

PEUMP Programme Inception Meeting for Key Result Area 3 on Coastal Fisheries

The largest component of the PEUMP Programme is for Key Result Area (KRA) 3: Coastal fisheries science and management (EUR 12.3 million), led by the Coastal Fisheries Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC). A key partner in implementing some of the subcomponents is the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network.

Immediately after the Second SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries, which was held at SPC headquarters in Noumea (12–14 November 2018), the PEUMP Programme Inception Meeting for KRA 3 on Coastal Fisheries was held (15 November 2018).

The purpose of the KRA 3 Inception Meeting was to provide participating countries an overview of the work areas under KRA 3, provide information on the more crosscutting components, and begin seeking countries' priority needs for consideration of support under the PEUMP Programme. The inception meeting was followed by a formal launch of PEUMP Programme in the evening.

KRA 3 – Coastal Fisheries science and management addresses the sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources and the improvement of ecosystems through better quality scientific information, legal advice, support, mentoring and empowerment at the community level.

To achieve results, specific activities will target coastal communities, with a focus on women and youth, national government agencies and local authorities. For work with local communities, a rights-based and gender inclusive approach will be taken at the outset of project design and planning in order to directly address specific community needs and establish better opportunities for sustainable development.

These activities will be implemented at the national level, through local government and local authorities and working directly with coastal communities, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups such as women and youth.

The main work areas and related KRA 3 activities were presented and discussed at the meeting. They relate to four main groups of activities:

Coastal science activities

- Surveys of commercially important invertebrates
- Socioeconomic surveys of coastal communities, including gender-segregated data
- Capacity development through long-term and short-term attachments for national fisheries and staff of non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Gender-based and rights-based training, national gender stock takes

Databases and old data activities

- Coastal fisheries data collection and national database development, including trials of new technologies

Community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management activities (SPC and LMMA)

- Support and mentoring for the community ecosystem approach to fisheries management (CEAFM) at the national and local level (SPC lead)
- CEAFM management and coordination with NGOs (LMMA lead)
- CEAFM activities at the subnational and community level (LMMA lead)

Information and outreach activities (SPC and LMMA)

- Communication activities and production and dissemination of information and materials for communities (tendered out with LMMA lead)
- Outreach activities, including adaptation with communities (SPC lead)

A critical aspect of the PEUMP Programme is the incorporation of the crosscutting issues of gender and human rights-based approaches to programme activities. SPC's Social Development Programme (SDP) and Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) provided a session on how to build gender and human rights-based approaches into the coastal fisheries component by applying a people-centred (rights-based and social inclusion) approach. The 'PLANET' conceptual framework was presented as a way to achieve the development goals framed in the PEUMP coastal fisheries component:

- Participation
- Links to rights
- Accountability
- Non-discrimination
- Empowerment
- Transforming social norms

Gender analysis covers four key areas: the gendered roles of men and women; women's participation in decision-making; women's access and control over resources; and women's access to training and learning opportunities. Under the PEUMP Programme, gender mainstreaming stocktakes of fisheries organisations will be undertaken, and will examine political will, funding and resources, technical capacity, and organisational culture to support gender mainstreaming.

RRRT and SDP provide the following suggestions:

- Commit to applying a rights-based approach to coastal fisheries work;
- Conduct social and gender analyses and include communities in these analyses;
- For each project component, determine how it will affect different segments of communities, especially the vulnerable and less-privileged;
- Avoid rights being portrayed as confrontational or non-traditional, and include responsibilities in discussions about rights;
- Train duty-bearers and rights holders in this area;
- Not all rights have to be claimed through the formal legal system in a litigious manner;
- Understand the contents of legislation and policies within the local context; and
- Offer training in self-empowerment for women.

Coastal fisheries management is about managing peoples' behaviour in relation to fisheries resources. Equitable access to fish is one behavioural aspect that needs to be managed. Culture should not be an excuse for not moving forward.

Priority activities

At the inception meeting, SPC requested participating countries to provide their priority needs for consideration of support under the PEUMP Programme KRA 3 on coastal fisheries. While some countries were able to do so at the meeting, others were not, requiring more time to consult in-country officials. As such, in December 2018, SPC sent a circular to participating fisheries agencies requesting that their priority needs for the next 18 months (January 2019 to June 2020) be considered for support under the PEUMP Programme KRA3. Any request for assistance under the PEUMP Programme must relate to one or more of the PEUMP Programme coastal fisheries activity areas and be a specific priority need identified in that country's national coastal fisheries policies, plans and/or strategies.

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