

Annex 13: Letter of intent from Kenya



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

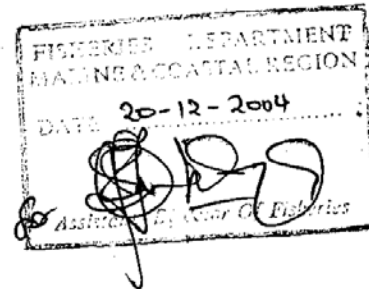
Telephone: 041 -229577
Tel/Fax: 041 - 315904
E-mail: gdf@coastfish.org
When replying/telephoning quote
Ref/FISH/ADF/F.04/VOL.1(105)
and date

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES (M&C)
P. O BOX 90423
MOMBASA – 80100

DATE: 20th December 2004

All correspondences should be addressed:
The ADF (M&C)

Dr. Robert Wakeford,
MRAG Ltd.,
18, Queen Street,
London W1J 5PN
U.K.



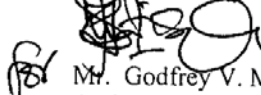
Dear Dr. Wakeford,

Letter of Intent

I am writing to confirm our interest in collaborating with you on your proposed project entitled "Promotion of models generating national economic benefits through the control of foreign fishing" for submission to DFID under their Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP).

We look forward to developing more detailed research plans with you and to full collaboration in this project.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. Godfrey V. Monor
Assistant Director of Fisheries

Kenya
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES (M&C)

CC.
DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES
MUSEUM HILL
P.O. BOX 58187-00200
NAIROBI



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Telephone: 041 -229577
Tel/Fax: 041 - 315904
E-mail: adf@coastfish.org
When replying/telephoning quote
Ref/FISH /ADF/F.04/VOL.1(105)
and date

All correspondences should be addressed:
The ADF (M&C)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES (M&C)
P. O BOX 90423
MOMBASA – 80100

DATE: 20th December 2004

Dr. Robert Wakeford,
MRAG Ltd.,
18, Queen Street,
London W1J 5PN
U.K.

Dear Dr. Wakeford,

KENYA OFFSHORE FISHERY INFORMATION FOR MCS ECONOMIC STUDY

This is to confirm our interest in collaborating with you on your proposed project entitled “Promotion of models generating national economic benefits through the control of foreign fishing” for submission to DFID under their Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP).

Offshore fishing in Kenya is less developed than inshore fishing. The main inshore fishery is located in the waters inside the fringing coral reef all along the Kenyan coastline. Artisanal fishermen using simple boats and gear including gill nets, shark nets, hook and line, beach seines and traps take the bulk of marine fish landed. Both the number of fishermen and fishing boats has halved in 10 years to 7,700 people and 2,400 boats respectively in year 2000. It is not clear to the cause of the decline but one suggestion is that the tourism sector, which grew very rapidly through the early 1990’s, initially overshadowed and later marginalized the traditional sectors such as fisheries (Kenya Coast Development Authority, 1996). Apart from much reduced access to fishing grounds, effort in the inshore fishery is limited for many reasons including;

- Lack of information of fisheries potential
- Little institutional support for fisheries development
- Lack of capital to develop (To improve vessels and procure appropriate gear).
- Reduced interest due to poor returns for effort
- Poorly developed infrastructure to serve the marine fisheries sector.

Notwithstanding the lack of information on offshore fish stocks, it is known that there are many fisheries resources living in the waters outside the reef. This includes a significant range of coastal pelagic fish such as Trevallies, Queen fish, Scads, Mackerels, Barracudas, Bonitos, Dolphin fish, Kingfish, Wahoo, Rainbow Runners, Sardines and Anchovies, high-value coastal demersal Snappers, Job fish, Groupers, Sea basses, Rock cods, Prawns and Lobster, valuable pelagic offshore Tunas, Billfishes and large Sharks, offshore demersal fish and Gulper Sharks in deeper parts of the zone, and offshore mid-water stocks of Lantern fishes, Squids and Swimming crabs.

However, the offshore parts of the Kenyan zone are well known to foreign fishermen who have been visiting the area since the 1950's in pursuit of the abundance of Tunas, Billfishes and Pelagic sharks. That foreign interest continues but has changed in nature from fleets of vessels fishing with pelagic longline gear to also include fleets using the more efficient purse-seine method. The region hosts several hundred of these vessels, still almost all foreign owned. Many of those vessels operate in the Kenyan zone with licenses issued by the Government. Information on foreign catches in the Kenyan zone is scant. Between 1990 and 2000 offshore foreign fishing catches were reported in 1996 (3,831 metric tons of tunas) and 1997 (1,059 metric tons). It is likely that the level of reporting in these years was incomplete and that actual catches were much higher.

For over a decade, there has been a high level of interest on the part of foreign fishers in securing licenses to fish in the Kenyan zone. For example in 2002, Kenya licensed 38 large foreign purse seine vessels. In 2003, 52 purse seine vessels were licensed to fish for tunas in Kenyan offshore waters. It could be taken as a sign that the country's offshore waters contain substantial tuna stocks that represent significant potential to the purse seining fishing method. The large purse seine vessels that have sought Kenyan licenses can only really economically function where fish stocks are present in very good abundance and therefore the high level of interest in taking out these licenses indicates the presence of substantial tuna stocks in the Kenyan zone, at least in the months of May/June to December.

Constraints in the offshore fishery have been lack of information on fish stocks. The 1997/2001 Kenya National Development Plan indicated that the potential annual production of the tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the marine sector was some 200,000 metric tons. For about a decade, Kenya has licensed up to 35 European-flag purse seiners to fish for tuna in the Kenyan EEZ. Some of the vessels subsequently landed their catches in Kenya. The purse-seine tuna fishery in the Southwest Indian Ocean operates over a large area that includes the EEZ's of Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Comoros, and the French territories of Mayotte and Reunion, and the high seas in-between. Catches on a particular vessel might be taken in a number of countries' waters as well as from the high seas where no country has jurisdiction.

Tanzania would therefore make an ideal sub-regional partner in an MCS system for Kenya. Probably at a later stage establish regional collaboration on the same with neighbor countries Seychelles, Mauritius, Mozambique and so on.

The economic profile, or potential thereof, of the fishery in the national economy will undoubtedly determine the level of support the MCS initiatives will receive from the Government. A potentially lucrative domestic fishery, and the MCS activities required to protect it, will probably receive significant Government attention. The Department of

Fisheries recognizes the necessity to develop a communications plan to target relevant policymakers and technical staff with key messages developed from National and Regional meetings.

The Department of Fisheries also does recognize the necessity to make concrete suggestions which would quantify the MCS requirements and potential benefits within the framework of a focused case specific study and situational evaluation in Kenya coast. Such an assessment needs to be carried out by personnel equipped with necessary technical skills in this. The trained people would then assist in quantification of the requirements and advisory on maximizing the potential benefits of such a system. The Fisheries Department has recently acquired 3 offshore patrol vessels and ancillary boarding boats. The Department is currently in the process of setting up the equipment and personnel requirements for these boarding platforms for the Fisheries officer.

To reap full benefits of Fisheries management and MCS objectives along the Kenya coast, The Department of Fisheries has noted:

- That too many priorities can result in acquisition of capital equipment which does not meet any function appropriately.
- The need to foster and promote institutional synergies.

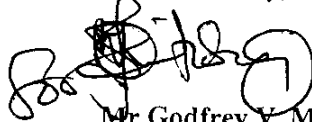
Consequently, The Fisheries Department is working in co-ordination with other concerned state Departments and agencies. Memoranda of understanding have been entered into with various organizations in this endeavor. Fisheries Department remains the final authority for decisions on deployment and priorities for MCS operations.

The Fisheries Department is in the process of reviewing the Fisheries Act and this stakeholder-driven process is at an advanced stage. It partly aims at outlining the regulatory conditions under which the exploitation of the coastal offshore resources may be conducted. Also being strengthened are the various mechanisms, strategies and policies for the implementation of operations (MCS activities) to implement the fisheries management plans.

Kenya Fisheries Department is sufficiently equipped with highly motivated Graduate level Fisheries personnel. These personnel have been provided with direction and infrastructure from which to operate for example Information Technology training and equipment. Fisheries Department possesses ample resources of land and has regional offices spread along the coastal Districts.

We look forward to developing more detailed research plans with you and to full collaboration in this project.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Godfrey V. Monor
Assistant Director of Fisheries
Kenya

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES

