceans”¹. The program, led by FAO working in

At the basis of FA Fish Finder products are the global catalogues for selected species groups, e.g. for invertebrates like sponges, cephalopods and sea cucumbers and for vertebrates like sharks and rays, many commercially important bony fish groups, mammals and sea turtles.

FA Fish Finder pocket guides make use of local knowledge and are a user-friendly tool for fishery officers and other non-experts to reliably identify aquatic species.

FA distributed a Circular State Letter inviting Member Countries to nominate National Focal Points responsible for the preparation of Country reports on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture. FA prepared Draft Guidelines for the preparation of Country reports for The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which provide guidance to help countries complete their Country Reports.

The work towards the preparation of the Report should link to and build on the FA Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The first State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Report is expected to be completed in 2017.

The FA Committee on Fisheries' Sub-Committee (C-FI) on Aquaculture has endorsed the creation of an Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies. Draft Terms of Reference for the advisory group have been established and will be submitted to the 31st session of C-FI for adoption.



FA developed technical guidelines on marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries¹¹ in 2011 and has conducted regional workshops in the western Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Canary Current region to bring the fisheries and biodiversity communities together to discuss common issues in relation to spatial management measures. FA is leading sessions on protected areas and food security including specific sessions focusing on fisheries and protected areas during the 2014 World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney, Australia, from 12 to 19 November 2014.



FA plays a leading role in the EU/FP7 funded iMarine initiative which develops a data-infrastructure

In line with FAO's commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the UNFCCC processes related to adaptation in which disaster risk reduction is considered as complementary action and essential for climate change adaptation, and FAO's support to the development of the post-2015 framework of disaster risk reduction, and collaboration with IFAD on animal health, FAO is supporting regional organisations and member countries in strengthening institutions, communities, ecosystems and livelihoods systems around four main axes. These include: i) strengthening policies and programming to prevent and reduce risks and mobilize investments for medium to long term rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction programmes; ii) strengthening information systems, risk assessments and early warnings

different consequences; b) Discussing how to address the concerns about, and barriers to, fair and equitable application of user rights in capture fisheries; and, c) Providing practical guidance for implementing in the fisheries sector the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

The outcome of the Conference will be a general broader understanding of the concept of “Rights-based Approaches for Fisheries” that will advance and improve the basis for generating practical, constructive guidance for fisheries stakeholders, fishermen, communities and managers to use in daily management of fisheries and that will guide policy makers on the design and application - or non-application - of rights-based systems. FAO will act as the core secretariat for the Conference.

Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, held in The Hague, from 22 to 25 April 2014, was organised by the FAO, the World Bank, the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and the governments of Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway and the United States of America. The Summit brought together a diverse range of ocean stakeholders to identify solutions and success stories that reconcile competing interests and show how governance, partnerships and financing can help scale up activities that result in shared prosperity today and for future generations.

The Summit, attended by more than 600 participants, from governments, private sector, academia, NGOs,