

# International activities

An overview of EFCA's activities in the international dimension and update on forthcoming initiatives





COMMISSION SOUS-RÉGIONALE DES PÊCHES  
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION

## EFCAs strategy for cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations :

### Comprises:

1. Support to and interventions in the framework of RFMOs and relevant fora with non-EU countries
2. Fight against IUU at international level
3. Capacity building in the framework of SFPAs and other actions and Specific development projects



**ANNEX XII: STRATEGY FOR COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES AND/OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**



**European Fisheries Control Agency Multiannual International Relations Strategy 2022-2026**

**1. Background**

This multiannual strategy builds on the Commission Communication C(2020)2297 on the strengthening of the governance of Union Bodies under Article 70 of the Financial Regulation, as well as the new working arrangements between the European Commission (the Commission) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)<sup>1</sup>, approved by EFCA Administrative Board on 14 October 2020, pursuant to Articles 3(1) and 4 of the EFCA Founding Regulation<sup>2</sup>.

EFCA's tasks relating to the international obligations of the European Union (EU) encompass activities related with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU), Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) and, in general, with Third Countries partners.

Such tasks are in line with the principles of the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and aim at promoting beyond EU waters the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law in the area of the CFP, thus ensuring a level playing field for EU operators vis-à-vis Third Country operators. The contribution of EFCA to the external dimension of the CFP is in some cases inextricably linked with the negotiations and implementation of management and control measures proposed by the Union in various bilateral or multilateral fora.

This document presents a multiannual strategy for the period 2022-2026 on all potential areas of work for EFCA's intervention and collaboration with the EU Member States (MS) and the Commission that the latter considers as priority to ensure the success of the external dimension of the CFP. The specific implementation of the suggested actions is discussed and agreed between DG MARE and EFCA on a case-by-case basis, by taking into consideration EFCA's workload, availability of resources and other priorities, as well as working conditions and possible sanitary restrictions, including linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and any similar circumstances that might occur during the period covered by this multiannual strategy.

The multiannual strategy should not be seen as a limitative one as other types of international activities might be explored if specific needs arise. The EFCA Administrative Board would be fully informed of such developments.

**2. Interventions in the framework of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and control working groups (WGs) and fora with Third Countries partners**

<sup>1</sup> Ares(2020)1197061, 26.02.2020

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and the Council, 19/4/2019

# Basis of our international work..

## On the basis of :

- CFP Basic Regulation (Article 30)
- EFCA Founding Regulation
- EFCA's remit for IUU and RFMOs in other EU specific legislation

## And following :

- the Working Arrangements on EFCA's international activities between the European Commission and EFCA

## And on specific request of the European Commission (DG Mare) :

- EFCA assists the Union to cooperate with non-EU countries and international organisations dealing with fisheries including RFMOs, to strengthen operational coordination and compliance





## 1. Support in the framework of RFMOs and relevant fora with non-EU countries

Support to the EU Delegation in the work of :

- ICCAT
- IOTC
- GFCM
- NAFO
- NEAFC

✓ During Plenary meetings and dedicated Control Committees

✓ Technical support for preparation of control proposals and assistance in evaluation of compliance by CPCs

✓ Includes Chairmanships of Panel and WGs and liaising with CPCs and RFMOs Secretariats



## RFMO International Control and Inspection schemes :

EFCA implements the EU contribution to the schemes in ICCAT, GFCM and NAFO through JDPs in cooperation with EU MSs and non-EU countries, involves :

- Deployment of EFCA chartered means
- Transmission and follow up of inspections and sightings
- Agreement of common control measures
- Dedicated workshops with regional non-EU countries
- Exchange and training of inspectors
- Implementation of pilot projects
- Control expertise on new control measures
- Promotes a common/level playing field and enhanced implementation of inspection schemes and overall compliance





## EFCA's cooperation with non-EU countries and/or international organisations

1. Support in the framework of RFMOs and relevant fora with non-EU countries
2. **Fight against IUU at international level**
3. Capacity building in the framework of SFPAs and other actions/specific projects



ANNEX II  
European Community Catch Certificate and Re-export Certificate

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CATCH CERTIFICATE							
Document number			Validating authority				
1. Name		Address			Tel. Fax		
2. Fishing vessel name		Flag – Home port and registration number		Call sign	IMO/Lloyd's number (if issued)		
Fishing licence No – Valid to		Inmarsat No, Fax No, Telephone No, E-mail address (if issued)					
3. Description of product		Type of processing authorised on board		4. References of applicable conservation and management measures			
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and dates	Estimated live weight (kg)	Estimated weight to be landed (kg)	Verified weight landed (kg) where appropriate		
5. Name of master of fishing vessel – Signature – Seal:							
6. Declaration of transhipment at sea Name of master of fishing vessel			Signature and date	Transhipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)	
Master of receiving vessel		Signature	Vessel name	Call sign	IMO/Lloyds number (if issued)		
7. Transhipment authorisation within a port area							
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Tel.	Port of landing	Date of landing	Seal (stamp)
8. Name and address of exporter		Signature		Date		Seal	
9. Flag State authority validation:							
Name/title		Signature		Date		Seal (stamp)	

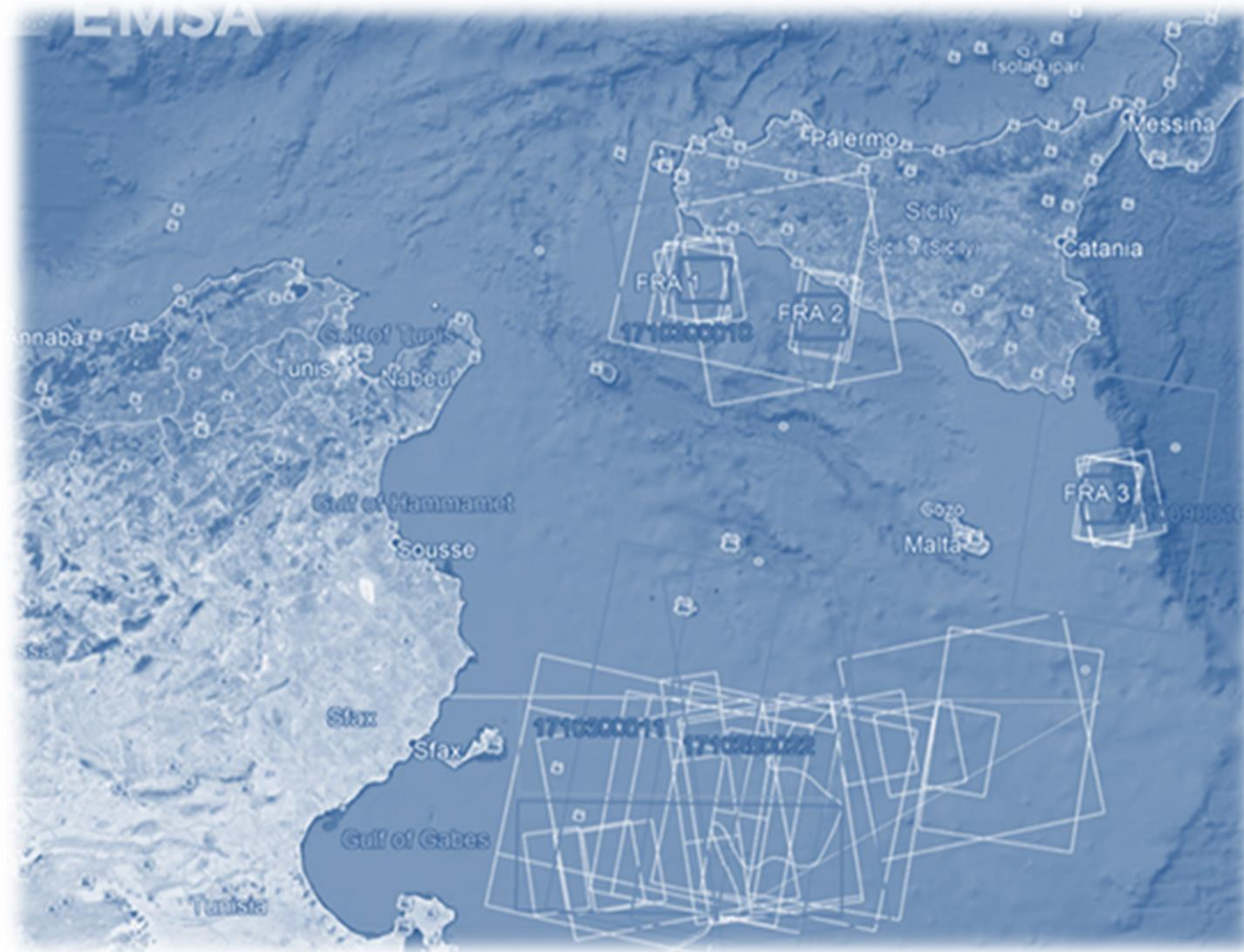
EU Catch Certificate

## EFCA support the EU in the implementation of the IUU Regulation

### Main activities include :

- Implementation of Catch Certificate: Catch project, methodologies of control and follow-up
- Capacity building and training to competent authorities/personnel
- Analysis of information on IUU activities
- Analysis of catch certificates and interaction with non-EU countries
- Assistance in EU IUU Evaluation missions to non-countries
- Contribution to FAO PSMA





## EFCA's cooperation with non-EU countries and/or international organisations

1. Support in the framework of RFMOs and relevant fora with non-EU countries
2. Fight against IUU at international level
3. Capacity building in the framework of SFPAs and other actions and Specific projects:

- PESCAO -> WASOP
- e-FishMed Project
- Algeria Blue Economy – Surveillance Project

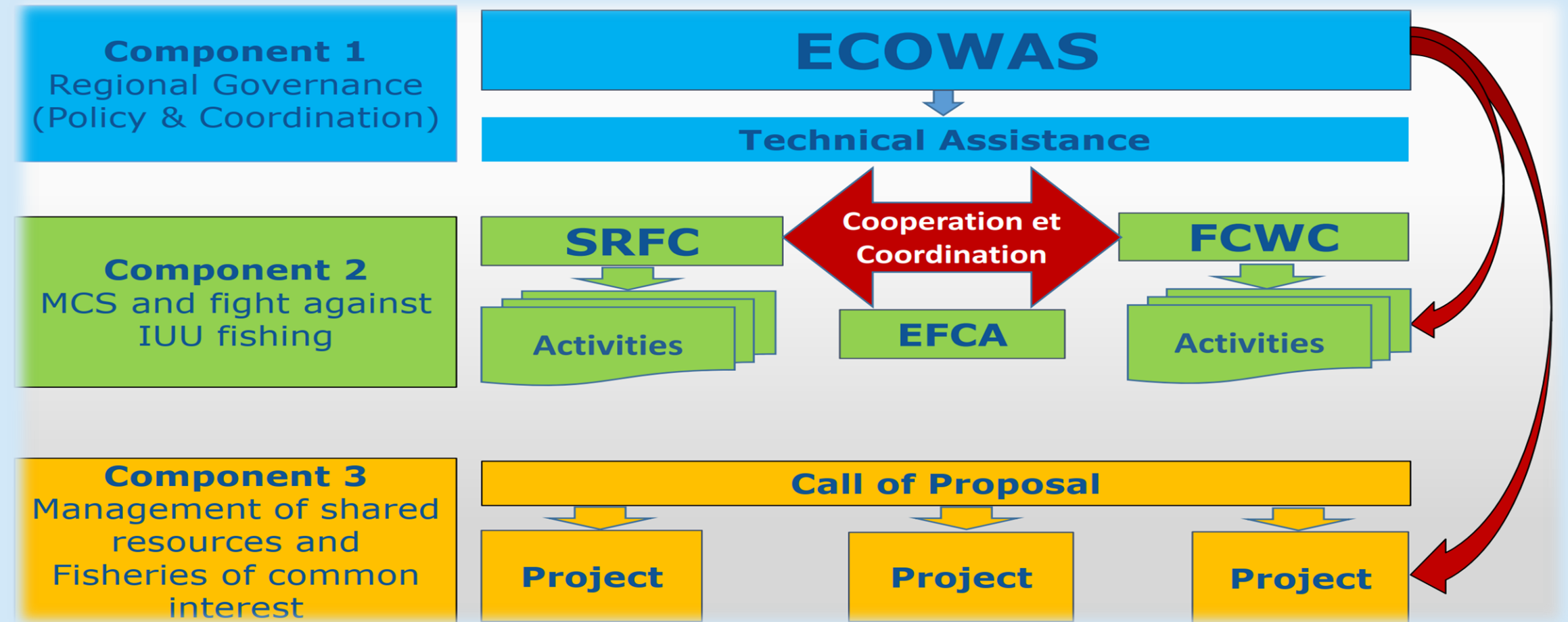




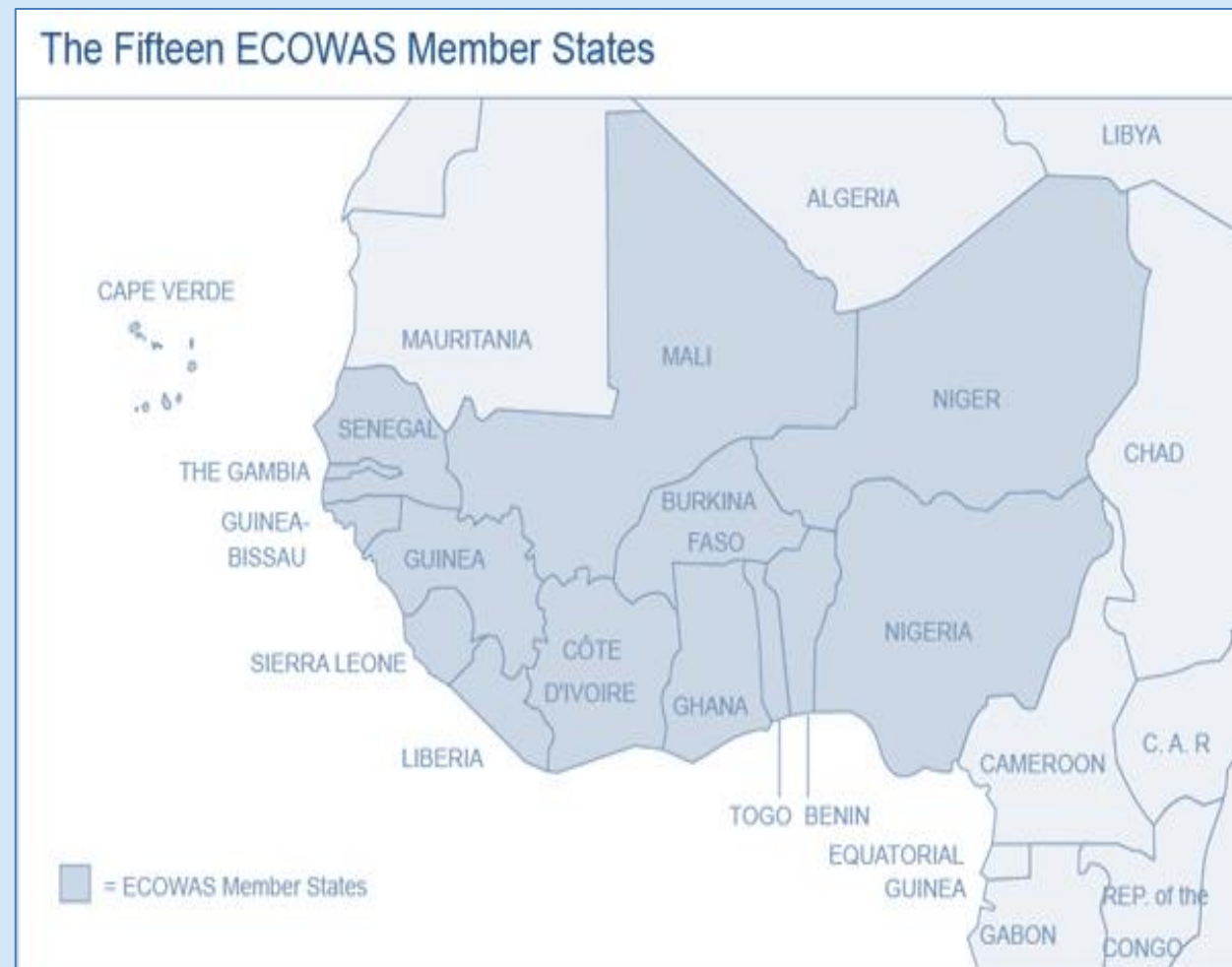


## PESCAO overview

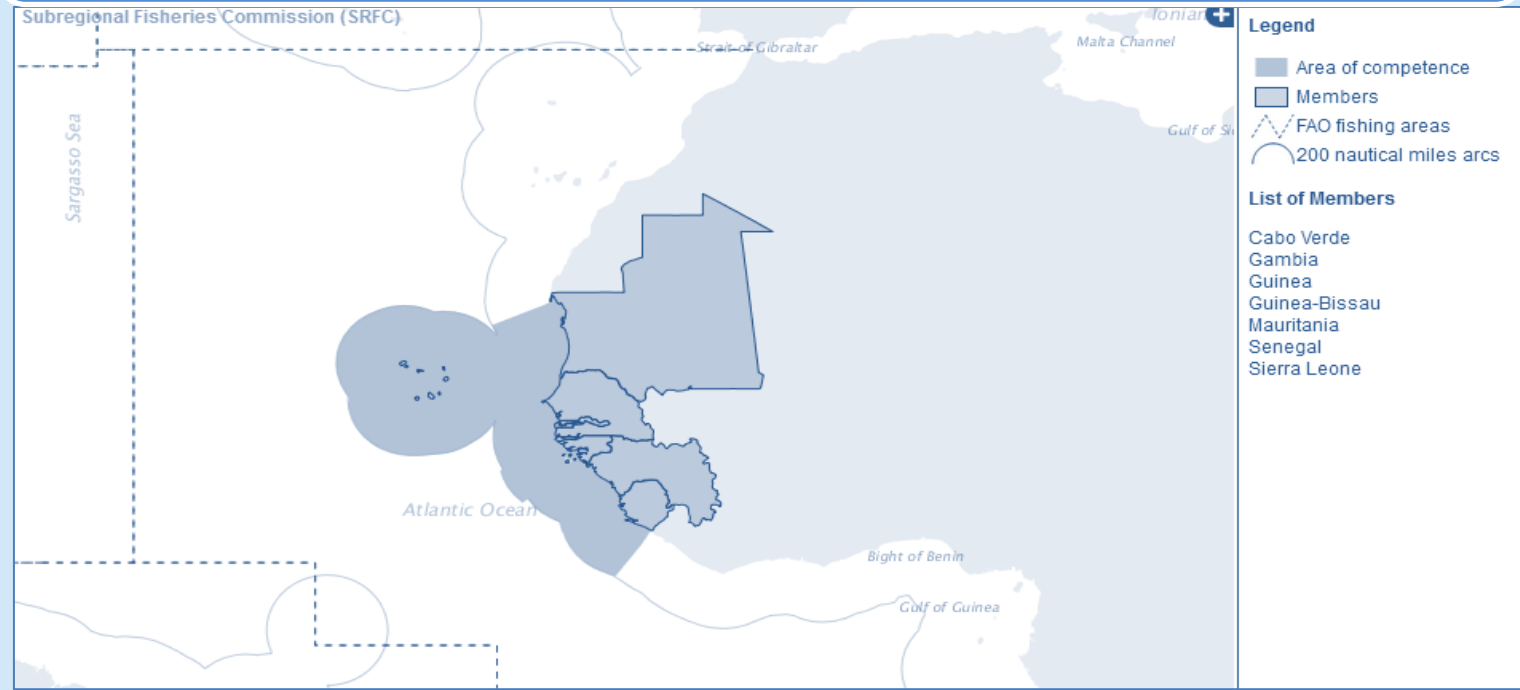
The PESCAO project, funded under the EDF, aims to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa



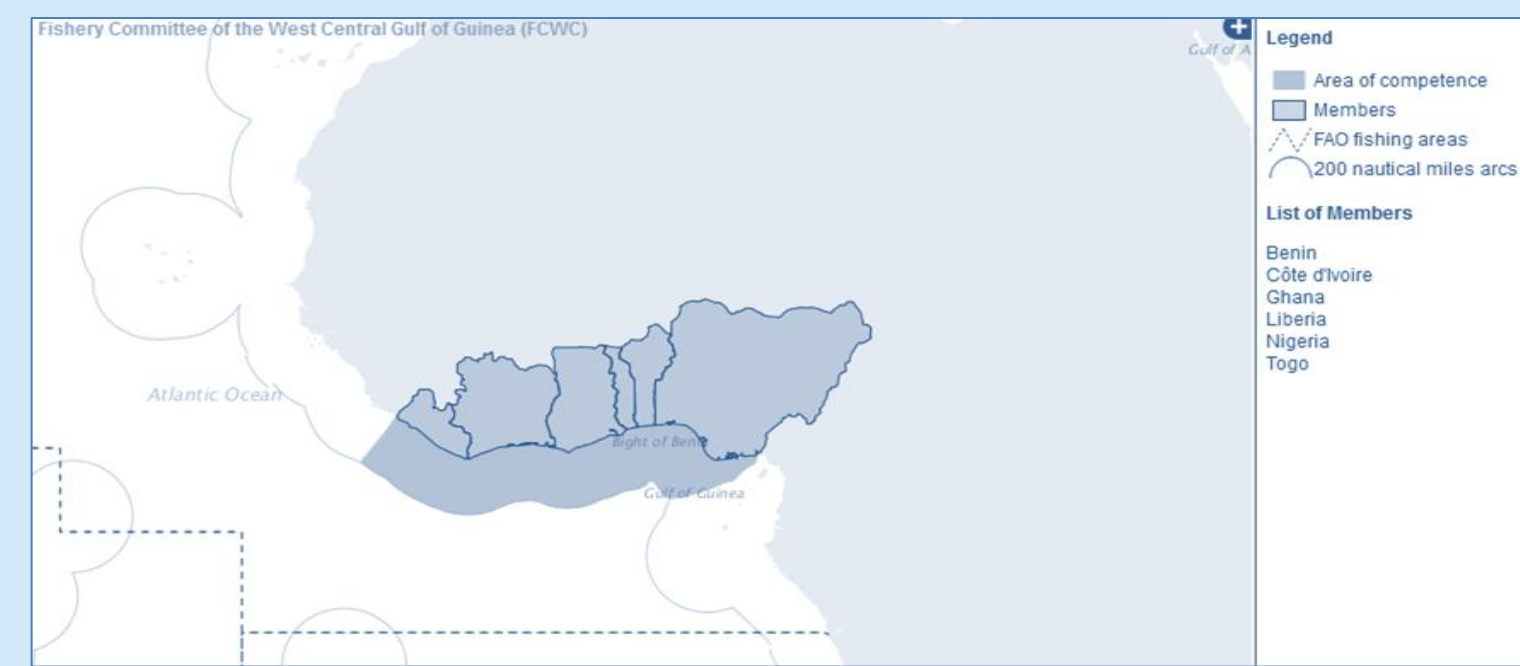
# PESCAO – regional overview / scope



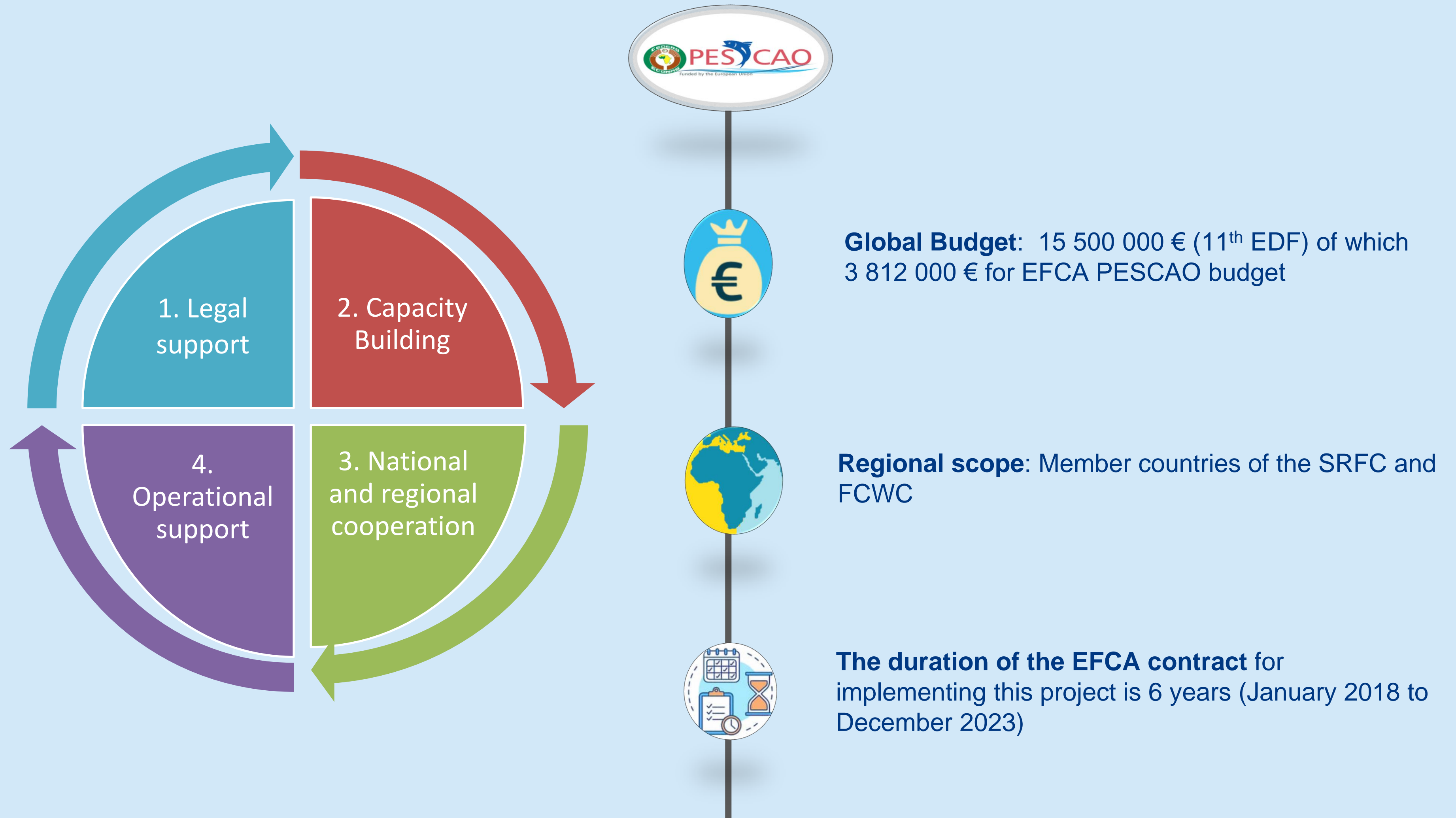
## Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC)



## Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)







## PESCAO training/capacity building - overview

- Support to training of trainers, fisheries inspectors and judicial staff
- Support to training for Fisheries Monitoring Centres operators on vessels tracking systems
- Support to training on the EU catch certification scheme
- Development and publication of training material (incl. video tutorials, manuals and e-learning)
- <https://training.efca.europa.eu/>







## PESCAO legal / cooperation - overview

- Mapping and legal review of regional conventions/national legislations adopted by Member countries in cooperation with FCWC/SRFC – yearly updated
- Support to the drafting/amendment of national legislation for alignment with international and RFMO obligations
- Support the drafting and/or implementation of national plans of action against IUU fishing
- Support to the implementation of the PSMA







## PESCAO operational support - overview

Supporting Regional joint control operations with:

- Aerial support
- AIS / VMS and information analysis
- Acquisition and analysis of satellite imagery
- Technical support by way of provision of EFCA experts (on-the-spot or remotely)



# PESCAO – final highlights & results:

**CLOSING SYMPOSIUM – November 2023**



## Regional and inter-agency cooperation:

- EFCA attended 23 regional MCS meetings and provided technical expertise
- Operational support to cooperation: set up and functioning of regional monitoring tools, standard operational procedures, joint control campaigns.
- EFCA has supported the drafting of 4 inter-agency MoUs (for Senegal and The Gambia), two (2) national inter-agency workshops (in Senegal and The Gambia) and the drafting of a MCS Division decree for Togo.

## Legal :

- 4 versions of the legal study (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022);
- 6 countries covered by legal support activities and align national legislations to international standards in the fight against IUU fishing;
- 4 NPOA-IUUs and 10 legal texts drafted

## Training and Capacity Building:

- Total No. of participants trained = 766 (trainers (41), judges/prosecutors (114), observers (18), FMC operators (117) and Inspectors (392) through 41 sessions
- Development of eLearning module and Manuals for FMC Operators with 4 modules for inspectors and other training materials delivered.

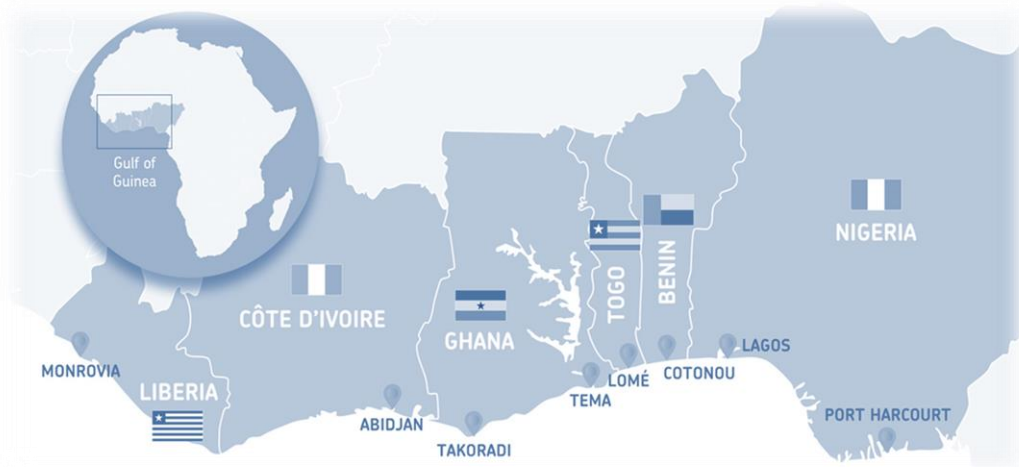
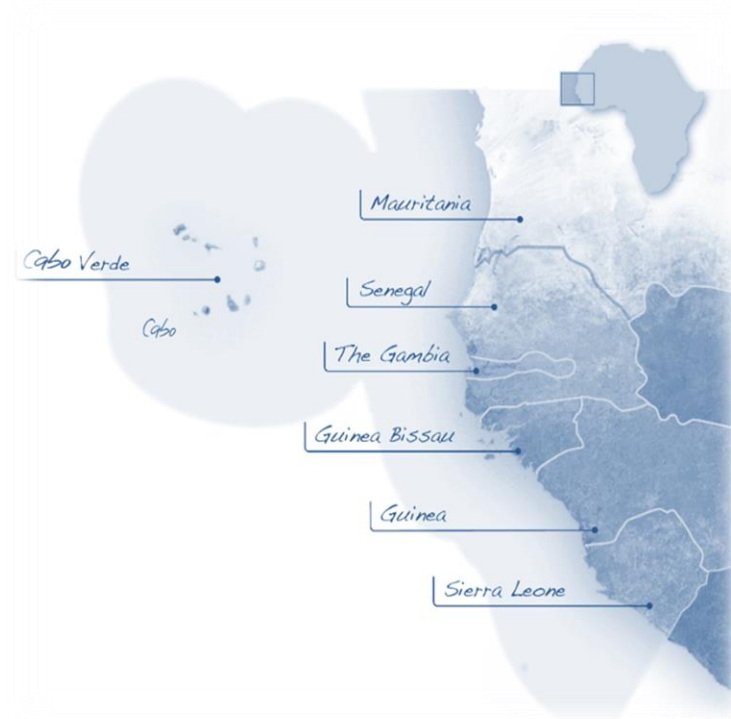


# West Africa Sustainable Ocean Programme (WASOP)

- Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
- Carried out in 13 countries in West Africa (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo).
- Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
- **Overall Objective** (impact) of this action is to enhance the sustainable and integrated use of ocean resources in West Africa boosting inclusive economic growth
- **Specifics Objectives (Outcomes)** are to:
  1. Strengthen West Africa ocean governance
  2. Support innovative and sustainable Blue Economy
  3. Enhance marine and coastal resilience

Outputs to be delivered by this action are:

1. IUU Fishing in the region diminished - > **EFCA contributions**





## Project WASOP – overview of EFCA activities

Operational support	Coordinate joint patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to the preparation of joint patrol plans between sub-regional organisations</li> <li>- Preparation of risk assessment for the operations.</li> <li>- Technical support to the coordination centre</li> <li>- Participation in joint operations on board and at sea</li> <li>- Evaluation of the missions</li> </ul>
	Facilitate regional data exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to the enhancement of Subregional bodies for data exchange</li> <li>- Organise data management and analysis workshops.</li> <li>- Support in the development of standardised reporting formats</li> <li>- Support to establish the basis for exchange of information between Countries and Subregional fisheries bodies.</li> </ul>
Operational support / Capacity building	Improve capacities in MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assess existing MCS systems</li> <li>- Support the development and/or implementation of new technologies and methods</li> <li>- Train personnel in modern surveillance techniques</li> <li>- Support the development of regional MCS strategies and collaboration frameworks.</li> </ul>
Capacity building	Train officers in monitoring technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct hands-on training workshops</li> <li>- Develop continuous learning curriculum</li> </ul>
	Conduct training for various stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and deliver training programs for various stakeholders</li> <li>- Develop tailored training materials and resources, including manuals and guidelines</li> <li>- Implement a trainer of trainers programmes</li> <li>- Develop synergies with other training providers in/to the region</li> </ul>
Legal support	Assist in policy review and international instruments' ratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct seminars on international fisheries law</li> <li>- Assist in drafting/revising of national legislation</li> </ul>

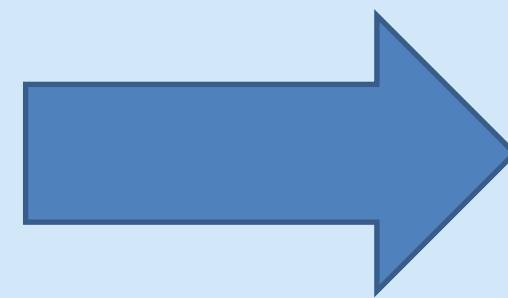
**Starting in September / October 2024...**

## Project eFishMed

Project is a follow up of the FIUUFRA initiative coordinated by EFCA in the Western Mediterranean.

### Project “FIUUFRA”

Fighting Illegal, Unreported,  
Unregulated Fishing Regional  
Academy



### Project “eFishMed”

Mediterranean virtual regional  
training academy on fisheries  
control and inspection



## Project eFishMed - overview

<b>Signature</b>	EC / EFCA signed the contribution agreement signed on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>Overall objective</b>	to support the effective implementation of conservation and management measures through enhanced capacities, knowledge, skills and competences in fisheries control and inspection and the fight against IUU fishing.
<b>Specific objectives</b>	to improve national and regional MCS systems of Beneficiary Countries by setting-up a virtual regional training academy.
<b>Duration</b>	3 years (1 Feb 2022 – 31 Jan 2025)
<b>Scope</b>	Beneficiary countries (BC): Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia Project Partners (PP): France, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain
<b>Governance</b>	Steering Committee: Chair EFCA, EC rep., 1 rep. for each Beneficiary country, 1 rep. for each Project Partner. 1 rep. WestMed Assistance mechanism as observer

**1 M€/3 years**

# Multilingual e-learning platform

ENGLISH (EN) ▾ Log in

 Funded by  
the European Union

English (en) ▾



Welcome to e-FishMed

Know More →

e-FishMed is a virtual regional training academy on fisheries control and inspection, funded by the EU and implemented by EFCA

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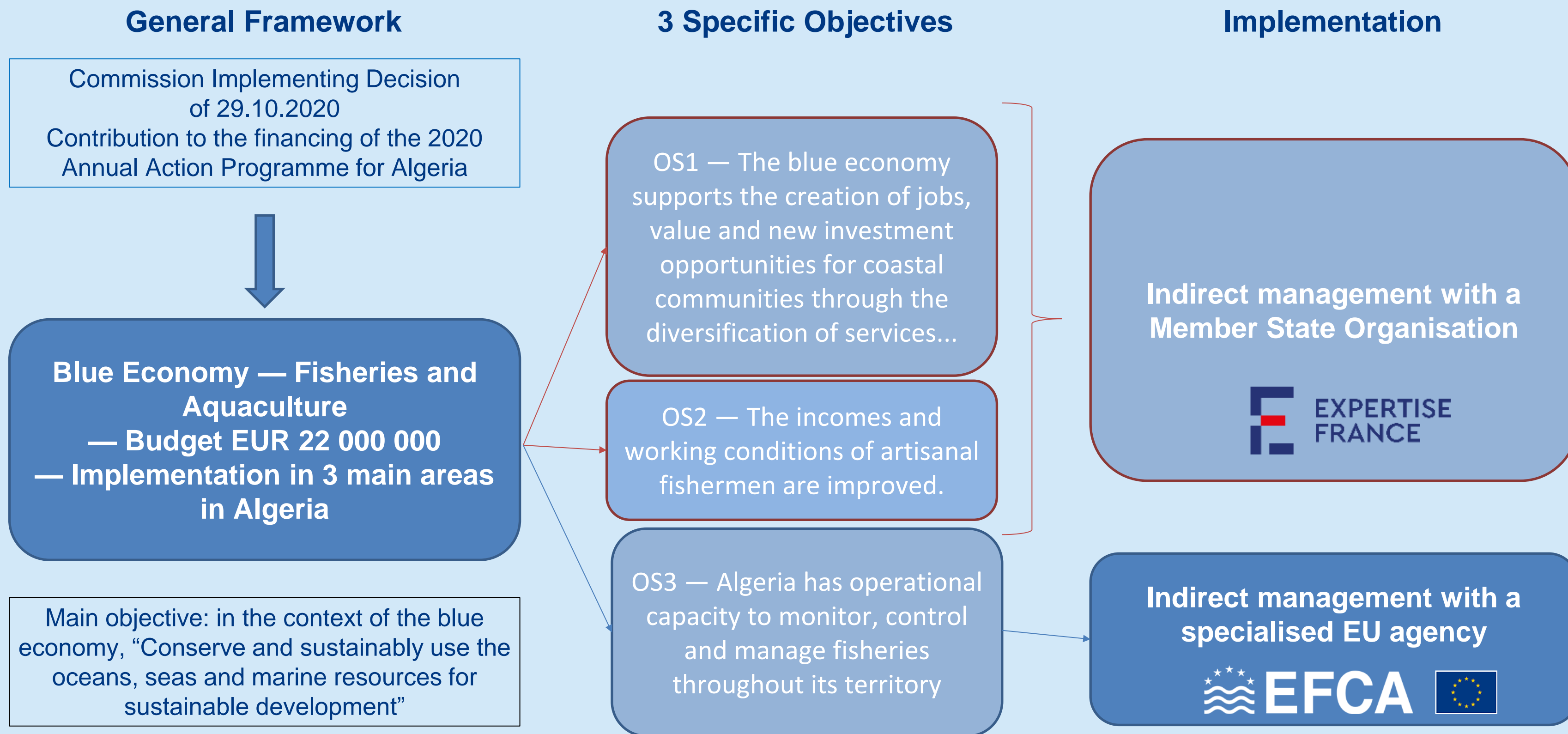




## eFISHMED main milestones and achievements :

- Detailed needs assessment of the partner countries performed
- Development of multilingual e-learning platform
- Common training curriculums developed and published
- Development of specific e-learning modules for control personnel
- Training topics defined in the common/harmonized training curriculum including GFCM/ICCAT-related subjects
- On the spot training courses provided in partner countries (fisheries inspection, FMC operations and risk assessment and management..) and personnel exchange programmes
- Assessment of benefits also by way of compliance with RFMO rules

# Algeria: overview of the Blue Economy Project

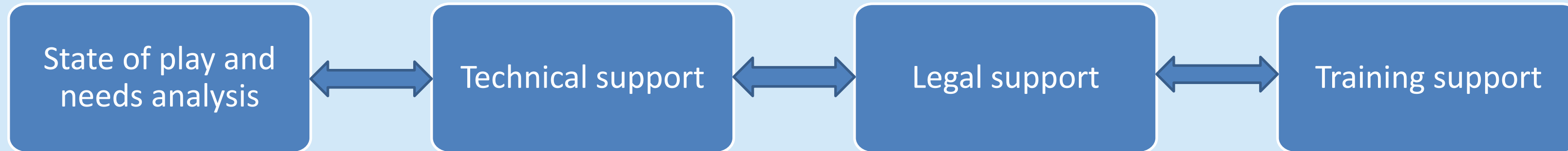


**Implemented March 2022 – February 2026**



## Algeria Blue Economy Project – key objectives

**Overall objective:** support the Algerian authorities in their efforts to monitor conservation and management measures adopted at international, regional and national levels and to combat IUU fishing.



**Specific objective:** strengthen the capacity of the national MCS by setting up FMC and VMS/AIS systems with technical assistance from EFCA.

### Three expected results & main activities:

