

## **G SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

### **G.1 Introduction**

In his opening speech at the workshop on the Strategy and Action Plan for the Development of the Fisheries Sector in Rodrigues held at Cotton Bay Hotel on 8th and 9th November 2006, the Chief Commissioner Mr. Johnson Roussety emphasised upon the commitment of the actual government towards the sustainable economic development of Rodrigues. He stated that the fisheries and the tourism sectors are key sectors that will contribute largely to the development of Rodrigues in the coming years and will eventually become the economic pillars of the island. Furthermore, he stressed on the need to deal with the incoming challenges, to reorient, to search and to drive the action plan. He further emphasised upon the vision of having a real seafood hub with all the facilities in Rodrigues.

The new vision statement for Rodrigues is given below.

*“To drive and sustain a high-value added sea-food industry as an engine of socio-economic growth from a pristine mid-ocean location targeting local, regional and global markets for maximising the welfare of the Rodriguan population”*

In this context, an Action Plan for the fisheries sector is being presented. The Action Plan caters for a ten year period (2007 to 2017) and calls for bold decision at the political level and a complete re-engineering of the sector. Various programmes and activities are proposed and approximate costing given. The Action Plan is ambitious and would require huge investments in the first instance. However, it is expected that the return in the long term would benefit Rodrigues in terms of employment creation, revenues for the Regional Assembly, profits generated by the businesses.

### **G.2 The Action Plan: Presentation of proposed strategy in terms of overarching objective, goals and strategies**

In the light of the diagnosis and core problems/challenges identified, five strategies are proposed for the fisheries sector. These are listed below:

#### **G.2.1 Overarching goal**

*The overall strategy has been formulated in a way to increase the contribution of the sector to employment creation, poverty alleviation aiming towards the achievement of the MDGs, improving the livelihood of the people of Rodrigues through sustainable exploitation of the marine resources, better management and an integrated development of the sector.*

#### **G.2.2 Five Strategies to Re-engineer the Sector**

- Strategy 1: Knowledge of Resource Potential;

- Strategy 2: An Effective and Efficient Operating Environment;
- Strategy 3: A Modern Legislative and Institutional Framework;
- Strategy 4: Capacity Building; and
- Strategy 5: Redeployment of Fishers and New Developments.

### **G.2.3 Eight programmes for implementation**

Eight programmes are being proposed for implementation in the fisheries sector. The programmes have been geared to meet the challenges for the creation of employment, address poverty alleviation, improve standard of living/quality of life of the Rodriguan population and meet the targets of the MDG while focussing on the re-launch of the sector in an environmentally sustainable manner.

First and foremost, the FRTU should be reinforced and additional personnel recruited and trained in collaboration with the Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC). The new organigram proposed for the fisheries sector, has the following advantages:

- Night duty at fisheries posts by FPS officers is abolished except for Pointe Monier post which will be manned on a 24 hr basis. Two day shifts are proposed for all officers based at other fisheries posts, (6 am to 6 pm with some overlap);
- Emphasis with regards to enforcement is laid on land and sea based patrols. The patrol squads will report directly to the Pointe Monier office and in case of need reinforce the squad using available officers based at Pointe Monier. This major paradigm will release officers which may be relocated to other sectors;
- Scheme of duty for FPS officers to be modified to also include sensitisation of fishers and awareness campaigns on safety at sea, ecosystem protection, impact of illegal fishing on resource, norms and standards and such other topics as the RRA deems necessary. Their new role will erase the perception that the FPS is corrupted. In the first instance, officers of the training unit may upgrade skills and knowledge at the FiTEC;
- For the long term, officers recruited for the FPS needs to possess at least a diploma in fisheries as part of the upgrading process;
- Research and training activities to be shared by two scientific officers assisted by three technical officers and other junior staff. Lack of staff may hamper research and training activities. Deserving FPS officers may also be trained as trainers;
- Continuous capacity building for FPS officers/fishers and other stakeholders to be organised by the training unit in collaboration with the Fisheries and Extension Training Centre (FiTEC).

As a long term strategy, it is proposed that all promotions within the fisheries sector should be based on meritocracy rather than on seniority as is the case presently. This will eventually lead to greater efficiency and productivity in the service.

The following eight programmes to re-engineer the fisheries sector in Rodrigues are proposed in order of priority:

1. Resource evaluation	Short term
2. Fisheries management	Short/Medium term
3. Institutional Strengthening	Short Term
4. Infrastructure	Medium Term
5. Processing	Medium /Long Term
6. Aquaculture	Medium/Long Term
7. Conservation of the marine environment	Continuous/ Long Term
8. Redeployment of fishers	Short/Medium Term

Logframe matrices highlighting achievements/activities, indicators and risks are given below. The logframes provide guidance as to the application of the eight programmes proposed above.

The support to the programmes under section 6, also describes the various goals/ projects for implementation, objectives and activities to be undertaken under each programme proposed. Approximate costs involvement has also been included as far as possible. The implementation of these programmes have been prioritised, however, depending on available funds, donors agency and agenda of the RRA, these may be reprioritised.

The eight programmes proposed englobe the requirements of the fisheries sector in Rodrigues and emanates from the various studies on the sector and meetings with stakeholders in Rodrigues. The programmes are ambitious and will need the full support of the RRA and collaboration with stakeholders and the Albion Fisheries Research Centre for its successful implementation.

It is our understanding that the RRA alone will not be in a position to finance the programmes given above. External financing should be sought from friendly countries and other donor agencies. The following donors may be contacted once project concepts are finalised or full feasibility studies carried out. Note that IFAD focus is based on pro poor projects.

1. Commonwealth Secretariat
2. EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme (ESIPP)
3. European Fisheries Fund (EFF)
4. Government of Western Australia

5. Government of China
6. Government of France
7. Government of the UK
8. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
9. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
10. Kuwait Fund
11. Pro-invest/CDE
12. Strengthening Fisheries Programmes (SFP)
13. UK Department for International Development (DFID)
14. United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP)

#### **G.2.4 Action Plan**

[Please refer to next page]

**ACTION PLAN/ LOGFRAME MATRIX**

Narrative Summary (Activities Description)	Indicators of Achievement (OVIS)	M & E	Risks & Assumptions
<b>Programme 1: Resource evaluation</b>		<b>Short Term implementation (2 Years)</b>	
Stock assessment of existing fisheries and survey to determine the resource potential carried out.	Survey completed by December 2010 and Implementations of recommendations by March 2011	Survey report submitted	Lack of funding Political will
Business plans for small scale integrated aquaculture projects completed and stakeholders identified.	Preliminary studies completed by December 2010	Capacity building undertaken & reports submitted	Political will
New organigram implemented and fisheries scientists and other staff trained in all aspects of resource assessment, control and monitoring.	Additional staff recruited and 50% of training carried out	Training report carried out	Decision of he RRA
Capacity Building in collaboration with FiTEC/HRDC started <sup>2,2</sup>	50 % of trainers have been trained MOU with HRDC with respect to training signed	Training report submitted MOU signed	Decision of he RRA Recruitment delayed Delay in application of new organigram
<b>Programme 2: Fisheries Management</b>		<b>Short Term implementation (2 Years)</b>	

<sup>2</sup> A list of training courses in relation to the various programmes to be implemented is given at annex 2

<p>Fisheries management Plans (FMP) and its implementation for the major fisheries (5 Years FMP) prepared in collaboration with AFRC/consultants</p> <p>Management of the artisanal lagoon fisheries improved by 2017 ensuing sustainability of resource.</p> <p>Appropriate port control operations and a reporting system devised and an appropriate loan scheme for industrial fisheries set up</p> <p>Sports fishery promoted</p>	<p>Management plans produced for all major fishery by mid-2010</p> <p>Number of measures taken and reduction in the number of licences / permits given to ensure improvement of lagoons in line with resource availability</p> <p>Report on port control operations and loan scheme by 2010</p> <p>Report on promotion of the sports fishery by 2010</p>	<p>Production of management plans</p> <p>Management plan published</p> <p>Licensing unit reinforced</p> <p>Publication of report</p> <p>Publication of Report</p>	<p>Lack of capacity &amp; funding</p> <p>RRA decision</p> <p>Lack of capacity and funding</p> <p>RRA decision</p> <p>Delay in devising appropriate reporting system</p> <p>Delay due to prioritisation of projects</p>
<p><b>Programme 3: Institutional strengthening      Short Term (2 – 3 years)</b></p>			
<p>Skills required to effectively administer the fisheries sector in an efficient and cost effective manner by the Fisheries administration is ensured.</p>	<p>No of training courses held and skills evaluated within the next 5 years</p>	<p>Training courses designed/imparted</p>	<p>Lack of funding</p> <p>Recruitment of personnel delayed</p>

<p>Computerisation of the Fisheries Department and additional equipment/boats to better serve the industry has been provided for.</p> <p>A comprehensive training programme for fishers /stakeholders has been designed and implemented. Stakeholders have been consulted on a regular basis on policy design and implementation</p>	<p>No of computers and other equipment purchased within the next 5 years</p> <p>Training designed and imparted by 2010</p> <p>No of meetings held</p>	<p>Purchase done</p> <p>Training courses designed/imparted</p> <p>Regular meetings held</p>	<p>Lack of funds</p> <p>Lack of funds</p> <p>Interest of stakeholders not compatible</p>
<p><b>Programme 4: Infrastructure</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium Term implementation (2 - 5 years)</b></p>	
<p>Modern quay space for the semi-industrial fishing boats, along with cold/chilled storage facilities constructed</p> <p>Landings by the artisanal fishing boats at a reduced number of fully equipped landing places rationalised <sup>1</sup></p>	<p>Number of cold/chilled storage and other facilities available in the next 5/7 years</p> <p>2 fully equipped landing stations in the next 5/7 years</p>	<p>Infrastructure plans published</p> <p>Construction plans ready</p>	<p>RRA decision</p> <p>Lack of funding</p> <p>Lack of funding</p>
<p><b>Programme 5 : Processing</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium /Long Term (5 to 10 years)</b></p>	

Standards through the application of HACCP procedures met for fish and fish products from Rodrigues.	No of training courses carried out No. of people trained	Contract for training awarded	Availability of resource persons
Value added processing activities developed	No of establishments in operation in the next 10 years	Authorisation/permits approved by the RRA	RRA decision No interest from stakeholders
<b>Programme 6: Aquaculture</b>		<b>Short/Medium (2 to 5 years)</b>	
A study for the industrial development of aquaculture in Rodrigues contracted out.	Report on aquaculture submitted by 2008/09	Contract awarded	RRA decision Lack of funding
Facilities for small scale farmers to embark on aquaculture project provided	Facilities provided by Jan 2010	Facilities surveyed and project economics done	RRA decision
An integrated aquaculture project with cultures of seaweed, sea cucumber and kono kono implemented	Facilities in place by Jan 2010	Personnel recruited and trained	<b>Short term implementation</b> by the FRTU under the supervision of the RRA
<b>Programme 7: Conservation of the marine environment</b>		<b>Continuous/Long Term (&gt;10 years)</b>	

<p>An audit of fish resources and coral ecosystem to ensure their preservation and conservation has been carried out</p>	<p>Report published by December 2010</p>	<p>Audit report submitted</p>	<p>Lack of funds RRA decision</p>
<p>Existing legislations has been revisited and new regulations promulgated to protect the marine environment</p>	<p>Legislations revisited by Dec 2010</p>	<p>New legislation ready</p>	<p>Delays in drafting of legislation</p>
<p>Capacity building for the effective protection and conservation of the marine environment have been provided for</p>	<p>No of training courses held</p>	<p>Training courses designed/imparted</p>	<p>Lack of funds</p>
<p>Ecotourism has been promoted</p>	<p>No of sensitisation campaigns held and people sensitised</p>	<p>Sensitisation campaign carried out</p>	<p>No interest from stakeholders</p>

**G.2.5 Support Programmes**

<b><u>Support to Programme 1: Resource Evaluation</u></b>					
<b>Goal: To have a clear understanding of sustainable resource availability in the waters around Rodrigues.</b>					
<b>Sn</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Cost in Million Rs.</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>
1	Stock assessment of existing fisheries and survey to determine the potential for new resources.	To enable sustainable management of existing fisheries and plan for sustainable exploitation of new resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of TOR and tender documents for an acoustic survey around Rodrigues and launching of International/selected tenders.</li> <li>▪ Implementation of survey</li> <li>▪ Preparation of reports and recommendations</li> <li>▪ Implementation of recommendations</li> <li>▪ Purchase of equipment and materials required</li> </ul>	10.0	6 months

2	To build capacity for fishery scientists and other staff in all aspects of resource assessment, control and monitoring <sup>3</sup> .	For a more sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the waters around Rodrigues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ training (short/long term, national and/or abroad</li> <li>▪ collaborate with FiTEC/AFRC</li> <li>▪ Recruit personnel</li> </ul>	0.5	6 months
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**Support to Programme 2: Fisheries Management**

**Goal: To manage fish resources on a sustainable basis for the long term benefit of the Rodriguan population**

Sn	Project	Goals & objectives	Implementation Strategies Activities	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Project Duration
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of Fishery management Plans (FMP) and its implementation for the major fisheries (5 Years FMP)</li> <li>▪ Effective management of the artisanal lagoon fisheries by 2017 ensuing that catching capacity is in line with resource availability.</li> </ul>	For the sustainable management of fish resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of management plans for Octopus, seine net, demersal fisheries.</li> <li>▪ Purchase of equipment and materials required</li> <li>▪ Monitoring of deep reef slope fishery and stock assessment</li> <li>▪ Monitoring and sampling of artisanal landings</li> <li>▪ Monitoring of FAD</li> </ul>	3.0	6 months

			<p>fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare legal/administrative framework for FMP</li> <li>▪ promulgate appropriate new regulations</li> </ul> <p>Annual revision of plan</p>		
2	Develop appropriate Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) plan in collaboration with the coast guards and develop reporting system for VMS vigilance in collaboration with AFRC.	To enforce laws and regulations for a good management of the resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare Policy Paper and implementation plan for approval by the RRA</li> <li>▪ Capacity Building for staff</li> </ul>	0.8	2009/10
3	Develop appropriate port control operations supported by a reporting system and Devise an appropriate loan scheme for industrial fisheries	For the monitoring of fisheries activities for semi industrial and industrial fishing boats/vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FRTU and FPS to prepare monitoring plans.</li> <li>▪ Assess costs, loan needs and devise scheme.</li> </ul> <p>Identify bilateral or multilateral aid.</p>	0.8	2009/10

4	Promote sports fishery	Encourage sports fishing activities and monitor catch and other parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Facilitate loans and acquisition of boats for Rodriguan investors</li> <li>▪ Liaise with the DBM and other commercial banks</li> </ul>	0.5	2009/10
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**Support to Programme 3: Institutional Strengthening**

**Goal: To ensure the Rodriguan fisheries administration can efficiently implement the defined strategy**

Sn	Project	Goals & objectives	Implementation Strategies Activities	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Project Duration
1	To ensure that the Fisheries Administration has the skills required to effectively manage the fisheries sector in an efficient and cost effective manner	To ensure the proper implementation of the strategies approved by the RRA with regards to the fisheries sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement an institutional strengthening programme.</li> <li>▪ RRA to recruit personnel and provide funds to the fisheries unit.</li> <li>▪ Apply new organigram and situate responsibilities.</li> </ul>	0.3	2009/11
2	To fully computerise the Fisheries Department and provide additional equipment/boats etc to better serve the industry	Ensure effective management and reduce cost of implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appraisal of technical problems and requirements for developing computerised information system</li> <li>Purchase of required hardware</li> </ul>	8.0	2009/10

			and software, including training on softwares		
3	Implement a comprehensive training programme <sup>3</sup> .	To build capacity for an efficient management of the sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement short courses for managers/stakeholders/fishers etc</li> <li>▪ Development of appropriate training modules to upgrade staff skills (e.g. computers, man management, administration and decision taking).</li> </ul>	0.9	2009/10
4	Ensure that stakeholders have been consulted on a regular basis on policy design and implementation	To encourage the participatory approach in the management of the fisheries sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a schedule for quarterly meetings of advisory groups</li> <li>▪ monitor working groups and develop modus operandi</li> </ul>	0.2	2009/10

<b>Support to Programme 4: Infrastructure</b>					
<b>Goal: To provide competitive and efficient on-shore facilities in Mauritius</b>					
<b>Sn</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Cost in Rs.</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>
1	Construction of a modern quay space for the semi-industrial fishing boats, along with cold/chilled storage facilities.	To provide the necessary infrastructure for the development of a semi industrial fishery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design and execute investment plan</li> <li>▪ Prepare terms of reference and Award contract</li> <li>▪ Identify financing agencies.</li> <li>▪ Implement construction plans</li> </ul>	50.0	2009/12
2	Rationalise landings by the artisanal fishing boats to a reduced number of fully equipped landing places. Provide for mini fish markets	To Professionalise landings by artisanal fishers and provide quality products to consumers and for export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare legislation restricting landings by artisanal fishing vessels to designated landing places.</li> <li>▪ Identify a hierarchy of artisanal landing places</li> <li>▪ Prepare and implement an investment programme</li> <li>▪ Consultation with stakeholders.</li> </ul>	10.0	2009/14

<b>Support to Programme 5: Processing</b>					
<b>Goal: To maintain and develop value added processing based in Rodrigues at International norms</b>					
<b>Sn</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Cost in Rs.</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Rodriguan exports of fish and fish products meet the required standards through the application of HACCP procedures.</li> </ul>	Ensure the quality of exports of fish and fishery products from Rodrigues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training in HACCP and its implementation</li> <li>Prepare manuals/posters guidelines for best practices</li> <li>Provide adequate resources/training to the fish inspectors/stakeholders</li> </ul>	5.0	2009/12
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop value added processing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training/study tours for private sector on product diversification/ product development</li> </ul>		

<b>Support to Programme 6. Aquaculture</b>					
<b>Goal: To develop aquaculture activities in Rodrigues.</b>					
<b>Sn</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Cost in Rs.</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>

1	Contract out a study for the industrial development of aquaculture in Rodrigues.	<p>Maximise the use of the vast lagoons of Rodrigues for the betterment of its inhabitants by the</p> <p>Development of an aquaculture industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of tender documents and TOR for the study, (include processing and value addition).</li> <li>▪ Launch and award contract for the study</li> </ul> <p>Implement recommendations of the study and prepare and implement an investment programme</p>	5.0	2009/10
2	<p>Provide for small scale farmers to embark on aquaculture projects with emphasis on Integrated aquaculture project for the culture of seaweed, sea cucumber and kono kono</p> <p>Investigate marketing possibilities in Asia for the above products</p>	To diversify pressure from the lagoon and provide for an alternative/complementary income generating activity for fishers through small scale integrated aquaculture projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carry out preliminary survey and identify sites</li> <li>▪ Seek collaboration of MRS/AFRC</li> <li>▪ Consultation/explanation with stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Provision of credit facilities.</li> <li>▪ Provide technical assistance to interested parties</li> <li>▪ Provision of larva and fingerlings</li> <li>▪ Supply of appropriate feed</li> </ul> <p>Development of market with</p>	10.0	2009/10

			<p>farm gate prices consistent with the costs of production, and quality of product consistent with health conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruit and train required personnel</li> <li>▪ Hire a consultant for transfer of technology/capacity building</li> <li>▪ Delimit sea area as per consultant recommendations (SRM study)</li> <li>▪ Implement project</li> </ul>		Sept 2009
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**Support to Programme 7: Conservation of the Marine Environment**

**Goal: To ensure that the marine environment is efficiently managed and sustainably exploited.**

<b>Sn</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Goals &amp; objectives</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies Activities</b>	<b>Estimated Cost in Rs.</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>
1	Carry out an audit of fish resources and coral ecosystem to ensure their preservation and conservation	Long term conservation of the marine resources and ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ collaborate with Shoals Rodrigues/other NGO's and implement project</li> <li>▪ Sensitisation programme for</li> </ul>	3.5	2009/15

			the general public Publication of posters/guide lines/brochures etc		
2	Revisit existing legislations and promulgate new regulations to protect the marine environment	To better protect and conserve the biodiversity of Rodrigues	Appraisal of the existing laws relating to fisheries and the marine environment and propose new regulations in line with RRA policy.	0.5	2009/10
3	Capacity building for the effective protection and conservation of the marine environment	To ensure sustainability of the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training of staff and non state actors for the monitoring of the ecosystems</li> </ul>	0.3	2009/10
4	Promote ecotourism	To promote coral ecosystem and other biodiversity as a unique asset of Rodrigues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Train divers to promote ecotourism</li> <li>▪ Production of information materials</li> </ul> Promote cottage industries linked to ecotourism	0.7	2009/2015

The programme cost has been evaluated at Rs.140 million over the next 10 years. For the short term programme, an amount of Rs.25 million would be needed. The RRA may wish to start implementation immediately using its own budget whilst seeking financing from donor's agency.

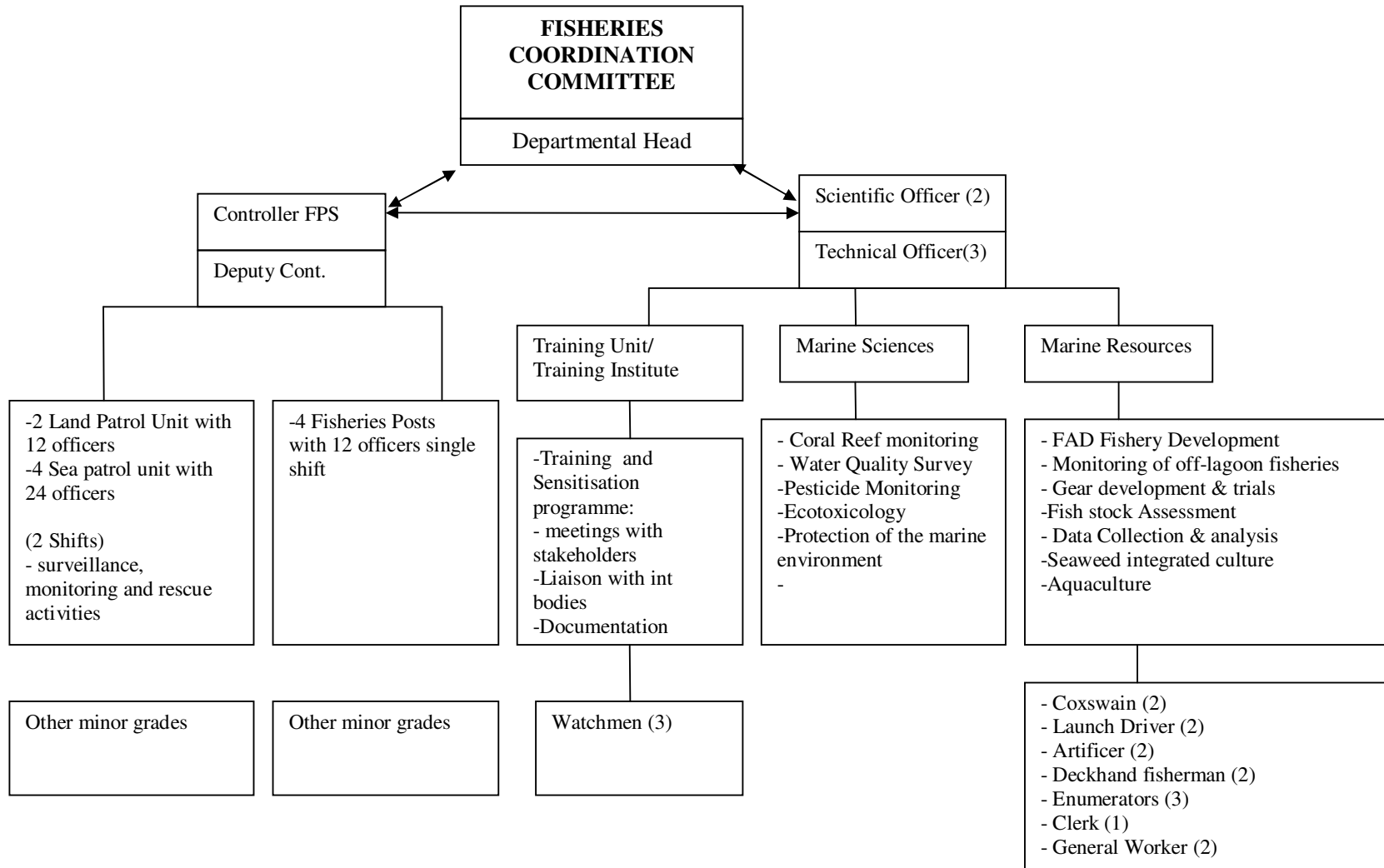
	<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Cost in Rs M</b>
<b>Short Term</b>	1	10.5
	2	5.1
	3	9.4
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>25.0</b>
<b>Medium</b>	4	90.0
<b>Medium/Long Term</b>		
	5	5.0
	6	15.0
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>110.0</b>
<b>Long Term/continuous</b>	7	5.0
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>5.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>140.0</b>

#### **G.2.6 Proposed Organigram for the Fisheries Sector**

[please refer to next page]

**NEW ORGANIGRAM FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR**

*Rodrigues Regional Assembly  
SIDPR Short-Term Action Plan  
July 2009*



**G.2.7 Prioritised List of Training**

**PRIORITISED LIST OF TRAINING COURSES TO BE IMPLEMENTED**

No	Training courses in	RRA in collaboration with
1	Stock Assessment and use of computer softwares	AFRC
2	Vessel monitoring system/ safety at sea/ fisheries laws and regulations	AFRC/ Sea Training School
3	Port control operations/monitoring of fishing activities	MPA/AFRC
4	HACCP and international norms Value addition& product development	Seafood hub(one stop shop) Veterinary services (CA) Attachment to industry INFOSA
5	Fish handling, preservation and marketing for all stakeholders and fishers	INFOSA/.FiTEC
6	Aquaculture Production and seaweed farming Integrated aquaculture	UOM/HRDC/AFRC
7	Fishing techniques for the FAD Fishery/Shrimp Fishery/Outer lagoon semi industrial fishery for fishers and other stakeholders	AFRC/FiTEC/Sea Training School
8	Project management /monitoring and evaluation Computer packages Preparation of feasibility reports	Civil service training unit/ SEHDA Planning Unit(Fisheries)
9	Monitoring of lagoon ecosystem/ protection of corals/ creating awareness for staff and non state actors	Shoals Rodrigues/RUG/AFRC
10	Conservation of biodiversity	MOE/AFRC
11	Ecotourism	Hotel school of Mauritius /shoals/RUG
12	General awareness campaign for the population	FRTU/FPS

### G.2.8 Redeployment of Fishers and New Developments (Strategy 5 in the SIDPR)

*To relocate fishers as per a socially-acceptable programme with a view to move away from the unsustainable system of bad weather allowance system; and to develop a modern seafood industry*

There are three gear types causing the worst damage to the coral ecosystem, namely Harpoon, Line and Harpoon, and Basket Trap/Harpoon. These should be considered in priority and that involves 1,108 fishers. Hence there is an urgent need to **redeploy** 1,108 fishers to more productive work whilst relieving the pressure on the lagoon. Whilst there is no piecemeal/quick fix solution, it is recommended to consider the following proposals in its globality. The relocation of fishers to other activities is a *sine qua non* condition for the success of the strategy. It is obvious that unless the authorities concerned are convinced of the feasibility of the strategy, no degree of success can be obtained.

#### Strategy for Redeployment of Fishers to other more Productive Sectors

Sector	Number of Fishers to be Redeployed
1. Seaweed/integrated aquaculture	200
2. Erosion control/agriculture/ forestry	200
3. Beach cleaning	200
4. Alternative small business through SME Partnership Fund	75
5. FAD Fishery	50
6. Semi-Industrial Fishery (50 for sea based activities and 25 for land bases activities)	75
7. Octopus fishery using pots from boats	200
8. Other fishery (BT, L and LN)	50
9. Pension off with compensation (170 fishers have reached 60 years and over )	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,100</b>

As the pressure from the lagoon will be considerably diminished, the catch per fishermen/day will increase. Thus, an increase in the income of the lagoon fishers may be expected. ***It is important that no new fishing cards be issued at least for the next ten years.***

The BWA paid to the fishing community will not be saved by the authorities in the short term if the above proposals are implemented. However, the fishers will be put to more productive use, hence contribute towards the development of Rodrigues be it on the production side or areas of

conservation. For the 400 fishers staying in the fishing business, the BWA may be phased out gradually as their income will rise from better catch. Strict control needs to be applied for the amateur fishery (perhaps under a daily licence system and take away quota).

### **G.2.9 Concluding remarks for the sector**

The high demand for food fish on the world market coupled with declining fish stocks and high fish prices should instigate us to respond positively by developing a sustainable fishery in Rodrigues. In 2005, world production stood at 141 million tonnes of fish out of which aquaculture production was 48 million tonnes and the rest from capture fisheries. World fish exports stood at US\$ 72 billion (2004) with 50% of exports emanating from developing countries. The most likely market for Rodrigues would be Mauritius, which imports around 14,000 tonnes of fish and fish products annually. A well structured fisheries sector should be able to capture part of this market.

The Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) recently set up will be operationalised in November 2007. In this context, the RRA needs to dialogue with the FIT administration to see as to how the fishers of Rodrigues may be integrated under the FIT.

The implementation of the Action Plan for the fisheries sector of Rodrigues might not be an easy task, however the political will is strong and with dedicated and determined staff, much can be accomplished. The capacity of Rodriguans to take up challenges cannot be undermined; however there will be need for a strong leadership and belief in the mission and vision statement for the fisheries sector. It is sincerely hoped that Rodriguans take ownership of the SIDPR initiative, participate actively and remain engaged in the project for its successful implementation. Fisheries staff/officers will need to be empowered and given the ownership of their projects for greater efficiency and productivity.