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Organization of the
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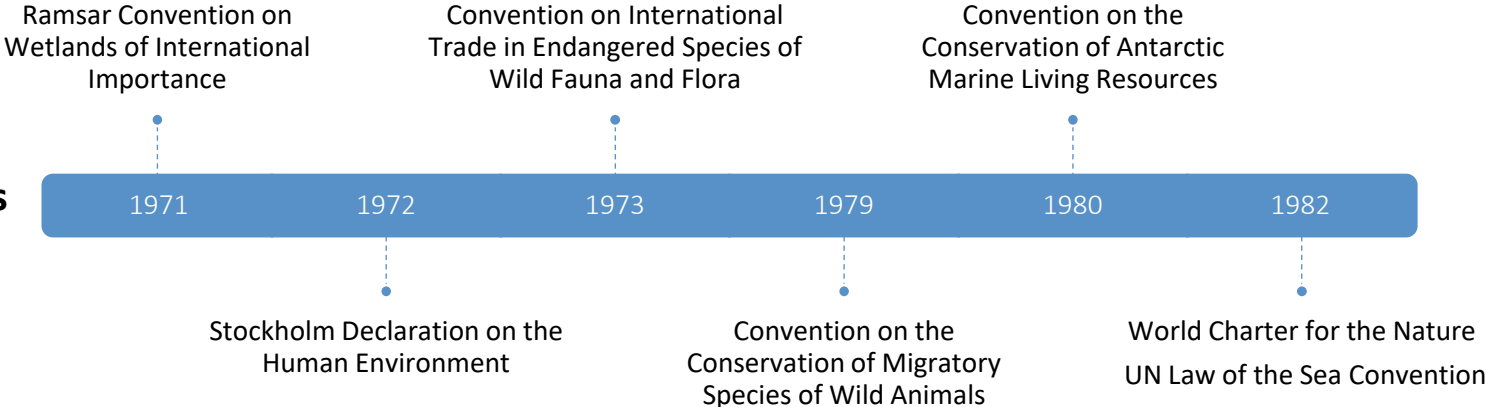
The implementation of an ecosystems approach to fisheries management under FAO instruments

Vera N. Agostini, PhD

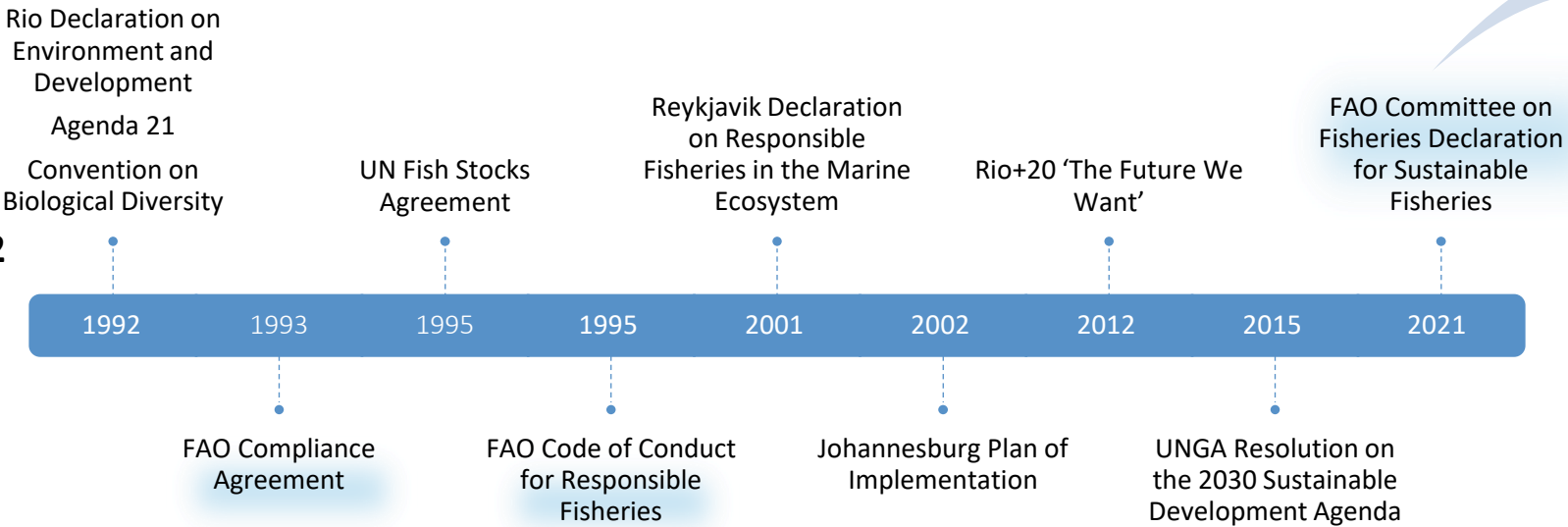
Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

International commitments - Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) is not new

1970s – 1980s



1990s – 2022



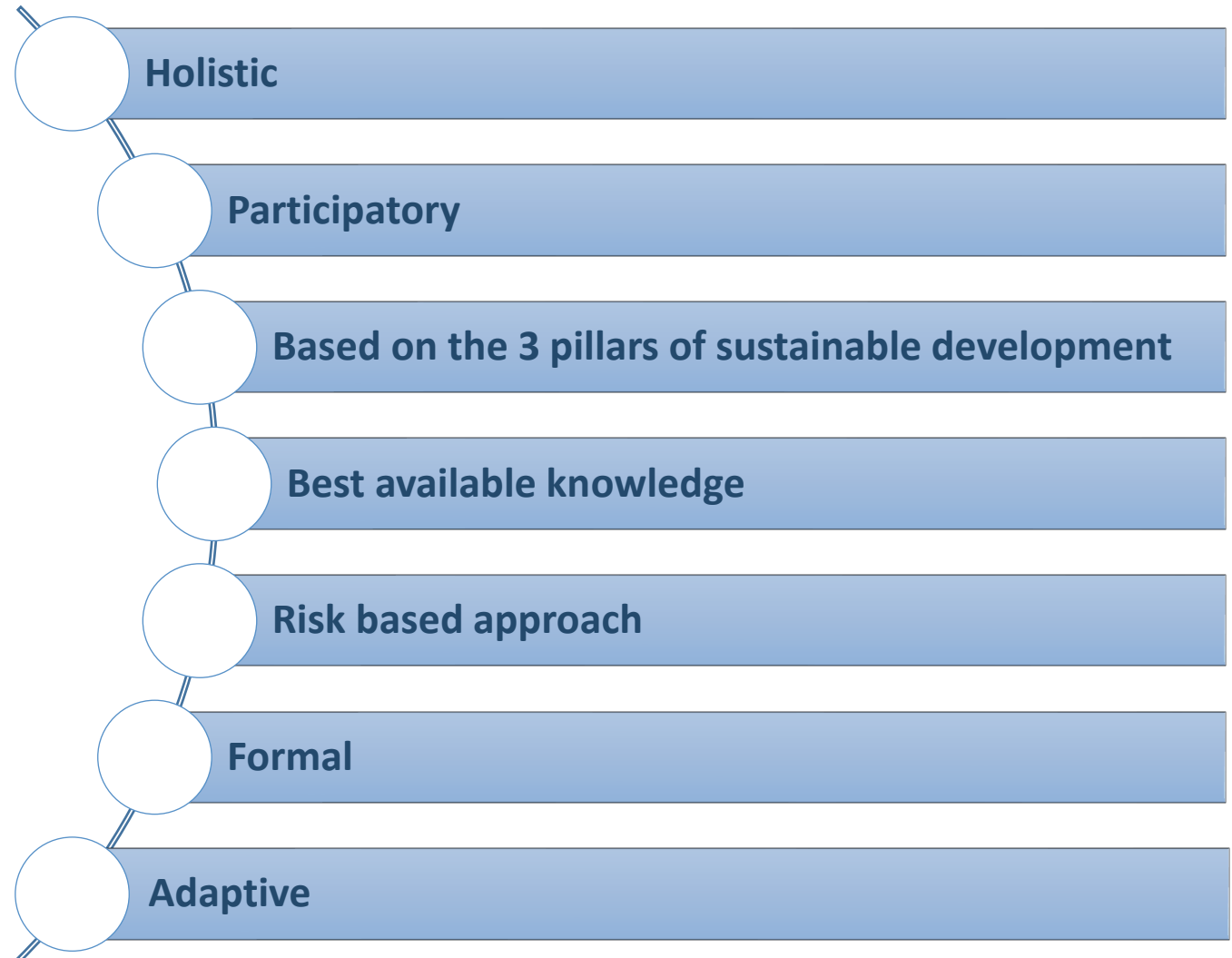
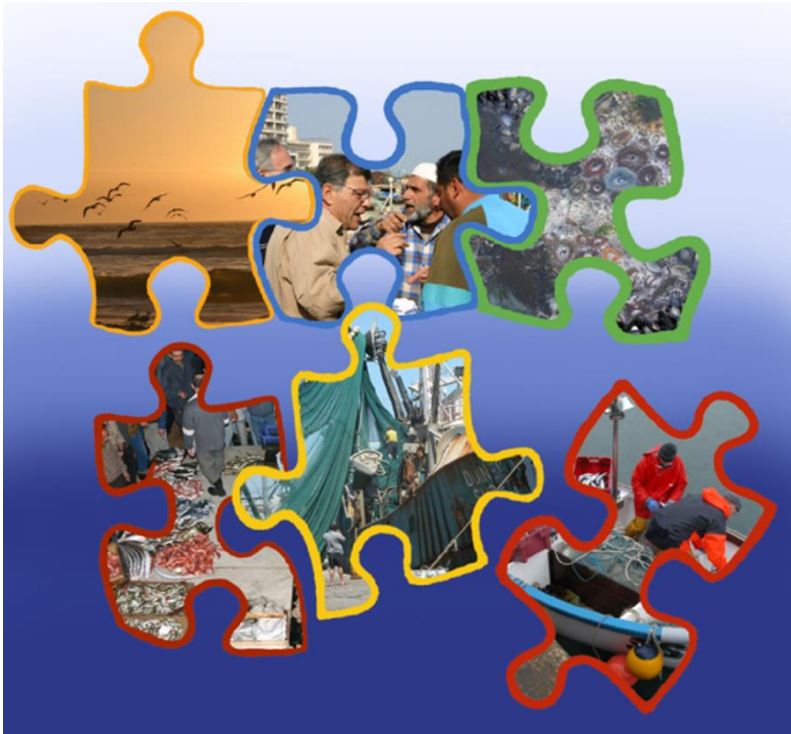
*“Reiterate the importance of the **ecosystem approach** as an effective framework for integrating conservation and sustainable utilization objectives, ...”*

The EAF– what it is

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries strives to balance diverse societal objectives, by taking account the knowledge and uncertainties about biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems and their interactions...



Key features of the EAF



Key steps in the EAF



FAO support to EAF implementation (marine)



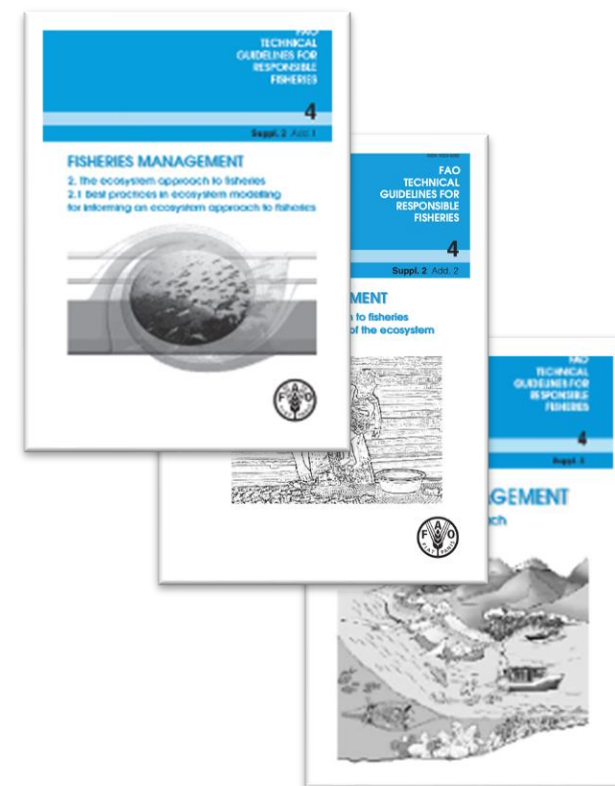
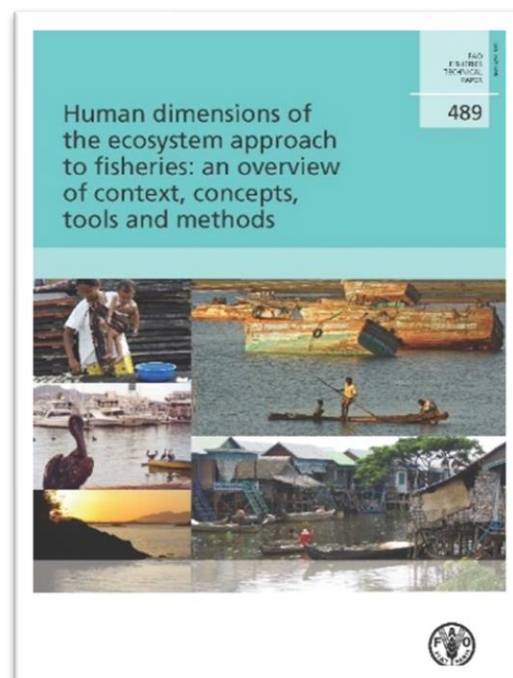
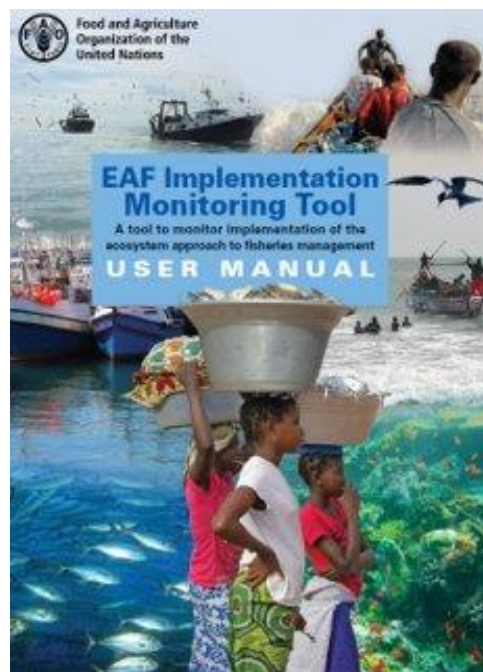
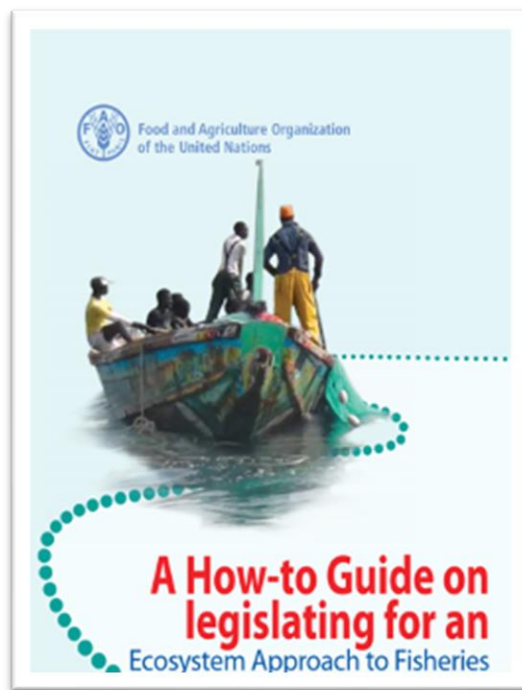
Working with more than
75 countries

Management plans for
more than 50 fisheries

14 current "large"
projects/programmes

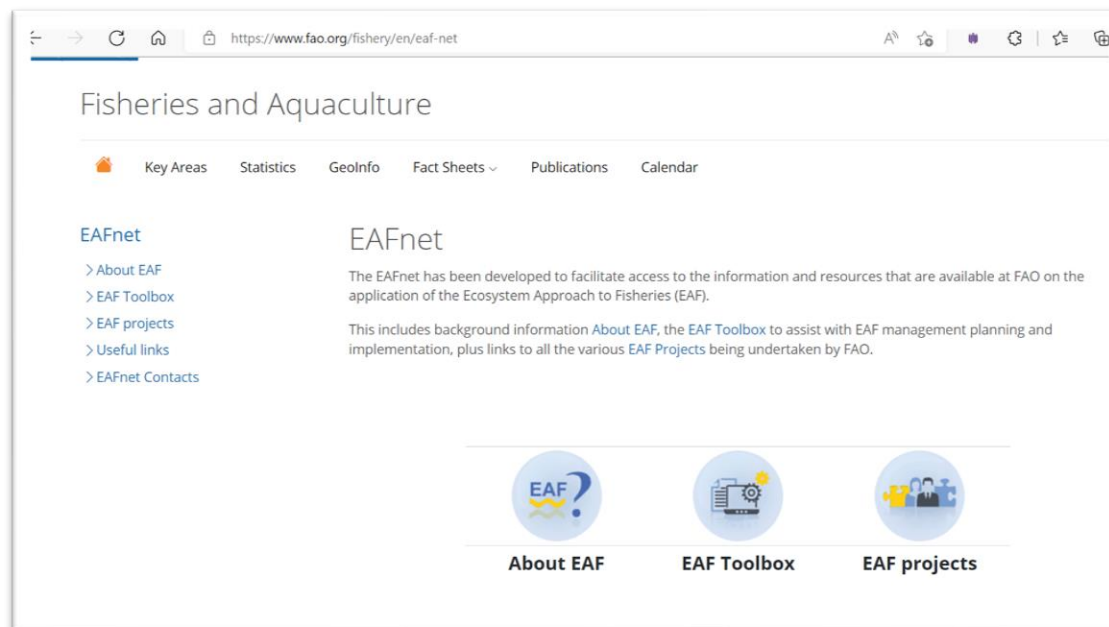
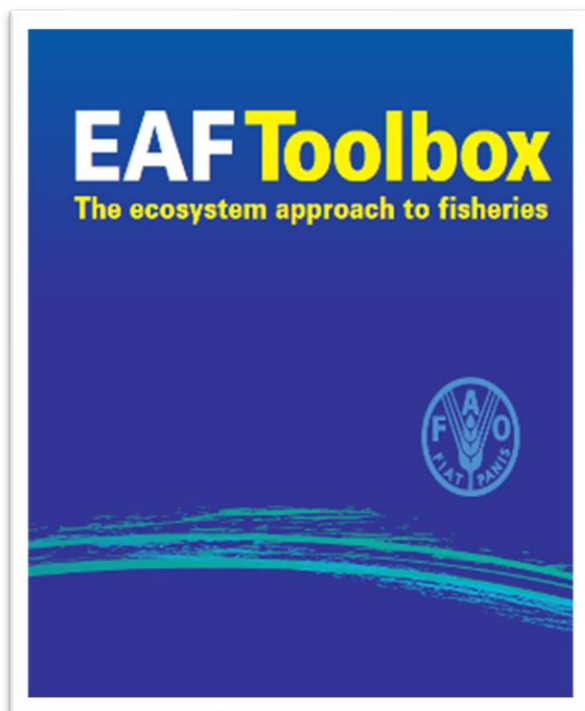
Support to RFBs, including
through above projects

Guidance materials and tools



FAO Fi Library online: ~100 on EAF since 2003
>6000 publications referring to EAF

Guidance materials and tools



EAF-net (www.fao.org/fishery/eaf-net)

Guide users through the four main steps and decide most appropriate tool(s) for each step given the type of fishery, their resources and capacity.

Capacity development



FAO elearning
ACADEMY

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries - Introduction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Introduction

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Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Menu Glossary Resources Exit

Fisheries Management: Challenges

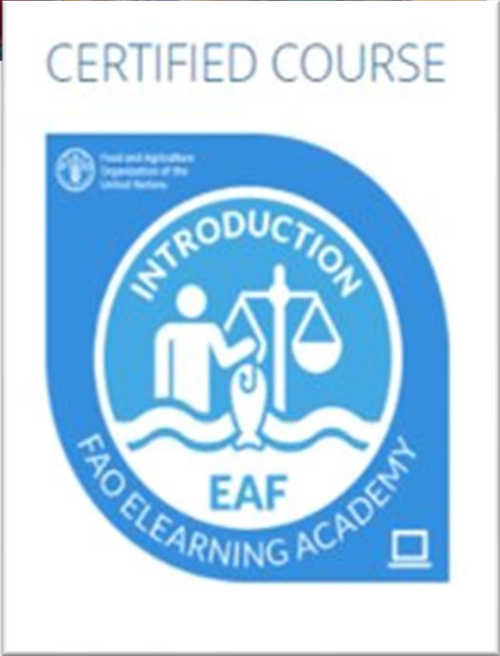
Now that we know more about fisheries management and the FMC, I wanted to ask you if you know the challenges that come with it?

Click on the characters to see what they have to say

Also, it is hard to get the planning well when the **information and knowledge are not readily available**. Other times, some **dimensions are just too complex and not sufficiently considered**, e.g. the social, economic, bio-ecological dimensions.

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NEW



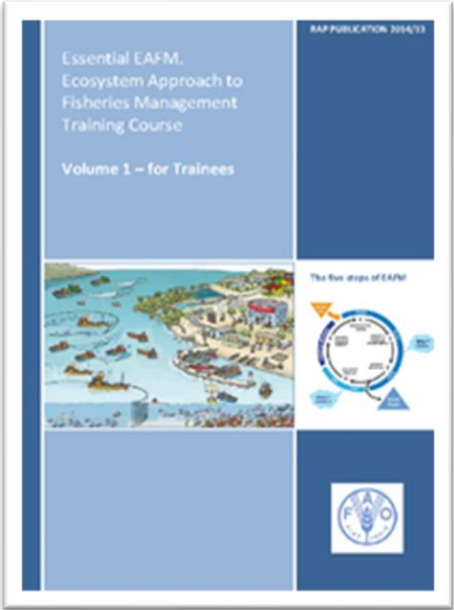
Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries - Introduction

DECEMBER 2021 2 h 20 m



Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries - Policy and Legal Implementation

OCTOBER 2021 40 m



Compilation of lessons learned

IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Ecosystem considerations in marine science and management have been in place for more than a century, but have been addressed more explicitly since the terms “ecosystem-based management” and “ecosystem approach to management” gained acceptance after UNCED. Both concepts imply the management of a resource sector in a way that is holistic and integrated and that accounts for all key factors affecting the entire ecosystem.

The ecosystem approach the ecosystem approach strategies developed and recognition of the need for the planning, developing sustainable fisheries and consideration the effects fisheries and aquaculture and EEA both support it

in connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, and 2010 was agreed as the target for its application in the WSSD Plan of Implementation, Paragraph 30d (UN, 2002). The twenty-seventh session of COFI in 2007 broadly agreed that “EAF was the appropriate and necessary framework for fisheries management” and highlighted the “need for aquatic production to follow an ecosystem approach to aquaculture”.

The rapid growth of the aquaculture sector worldwide, and the interaction of aquaculture activities with other economic sectors and natural resources users, has required a responsible and integrated approach to aquaculture development, as expressed in Article 9 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In response to the explicit request of its Member Countries in 2006 to improve the management and enhance the socio-economic impacts of aquaculture, FAO initiated the development of an ecosystem approach to



FAO EAF-Nansen Project Report No. 11

EAF-N/PR/11 (En)

EAF IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SOUTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN AREA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Transition towards an ecosystem approach to fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea

Lessons learned through selected case studies



ERMES
UWI

JULY 2020

Update on implementing EBM/EAF in the CLME+ region

S. COX AND K. ALLEYNE

CLME+ PROJECT REPORT



Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Great Lakes LME's (2015-2020)

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

FAO DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE PESCA Y ACUICULTURA

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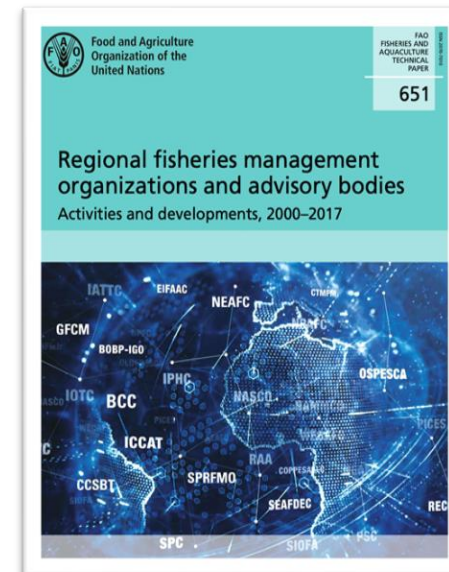
Transición hacia un enfoque ecosistémico de la pesca

Lecciones aprendidas de pesquerías de América del Sur



Shared stocks and the role of regional fisheries bodies (RFBs)

- **More than 40 percent** of RFMOs included a specific reference to EAF in their plans
- **Older RFBs** have adopted policy texts, or implemented projects, aimed at the use of EAF in their science and management procedures.
- RFBs do not have the same level of **formal or de facto adoption of EAF**
- Practically all of them are **increasingly using multiple elements** of the approach in their regular work, focused on ecological wellbeing.



Lessons learned



- Participation
- Data
- Governance
- Integration
- Support
- External drivers



LESSONS LEARNED – PARTICIPATION



Promoting **broad stakeholder participation** is key, national and regional task forces are a good vehicle for this but **consultation fatigue** is an issue



LESSONS LEARNED – DATA



Limited means and capacity exist to provide the **appropriate data** for EAF implementation, and good **social and economic information** are lacking. Establishing **regional mechanisms for scientific collaboration** in support of transboundary fisheries management is key in this regard.



LESSONS LEARNED – GOVERNANCE



Inadequate **institutional frameworks** to help promote coherence among socio-economic and environmental policies are in place



LESSONS LEARNED – INTEGRATION



There is a need to **integrate fisheries in a broader process** of marine coastal planning and powerful sectors (oil and mining) make this integration challenging



LESSONS LEARNED – SUPPORT



- **Facilitating** EAF processes remains key, limited capacity to shepherd independently exists
- It is critical to have **local champions**
- Continuous support at the **technical, financial and institutional level** is needed



LESSONS LEARNED – EXTERNAL DRIVERS



Developing **robust management systems to external drivers** such as climate and global markets remains an important challenge





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Thank you!

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