

Original: French/English

SUMMARY NOTE ON THE ABNJ/GEF PROGRAMME

At its meeting in November 2012 in Agadir, the Commission gave its consent for the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to become a partner of the ABNJ/GEF programme. For this purpose, the Secretariat wrote a letter (see appended copy in **Annex 1**) addressed to the FAO and the GEF to inform that ICCAT would join the programme provided that ICCAT benefited from the activities envisaged.

Since implementation of this programme, the Secretariat has participated actively in all the technical and administrative meetings. It has contributed efficiently to the work of the Steering Committee and to the discussion of the different work plans. In February 2014 and at the first meeting of the ABNJ/GEF Steering Committee, the Secretariat lodged a request for financial assistance for implementation of the second part of the work related to the eBCD within the framework of the MCS theme. A series of documents had been prepared to support the request which stressed that the eBCD system must benefit all the tuna RFMOs and that several developing Parties could use it. ICCAT's request was initially accepted with great enthusiasm and it was considered that an allocation of US\$600,000 should be set aside for this activity. The Secretariat had worked in conjunction with the ABNJ/GEF programme coordination team to prepare all the documentation required under FAO procedures. Everything seemed to be moving in the right direction until late in 2014 when the Secretariat was informed that its request had been rejected. Given this situation and in view of the Commission's requirement to make progress with the eBCD work, the Secretariat was obliged to implement the second part with ICCAT's own funds. Despite the explanations provided by the Secretariat, the FAO considered that the request did not comply with the procedures in place, no mention of which had ever been made previously.

From that time onwards, the Secretariat did not see the point in remaining part of the programme and limited itself to normal cooperation which could be maintained without any specific commitment. What had been sought was collaboration on scientific, compliance and training themes but on a very small scale.

It is noted that since the outset ICCAT has not been taken into account in the programme established by the ABNJ/GEF. All the activities have been allocated to other tuna RFMOs and NGOs and ICCAT has no responsibility in any theme. The Secretariat often receives requests for information from the consultants hired within the framework of this programme or regarding participation of its senior staff or that of CPCs in training workshops.

At this stage of programme implementation, all the activities have been distributed among the different partners and the only possible involvement for ICCAT is as a source of information. This role can be fulfilled without being a stakeholder.

Given this situation and as stated in the letter addressed to the FAO and the GEF in early 2013, ICCAT no longer plays a major role in this programme and it may be appropriate to reconsider ICCAT's position.

In 2015, the GEF/ABNJ fund financed travel for one Secretariat staff member to attend its Second Steering Committee Meeting, and travel for one Secretariat staff member to attend, in an observer capacity, an IOTC Port Inspection Training course (see Annex 1 of STF-201 for more information)

Progress reports on the various activities were presented at the Second Steering Committee Meeting. ICCAT had not been involved in any of the activities. Of interest to ICCAT, however, may be the presentation by the IOTC in relation to their newly completed electronic port state measures system (ePSM), which has been completed and is now in trial phase, as well as the results to date of the

electronic monitoring system tested in Ghana. While it is not foreseen that this system could fully replace human observer programmes, it is a good complementary tool and could be of particular interest on smaller vessels where safety and space issues preclude the boarding of observers.

At the above mentioned steering committee, it was agreed that GEF/ABNJ financing could be made available for the following activities in which ICCAT is involved:

Output 1.1.4: MSE- Development

Support to science – management dialogues (exact amount to be determined. Total MSE budget is 900,000\$, but includes IATTC workshop and preparation of material). This would also include the ICCAT led tRFMO MSE meeting (estimated around 100,000\$)

Output 1.1.5

The ICCAT led tRFMO Integrated Ecosystems Evaluations meeting (budget 150,000\$)

Output 1.1.2

Activities in relation to Port Inspection Training (and possibly other compliance support activities) - exact amount to be determined, depending on availability of funds and on ICCAT requests.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DEL ATÚN ATLÁNTICO



1 February 2013

Ms. Barbara Cooney
GEF Coordinator
FAO
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: CO-FINANCING LETTER FOR THE FAO-GEF PROJECT "SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TUNA FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (ABNJ)"

Dear Ms. Cooney,

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) has been devoting significant efforts in its Convention area towards the sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species. This is the reason the FAO-GEF Project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)" (GCP/GLO/365/GFF) is sought as a complementary programme to achieve its goals. ICCAT recognizes that its existing activities will result in an in-kind co-financing contribution to the project in the amount of USD \$4,334,000 for the period 2013-2018.

The co-financing contribution to the Project represents currently committed staff time, office space and operating expenses devoted to carrying out the core activities for which ICCAT has been established. At the same time, such activities can serve for the implementation of the mentioned project and to carry out activities that are essential for achieving its objectives. It is understood that participation in the FAO-GEF Project will not imply any additional cost or workload for ICCAT beyond those already being carried out to achieve the objectives of our Organization.

Also, ICCAT reserves its right not to disclose any confidential data without the prior and explicit authorisation of the concerned Contracting Parties.

This in-kind contribution will be managed by the ICCAT Secretariat as a contribution to the project components to be implemented in the ICCAT Convention area and to support the participation of ICCAT in project activities. Finally, the ICCAT Contracting Parties wish to be kept regularly informed on the implementation of the project through regular reporting, including at its Annual Meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Driss Meski
Executive Secretary