

March 2018

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
<b>ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION</b>						
<b>Thirty-fifth Session</b>						
<b>Cebu, the Philippines, 11-13 May 2018</b>						
<b>APFIC's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan</b>						

1. As part of the ongoing process to provide clarity of purpose to the commission, the first APFIC strategic plan (2006-2012) was developed and endorsed by members at the 30th Session of APFIC (EXCO/17/INF/4-a). This plan included the following sections:

- The role of FAO Article XIV fisheries bodies;
- The APFIC geographic area;
- The function of the APFIC;
- An APFIC strategic plan and workplan for 2006 – 2012 (including a regional consultative forum, scheduled activities under the 2007-2008 workplan , APFIC's coordination role with other regional organizations and capacity building in responsible fisheries and aquaculture);
- Facilitating the emergence of regional agreements and arrangements; and,
- The work of the APFIC Secretariat.

2. The second APFIC updated strategic plan 2012-2018 was approved during the 73rd session of APFIC. This updated plan included new areas which responded to the changing needs of the member states and partners. The additional sections included:

- The APFIC website;
- Monitoring of status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture;
- Marine fisheries areas (China Sea and East Asian Seas, Sulu-Celebes (Sulawesi) Sea, Arafura-Timor Sea and the Natuna Sea) ;
- Inland fisheries throughout the APFIC region;
- Aquaculture throughout the APFIC region; and,
- APFIC's coordination role with other regional organizations (including NGO)

3. The current strategic plan (2012-2018) is now approaching its end and the 34th APFIC Session requested a new strategic plan be developed for endorsement by APFIC members at the current APFIC Session. Therefore, the Secretariat has developed a proposed APFIC strategic plan for 2018-2023 for the Commission to review and endorse.

4. This strategic plan was informed by a review of the implementation of the "APFIC 2012-2018 Strategic plan" in achieving its objectives and providing support to member countries as well as by the 23 Member and Partner responses to a short questionnaire developed to provide feedback

on the past performance of APFIC and to guide on future priority issues requiring APFIC support. Based on this review and feedback, alongside changes in FAO work planning and budgetary processes, the FAO Strategic Framework and the evolving context of Asian fisheries and aquaculture, the plan has been developed by the Secretariat and looks forward to APFIC's collaborative role over the coming six years (2016-2023). This updated document describes APFIC's strategy for support to responsible fisheries and aquaculture in the region and is structured as follows:

1. Introducing the Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) and the "SP6"
2. The Asia Pacific Fishery Commission in 2018
3. The (Last) APFIC Strategic Plan 2012 – 2018
4. Background to the APFIC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023
5. The APFIC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023: Six Years, Six Principles, Six Themes and Six Goals

5. The plan provides a clear strategy document to assist planning and coordination and assist APFIC to maintain a strategic direction into the next six years in the face of increasing Member country demands, decreasing financial and human resources and growing number of actors in the region. It will facilitate the communication and coordination of the Commission's work with FAO, other regional organizations/partners and member countries.

6. The strategic plan contains the following six operational goals for aquaculture and fisheries to be supported by APFIC, its member countries and partners in the region:

1. Improved and renewed collaborative functioning of APFIC;
2. Formalising regional partnerships;
3. Improving fishery and aquaculture ecosystems and habitats, including addressing pollution, invasive species, fishing gear and climate change;
4. Supporting small scale fisheries and aquaculture and a human rights-based approach to fisheries development;
5. Combating IUU fishing and fisheries related crime; and
6. Improving fish food safety, fish value chains and fish trade.

7. The draft APFIC 2018-2023 Strategic Plan is presented in document APFIC/18/INF 12.

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

8. The Commission is invited to advise the Secretariat on:
- the relevance of the six regional outcomes contained in the plan
  - any alterations and additions necessary to improve the strategic plan
  - longer-term financial and human capacity support to APFIC in the face of reduced financial and human resources support from FAO regular programme.