Confidence in certified seafood

GSSI
GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD INITIATIVE

GSSI IN 2014

GSSI's mission is to ensure confidence in the supply and promotion of certified seafood as well as to promote improvement in seafood certification schemes. Through its Global Benchmark Tool GSSI works towards its collective objective to minimize the overall environmental impact of how we catch, grow and deliver seafood to meet a growing global demand.

In 2014, GSSI made significant progress towards delivering its Global Benchmark Tool by publishing and updating a first draft of the Tool and preparing it for pilot testing in 2015. As a result, GSSI is on track to launch its Global Benchmark Tool in autumn 2015 and start the benchmarking process.

Consultation and Update of the Global Benchmark Tool

After a series of in-depth Expert Working Group meetings in February and an extensive review by the GSSI Steering Board, the first draft of the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool was published in June 2014 for public consultation. Over 500 comments, from more than 30 organizations including certification schemes, NGOs, industry associations and academics, were received. In addition, in the period from June to August, GSSI organized Expert Consultation Workshops in 4 different locations as well as a series of Public Webinars, actively engaging with over 50 priority seafood sector stakeholders.

The Global Benchmark Tool structure was revised by the GSSI Steering Board in December in Amsterdam, concluding the in-depth discussions held in three preceding electronic meetings on the wide-range of comments received during the public consultation. Between October 2014 and February 2015, the Expert Working Groups met to review and update the *GSSI Requirements* and *GSSI Indicators* related to Aquaculture, Fisheries and Process. Preparations were made to get the Global Benchmark Tool ready for pilot testing and a second public consultation in 2015.

Outreach and Partnership

In 2014, GSSI reached out to stake-holders and engaged in a constructive dialogue on GSSI and the Global Benchmark Tool. GSSI's Partnership has continued to show support for GSSI and new partners have come on board. GSSI counted on the backing of 32 Funding Partner companies in 2014 (from 17 in 2013) and has financial support from IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) to co-fund the pilot in 2015.

In January 2014, GSSI launched its website *www.ourgssi.org*. Quarterly newsletters have been distributed to more than 500 partners and registered stakeholders. In addition, GSSI provided updates at over 10 international fora in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia including events at the Boston and Brussels Seafood Shows and the bi-annual FAO COFI meeting in Rome. Over 150 partners and sector stakeholders took part in GSSI's Annual Meeting in Boston on 18 March 2014.

GSSI Governance

Following an internal evaluation on GSSI in summer 2014, and drawing upon comments from the Public Consultation, GSSI's Steering Board developed a GSSI Charter, which replaces and updates existing GSSI governance documents. GSSI's Secretariat has been strengthened with professional support for facilitation of the Steering Board, senior management and communications. As a result, GSSI's work program is being supported to deliver and build on this progress going forward in 2015.

GSSI 2015 Outlook

In 2015, GSSI is going to road-test its Global Benchmark Tool with a pilot from March to July and will launch a second public consultation period from 21 April to 19 May. Comments received and lessons from the pilot will be used by the Expert Working Groups to update and finalize the GSSI Global Benchmark Tool. The Steering Board aims to launch the Tool in autumn 2015.

In 2015, the Steering Board, in collaboration with GSSI Funding Partners, is working on setting up the GSSI global platform for the future. This will look at the GSSI business model and its set-up post-2015 when the initial 3-year project time-line comes to an end. A range of options are being explored.

GSSI Milestones

JANUARY		**Launch of GSSI website, *www.ourgssi.org***
FEBRUARY	5	Presentation at Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Forum, Las Vegas, USA
	11-13	**Process Expert Working Group meeting, Boston, USA**
	14-27	**Aquaculture Expert Working Group meeting, Rome, Italy**
	18-21	**Fisheries Expert Working Group meeting, Miami, USA**
MARCH	**18**	**GSSI Annual Meeting, Boston, USA**
	19	**GSSI Steering Board meeting, Boston, USA**
	26	Update to the European Fish Processors Association (AIPCE-CEP), Brussels, Belgium
APRIL	16	Presentation at GSCP Annual Members Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
MAY	**7**	**GSSI Stakeholder Update European Seafood Exposition (ESE) Brussels, Belgium**
	8	Strategy meeting GSSI Steering Board, Brussels, Belgium
JUNE	**4-6**	**Steering Board meeting publishing first draft of the Global Benchmark Tool for consultation, Paris, France**
	9	Webinar for Australian Industry hosted by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Australia
	10	Presentation at World Aquaculture Society meeting, Adelaide, Australia
	11	**Side Event at the 31st session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, Italy**
	11-12	**Aquaculture expert consultation workshop first draft Global Benchmark Tool, Adelaide, Australia**
	16	Update to New Zealand Aquaculture Stakeholders, Nelson, New Zealand
	17	Consultation with New Zealand Fisheries Stakeholders, Wellington, New Zealand
	23-24	Workshop with Thai Department of Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand
JULY	9	Update to Common Language Group (CLG), London, UK
	15-17	3 Public webinars for consultation on specific sections first draft of the Global Benchmark Tool
	21-25	**Process expert consultation workshop first draft of the Global Benchmark Tool, Eschborn, Germany**
	30-31	**Consultation workshop with FAO Aquaculture and Fisheries staff on first draft of the Global Benchmark Tool, Rome, Italy**
AUGUST	**20-21**	**Fisheries expert consultation workshop first draft of the Global Benchmark Tool, Quebec, Canada**
SEPTEMBER	19	Participation in Sustainability Standards Initiative workshop at FAO, Rome, Italy
	25	Steering Board meeting, webinar
	30	Participation in NEN workshop (Dutch Standards Organization) on new ISO standard for Ecolabelling, Delft, The Netherlands
OCTOBER	1-2	Participation in benchmarking workshop hosted by ITC, Geneva, Switzerland
	5-7	Presentation at Conxemar Conference, Vigo, Spain
	23	Steering Board meeting, webinar
	27-30	**Process Expert Working Group meeting, Eschborn, Germany**
NOVEMBER	**3-7**	**Fisheries Expert Working Group meeting, Rome, Italy**
	9-12	**Aquaculture Expert Working Group meeting, London, UK**
DECEMBER	**9-12**	**Steering Board meeting to agree on updated structure of the Global Benchmark Tool, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

GSSI Financial Overview 2013-2015

	2013	2014	BUDGET 2015	TOTAL 2013-2015
COSTS				
Operational Costs	€ 154,000	€ 129,994	€ 328,170	€ 612,164
Governance and Management	€ 28,525	€ 17,163	€ 13,000	€ 58,688
Mid-Term Evaluation	€ 0	€ 26,354	€ 0	€ 26,354
GSSI Annual Conference	€ 12,426	€ 6,005	€ 6,000	€ 24,431
Development of Global Benchmark Tool	€ 40,556	€ 163,321	€ 155,500	€ 359,377
Pilot Testing Global Benchmark Tool	€ 0	€ 0	€ 178,400	€ 178,400
Scoping study social aspects	€ 0	€ 13,731	€ 17,000	€ 30,731
Benchmarking costs	€ 0	€ 0	€ 66,000	€ 66,000
Outreach Global Benchmark Tool	€ 0	€ 0	€ 59,500	€ 59,500
Subtotal Costs	**€ 235,507**	**€ 356,569**	**€ 823,570**	**€ 1,415,646**
INCOME				
GIZ Funding	€ 168,333	€ 168,333	€ 168,333	€ 504,999
Consortium GbR membership fees	€ 334,848	€ 219,017	€ 250,000	€ 803,865
IDH Funding	€ 0	€ 0	€ 59,000	€ 59,000
Benchmark Fees	€ 0	€ 0	€ 50,000	€ 50,000
Subtotal Revenues	**€ 503,181**	**€ 387,350**	**€ 527,333**	**€ 1,417,864**
RESULT				
Subtotal Result	€ 267,674	€ 30,782	-€ 296,237	
Prior year carry-over	€0	€ 267,674	€ 298,455	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	**€ 267,674**	**€ 298,455**	**€ 2,218**	**€ 2,218**

Whereas:

- **Operational Costs** includes costs for Secretariat and Communications. Increase in budget is due to attainment of professional facilitator, senior support to the Secretariat, and professional communications support for 2015
- **Governance and Management** includes costs for meeting rooms, legal advice and independent chair (2013 and 2014). Reduction in budget due to shift from independent chair to professional facilitator in 2015.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation** includes costs for obligatory project evaluation under GIZ, conducted Jul-Sep 2014 by CAL Limited.
- **GSSI Annual Conference** includes costs for logistics of annual GSSI Partner meeting.
- **Development of Global Benchmark Tool** includes costs of technical consultant support to Expert Working Groups, travel costs support for non-industry Expert Working Group members and costs for logistics of Expert Working Group meetings.
- **Pilot Testing Global Benchmark Tool** includes costs for training of Independent Experts and Benchmark Committee members, and execution of Pilot Testing Program.
- **Scoping study social aspects** includes costs for a Social Scoping study which was added to the project concept in 2013 as part of increased funding in the Strategic Alliance with GIZ in 2014 and 2015.
- **Benchmarking costs** includes costs for benchmarking certification schemes after launch of the Global Benchmark Tool, benchmarking costs are estimated to be cost neutral
- **Outreach Global Benchmark Tool** includes costs for 3 regional workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America together with FAO to build awareness and support for GSSI and its Global Benchmark Tool.

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On behalf of

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

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Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

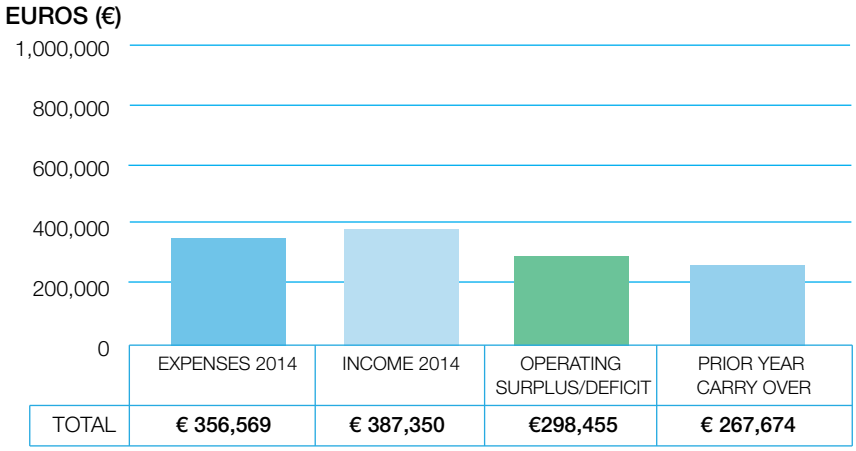
GSSI 2014 Financial Overview

Expenses
Expenses were 25% lower than budgeted mainly due to postponing of the Pilot Testing and Regional Workshops.

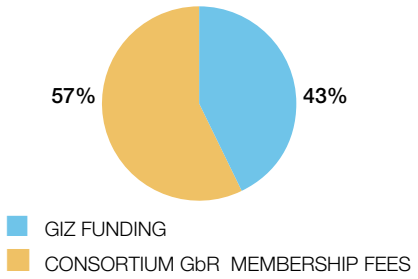
Income
Income was 24% higher than budgeted due to growth of the Partnership to 32 Funding Partners and payment of outstanding contributions from 2013.

Result
Operating surplus of 2014 will be carried over to 2015 to support operating activities of 2015.

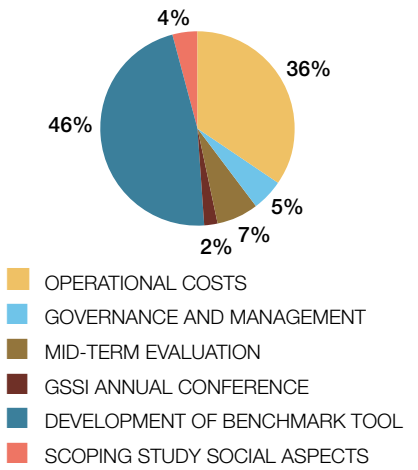
GSSI 2014 Financial Snapshot



Income 2014



Expenses 2014



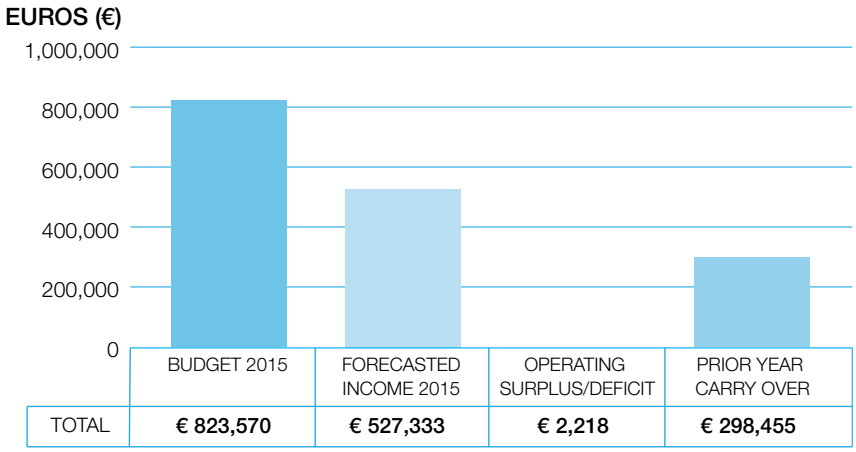
GSSI 2015 Financial Outlook

Expenses
Increase of expenses in 2015 is mainly caused by postponing of the Pilot Testing Program and Regional Workshops as part of the outreach on the Global Benchmark Tool. Secondly, a provision is included in the budget for first benchmarking after the launch of the Tool.

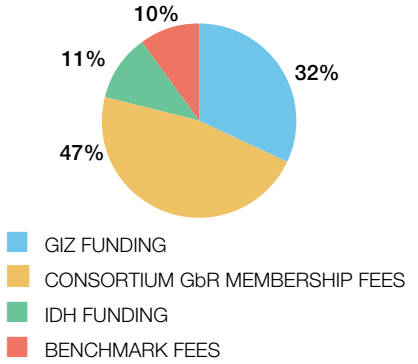
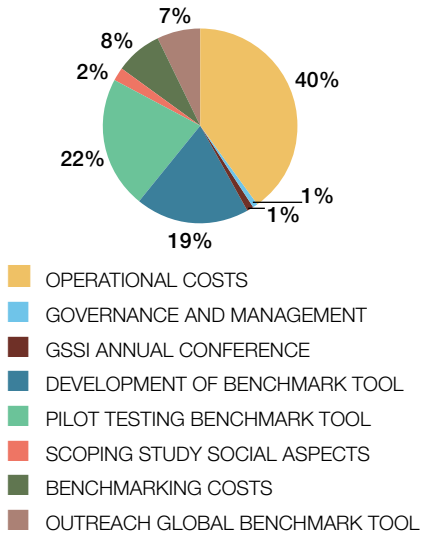
Income
Increase of €50,000 of Consortium GbR membership fees is due to continued support from existing partners and anticipated growth of the Partnership. IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) has committed to support the Pilot Testing Program with €59,000. A provision of €50,000 is included for benchmarking fees to be paid by certification schemes after launch of the Global Benchmark Tool.

Result
Operating surplus is anticipated to be around zero.

GSSI 2015 Financial Budget



Forecasted income 2015



Budget 2015