



The NansClim Project – Success and Failure

Results of the independent evaluation of the project



Oceans and Coasts
(Research)



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dr Hans M. Verheye



NansClim



Climate effects on biodiversity,
abundance and distribution of
marine organisms

A PROJECT FUNDED BY NORAD

A joint project between



INIP



NatMIRC (MFMR)



MCM → DEA & DAFF



IMR

NNF

(fin. man. & admin.)

***with a close link
to***



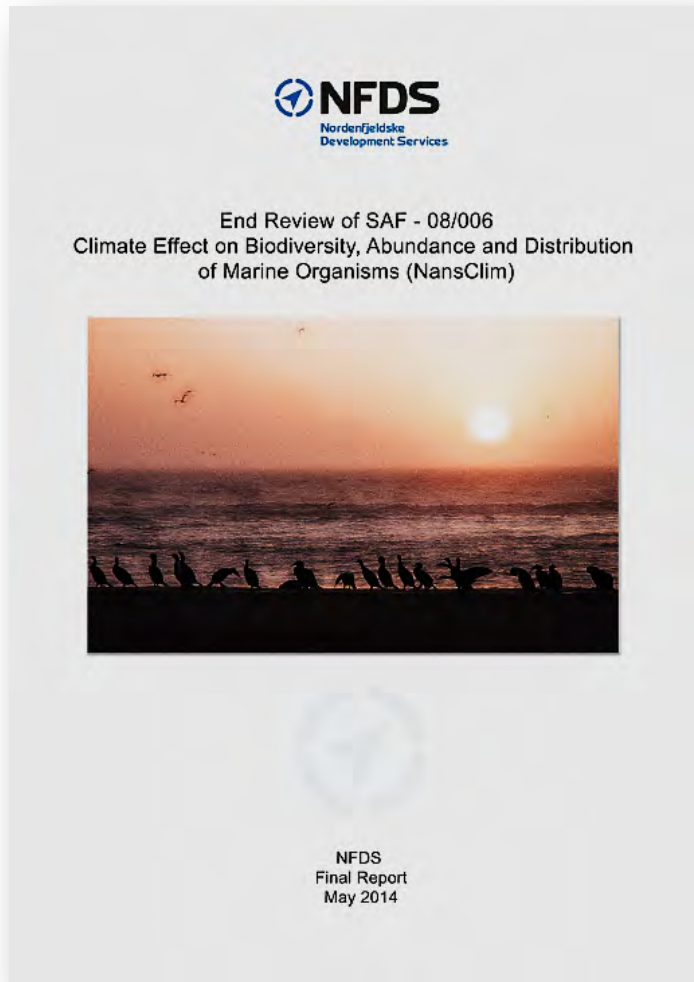
Overriding goal of NansClim

... to use historical data collected through the various phases of the Nansen Programme, together with other relevant data ... **to identify and describe possible trends and variability in ocean climate and corresponding changes in marine biodiversity and fisheries in the Benguela Current system.**

Envisaged Outcomes of NansClim

- 1) A coordinated database system for physical and biological data
- 2) A better understanding of the effects of climate change and variability on the marine ecosystem in the Benguela region
- 3) Suggestions for marine ecosystem indicators
- 4) Possible implications of climate change and variability on fisheries and other marine activities
- 5) Future scenarios of climate effects on marine resources
- 6) Strengthened regional cooperation
- 7) Regional competence building on ecosystem effects of climate change and variability
- 8) Increased public awareness of climate change and variability in relation to fisheries and the marine environment

Purpose of the Review



- To evaluate the progress and achievements of the **NansClim Project** against the goal and outcomes, as stated in the **Contract** between the **Institute of Marine Research (IMR)** and **Norad**.
- Review focus areas: **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project.**

Review methodology

- The review was commissioned by **Norad**
- The review was undertaken by **Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS)**, Feb.-May 2014 (i.e. 6-9 months prior to project termination).
- **Review team:** Sandy Davies, David Boyer, Elsa Patria-Nyambe, Helen Boyer and Mark Ssemakula, with back-stopping support from Per Erik Bergh and Mercy Mangena.
- Initial **teleconferences** between the review team and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Norad and the Executive Secretary of the BCC Secretariat.
- The main **field work** in Namibia, South Africa and Angola in March 2014 (face-to-face, telephone and email interviews with a range of key individuals).

Review criteria

- The review was structured to evaluate the Project using the following criteria:
 - whether the intent of the Project is **relevant**,
 - whether the Project outcomes were achieved **effectively**,
 - whether the Project design was appropriate and whether the finances and administration were managed **efficiently**,
 - whether the Project has, or will have, any **impact**,
 - whether the results and consequences of the impacts are **sustainable** on a long-term basis.
- An assessment of the level of coherence or achievement was allocated on a scale of **none**, **low**, **moderate** and **high** to each of a series of evaluation questions.

REVIEW RESULTS

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the NansClim Project was:

- highly relevant;
- most outcomes were effectively achieved;
- mostly highly efficient;
- mostly had a high impact; and
- moderately to highly sustainable.

HOWEVER ...

2 failures

Evaluation criteria / evaluation questions	Level of achievement
Relevance	High
Is the Project relevant in respect to recipient region's requirements, needs and priorities?	High
Is the Project relevant in respect to Norway's policies?	High
Effectiveness	Moderate
Has the delivery of outcome 1 been effective? – <i>Coordinated database system for physical and biological data</i>	High
Has the delivery of outcome 2 been effective? – <i>Better understanding of the effects of climate change on the marine ecosystem in the Benguela region</i>	High
Has the delivery of outcome 3 been effective? – <i>Suggestions for marine ecosystem indicators</i>	Moderate
Has the delivery of outcome 4 been effective? – <i>Possible implications of climate change on fisheries and other marine activities</i>	Moderate
Has the delivery of outcome 5 been effective? – <i>Future scenarios of climate effects on marine resources</i>	Low
Has the delivery of outcome 6 been effective? – <i>Strengthened regional and international cooperation</i>	Moderate
Has the delivery of outcome 7 been effective? – <i>Regional competence building on ecosystem effects of climate change</i>	Moderate
Has the delivery of outcome 8 been effective? – <i>Increased public awareness of climate change in relation to fisheries and marine environment</i>	Low
Efficiency	High
Has the financial expenditure of the Project been efficient?	High
Has the administration and management of the Project been efficient?	High
Was the design of the Project appropriate, including efficient communication between partners?	Moderate
Impact	High
Has the Project contributed to its goal – <i>to identify and describe possible trends in ocean climate and corresponding changes in marine biodiversity and fisheries in the Benguela current system?</i>	High
Sustainability	Moderate to high
Will the Project have a long-term impact on the region?	High
Has the Project contributed to capacity building?	Moderate

2 failures i.r.o. effectiveness

- Of the 8 outcomes addressed by the Project, 6 were **largely effective**, with the results of most of the scientific outcomes **exceeding all expectations**.
- Many of the outcomes were designed to directly address the goal, while others, relating to describing *future scenarios*, strengthening *regional cooperation*, raising *public awareness* and *capacity building*, seem to have been viewed as *peripheral* activities that were *not central to answering the goal*.
- **Only 2 outcomes were judged to have been less than successful:**
 - ***future scenarios of climate effects on marine resources*** failed due to a **lack of capacity** in the region to carry out the **advanced modelling** required to address this topic within the timeframe of the Project and with hindsight appears to have been an over-ambitious inclusion in the Project at this time.
 - ***increased public awareness of climate change and variability in relation to fisheries and marine environment*** did not receive priority within NansClim, but is being **addressed by other regional projects**, notably the up-coming “Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System” project.

Comments w.r.t. relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability

- NansClim has provided useful ecosystem information and a better understanding of the functioning of the ecosystem, especially in relation to the relative importance of climate change and anthropogenic activities, such as fishing, to ecosystem changes. This will be important for future development of both research programmes and broader management tools.
- The concept of working in task groups was efficient and generated ownership. The successful publication of numerous multi-authored, multi-national papers is perhaps the best testament to the success of this model.
- Holding workshops in remote places, far from distractions seems to have had a positive impact on the output of task groups and many of the participants reported that this close contact improved communication and cooperation with colleagues from other countries.
- It has also offered young scientists the opportunity to work in teams with more experienced scientists, building capacity.
- The large number of peer-reviewed papers that have been, or soon will be, published in recognised scientific journals will leave a permanent record of the findings of the Project on which further research can be built. The results from these papers have been summarised in the NansClim Synthesis paper, a paper that will likely become a standard reference for many years to come.

Lessons learnt

- The importance of collecting good quality data at the appropriate scales and levels of resolution has been highlighted by this Project.
- Data-sharing protocols need to be implemented within the BCC countries.
- Realistic ambitions with partners' capacity are required and greater participation in Project design may be beneficial. This was particularly evident with the lack of statisticians and modellers, and future projects would benefit from including a robust training component to ensure that the region is strengthened in this field.
- The staff of the 3 BCLME countries have differing levels of capacity and experience, and while the oft-quoted gradient from north to south may be less steep than it used to be, it still exists. Added to this are the travel difficulties that the Project encountered.
- It is laudable that the Project achieved as much as it did, however, regional projects need to address these challenges and continue to work to alleviate them.

The future of NansClim

See next presentation by Dr Anja Kreiner:

“Will there be a NansClim 2,
and if yes, what will we do?”

“The review concluded that the NansClim Project was highly relevant, moderately effective and highly efficient, had a high impact and will be moderately to highly sustainable.” – NFDS (2014).



... on behalf of the NansClim PMC



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