

# Essential EAFM Course in a nutshell

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This course provides basic knowledge on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) process and how this can assist you in decision-making for responsible and sustainable capture fisheries.

The course is designed for fishery and environment staff, as well as related economic development and planning staff, at the provincial/state and district/local levels who are responsible for administering fisheries and the marine environment in which they operate.

The need to apply an ecosystem approach to capture fisheries management is now globally accepted and has been endorsed in international decision-making; for example, at the Rio +20 conference in 2012. This approach represents a move away from fisheries management systems that focus only on the sustainable harvest of target species, towards systems and decision-making processes that balance environmental well-being with human and social well-being, within improved governance frameworks.

**This Essential EAFM course provides you with skills that will help you to elaborate a management plan to better manage your fisheries. This course will equip you to:**

- **Manage fisheries more holistically**
- **Reduce user group conflicts**
- **Help unlock financial resources**
- **Work cooperatively with other stakeholders**
- **Better resolve fisheries issues and challenges.**

**You will learn about EAFM concepts and work with an EAFM plan template to develop a draft meaningful plan for your fishery. You will understand the principles of co-management and how to foster cross-sector coordination. You will also practise the crucial skills of effective communication, facilitation and conflict management.**

## Course structure

First we explain why we need EAFM, and what exactly EAFM is. Then we explain how EAFM can work: by developing an EAFM plan, then implementing the plan, and monitoring, evaluating and adapting the plan.

## Training methodology

This course is designed to be highly participatory. To complement input from trainers, you will work in pairs, in groups and individually on specifically designed exercises. The exercises are designed to consolidate learning. We will try as much as possible to work with real, local examples. For this we rely on your active participation.

## Learning and feedback

Daily monitoring and reviews ensure that your feedback is integrated into course design. Pre- and post-course assessment, as well as a quiz, will enable us to assess your learning.

## Your course materials

Each step of the EAFM process is explained in dedicated modules in this course Handbook. Use the Workbook to write your notes for each stage. The linked Toolkits provide you with “People” and “Technical” tools which can be used at different stages in the EAFM process. After successfully completing the course you will receive the Handbook and powerpoint presentations on CD, together with any additional resources.

## Your trainers

Your trainers have been trained by internationally experienced participatory facilitators. They are supported by resource persons with extensive regional fisheries management knowledge.

