

Capacity building for sustainable Fisheries Management in the southwest ocean Indian – FISHERMAN

The Specific objective of the project is to develop and implement a master program with a regional dimension aimed at building competences in sustainable fisheries management in Southwest Indian Ocean universities as well as to prepare a new generation of skilled professionals for a sustainable fisheries management in the region. The expected results will include a Master program in Sustainable fisheries Management; a regional online platform on fisheries management; public awareness activities and dissemination of the programme; as well as sound management and quality control activities.

With no doubt, fisheries are extremely relevant to the national economies and food security of Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Comoros Island and the Republic of Seychelles.

Having this in mind, it is important to ensure the training of new skilled professionals in sustainable fisheries management for the region from the academia sector. The project addresses both institutional capacity building and improvements in academic quality in fisheries related education within the region.

Contract

FED/2013/320-279

Co-ordinator

Universidad de Alicante

Partners

University of Dar Es Salaam,
Universidade Eduardo
Mondlane,
University of Toliara,
Universite de Comores,
University of Seychelles,
Universidade do Algarve

Project duration

36 months

EU grant

EUR 491,110.22

ACP regions and countries involved

Southwest Indian Ocean:
Tanzania,
Mozambique,
Madagascar,
Comoros,
Seychelles
Spain

Technical Assistance Unit

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Challenge

The South-Western Indian Ocean (SWIO) region provides livelihoods, food and medicine to the entire regional population. The current situation of coastal and marine resources is under coming under increasing pressure from human activities and the continued decline of these resources is due to poorly co-ordinated or enforced and unplanned exploitation.

Concurrently the importance of marine fisheries to the national economies and food security of Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania, Comoros Islands and Republic of Seychelles is increasing. Hence, ensuring effective management of resources to achieve ecological and economic sustainability is crucial to alleviate the environmental and socio-economic impact caused by this trend. However the lack of skilled professionals able to undertake the task is an important issue to tackle.

Focus

FisherMan project will focus on enhancing the capacity of Higher Education Institutions in the region to train professionals in sustainable fisheries management. New graduates be equipped for employment in the public and private and civil society sectors. The aim is to provide the region with a cadre of trained professionals who will be able to deal with the contemporary and future challenges of fisheries management.

Rationale

The need for proper training and qualifications in the sector is evident. In some cases fishery legislation is outdated and inappropriate in the target countries. Fishery management agencies need to improve their technical and human capacities.

By enhancing the capacity of Higher Education Institutions, the project aims to provide a sustainable solution that will provide the increasingly important regional fisheries sector with skilled professionals.



Training at University of Seychelles



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Programme theme(s)

Agriculture and food security

Sector

FISHING

Fishing policy and administrative management

Keywords

Fisheries Management, Higher Education Institutions, Food security

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Method

Initially, the project will collect information on:

- Education practices & capacity of partner universities;
- Fisheries management education in partner universities;
- Stakeholder relationship within partner universities.

Drawing on the information gathered from the assessment, project partners will identify capacity, trends and opportunities for education in fisheries management throughout the region. Specific, relevant and sustainable activities for partner universities in the Southwest Indian Ocean will be developed. Key stakeholders throughout the region including industry will be engaged in developing synergies with the project beyond the academia sector.

Capacity building

Capacity building actions will target university staff and students in fisheries management.

Priorities will be:

- Enhancing the capacities to teach sustainable fisheries management;
- Improving pedagogical skills and materials;
- Improving quality assurance capacity within universities.

The action will maintain a strong focus on multiplier effects and sustainability by ensuring the availability of training materials and courses for educators who can in turn disseminate knowledge with others via a training of the trainer approach.

The project will ensure teaching resources will be made available to the partner institutions to overcome constraints in terms of human resources, finance and infrastructure.

Results

The project addresses both institutional capacity building and improvements in academic quality and relevance in the region, leading to

- Enhanced contribution to national and regional policies on cooperation in higher education on fisheries management studies;



Fishing men (Zanzibar)



Fishing Boat (Zanzibar)

- Increased inter-institutional networking between HEIs in the ACP and with EU HEIs, including institutions offering teacher training, degrees and diplomas contributing to regional solutions to teacher shortages;
- Upgraded qualifications of academic staff of ACP HEIs;
- Improved institutional frameworks to pursue academic programmes and academic excellence in ACP HEIs;
- Increased mobility of postgraduate students and teaching staff through the provision of joint programmes;
- Graduates with the skills corresponding to those required in the national and regional labour markets.