**The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden**

# Program on Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH Project) (P178143)

## Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Regional Component

# April, 2022

**SFISH Regional Component (PERSGA)**

**Document History**

| PERSGA v1 | PERSGA | March 01, 2022 |
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| PERSGA v2 | Submitted to the World Bank | March 30 2022 |
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# 1 Introduction/Project Description

## 1.1 Introduction

1. The Development Objective of this project is to develop a regional mechanism for collaborative management of fishery in the RSGA region and improve the resilience of the fishery value chain in Yemen. The implementing partner of Component 1 is the Program for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), an international organization designed to coordinate monitoring, capacity building and policies for the sustainable management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden marine resources. PERSGA, the Regional organization, was established in September 1995 under the umbrella of the Arab League. It serves seven member countries bordering the Gulf of Aden: Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Djibouti, Jordan, and Somalia.

2. The project includes three components:

   Component 1: Strengthening regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA region

   Component 2: Improving Economic Opportunities, Food Security and Effective Management of Fishery Production in Yemen

   Sub-component 2.1. Improving the resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods

   Sub-component 2.2. Governance systems and knowledge developed for effective management and climate resilience of fisheries

   Component 3. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting

   Sub-component 3.1. Project management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting by Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

   Sub-component 3.2. Project management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting by UNDP.

3. The overall objective of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to define a program for stakeholder engagement for the SFISH project's regional component (Component 1), including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which PERSGA and its implementing partners will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about this project component and any activities related to the component.

4. PERSGA will implement component 1 and 3.1 of this operation. PERSGA and its implementing partners are committed to ensuring the meaningful, effective and informed engagement of stakeholders throughout the Project's lifecycle. This will help ensure a smooth collaboration between project staff and targeted stakeholders, and to minimize and mitigate environmental and social risks related to the Project regional component (component 1)' activities. Key stakeholders must not only be informed, but also consulted and provided with the means to contribute to the sustainability of the Project's regional component and raise complaints or provide feedback.

5. Due to the nature of project component (regional approach) and COVID-19 restrictions, in addition to the regional approach proposal that other RSGA member states to participate in subsequent phases through national components, based on the readiness, PERSGA considered results of previous relevant consultations prior to the project development, and held an online regional consultation meeting on the SFISH project regional component with its member states as the main stakeholders on 15th March 2022 (see paragraph 20 below and Annex 1). This SEP has been prepared for the regional component, and will be updated afterwards as required by the phased approach, to ensure adaptive management of Project changes, and respond to further consultations with all stakeholders and affected parties during project implementation.

## 1.2 Project Regional Component Description[1]

6. The overall objective of the regional component of the SFISH project is to strengthen and sustain regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA region by PERSGA, including through: i) PERSGA regional data center and network for monitoring, assessment, and information sharing to support science-based management; ii) establish and sustain regional programs and platforms for coordination of polices legislation, management plans and measures for responsible fisheries and aquaculture, control IUU fishing, and implementation of the ecosystem approach; iii) Promote and sustain regional capacity building and technical assistance program, including focused training, technical guidelines, strengthen harmonized policy and management measures, particularly for ratification and implementation of the relevant regional convention, action plan and protocols. Specifically, the component will include:

7. **Subcomponent 1.1: PERSGA Regional Information Management System (RIMS), monitoring network and institutional capacity**. This subcomponent will build the capacity of PERSGA, as a regional organization, to compile data on catch and fishing effort and analyze the relevant statistics received from the member states and make this information available to all member states as assigned to PERSGA by the regional convention and derived regional protocol. The subcomponent will provide goods and services to improve IT hard and software of the RIMS housed in PERSGA, and networking to allow it to perform integrated functions including developing a two-way system encompassing bottom-up and top-down streams for standardized data; analyzing and making effective use of fisheries data to ensure PERSGA's capacities to collect and consolidate the data received from member countries. Through this subcomponent, PERSGA will be supported in its capacity of processing, analyzing and utilizing the collected fishery data to support science-based policies and their implementation in the region. The subcomponent will also support PERSGA system capacity for monitoring marine environment, tracking oil spills and coordination of emergency response that have implications to protection of fisheries and their critical habitats, through extending the PERSGA online monitoring network for water quality, and upgrading PERSGA oil spill trajectory modeling and mapping facility. It will also promote system capacity for design and communication tools to facilitate the associated awareness programs. Part of the subcomponent activities will also support PERSGA updating institutional guidelines and promote its capacity, including manuals, standard operating tools and applications, resource management, accounting policies and procedures, financial reporting and monitoring, procurement procedures, project cycle management, risk assessment; and environmental and social safeguards assessment, planning and management.

8. **Subcomponent 1.2: Regional platforms for capacity building and regional coordination of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the regional management mechanism**. This subcomponent will provide services and operating costs to deliver capacity development, technical assistance and effective coordination on fishery management at the regional level. This is in line with PERSGA's strategic ecosystem management program and with PERSGA's proposed responsibility under the Jeddah Convention and the related regional protocols, including also the new protocol concerning regional cooperation in management of fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA. The subcomponent will support PERSGA to develop technical manuals for cost-effective approaches of harmonized fisheries data and information collecting and management adapted to the region, incorporating supplementary guidelines for monitoring and assessing IUU fishing, by-catch, spawning aggregations and sites, fish stock status etc., and a regional mechanism to share information with member states on fishery statistics and knowledge. The subcomponent will also develop technical guidelines and conduct training programs for national capacities on fisheries statistics and sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture aspects, based on training of trainers' approaches, including also a regional rostrum providing parallel online integrated courses for trainers and fisheries specialists. It will also support PERSGA to develop technical guidelines, provide operational costs and technical assistance to establish and sustain regional platforms to effectively coordinate efforts for fisheries management, policies and legislation; protection and

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[1] This section is based on the component description in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) March 12, 2022 .

restoration of critical fish habitat; EIA and biosecurity in aquaculture, and regional mechanism to interact with relevant international efforts. It will support technical assistance and provide operating costs for developing toolkits for effective fisheries monitoring, including IUU fishing, to be used on a continuous basis and bridge the information management in between stock assessments. The subcomponent will also include support to PERSGA in developing a Regional Plan of Action for combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RPOA-IUU), and other specific action plans concerning conservation of vulnerable non target species such as sharks, turtles, seabirds and marine mammals. These action plans would provide an umbrella mechanism for cooperation and coordination of measures to combat IUU fishing, and other conservation measures in the RSGA fisheries. The subcomponent will incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation aspects in fisheries management and will build on previous capacity development efforts that were carried out under the World Bank project: Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Strategic Ecosystem Management Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project (P113794).

9. **Subcomponent 1.3: Citizen, private sector and development partner engagement in the regional sustainable fishery mechanism through enhanced knowledge management, communication strategies and awareness**. This subcomponent includes technical assistance, consultations, and operating costs for supporting citizen, private sector and development partner engagement; raising awareness through effective communication and reporting on regional cooperation actions, including improved activities that demonstrate cooperation and coordination among the regional countries, and key actions taken for sustainable management of fisheries in the RSGA. This will also focus on PERSGA's capacity to make use of the information and process of joint assessment of RSGA fisheries status and trends in the RSGA large ecosystems; and its feedback to policy instruments at the regional level, and to assist facilitate their implementation. Based on this also, special awareness program activities will be developed, including production and dissemination of educational materials (videos, media toolkits, brochures, pamphlets, mobile applications, etc.) addressing fisheries issues, for various actors and publics, including also communication workshops to enhance their engagement. It will also support development of technical guidelines for best practices in knowledge management for specialists, including also monitoring of KM performance, and a regional platform for sharing knowledge, and facilitate linkage to research and development institutes addressing issues related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in the region.

## 1.3  Context

10. Implemented at higher regional level, this component of the project may carry specific risks:

 (i)     Discrepancy in capacities for collection of fisheries data and monitoring amongst member states can lead to gaps in regional database, due to lack of real time data, incomplete, or unsustainable statistics from some countries, which could lead to regional statistics of non- or limited use for fishery management and policy development.

 (ii)    Inadequate financial and technical capacities at national and local levels may lead to inability or inconsistency in implementation of policies, action plans and management measures agreed by the regional mechanism.

 (iii)   The regional mechanism and processes may inadvertently distress or divert planned fisheries management plans, measures and other interventions by national and local institutions, which would achieve same desirable objective of the project;

 (iv)    The regional mechanism may indirectly carry ESHS risks and impacts at national levels, in case a new national policy reform, regulation, etc. be a consequence of implementing recommended regional polices and measures.

 (v)     COVID-19 and it impacts interfere with project activities and targets

11. **PERSGA's Technical Capacity**. PERSGA was established as a regional organization since 1996, and joins seven member states Parties of Jeddah Convention (1982), including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Rational use of marine and coastal resources and their protection from pollution and over-exploitation are the central objectives of Jeddah Convention and its derived Protocols, for which PERSGA is in charge to provide for regional coordination and

technical assistance for implementation. PERSGA received GEF regional project to support execution of the Strategic Action Program during 1998-2004, implemented by the World Bank. Sustainable management of living marine resources was one of the SAP priority areas, which established special regional program for this objective. PERSGA further received a post SAP project supported by the GEF and WB during 2014-2018 that focused on strengthening management of MPAs and living marine resources, which also implemented subprojects on sustainable livelihood for fishery communities at the pilot MPA sites, and conducted related assessment of fisheries policies, legislation and management at the regional scale. A draft protocol concerning "regional cooperation in management of fisheries and aquaculture" was also developed to provide framework for the regional collaboration mechanism, to coordinate policies, legislation, regional database for fisheries statistics, management plans, etc. and provide necessary technical assistance by PERSGA was agreed, pending ratification by the member states.

12. The SFISH regional component will enable PERSGA to build its full capacity to support the regional management mechanism. Given the huge and varying technical assistance needs for the region, PERSGA will follow a wide-range consultative approach with all stakeholders to develop a transparent multi-criteria selection and prioritization framework to develop and operate the regional mechanism and program interventions for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. The framework will be applied to identify regional priority activities and technical assistance needed to support inline national programs of the member states, regardless of the source of financing, which provide confidence to encourage sustainability of regional collaboration and to be adopted in respective funding. The selection parameters will basically include relevance, efficacy, cost-benefit, and sustainability. Other parameters, including resilience to climate change, contribution to relevant SDGs, etc. will be considered in refining the proposed priority lists.

## 1.4 Citizen Engagement

13. Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of the Project's design. PERSGA and its project partners will receive capacity building to promote policies and skills to carry out Citizen Engagements activities among the target groups, and to maintain Citizen Engagement processes that engage local stakeholders, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups, in gender-sensitive consultations to identify local priority needs and interventions that the Project regional component can instigate. Through subcomponent 1.3 of the regional component, PERSGA will provide technical assistance, consultation platforms supporting citizen, private sector and development partner engagement. It will also support raising awareness through effective communication and reporting on regional cooperation actions, including improved activities that demonstrate cooperation and coordination among the regional countries, and key actions taken for sustainable management of fisheries in the RSGA. This will also focus on PERSGA's capacity to make use of the information and process of joint assessment of RSGA fisheries status and trends in the RSGA large ecosystems, and its feedback to policy instruments at the regional level, and to assist facilitate their implementation. Special awareness program activities will be developed, including production and dissemination of educational materials (videos, media toolkits, brochures, pamphlets, mobile applications, etc.) addressing fisheries issues, designed for various actors and publics, including also communication workshops with government agencies to enhance their capacities on citizen and private engagement. It will also support development of technical guidelines for best practices in knowledge management for specialists, including also monitoring of KM performance, and a regional platform for sharing experience, and facilitate linkage to research and development institutes to address priority issues related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in the region.

14. A well-defined SEP can be an important means to address some of these risks. In addition, it helps build ownership of the project activities by all partner member states institutions and key performers at the regional levels, as well as addressing their capacity building needs to manage engagement of other stakeholders including at local and national , counting vulnerable groups, private sector and citizens of both sexes, through providing concrete methods for engagement and building on adapted methods of participation and awareness raising where they exist.

15. Lastly, in the context of a pandemic, broad, culturally appropriate, and adapted awareness raising

activities are particularly important to properly sensitize the relevant stakeholders to the risks related to infectious diseases, and the potential impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and marine environment.

## 1.5 Gender Issues

16. One of the hurdles for fishery as in other blue economy sectors is the gender imbalance in the sectors. Women have currently limited role in such sectors, due to lack of access to finance, skill gaps, and obstacles to practice fishing and on sea activities. The regional component of the project will build capacities and provide policy advice for government partners to adopt policies and undertake management decisions to assist avoiding unintended consequences for women and their livelihoods, and take gender dynamics into account when developing new polices to facilitate opportunities and sustainability approaches, e.g. enhancing women's access to resources, technology and finance through capacity building, and participation to leverage their role in creating change.

17. PERSGA has put forth demo activities dedicated to economic empowerment of women through some subprojects in the previous Strategic Ecosystem Management project (2014-2018), which included income generation activities based on micro and small business schemes in artisanal fisheries and tourism services owned by local women societies. Through the platforms and programs of the regional component of the current project, country partners will be encouraged to follow up, extend and replicate such success stories through sharing knowledge experience, enhancing visibility, access to focused technical guidelines and training for national planners and specialists. Specific guidelines and measures for Gender Action Planning based on screening results conducted during the citizen engagements will be developed, which would respond to findings from the gender analysis and other relevant information on gender-based constraints and opportunities relevant to the region in the project planned capacity building activities.

# 2 Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

18. Given the nature of the project and ongoing discussions on the Project's design, including its final targeting strategy, and COVID-19 restrictions, consultations have to date included a series of coordination and technical meetings between PERSGA, the World Bank, UNDP, and an online consultation meetings with relevant government institutes in the PERSGA member states (see section Annex 1). This SEP has been prepared as the starting point of a framework process to develop a more comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy and plan. It will be updated afterwards as required by the phased approach, which will consider further consultations with all stakeholders and affected parties.

19. In addition, PERSGA already has significant presence in all of its member state, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Through its regional program activities and projects, PERSGA works closely with relevant national agencies (including inline ministries and agencies in charge of marine fisheries, marine environment, maritime transport, coastal tourism, etc.), academic institutes working on marine sciences and fisheries, and relevant NGOs, besides its regular coordination with its national focal points in the member states. This basis, in addition to the approaches followed in the previous regional projects (Strategic Action Program and the Strategic Ecosystem Management projects) implemented with the World Bank provide consistent framework for wide-ranging consultations by PERSGA and its implementing partners in the member states with stakeholders involved in the Project throughout all of its phases.

## 2.1 Stakeholder Engagement during Project preparation

20. In the context of the 'Strategic Ecosystem Based Management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden' (SEM) (concluded in 2019), several consultations with key informants, local fishery communities,

staff from relevant government agencies and local universities/research community were conducted in the frameworks of subprojects ESMF, and the assessment studies on fisheries policies, legislation and management practices in the region carried out by the project, as well as, the project final evaluation and the regional closing workshop. All these consultations involving the above mentioned stakeholders contributed to the preparation of the current project, including identification of priorities for the fisheries sectors and the regional mechanism, capacity building needs, communication strategies and environmental and social issues.

21. Later on, and given the special situation in some member states, and the COVID-19 pandemic, PERSGA could further conduct online consultations during 2020/2021, engaging with the government implementing partners. During the last PERSGA COP (focal points and ministerial council meetings) held online during July 2021, consultations with country delegates discussed regional priorities, and strengthening PERSGA role and capacity to address them through transforming regional initiatives that are designed to be are more impactful and have good return on investment. Based on these consultations PERSGA worked to prepare a portfolio of integrated regional initiatives towards safeguarding/ restoring marine ecosystem and governance of blue economy sectors in the region. The Portfolio document includes several components encompassing fisheries and other blue economy issues, and was shared with member states in October 2021 for further consultation, whereby countries remarks were collected and included in an updated document[2]. A full component of the Portfolio focuses on regional fisheries and aquaculture governance, with subcomponent initiatives addressing identified priorities for fisheries statistics and info system, protection and rebuilding fish stocks, combating Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, restoring fish habitats, and sustainable aquaculture. As main outcomes of these consultations, these priorities were afterward included by PERSGA in the regional component of the current SFISH project, developed in consultation with the World Bank team. Recently, in mid-March 2022, PERSGA organized a regional online consultation meeting on developed SFISH appraisal document. This consultation meeting joined 16 government representatives from the inline ministries in Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen with PERSGA project team, and discussed proposed subcomponents objectives and interventions to confirm that they cover priority issues relevant to the scope of the project for the region; detect options for synergy with inline national projects and programs, and gathered further remarks and suggestions to be considered in the subcomponents interventions and the project implementation plan. Annex (1) provides summary report of this regional consultation.

# 3 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

22. The Project regional component stakeholders mainly include government agencies as partners coordinating with PERSGA and participating in the regional mechanism. At national levels in the member states, they may include individuals, groups, communities, or other entities that are either affected or likely to be affected by the regional component Project (Project-affected parties), as well as individuals, groups, communities, or other entities that may have an interest in the Project (other interested parties).

## 3.1 Affected Parties

23. Affected parties are the persons, groups and other entities within target fisheries and aquaculture sectors that are or could be directly influenced by activities of the regional component of the Project or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with this component, and who must be closely engaged in identifying risks and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures in the partner countries. These parties may include:

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[2] PERSGA (2022) A Portfolio of Regional Initiatives for Conservation of Marine Ecosystems: Towards Economic Prosperity and Healthy Marine Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region (updated draft, January 2022).

- Governments of member states – government officials, permitting and regulatory agencies and line ministries at the national and local levels, including Ministries/Authorities in charge of marine fisheries & aquaculture marine environmental protection, and their related natural resources statistics, information and communication, fish trade, coastal guards, and seaports and maritime transport in PERSGA member states that include Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.
- Direct workers in the Project regional component at PERSGA.

24. The project regional component will tap and support capacity of government partners in the member states to address environmental, health, and social issues planning and management in relation to its contextual risks indicated in section 1.3 para (iv) above. This will indirectly plus other beneficiaries, though their involvement in the project is limited to sharing toolkits and relevant information, who may include:

- Fishing communities.
- Business entities, and individual entrepreneurs that can benefit from the employment, training and business opportunities stemming from the Project regional component;
- Local community trade organizations and cooperatives, especially women.
- National and international NGOs

## 3.2 Other Interested Parties

25. Other interested parties are individuals, groups, or entities that may not experience impacts from the regional component of the project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the Project, and thus may affect the Project's implementation. They include:

- Relevant national programs related to living marine resources.
- Community-based groups, local microenterprises (MEs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that represent local residents, local committees, community leaders, and other local interest groups.
- Mass media and associated interest groups, including local, regional and national printed and broadcasting media, digital/web-based entities, and their associations.
- UN organizations of relevant mandate and presence in the region (mainly FAO and UNEP).

## 3.3 Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Individuals or Groups

26. Vulnerable groups are persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by Project regional component activities, and thus may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with such activities. Vulnerability may stem from a person's origin, gender, age, health condition, economic deficiency and financial insecurity, disadvantaged status, persons with disabilities or dependence on other individuals. PERSGA and its member state parties participating in implementation of the project component will engage with vulnerable groups and individuals to ensure that their understanding of and input into the overall process are commensurate to those of the other stakeholders.

27. PERSGA and its implementing partners will seek the views of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups during consultations, and take these views into account during Project implementation. Information sharing techniques will be tailored according to the nature and common types of vulnerabilities, for example visuals and sign language interpreters will be used for people with hearing disabilities; and venues will be chosen to be easily accessible to people with physical disabilities. When necessary, measures will also include specific sessions for women.

# 4  Stakeholder Engagement Program

## 4.1  Methodology

28. In accordance with best practice, PERSGA and its implementing partners will apply the following principles to their stakeholder engagement activities:

- *Openness.*  PERSGA and its implementing partners will carry out consultations throughout Project preparation and implementation Project life-cycle, in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion or intimidation. Venues will be easily reachable, and not require attendance fees, unnecessary long commutes or access authorization.
- *Culturally appropriateness.* The format, timing and venue will respect local customs and norms.
- *Informed participation and feedback*:  PERSGA and its implementing partners will provide and widely distribute information to all stakeholders in an appropriate format, and provide opportunities to stakeholders provide feedback, and will analyze and address stakeholder comments and concerns.
- *Inclusivity*. Consultations will engage all segments of the stakeholders, including disabled persons, the elderly, minorities, and other vulnerable individuals.  If necessary, PERSGA and its implementing partners will provide logistical assistance to enable participants with limited physical abilities and those with insufficient financial or limited transportation means to attend meetings organized by the Project.
- *Gender sensitivity*.  If necessary, PERSGA and its implementing partner will organize separate meetings and focus group discussions for women, and use women facilitators.

## 4.2  Engagement Methods and Techniques

29. The following table summarizes the engagement methods and tools that PERSGA and its implementing partners may apply:

**Table 1. Methods and Tools for Stakeholder Engagement**

| Method/Tool | Description and Use | Contents | Target Groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Information Provision** | | | |
| Distribution of printed public materials: leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, as part of consultation meetings, public hearings, discussions and meetings with stakeholders. | Used to convey information on the Project and regular updates on its progress to local, national, regional and international stakeholders. | Printed materials present illustrative and written information on Project activities, facilities, technologies and design solutions, as well as impact mitigation measures.<br><br>Presented contents are concise and adapted to a layperson reader. Graphics and pictorials are widely used to describe technical aspects. | Interested parties.<br>Beneficiaries, NGOs, and Civil Society |
| Distribution of printed public materials: newsletters/ updates through post, emailing, electronic subscription, delivery in person.<br>Dissemination of short videos<br>Mobile applications for different age groups | A newsletter or an update circular sent out to Project stakeholders on a regular basis to maintain awareness of the Project development. | Important highlights of Project achievements, announcements of planned activities, changes, and overall progress. | Interested parties.<br>Beneficiaries ,NGOs, and civil society |
| Printed advertisements in the media | Inserts, announcements, press releases, short articles or feature stories in the printed media – newspapers and magazines | Notification of forthcoming events or commencement of specific Project activities.<br><br>General description of the Project and its benefits to the stakeholders. | Interested parties (i.e., business owners and suppliers) |
| Visual presentations during consultation meeting | Visually convey Project information to stakeholders and other interested audiences. | Description of the Project and related solutions/impact management measures.<br>Updates on Project development. | All stakeholders |
| **Information Feedback** | | | |
| Information repositories accompanied by a feedback mechanism<br>Materials can be made available in publicly accessible places such as government administrations, implementing partner, and project website for the duration of a disclosure period or permanently. | Placement of Project-related information and printed materials in dedicated/designated locations that also provide visitors and readers with an opportunity to leave their comments in a feedback register. | Project Website with its various Project-related materials<br>ESS documentation<br>Project GIS online platform<br>Citizen engagement and TPM | Directly affected parties |

| Method/Tool | Description and Use | Contents | Target Groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dedicated telephone line (hotline), email, social media channel, and SMS messaging.<br><br>Project designated staff will answer and respond to the calls, emails and messages. | Providing the public with channels to obtain information, make enquiries, or provide feedback, through a designated and manned telephone line, as well email and SMS messaging.<br><br>Initially, telephone numbers of Project's specialized staff can be shared with the stakeholders, particularly staff involved in stakeholder engagement, public relations and environmental protection. | Any issues that are of interest or concern to other stakeholders. | Any other stakeholders and interested parties. |
| Internet/Digital Media<br><br>Not all stakeholders have access to the internet, especially in remote areas | Launch of Project website to promote various information and updates on the overall Project, impact and progress, procurement and tender announcements, as well as on Project's engagement activities.<br><br>Web-site will include a GM form that allows viewers to leave comments or ask questions about the Project, and a GIS mapping platform that allows viewers to locate project activities and obtain updated information (i.e., progress status and photos, outputs, budget, duration, contractor; name). | Various Project-related documents and materials such as the PAD , news and announcements as well as the project GIS platform | Affected parties, stakeholders and other interested parties that have access to the internet resources. |
| Surveys, Interviews and Questionnaires (Citizen Engagement and TPM)<br><br>Questionnaires can be online, and distributed during relevant events. | The Project's citizen engagement and TPM in the target groups will include the use of surveys, interviews and questionnaires to obtain stakeholder views. | Description of the proposed Project and related solutions/impact management measures.<br><br>Questions targeting stakeholder perception of the Project, associated impacts and benefits, concerns and suggestions. | Directly affected and interested parties.<br>NGOs and civil society |

| Method/Tool | Description and Use | Contents | Target Groups |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grievance Mechanism Feedback & Suggestion Box at appropriate locations | As part of the Project GM, a suggestion box will be established at relevant office to encourage affected parties to leave written feedback and comments about the Project.<br><br>Contents of the suggestion box will be checked regularly by designated Project GM, to ensure timely collection of inputs and of response/action, as necessary. | Any questions, queries or concerns, especially for stakeholders that may have a difficulty expressing their views and issues during public consultations. | Directly affected and interested parties |
| **Consultation & Participation** | | | |
| Public consultations (citizen engagement)<br><br>Targeted invitations are sent out to stakeholders. | Project representatives, the affected authorities, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders will conduct gender-sensitive consultations on planned Project activities. | Detailed information on the activities, including a presentation and an interactive Questions & Answers session with the audience. | Directly affected and interested parties |
| Focus Group Discussions and Round Table Workshops Experts and key informants working groups | Used to facilitate discussion on Project activities that merit collective examination with various groups of stakeholders. | Project assessments, activities and plans, design solutions and impact mitigation/management measures that require detailed discussion with affected stakeholders. | Directly affected and interested parties |
| Information centers and field offices | Project's designated venue for depositing Project-related information that also offers access to the community and other members of the public, with Project staff available to respond to queries or provide clarifications. | Project-related materials.<br><br>Any issues that are of interest or concern to the stakeholders. | All stakeholders |
| Visits and Tours | Visits to Project Site and facilities organized for stakeholders, authorities and the media to demonstrate Project solutions.<br><br>Visitors are advised by the Project's staff and specialists to cover various aspects and to address questions arising from the public during the tour. | Demonstration of specific examples of Project's design solutions and approaches to managing impacts. | All stakeholders |

## 4.3    Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

30. PERSGA and its implementing partners will disclose Project information to the targeted stakeholder audiences.  Key dates for information disclosure are at the start of the project, at mid-term as well as at the end of the lifespan of the project.  PERSGA will translate the SEP, as well as other Project Environmental and Social Management documents of the project regional component into Arabic, and make hard copies in English and Arabic publicly available at its Project Office in Jeddah, as well as the PERSGA Project website, and through the websites of the implementing partners.  These documents will remain in the public domain throughout Project preparation and implementation.

31. The SEP will be updated as necessary during Project implementation to include any new stakeholders that might be identified, and to revise methods of engagement to maintain their effectiveness and relevance to the Project.

32. PERSGA and its implementing partners will disclose information using a combination of different channels, as found suitable for each specific activity.  These can include face-to-face meetings where applicable, accompanied by information shared via radio, television, newspapers, posters, brochures, leaflets, videos, as well as via websites and social media.

**Table 2.  Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure**

| Stakeholders | Information to be Disclosed | Methods |
|---|---|---|
| *Prior to Project Appraisal* | | |
| Government authorities and agencies (i.e. inline ministries in charge of marine fisheries and environment in the 7 PERSGA member states) | • Project Summary<br>• SEP, ESCP<br>• Other plans that could be developed based on their relevance to the regional component, | • Dissemination of the E&S instruments (paper or electronic)<br>• Access to PERSGA web site<br>• In person or virtual meetings<br>• Capacity building activities |
| Non-governmental and relevant UN agencies | • Project Summary<br>• SEP, ESCP<br>• Other plans and toolkits that could be developed based on their relevance to the regional component, | • Dissemination of hard copies at designated locations<br>• Access to PERSGA web site<br>• In person or virtual meetings |
| General Public | • Project Summary<br>• SEP, ESCP<br>• LMP/ESMF | • Access to PERSGA web site<br>• Press releases in the local media<br>• Information leaflets and brochures<br>• Notification through local radio or TV News<br>• Social media |
| Project direct/contracted workers | • Project Operations Manual<br>• Grievance Procedure<br>• LMP/ESMF | • Paper or electronic dissemination<br>• In person or virtual meetings |
| *Prior and during project design and planning for implementation* | | |
| Government authorities and agencies (i.e. inline ministries in charge of marine fisheries and environment in PERSGA member states) | • Project proposal and implementation plan<br>• Information required for the purposes of regulation and permitting.<br>• ESHS requirements | • Paper or electronic dissemination<br>• In person or virtual meetings<br>• PERSGA web site |

| Stakeholders | Information to be Disclosed | Methods |
|---|---|---|
| | • SEP, ESCP and any relevant Action Plans, including the Project Grievance Mechanism | |
| Service providers | • Tender/procurement announcements<br>• ESHS requirements<br>• Code of Conduct<br>• Grievance Mechanism | • PERSGA web site<br>• In person or virtual meetings<br>• In-person or virtual training<br>• Signature of the Code of Conduct |
| *During Project Implementation and closing* | | |
| Government authorities and agencies (i.e. inline ministries in charge of marine fisheries and marine environment in PERSGA member states) | • Regular updates on Project development<br>• Final evaluation questionnaire | • In person or virtual meetings<br>• Correspondence and emails<br>• PERSGA web site<br>• Online and surveys |
| Project Direct Workers | • Project updates<br>• Final evaluation questionnaire | • Emails to Project workers<br>• Regular in person or virtual meetings<br>• Posts on information boards.<br>• Reports, leaflets. |
| Non-governmental organizations (i.e. NGOs, and UN agencies) | • Project updates<br>• Final evaluation questionnaire | • Project reports<br>• In person or virtual meetings<br>• Online communication |

## 4.4 Stakeholder Consultation Plan

33. In addition, PERSGA and its implementing partner will ensure that consultations are meaningful. Meaningful consultations are a two-way process that:

- Begins early in the project planning process to gather initial views on the project proposal and inform project design and selection criteria;
- Encourages stakeholder feedback, particularly as a way of informing project design and engagement by stakeholders in the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks and impacts;
- Continues on an ongoing basis, as risks and impacts arise;
- Is based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate format, in relevant local language(s) and is understandable to stakeholders;
- Considers and responds to feedback;
- Supports active and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties;
- Is free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation
- Is documented and disclosed.

34. PERSGA and its implementing partner will also:

- Provide advance notification of meetings through accessible channels. Proof of notification should be kept.
- As necessary, directly invite relevant stakeholders (e.g., representatives of authorities)
- Draft an agenda for all meetings to provide a clear and itemized outline of the meeting's structure, sequence, chairpersons, the range of issues that will be discussed, and the format of the discussion

- Provide information in a format that is readily understandable to an audience of laypersons, and free of excessive technical jargon. Preference will be given to verbal and visual methods of communication (including presentations, pictorials, illustrations, graphics and animation) accompanied by hand-out materials imparting the relevant information in understandable terms. Where technical specifics of the project's particular activities or solutions are required to be delivered in greater detail, PERSGA and its implementing partners will ensure that the description of technical issues is adapted to their level of understanding.
- Ensure that presentations can be seen and heard by all participants. This might include the provision of a microphone, proper illumination, the use of a projector, and places allocated for wheelchair users.

35. PERSGA and its implementing partner will document all meetings to capture all comments received from the stakeholders, including by:

- Taking down the names and affiliations of all participants. Wherever possible, attendees' signatures will be obtained as a proof of their participation. Details of the attendees who were not initially on the list (e.g., those participating in place of somebody else, or general public) should be included in addition to those who have registered for the meeting in advance.
- Assigning a person to take written minutes of the meeting
- Recording the meeting
- Taking pictures
- Video recording the meeting where and when feasible

36. PERSGA and its implementing partners will distribute feedback forms to participants, to capture the views and suggestions from persons who may have refrained from expressing their views or concerns in public. The feedback forms may include the following points:

- Participant's name and affiliation (optional)
- How did they learn about the Project and the consultation meeting?
- Are they generally in favor of the Project?
- What are their main concerns or expectations/hopes associated with the Project or the particular activity discussed at the meeting?
- Do they think the Project will bring some advantages to their community as a whole?
- Is there anything in the Project and its design solutions that they would like to change or improve?
- Do they think that the consultation meeting was useful in understanding the specific activities of the Project, as well as associated impacts and mitigation measures? What aspects of the meeting they particularly appreciated or would recommend for improvement?

37. Participants that might not be able to fill the evaluation form due to any constraints or concerns about its confidentiality, will be given the option of expressing their feedback in a suitable way.

38. The following table details the planned stakeholder consultation activities.

**Table 3. Stakeholder Consultation Methods**

| Topic of Consultation | Method | Timetable, Location and Dates | Target Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Project Effectiveness* | | | | |
| Project Scope, rationale, and selection criteria | Official meetings | In target locations/ sites, prior to Project effectiveness | • Government agencies<br>• Other relevant authorities | PERSGA Project Manager and coordinators at implementing partners |
| Environmental and Social Risk Management | • In person and virtual meetings, and focus groups<br>• Separate meetings for women and vulnerable | In target location/ sites, prior to Project effectiveness (as soon as possible) | • Concerned authorities<br>• NGOs and CSOs | PERSGA Project Manager and coordinators at implementing partners |
| Project launch | Official meetings | In target locations/ sites, within one month after Project effectiveness | • Line ministries<br>• NGOs, CSOs and UN agencies | PERSGA Project Manager and coordinators at implementing partners |
| Disclosure of Project Environmental and Social Instruments | Documents to be made publicly available and announced through the PERSGA and implementing partners web sites<br>• Public meetings | In target locations/ sites, within one month of Project effectiveness | • Government agencies<br>• Other relevant authorities partners<br>• NGOs and UN agencies | PERSGA Project Manager and coordinators at implementing partners |
| *Activities Implementation* | | | | |
| Applicable activity selection and rationale | Activity proposal to be publicly announced Through the web sites of PERSGA and the concerned implementing partner<br>• Targeted meetings<br>• Outreach as required | In target locations, prior to the start of activities | • Government agencies<br>• Other relevant authorities partners<br>• NGOs, and UN agencies | PERSGA or concerned implementing partner |
| Employment opportunities | Project website<br>In person public meetings | In target locations prior to the start of activities | • Service providers | PERSGA or concerned implementing partner, in collaboration with national coordinators |
| • Grievance Mechanism<br>• Code of Conduct<br>• ESHS requirements | In person meetings with contracted service providers | In target locations, following contractor selection, but prior to start of his/her work | • Contracted service providers | PERSGA or concerned implementing partner, in collaboration with national coordinators |
| Grievance Mechanism | In person meetings and focus | In affected project sites before | • Affected parties | PERSGA or concerned |

| Topic of Consultation | Method | Timetable, Location and Dates | Target Stakeholders | Responsibilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | groups | the beginning of works | • NGOs and CSOs | implementing partner |
| Vulnerability | Focused target groups | Prior to project activities, and throughout project implementation | • Persons with disabilities or dependence on other individuals<br>• Stemming from a person's origin, gender, age, health condition | PERSGA or concerned implementing partner ESHS Officers |
| Project Status | Public meetings<br>Radio, TV announcements | Regularly throughout subproject implementation, until the completion of all subproject related activities | • NGOs and CSOs | PERSGA or concerned implementing partner project officers, in collaboration with subproject coordinator and procurement |

### 4.5 Proposed strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

39. PERSGA and its implementing partner will carry out targeted stakeholder engagement with vulnerable groups to understand their concerns and needs in terms of receiving information, accessing services, and other challenges they might face at home, at work places or in their communities. Special attention will be paid to engage with women as intermediaries.

# 5 Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities

### 5.1 Resources

40. PERSGA and the implementing partners will ensure the implementation of the stakeholder engagement activities. The stakeholder engagement budget will be part of the Project Management Component. It will be determined once the overall Project budget has been agreed to with the World Bank.

### 5.2 Management functions and responsibilities

41. PERSGA, assisted by E&S consultant, will be responsible for carrying out stakeholder engagement activities. The stakeholder engagement activities will be documented through PERSGA reporting and documentation as part of the project progress reporting requirements.

# 6 Grievance Mechanism

42. PERSGA and its implementing partners will establish and manage a Grievance Mechanism (GM) to enable beneficiaries to communicate their concerns regarding the Project, building on existing Grievance Mechanisms put in place in previous SEM project.

43. The GM details the procedures that communities and individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by the Project or a specific subproject or who have general inquiries, can use to submit their complaints, as well as the procedures used by PERSGA and its implementing partners to systematically register, track, investigate and promptly resolve complaints and respond to inquiries. The Project's GM will be used for both environmental and social issues and other relevant issues.

44. The PERGA regional project component coordinator and coordinators at its project partners, based in their offices will take the responsibility to address Project activity-related complaints and inquiries from Project affected parties regarding any environmental or social impacts due to related component activities. PERSGA and project partners will assign dedicated GM focal points to handle Project activity-related complaints, who will coordinate with the local partner and will set a unified timeframe for reporting grievances.

### 6.1 Procedures for Complaints

#### 6.1.1 Registering Complaints

45. PERSGA and its implementing partners will provide multiple access points for beneficiaries to voice their concerns. These access points will be advertised at accessible level, and include: complaint box at the activity sites, at PERSGA and implementing partners offices, and by mail, telephone, email, and website:

46. Grievances can be brought up by affected people in case of: (i) non-fulfillment of contracts or agreements; (ii) compensation entitlements; (iii) types and levels of compensation; (iv) disputes

related to destruction of assets or livelihoods; (v) disturbances caused by work activities, such as noise, vibration, dust or smell. Anonymous complaints will be admissible.

47. The Implementing Partner and Project contractors will also keep a log of issues brought directly to their attention verbally or in writing by Project affected communities or individuals, and relay these concerns in writing to PERSGA or implementing partners on a next day basis. PERSGA or its implementing partners will determine if these concerns rise to the level of a complaint.

48. PERSGA and its relevant implementing partner will register the complaint in a dedicated log, including a copy of the complaint and supporting documents. A draft template for registering grievances is found in Annex (2).

49. PERSGA and its relevant implementing partner will record and document complaints received in the relevant activity file and progress reports, including the number and type of complaints and the results of their resolution.

### 6.1.2    *Tracking, Investigating and Resolving Complaints*

50. The GM log maintained by PERSGA and its relevant implementing partner will track the date the complaint was received, date responded to, the type of response, and if the complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of the plaintiff.

51. The GM Focal Point will coordinate with the implementing partner and government officials to ensure prompt follow up action in response to each complaint. More specifically, the GM focal point will for named complaints:

(vi)    inform the plaintiff if the complaint is accepted or rejected within one week of receiving the complaint; any technical input from the relevant Project technical staff; if necessary, the response will require input from the relevant Project technical staff.

(vii)   if the complaint is accepted, send the plaintiff an officially stamped review card indicating:
    o   plaintiff name or legal representative
    o   plaintiff address
    o   complaint title
    o   review date
    o   list of annexes submitted with the complaint

(viii)  work with relevant Project technical staff, implementing partners, and contractors to resolve the complaint within 28 days of its submission.

52. When a complaint requires an urgent response, as in the case of an emergency, PERSGA and its relevant implementing partner will address as quickly as logistically possible.

53. PERSGA will include the log of complaints to the World Bank as part of PERSGA quarterly reporting to the World Bank.

54. PERSGA will secure a confidential channel to receive and manage sensitive complaints and in particular those related to sexual abuse and harassment.

### 6.1.3    *Gender Based Violence*

55. The GM will address gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in a manner that avoids stigmatization, rejection, and reprisals against survivors. The GM will assist SEA/SH survivors by referring them to GBV service providers for support immediately after receiving a complaint directly from a survivor. The information in the GM relative to GBV/SEA/SH will be confidential, especially when related to the identity of the complainant.

56. PERSGA and its implementing partners will also make the GM gender sensitive by female staff to:

• inform women about the project and its possible benefits to women, in a culturally sensitive manner

- inform women of the Project's GM and its procedures
- receive any project-related complaints from women
- The GM will respect best practices and a survivor-centered approach.

# 7 Monitoring and Reporting

## 7.1 Involvement of Stakeholders in Monitoring Activities

57. As part of its Citizen Engagement, PERSGA and its implementing partners will involve stakeholders in monitoring activities by actively engaging key project stakeholders in reflecting and assessing the progress of the project, and achieving the expected results. For this purpose, PERSGA and its implementing partners will follow the core principles of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Local people are active participants — not just sources of information.
- Stakeholders evaluate, outsiders facilitate.
- Focus on building stakeholder capacity for analysis and problem-solving.
- Process builds commitment to implementing any recommended corrective actions.

## 7.2 Reporting back to Stakeholders

58. PERSGA and its implementing partner will keep stakeholders informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance, and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and grievance mechanism.

59. The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation, in order to ensure that the information presented herein is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and specific phases of the development. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP.

60. The project coordination unit at PERSGA will prepare periodic summaries reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions, and transmit these summary reports to PERSGA SG. The periodic summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner.

61. PERSGA will publish a produce standalone annual report on project's interaction with the stakeholders during the year.

62. The project coordination unit at PERSGA will also monitor the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on a regular basis, including the following parameters:

- number of public hearings, consultation meetings and other public discussions/forums conducted within the year
- frequency of public engagement activities
- number of public grievances received within a reporting period the year, including the number of those resolved within the prescribed timeline
- number of press materials published/broadcasted in the local, regional, and national media.

# Annex 1.
# Report on the Regional Online Consultation Meeting on SFISH Project, 15th March, 2022, PERSGA

*The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)*

**Consultation meeting with member states on the regional component of the Sustainable Development of Fishery in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden- SFISH Project**

**PERSGA, 15th March 2022**

**Background:**

1.  Rational use of marine and coastal resources and their protection from pollution and over-exploitation are the central objectives of Jeddah Convention (1982) and its derived regional Protocols, which formulate the legal framework and mandate for PERSGA. Since its establishment in 1996, PERSGA worked with its seven member states, including Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen to provide for regional coordination, capacity building and technical assistance for implementation Jeddah Convention and Regional Protocols. In the GEF supported and World Bank implemented Strategic Action Program (SAP), executed by PERSGA during 1998-2004, Sustainable Management of Living Marine Resources was identified as one of the SAP priority areas, which established special regional program for this objective. PERSGA further received a post SAP project supported by the GEF and WB during 2014-2019 that focused on strengthening management of MPAs and living marine resources, which implemented subprojects on sustainable livelihood for fishery communities at the pilot sites, and conducted training and related assessments on fisheries policies, legislation and management at the regional scale. A draft protocol concerning "Regional Cooperation in Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture" through was developed to provide framework for the regional collaboration mechanism, to coordinate policies, legislation, regional database for fisheries statistics, management plans, etc. was agreed, pending ratification by the member states. In the context of the SEM project (concluded in 2019), several consultations with key informants, local fishery communities, staff from relevant government agencies and universities/research community were conducted in the frameworks of the project PF and subprojects ESMFs, and the assessment studies on fisheries policies, legislation and management practices in the region carried out by the project, as well as, the project final evaluation and the regional closing workshop. All these consultations contributed to the preparation of the current project, including identification of priorities for the fisheries sectors and the regional mechanism, capacity building needs, communication strategies and environmental and social safeguard issues.

2.  Furthermore, subsequent, engaging with the government agencies during the last PERSGA COP held during July 2021, discussed regional priorities, and strengthening PERSGA role and capacity to address them through transforming regional initiatives that are more impactful. Based on these consultations PERSGA prepared a portfolio of regional initiatives to strengthen governance of ecosystem and blue economy sectors in the region. A full component of the Portfolio focuses on regional fisheries and aquaculture governance, with identified priorities to be addressed, e.g. fisheries statistics and info system, protection and rebuilding fish stocks, combating IUU fishing, restoring fish habitats, and sustainable aquaculture, which were afterward included by PERSGA in the regional component of the current SFISH project, developed in consultation with the World Bank team.

3.  In this framework, PERSGA organized a regional online consultation meeting focusing on the SFISH appraisal document on 15th Mach 2022, which aimed at: i) discuss the proposed project objectives and subcomponents interventions to confirm that they address priority issues relevant to

the scope of the project for the region; ii) discuss options for synergy with inline national projects and programs; and iii) collect further remarks and suggestions to be considered in the subcomponents interventions, and the project implementation plan.

## Proceedings of the Meeting:

4.  The Meeting joined PERSGA project team with 17 national government officials and experts, nominated by PERSGA Focal Points in the member states, including in Djibouti, Egypt Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen, representing inline government agencies and ministries in charge of marine environment and fisheries and aquaculture management in their countries. Annex 1.1 provides list of the participant country delegates with their affiliations, positions and contact emails.

5.  After PERSGA welcoming note and introduction of the participants, an introductory presentation was delivered by Mr. Ahmed Khalil (PERSGA). The presentation explained the online consultation meeting context and objectives, and provided a detailed background on the SFISH project development history, description of the project objectives, focus, subcomponents' structure, etc. based on the draft PAD, which was also shared with the participants through email, prior to the meeting (Annex 1.2).

6.  Participants were then invited to provide views and remarks. The following gives summary of the participants' interventions (for title and details of indicated speakers refer to Annex 1.1):

7.  In general, there was a consensus by participants that the PAD perfectly addresses priority issues for sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, particularly at the regional scale and mechanisms, and capacity building needs, which is essential. However, interventions at national levels, e.g. through pilot sites and on-the-ground interventions are also needed, which supplement national infrastructure to enhance application of skills and knowledge acquired by national capacities, and address local fishing community development needs at local scales. Given that such interventions are out of the scope of the current project, it should be considered in synergies with national projects, as well as other PERSGA interventions and ongoing projects, and the related World Bank program national components with the countries.

8.  In addition, the following remarks were discussed and agreed to be valid for consideration in the project implementation plan, as appropriate. Some inquiries were also raised, which were answered by the PERAGA project team at satisfaction of inquirer, as shown in the relevant paragraph.

9.  Ms. Awatif Abdelgadir (Sudan) thanked PERSGA and the World Bank, appreciating the regional efforts to strengthen collaboration in fisheries and aquaculture mechanism. She recommended that the project interventions should specially consider gender balance, and measures to enhance female participation and beneficiaries, indicating that although increasing numbers of female specialists have been engaged and graduated from the Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries-Red Sea University in Sudan, there is a tendency of low representation and relatively poorer skills for employed women in the fishery sector in the country, which she attributed to limited training opportunities, and recommended to provide maximum possible access for female specialists through participation in the regional workshops and exchange visits between PERSGA countries.

10.  Mr. Ali  Al-Shaikhi (Saudi Arabia) expressed his thanks to PERSGA and valued collaboration with the World Bank, and his great hopes to strengthen regional collaboration through the project. He noted that considering the different priority issues to be addressed by the project, there is variable levels of experience among the PERSGA participant countries, which provide the option to design twining programs. Each counties has strengths in some aspects, for example in Egypt, fishers and farmers developed experience and extension program for high production systems; Saudi Arabia has more developed biosecurity systems and experience in aquaculture, etc. In this regard, it will be necessary to conduct national assessments to identify strengths and gaps for each member state, to help design effective collaborative activities, and PERSGA can set format and guidelines for the assessments through the project.

11.  Ms. Hala Gindeel (Sudan) esteemed the project interventions, especially the rich capacity building and training programs that will be supported, given the huge gaps in capacities in fisheries

management and research in the region. She suggested that capacity building in aquaculture should consider utilizing aquaculture in restocking, e.g. for sea cucumber stocks building on lessons learned through pilot experiments in some member states in previous projects. In another issue, it should be considered that coordinating legislation and regulations for seasonal management, e.g. seasonal closing of fishing will be more effectively implemented if corresponding programs for providing alternatives for the fishers are facilitated through effective synergies with other relevant projects and national plans.

12. Mr. Khalid Abuaisheh (Jordan) indicated that a national project in Jordan will soon launch inland aquaculture for marine species using saltwater near Aqaba, which aimed to provide alternative livelihood options for local fishers, as new regulations will limit fishing efforts for local stock protection purposes. In this regards, it will be excellent opportunity to share experience on this pilot projects with other PERSGA member states through the upcoming regional project activities and platforms.

13. Mr. Aiman Soleiman (Jordan) inquired about scope of the project activities addressing oil spills management, and whether explaining that Prince Hamza Oil Response Center may require response equipment upgrading to cope with the new extensions of the ports facilities at Aqaba, particularly to reduce response time for far located sites of the ports extension. It has been explained by PERSGA that SFISH project activities in this respect includes upgrading the software for monitoring and assessment (OILMAP), and capacity building (training) on response, and does not include supply of oil response equipment.

14. Mr. Aden Elmi (Djibouti) congratulated PERSGA for the successful collaboration with World Bank, and thanked PERSGA team for organizing this important consultation meeting. He also indicated variation in experience and capacities among PERSGA member states, which should be considered by the project to fill human resource and skill gaps. In this regard, assessments and gap analysis is essentially important. Further spate consultations by the project team with each country may also be needed during the project implementation to focus on specific country specific issues of capacity building and technical assistance needs, which is already considered in the project activities.

15. Mr. Abdallah Naser (Yemen) valued the activities providing regional platforms for experience sharing and capacity building, especially for aquaculture. He indicated that there are also shared stocks and trans-boundary fisheries issues with neighboring non-PERSGA states, for example Yemen lobster stocks in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian seas is shared with Oman, also Yemen shares some other stocks are with Eritrea. Therefore there should be channels for communication and collaboration through PERSGA with such countries for sustainable management.

16. This point was further discussed in the meeting, and among possible options identified is through establishing collaboration with other regional bodies and mechanisms, such as the GFCM, IOTC, and RECOFI, whereby overlapping PERSGA member states, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are members in both regional organization, as well as FAO regional office. PERSGA has already initiative in this regards, which can be promoted to be sustained through project activities.

17. Ms. Mona Almahi (Sudan) indicated that priority issues are well covered by the project, e.g. IUU fishing, SPAGs, bycatch, conservation and monitoring, as well as climate resilience and COVID 19 impacts. She mentioned several parallel projects at national level in Sudan which can provide excellent synergy with the SFISH regional component, particularly the national Blue Economy guidelines and strategy discussion forum. UNIDO is also supporting a huge national project focusing on ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Sudanese Red Sea coast. Capacity building for government agencies should also include policies and guidelines to train, empower and mobilize NGOs and engaging them, especially for women and fisher societies.

18. The consultation meeting was concluded at 14:00 pm. PERSGA project team, on 15th March 2022

19. The meeting was recorded. Copies are available to be shared with the participants upon request from PERSGA

# Annex (1.1): PAD summary

**Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH)**

**The Regional Component (PERSGA)**

**A.     Project Development Objective**

1.     The Development Objective of the overall proposed program is to strengthen regional cooperation for fishery management in the RSGA region.

**PDO Level Indicators**

2.     The progress towards the achievement of the PDO will be measured by the following outcome indicators:

Outcome (Regional Component): Regional fishery management mechanism and measures strengthened for RSGA region

B. Project's Regional Component

3.     The project regional component will be financed through an IDA grant

4.     This component will aim to strengthen and sustain regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries in the RSGA region, including: regional capacity building on management of fisheries and living marine resources including training, providing technical guidelines, support development of policies, legislation, and management plans; PERSGA regional data center for monitoring, assessment knowledge management and sharing to support science- and ecosystem based fisheries management; support a regional platform for coordination of fisheries policies, legislation, management plans and measures for responsible fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem approach in the RSGA; and support PERSGA regional program for citizen, private sector and development partner awareness, engagement and communication. Specifically, the component will include:

(a)     **Subcomponent 1.1: PERSGA Regional Information Management System (RIMS), monitoring network and institutional capacity**. This subcomponent will build the capacity of PERSGA, as a regional organization, to compile data on catch and fishing effort and analyze the relevant statistics received from the member states and make this information available to all member states as assigned to PERSGA by the regional convention and derived regional protocol. The subcomponent will provide goods and services to improve IT hard and software of the RIMS housed in PERSGA, and networking to allow it to perform integrated functions including developing a two-way system encompassing bottom-up and top-down streams for standardized data; analyzing and making effective use of fisheries data to ensure PERSGA's capacities to collect and consolidate the data received from member countries. Through this subcomponent, PERSGA will be supported in its capacity of processing, analyzing and utilizing the collected fishery data to support science-based policies and their implementation in the region. The subcomponent will also support PERSGA system capacity for monitoring marine environment, tracking oil spills and coordination of emergency response that have implications to protection of fisheries and their critical habitats, through extending the PERSGA online monitoring network for water quality, and upgrading PERSGA oil spill trajectory modeling and mapping facility. It will also promote system capacity for design and communication tools to facilitate the associated awareness programs. Part of the subcomponent activities will also support PERSGA updating institutional guidelines and promote its capacity, including manuals, standard operating tools and applications, resource management, accounting policies and procedures, financial reporting and monitoring, procurement procedures, project cycle management, risk assessment; and environmental and social safeguards assessment, planning and management.

(b)     **Subcomponent 1.2: Regional platforms for capacity building and regional coordination of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the regional management mechanism**. This subcomponent will provide services and operating costs to deliver capacity development, technical assistance and effective coordination on fishery management at the regional level. This is in line with PERSGA's

strategic ecosystem management program and with PERSGA's proposed responsibility under the Jeddah Convention and the related regional protocols, including also the new protocol concerning regional cooperation in management of fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA. The subcomponent will support PERSGA to develop technical manuals for cost-effective approaches of harmonized fisheries data and information collecting and management adapted to the region, incorporating supplementary guidelines for monitoring and assessing IUU fishing, by-catch, spawning aggregations and sites, fish stock status etc., and a regional mechanism to share information with member states on fishery statistics and knowledge. The subcomponent will also develop technical guidelines and conduct training programs for national capacities on fisheries statistics and sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture aspects, based on training of trainers' approaches, including also a regional rostrum providing parallel online integrated courses for trainers and fisheries specialists. It will also support PERSGA to develop technical guidelines, provide operational costs and technical assistance to establish and sustain regional platforms to effectively coordinate efforts for fisheries management, policies and legislation; protection and restoration of critical fish habitat; EIA and biosecurity in aquaculture, and regional mechanism to interact with relevant international efforts. It will support technical assistance and provide operating costs for developing toolkits for effective fisheries monitoring, including IUU fishing, to be used on a continuous basis and bridge the information management in between stock assessments. The subcomponent will also include support to PERSGA in developing a Regional Plan of Action for combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (RPOA-IUU), and other specific action plans concerning conservation of vulnerable non target species such as sharks, turtles, seabirds and marine mammals. These action plans would provide an umbrella mechanism for cooperation and coordination of measures to combat IUU fishing, and other conservation measures in the RSGA fisheries. The subcomponent will incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation aspects in fisheries management and will build on previous capacity development efforts that were carried out under the World Bank project: Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Strategic Ecosystem Management Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project (P113794).


(c)     **Subcomponent 1.3: Citizen, private sector and development partner engagement in the regional sustainable fishery mechanism through enhanced knowledge management, communication strategies and awareness**. This subcomponent includes technical assistance, consultations, and operating costs for supporting citizen, private sector and development partner engagement; raising awareness through effective communication and reporting on regional cooperation actions, including improved activities that demonstrate cooperation and coordination among the regional countries, and key actions taken for sustainable management of fisheries in the RSGA. This will also focus on PERSGA's capacity to make use of the information and process of joint assessment of RSGA fisheries status and trends in the RSGA large ecosystems; and its feedback to policy instruments at the regional level, and to assist facilitate their implementation. Based on this also, special awareness program activities will be developed, including production and dissemination of educational materials (videos, media toolkits, brochures, pamphlets, mobile applications, etc.) addressing fisheries issues, for various actors and publics, including also communication workshops to enhance their engagement. It will also support development of technical guidelines for best practices in knowledge management for specialists, including also monitoring of KM performance, and a regional platform for sharing knowledge, and facilitate linkage to research and development institutes addressing issues related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management in the region.

# Annex (1.1): List of Participants

The Regional Organization for the Conservation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

**Regional Consultation online Meeting on "Sustainable Fishery Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) Project"**
**15 March 2022**
**<u>List of Participants</u>**

| # | Name | Country | Position | E-mail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dr. Ali Mohammed Alshaikhi | Saudi Arabia | CEO of the National Fisheries Development Program and Director General of the Fisheries at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia | Ali.alshaikhi@mewa.gov.sa |
| 2 | Mr. Aden Hassan Elmi | Djibouti | Technical Advisor to the SG, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Djibouti | adenhassan22016@gmail.com |
| 3 | Ms. Hamda Abdallah Am | Djibouti | Specialist for natural disasters and climate change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Djibouti | Hamda_nassah@hotmail.fr |
| 4 | Ms. Neima Abdi Houssein | Djibouti | Specialist for environmental quality, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Djibouti | neimasagal@gmail.com |
| 5 | Mr. Fouad Hassan Awali | Djibouti | Marine resources' specialist, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Djibouti | Fouad_dj1@hotmail,com |
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# Annex 2.
# Grievance Complaint, and Suggestion Form

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نموذج لآلية التظلمات والشكاوى

## استمارة توثيق ومتابعة شكاوى المستفيدين

</div>

**Documenting and Monitoring Complaints Form of Beneficiaries**

| | | الاسم الثلاثي للمستفيد:<br>Beneficiary Name |
|---|---|---|
| | رقم الهاتف للمتابعة Tel No. for follow up | رقم البطاقة الشخصية:<br>ID No. |
| | | العنوان الدائم:<br>Permanent Address |
| | | اسم النشاط المنفذ (مركز/وحدة)<br>Name of activity under implementation |
| | | مكان تنفيذ النشاط:<br>Place of activity under implementation |

| أخرى<br>Other | مالية<br>Financial | فنية<br>Technical | إدارية<br>Administrative | نوع الشكوى<br>Complaint Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

<div dir="rtl">

موضوع الشكوى:
**Complaint Subject**

</div>

| | الوضع الحالي:<br>Current Situation |
|---|---|
| | أسباب المشكلة:<br>Reason of the problem |
| توقيع صاحب الشكوى:<br>Complaint Signature | التاريخ:<br>Date |

**PERSGA/ Project focal point of implementing partner (contact addresses)** .......................................الجهة التي يجب أن يقدم لها الشكوى:-
The entity which the complaint should be forwarded to:

-الرأي في جدية الشكوى:...................................................................................
Opinion on the seriousness of the complaint

-الجهة المحول لها الشكوى : ...................................................................................
The complaint transferred to

- المدة الزمنية اللازمة للبت في الشكوى:...................................................................................
Time required for response

-مدى رضى المستفيد عن الاستجابة  لحل شكواه:...................................................................................
Satisfaction of beneficiary in responding to his/her complaint

| | الإجراءات المتخذة :<br>Action taken |
|---|---|
| التاريخ:<br>Date | ما ترتب عليها من نتائج:<br>The results of the action taken |

اسم مستلم الشكوى ووظيفته: ...............................................
Name of person received the complaint and his/her position

توقيع الموظف المختص/ Signature            ................................. : التاريخ Date