

Modalities for Cooperation

Project Scoping Meeting on Securing the Foundations for Fish
Food Security in a Changing Ocean in West and Central Africa

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Foundations for cooperation

- Not necessary to have overlapping mandates – complementarity and links can be the basis
- Need to have a common goal, objective, purpose or shared vision, and a mutual interest



Identifying the common ground

Communication to build mutual understanding and recognition of roles, identifying

- Each other's mandates
- Operations and processes
- Programmes of Work
- Organisational expertise
- Legal opportunities and constraints
- Aspirations
- Funding realities

Cooperative mechanisms

- Memoranda of Understanding
- Joint committees, working groups, taskforces on special issues
- Coordinated action plans
- Joint scientific requests
- Joint projects
- Meeting invitations, agenda sharing, informal exchange

Memoranda of Understanding

- Background
- Intention
- Areas of immediate and potential cooperation
- Considerations of binding nature, financial implications
- Supported by invitations to meetings, standing agenda items on cooperation
- Expls: NEAFC & OSPAR; Abidjan & COREP

Joint committees, working groups, taskforces

- Permanent or ad-hoc
- Defined role and purpose of mutual interest
- Terms of Reference describing composition, decision-making mechanisms, financing
- Sharing resources in a synergistic manner
- Building a common ground
- Expls: Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing

Joint scientific requests

- Addressing mutual interests benefitting from common scientific understanding
- Facilitating recognition of respective decisions
- Sharing financial resources
- Expl: NEAFC/OSPAR ICES-request

Collaborative Action Plans

- Recognising and utilising organisation's respective mandates and capacities
- Coordinated activities leading to common objectives
- Defined tasks and timelines
- Defined and separate resources
- Expl: Sargasso Sea Alliance

Joint Projects

- Joint fundraising to implementation
- Separate activities for respective mandates and capacities
- Towards common goal
- Sharing common resources
- Expl: GEF LME projects

Groupwork guiding questions

- 1) a) How can collaboration facilitate achieving your organizations' goals/objectives; and
b) How could the other organization(s) contribute to achieving your goals/objectives?
- 2) What do you and the other organization need to do to facilitate cooperation at regional and national levels?
- 3) What are the challenges to cooperating with the other organization(s) including your internal processes; what would those internal processes look like?
- 4) What would the mechanisms used to cooperate with other organizations contain (e.g. roles)?

