



Workshop prospectus

Regional Workshop on Stock Assessment and Estimation of SDG Indicator 14.4.1- Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

2 - 14 March 2020

Institute of Marine Science (IMS) Zanzibar

In cooperation between the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) Bremen, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the National Institute of Aquatic Resources in Denmark (DTU Aqua) and the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) Zanzibar, a two week training course on the assessment of stock status and the estimation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14.4.1 Indicator (*the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels*) will be held at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) in Zanzibar from the 2nd to 14th of March 2020.

This initiative is a joint effort of the FIDEA project supported by the MeerWissen (GIZ, Germany) initiative and the FAO to conduct a targeted training of 20 fisheries experts from the national fisheries institutions in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region on fisheries stock assessment. This course will improve the capacity of the individual countries in the WIO region to assess the state of their fishery resources and to report at the national level on the percentage of stocks that are within and outside biologically sustainable levels. The training will focus on both the purpose and theoretical basis of stock assessments and hands-on application of how to choose and apply appropriate tools for assessment.

The training will be comprised of:

1. Introduction to the concepts and monitoring process of the SDG Indicator 14.4.1.
2. Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of existing national data collection systems in respect to the data requirements for the estimation of the SDG Indicator 14.4.1.
3. Theoretical and practical presentation of a range of modern data-limited stock assessment methods with hands-on experience focussing on catch- and length-based methods, such as ELEFAN+, LBSPR, CMSY, SPiCT.
4. Guided application of assessment methods to regional fisheries and biological data supplied by participants.
5. Presentation and discussion of acquired results of the regional stock assessments in light of the SDG Indicator 14.4.1 reporting process.

The training is suitable for anyone who is professionally or scientifically involved in the collection and analysis of fisheries data and could potentially be involved in contributing to the SDG14.4.1 reporting process. The course does not only teach the theory of fisheries management and assumptions behind a range of assessment methods, but also provides a unique opportunity to apply modern stock assessment methods to your fisheries and biological data.

Upon completion of the course, the participants will be well equipped to:

- Evaluate the weaknesses and strengths of existing fisheries data;
- Understand the data-collection requirements for different assessment methods;
- Explore ways to improve the collection, analysis and reporting on their fish stocks; and
- Derive preliminary estimates of stock status.
- Understand the SDG14.4.1 indicator estimation and reporting framework



A follow-up plan, after the training, will be made to ensure that participants get started and translate their learning into practice to help their organizations monitor and report on the status of their fish stocks. This will be implemented preferably within the first four weeks after the training and will include:

- Sharing and disseminating the acquired skills with the working group and colleagues at their institution;
- Registering and using the FAO eLearning course designed to teach users how to calculate the 14.4.1 indicatorSDG14.4.1 e-learning platform;
- Revise and review the data at the national level, with ongoing support from the trainers;
- A follow-up workshop / training to review progress and report after 6 months.

Participant Selection Criteria

The workshop will target national fisheries research and management institutions with an initial focus on nationals of countries in the Western Indian Ocean region. To be eligible for the program, candidates must:

- Be nationals of countries in the Western Indian Ocean region;
- Work for a national fisheries research or management institution (for at least one year);
- Be directly involved in the collection and analysis of fisheries data;
- Be fluent in English;
- Have a basic understanding of fisheries assessment tools and approaches;
- Female participants are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application

To apply, please send (as a combined pdf file) a letter of motivation to participate in the course and your cv outlining your experiences and skills to the email address paul.tuda@leibniz-zmt.de copied to matthias.wolff@leibniz-zmt.de and saleh@ims.udsm.ac.tz

Travel and accommodation funds are available through the FIDEA project and the FAO for a limited number of participants. **Application deadline is 7th February 2020.**