



WorldFish
C E N T E R

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WorldFish REPORT

2009/10

Including financial statements for 2009

Reducing poverty and hunger by
improving fisheries and aquaculture

Director General's Statement



As I reflect back over 2009 and 2010 I am gratified to see how the Center planned for and responded to the ever-increasing changes in our internal and external environment.

Not only was the world experiencing tumultuous changes

in food price and energy security, increasing climate variability, and water scarcity but within the CGIAR there has also been significant change. The Center has responded by taking stock of its products and services and looking forward to how we can improve further and have even greater impact.

Early in 2009 the Center identified three “Must Win Battles” – those issues that we felt we must concentrate on to ensure that we are fit enough to achieve our objectives. The first of these was to clarify our organizational focus and reach decisions about our science and regional/country structure, together with the roles and responsibilities to make this work more effectively. We can now declare victory on this with the establishment of a much clearer partner, project and program approach to country engagement. This means that we will focus on developing integrated programs of research in the program countries of Bangladesh, Cambodia, The Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Zambia along with a focus on Egypt for aquaculture. Key to success in these countries will be to develop the grant funding required to sustain a programmatic approach. To pursue this more focused approach the Center also streamlined its matrix management structure by appointing three Regional Directors responsible for overall coordination of our work in each of the three continental regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and a manager for each program country. The senior leadership team has also been re-organized to reflect this revised structure. I believe the positive impact of these changes is already being felt.

The second Must Win Battle is about finding more time for delivering science and impact by streamlining our systems and processes. One key result of this has been to move very firmly forward in engaging with the CGIAR system-wide efforts to identify and implement a common integrated enterprise resource planning system. This system will support project, financial and human resource information management. The implementation of the system (planned for 2011) and will place the necessary tools in the hands of our staff to help them do their jobs more easily.

The third battle seeks to develop leadership at all levels and improve the quality of our conversations

so that we make good decisions and work well as teams. Over the course of 2009 and 2010 effort has gone into better understanding the issues we need to tackle in communication and decision making and to rolling out the staff development programs we believe will have greatest impact.

One of the most challenging changes we faced in 2009 and 2010 was the CGIAR reform process. Center staff committed a great deal of time and resources to this because we believe the success of the reform is critical for our future and for achieving development impact at scale. The new CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework has resulted in a portfolio of programs to deliver research outputs and outcomes that will enable constructive change and impact. WorldFish is engaged in quite a few of these Programs and has taken the lead on one that specifically aims to attack poverty and hunger directly in aquatic agricultural systems. During the course of 2010 we spent considerable time talking with national, private sector and development partners and working with them to prepare a proposal that we feel engages with aquatic agricultural systems in a whole new way. By pursuing innovations in ways of thinking, operating and working in partnership and combining this with new science to realize increased development benefits we believe this program can break new ground.

The stories included in this WorldFish Annual Report illustrate how change is inevitable and that with dialogue and shared understanding we can make a difference to the poor and hungry. The report shows the variety of approaches for achieving these goals, from adopting better aquaculture practices, to highlighting the nutritional benefits of eating fish, to strengthening community and ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity. I hope you find it as interesting and rewarding to read as we have in doing the work.

Of course, none of these achievements would be possible without the commitment of WorldFish staff. I feel privileged to work with such dedicated people and gratefully acknowledge their efforts to help work towards our vision of being the research partner of choice for delivering fisheries and aquaculture solutions for developing countries.

Finally, to our investors and partners, we sincerely thank you for your confidence in WorldFish. As we embark on a new chapter in the CGIAR our appreciation of your support will be reflected in a redoubling of our efforts to helping make development happen and learning how to do it better.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hall". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Stephen J. Hall, Director General



Fish Farming Buoys Food Security

Smallholder farmers in Bangladesh significantly improve their income, employment, and food and nutrition security by adopting better aquaculture practices

Bangladesh has taken to aquaculture like a fish to water. This crowded deltaic country has 1 hectare of water for every 20 people, three-quarters of whom live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and exploiting natural resources for food and livelihoods. In villages across Bangladesh, ponds materialize as farmers excavate soil for a foundation upon which to build homesteads above flood levels. In the late 80's, major investments by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and others, opened opportunities for WorldFish and its government and non-government partners to begin exploring how low-input aquaculture could provide additional fish to feed the country's growing population.

From 2000 to 2005, WorldFish led the Development of Sustainable Aquaculture Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development which aimed to improve fish pond productivity along with incomes and nutrition of the poor and marginal fisher households. Impacts of this work, conducted by the Asian Development Bank, the University of Stirling and the WorldFish Center were published in 2010 in the journal *Aquaculture Research*. Researchers found that the uptake of better aquaculture practices significantly improved the income, employment, and food and nutrition security of adopters. Income, return on labor and fish consumption rose significantly faster among adopting households than among farmers who did not adopt the better aquaculture practices.

The income of project households rose from \$3.77/day to \$4.98/day; an average annual growth rate of 8.1%, nine times the increase of non-adopting households. The difference was mainly from increases in farm and fish income. The gross income

from fish production of project households almost doubled from \$94 in 2002/03 to \$181 in 2005/06, increasing aquaculture's share of total farm income from 14% to 17%, and its share of total household income from 7% to 10%.

Per capita fish consumption in project households increased at an annual rate of 6.6%, from 1.5 kilograms (kg)/month in 2003/04 to 1.8 kg/month in 2005/06. This was nearly three times the 2.3% increase recorded in non-adopting households, from 1.3 kg/month in 2003/04 to 1.4 kg/month in 2005/06. The national average in 2005/06 was 0.9 kg/month.

More broadly, aquaculture production in Bangladesh grew at an average annual rate of nearly 10% from 1983/84 to 2005/06, three times faster than growth in production from cereal fields or inland capture fisheries. Over the same period, aquaculture's share of national fish production more than doubled from 16% to over 38%. The potential of aquaculture to strengthen and increase incomes, food security and reduce rural poverty has attracted the attention of both Bangladeshi policymakers and private sector entrepreneurs. Women and children in poor families are key beneficiaries of aquaculture production as fish is one of the more affordable and accessible animal-source foods and an excellent source of high-quality protein. Small fish that are often eaten by women and children are especially high in micro-nutrients and vitamins.

In South Asia WorldFish and partners continue to focus on the productivity of aquaculture in meeting the needs of households' nutrition, food security and income.

Fish Production Needs a Nutrition Lens

A survey outlines the contributions of aquaculture and artisanal fisheries to food and nutrition security, testing assumptions and identifying areas for further research

Communities that depend heavily on fish for sustenance and income are generally poor and vulnerable to malnutrition. Nearly three-quarters of the 30 countries in which fish contributes a third or more of the animal protein in the national diet — and that depend even more heavily on fish for essential micronutrients — are poor and suffer food deficits. More than a third are in sub-Saharan Africa, where tight supplies have held per capita fish consumption below its 1990 peak, languishing at less than half of the world average.

However much fish is increasingly esteemed in the developed world as a luxury health food, for the poor in the developing world it remains essential nutrition, drawn primarily from artisanal small-scale fisheries and smallholder fish farms. As the governments of highly fish-dependent countries come to recognize the critical contribution of fish production to their food and nutrition security, as well as its development potential, clearer understanding is required of how these benefits accrue to poor fishers and fish farmers.

In 2010, the WorldFish Center published a review of scientific literature that traces the contributions of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries to food and nutrition security, testing assumptions and identifying areas for further research. The study found contributions through three main pathways. Fish contributes directly to nutrition through the home consumption of a portion of production. More importantly, the sale of fish, a highly traded commodity, brings income that can be used to buy other foods (including cheaper fish) and household needs. Finally, fish contributes to the well-being of the most vulnerable of the poor — women and children — by enhancing the socioeconomic status of women through their prominent participation in fish processing and trading and, as aquaculture expands across the tropics, their growing role in primary production.

The contributions of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries are broadly similar, but the study found some notable differences. Integrating smallholder aquaculture with terrestrial crops not only produces fish but also boosts farm productivity and resilience all around by cycling nutrients, storing water for various uses including irrigation during drought, and facilitating the cultivation of diverse cash crops such as fruits and vegetables on pond dikes.

Aquaculture has favored a narrow selection of fish species with high market value for nurturing to optimal market size. However, there is growing recognition that an array of small, indigenous fish taken from capture fisheries and traded for modest prices on local markets offers the poor greater nutritional value than do costly cultured fish. This is partly because they are eaten whole. Essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, calcium, iron and zinc that are commonly lacking in the starchy diets of the poor are abundantly present and bioavailable in some species of small fish. These are relatively affordable and often obtainable year round. Unlike other nutrient-rich foods, small fish tend to be shared equally in the household, the better to meet the high protein and micronutrient requirements of growing children and pregnant and lactating women.

Among urgent research needs are evaluations of the nutritional value of particular indigenous fish species and the prospects for culturing them for home consumption alongside fish produced for sale. Research is also needed on how best to publicize these findings and garner stakeholder support for conserving overexploited fisheries and protecting endangered aquatic habitats.

The fundamental paradox remains why fisher communities are vulnerable to malnutrition despite their access to highly nutritious fish. Research is required to determine how communities' marginalization, lack of access to healthcare or knowledge of good nutrition, exposure to waterborne and other diseases, and other factors interact to undercut individuals' nutritional status and how best to overcome these constraints.



Hydropower Can Coexist with Fisheries

Integrated planning for hydroelectric dams can generate power while protecting fisheries and ecosystem services that support the poor

Hydropower came late to the Mekong River but is making up for lost time. China completed the first dam across the Mekong mainstream in 1995 and has since finished another three, with one more under construction and three planned. Of the 80 or so large dams in the Lower Mekong Basin that are completed, under construction or planned, 11 are considered for installation on the mainstream by 2030.

This threatens the world's largest freshwater fishery. The annual harvest from the Lower Mekong and its wetlands — 2.1 million tons retailing for \$4-8 billion — is essential for livelihoods, nutrition and food security.

Freshwater fish is the protein and micronutrient mainstay of 22 million people in Cambodia and Laos alone, especially the poor, who have few options for replacing lost food and income.

The challenge facing the countries of the Mekong is to develop hydropower while conserving fisheries — including, as the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 reminds us, fishery diversity. Recent cases of integrated river development offer hope that healthy fisheries can coexist with hydropower development. The Vietnamese government adopted an integrated plan that will preserve several still-existing fish migration corridors in the Vu Gia-Thu Bon Basin. In Laos, a hydropower project is proposed on a diversion canal rather than on the mainstream, adopting a principle used by the gigantic Grand Inga project on the Congo in Africa and multiple dams along the Rhone in France.

Dams harm ecosystems by (1) replacing flowing riverine

habitats with static reservoirs, whose fisheries are, after initial blooms, much poorer than what they replace; (2) reducing the amplitude and duration of annual flood pulses that sustain exceptionally productive floodplain fisheries; (3) shrinking floodplain and wetland habitats; (4) retaining nutrient-rich sediments needed downstream; and (5) blocking migratory fish.

The high walls of hydroelectric dams and the prominence of migratory species in Mekong fisheries (35% of harvested biomass) compound the technical challenge of providing fish passage around dams. When the Pak Mun Dam was built on Thailand's largest Mekong tributary in the early 1990s, the river above it suffered, despite a fish ladder, a 60-80% decline in fish landings and a 64% decline in fish biodiversity, from 265 species to 96. Then, in 2001, the dam gates were opened for one year, restoring 129 species. Today, the gates are opened seasonally for four months to preserve the revitalized fishery.

The key is to plan dams from the start to mitigate environmental impact, with all costs counted and internalized to ensure real economic gains. Placing dams high on tributaries largely spares fisheries, as does stacking reservoirs on some tributaries to leave other migratory routes intact from the mountains to the sea. Generating electricity on a diversion harnesses a river's power without blocking the mainstream. Impoundment that mimics seasonal patterns and reduces flow by no more than 10% maintains ecosystem integrity.

Political will and careful planning can provide win-win solutions. What it will take is to replicate successes in integrated river development more widely and in larger rivers to sustain inland fisheries. Consideration should be made to locate new dams where they have least impact on river ecosystems. Fish-friendly dam design and management can allow fish migration and the delivery of seasonal flows to sustain aquatic biodiversity.

While researching how to diversify the livelihoods of fish-dependent rural communities whose fisheries are unavoidably diminished, WorldFish acts as a broker to help environmental scientists, governments and dam developers work together to minimize the impacts of dams without substantially hindering electricity production or economic development.



The Social Side of the Environment Coin



WorldFish and BG Group agree on terms for a partnership to research the natural gas company's impacts on fishing communities and options for strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity

In April 2010, the WorldFish Center and BG Group entered into a collaborative partnership to explore the complex relationships that exist between fishing communities and industrial oil and gas operations. The partnership is a first for both organisations. It is the first time that the WorldFish Center has entered into a partnership of this nature with the private sector. Equally, WorldFish Center is the first international, non-profit organisation BG Group has partnered with in this way.

BG Group, a leading player in the global energy market, is committed to delivering shareholder value in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. WorldFish is an international not-for-profit research organisation with a mandate to reduce poverty and hunger through its work on small-scale fisheries and sustainable fish farming in developing countries. Globally, fisheries are subject to multiple pressures. This collaboration provides a unique opportunity for WorldFish to engage on both sides of the fisher/industrialist discourse. Through sound analysis and informed and constructive dialogue among stakeholders, the collaborative partnership hopes to directly promote mutually beneficial outcomes that build fishing community resilience to changes caused by factors such as industrial development.

BG Group's Business Principles express the organisation's core beliefs and behaviours. These principles guide the way the Group, its employees and contractors do business. The Society section of the Business Principles states that BG Group works to ensure that neighbouring communities benefit from the company's presence on an enduring basis. Furthermore, the Business Principles state that the company will listen to neighbouring communities and take account of their interests. BG Group has a Social Performance Policy and Standard underpinning its Society Business Principles, which requires BG Group to understand and manage its impacts on communities as a result of its operations.

BG Group has a number of offshore concessions and onshore gas processing facilities. Globally, the company has significant interactions with fishing communities, from conducting initial seismic surveys through to full field development. BG Group sought to enter into a collaborative partnership with WorldFish to gain an objective and sound understanding of the baseline conditions of small

scale fisheries, in order to identify and mitigate potential impacts. Global expertise on the complex relationship between fishing communities and oil and gas operations is scarce. WorldFish is able to provide and develop further this expertise for BG Group.

Despite fundamentally different organisational objectives, the two parties have agreed to collaborate on a common goal. The objective of the collaboration is to develop, over a three-year term, an active relationship focused on implementing mutually beneficial solutions for small-scale fisheries in the areas around BG Group's operations in six countries, informed by sound examination of the issues.

The relationship between the two organisations is formally managed through a Relationship Management Committee. In addition to this committee, the collaborative partnership has provided a number of additional channels for the two organisations to share learning, experiences and ideas.

Through the collaborative partnership, WorldFish worked closely with members of BG Egypt to provide a detailed socio-economic baseline assessment of the fishing community adjacent to the Idku Gas Hub on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. Informed by this research, BG Egypt has implemented a programme focused on strengthening livelihoods and adult literacy levels in the town of Idku. During the coming years, WorldFish will conduct similar studies in other regions where BG operates.

At times, the fundamentally different organisational mandate of WorldFish and BG Group has presented challenges to the collaborative partnership. Primarily, we have had to strike a balance between supporting WorldFish's global mandate to conduct research for development that generates widely relevant and accessible findings ('international public goods' research) with a naturally cautious profit-making organisation in which sensitive information about the company can have significant commercial implications. Through regular and constructive dialogue between members of the Relationship Management Committee and the informal networks developed between both organisations, a mutually satisfactory path has so far been found.

Perception of Risk Guides Resilience

Research in the Solomon Islands takes resilience management from theory into practice, with surprising results on what communities see as their main vulnerabilities

Fishery management once consisted of setting a maximum sustainable yield and avoiding habitat destruction. Neither worked well in the poorly researched or policed artisanal fisheries of developing countries — a serious failing, as these fisheries supply more than half of the global catch and employ 90% of the world's fishers. Today, an approach to management that focuses on the idea of resilience is emerging as a better way of thinking about and making decisions for these fisheries.

The key to this approach is to acknowledge that many of the factors and events affecting fisheries are beyond the control of fishing communities. Yet these communities are forced to respond to these external drivers, sometimes compromising the viability of the fishery itself. A resilience approach adopts the premise that understanding and, where possible, anticipating these drivers can improve the lives of fishing dependent communities and the foundations for better fishery management.

In the Solomon Islands, where more than 70% of the population of 523,000 relies on subsistence agriculture and fishing, the WorldFish Center has been researching how to put the resilience approach into practice. This Pacific archipelago east of Papua New Guinea has endured many shocks. Years of ethnic violence first erupted in the late 1990s, forcing migrants back to their jobless home islands. An earthquake and resulting tsunami struck in 2007, and spikes in global food and fuel prices sparked an economic crisis in 2008-2009. Meanwhile, the overharvesting of sea cucumber for export, which earned the country nearly half a million dollars in 2000, has forced the repeated closure of the fishery to avoid irretrievable collapse.

The first step towards adopting a resilience approach is to assess the vulnerability of households and communities to threats. To better identify effective mechanisms for promoting adaptive action and resilience this requires collecting both objective estimates and people's perceptions of risk and vulnerability. Participatory diagnosis conducted in the village of Kia, on Santa Isabel Island, used focus group discussions and household questionnaires to rank past and future threats by severity as perceived by about 140 participating households. Despite the importance of fishing to local livelihoods and the catastrophic closure of the sea cucumber fishery, issues directly related to fishing ranked low. Compared to past threats, fishing issues fell below (1) the 2007 earthquake and tsunami, (2) the local economic crisis, (3)

changes and natural disasters related to climate change, (4) household problems such as illness, and (5) community conflict and ethnic tensions. Among future threats, fishing issues trailed (1) changes and natural disasters related to climate change, (2) overpopulation, (3) eroding social cohesion, (4) land disputes and communal conflict over resources, (5) the local economic crisis, and (6) household problems.

On the resilience side of the ledger, only 38% of respondents felt that their communities had dealt well with past threats, but 57% said that experience had taught them how to cope more effectively in the future. Optimism was greatest among those who were economically better off and those who had a high opinion of community leaders.

Participatory diagnosis was also used to develop a management plan, including indicators of management effectiveness, for the village sea cucumber fishery. At first sight, many of these indicators seem to have little to do with the fishery. For example, along with ecological indicators such as the number of sea cucumbers encountered on surveys, one indicator of management failure was the number of students sent home from boarding school for lack of money from the fishery to pay fees. Also, because many villagers had abandoned gardening, opting instead to buy vegetables with money earned gathering sea cucumbers, a management intervention promoted a return to gardening, and an indicator accordingly measured the number of productive gardens. Incorporating this wider set of indicators into management is helping the community better respond to change and to avoid putting the fishery resources under pressure in times of stress.

At villagers' instigation, the management plan was expanded to cover all marine resources, demonstrating strong local buy-in and ownership. If larger surveys confirm these results, they have important implications for the types of interventions most likely to engender successful resilience management in the Solomon Islands.



Chairman's Statement



This has been another eventful and challenging reporting period for WorldFish and for the CGIAR more generally. Supporting CGIAR reform, increasing funding and finding an effective approach to building our work

in Africa has been particularly important for the Center. I am pleased with how WorldFish has risen to these demands.

The Center participated fully in building the new Consortium of the CGIAR Centers and it has taken steps to align its research to the new CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework. The WorldFish Board, after careful examination and legal advice unanimously adopted and signed the Consortium constitution and looks forward to working with the Consortium Board to further the mission of the CGIAR.

Reflecting on the financial performance during this period, I believe we remain on a solid footing, noting that 2009 ended with a smaller deficit than expected and a comfortable level of reserves. Staff performed especially well in ensuring that grant expenditure stayed on schedule and, although we have more work to do, overhead recovery was better than in 2008. Income in 2010 was somewhat lower than our target, mainly due to delays in converting submitted grant proposals to secured and active projects. However, with the management's discipline and control we expect a modest surplus for 2010. As we look forward to 2011, in spite of the CGIAR Fund becoming operational, we must continue to focus on securing

grant funding to support our research.

The Board and I have been pleased to see the increase of effort to solidify WorldFish's position in Africa. The recruitment of a Regional Director and the consolidation of the research team in Zambia as a focal country bode well for our future there. The Board held one of its 2010 meetings in Zambia and I was impressed with the spirit and commitment of our Zambia team to engage with the national systems and other partners. The Board recognizes that fish are critically important for health and nutrition in Africa. The dramatic decline of fish availability and consumption for the poor has to be reversed. Supporting and improving fisheries and making fish and aquaculture more prominent on the agenda of governments and donors/partners is vitally important. There is no doubt that effective partnerships are the key to achieving our mission of overcoming the serious challenges of food and nutrition security and poverty on the continent.

Overall, the spirit and motivation of WorldFish staff remains high. Management's efforts in fighting and succeeding in the "Must Win Battles" articulated in 2008 are to be commended. Looking forward, I expect at least one more year of transition and transformation into the new CGIAR system. Challenges will remain but I see opportunities ahead for the Center as the new CGIAR Research Programs come on-stream. I'm very confident that WorldFish has the research capacity, the products and the approach to partnership that is needed to overcome poverty, hunger and malnutrition.



Ambassador Remo Gautschi
Chairman, WorldFish Board of Trustees

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WorldFish Investors 2009

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- Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional
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- Australian Agency for International Development
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- BG Group Egypt
- Brunei Department of Fisheries
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- Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
- Indian Council for Agricultural Research and Ministry of Agriculture Department of Research and Education
- International Centre for Environmental Management
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Fund for Agricultural Research (USA)
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- Japan Wildlife Research Center
- Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- University of Wageningen
- Wildlife Conservation Society-Congo
- World Bank
- World Resources Institute
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature - Greater Mekong Programme -Lao Country Office
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature-Solomon Islands

Statement of Financial Position

(US Dollar '000)

	As of December 31	
	2009	2008
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	12,315	7,793
Accounts receivable		
Donors	2,080	3,526
Employees	118	161
Others	1,992	1,867
Prepayments	83	121
Total current assets	16,588	13,468
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property and equipment, net	291	384
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>16,879</u>	<u>13,852</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable		
Donors	2,901	2,785
Employees	15	-
Others CGIAR Centers	127	68
Others	2,640	2,266
Fund in trust	3,448	1,107
Accruals and provisions	1,750	1,466
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>10,881</u>	<u>7,692</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Designated	1,092	891
Undesignated	4,906	5,269
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>5,998</u>	<u>6,160</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>16,879</u>	<u>13,852</u>

Statement of Activities

(US Dollar '000)

	For the Years Ended December 31	
	2009	2008
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Grants	17,312	18,650
Other revenues	383	(263)
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	<u>17,695</u>	<u>18,387</u>
EXPENSES AND LOSSES		
Program related expenses	16,129	17,760
Management and general expenses	3,253	3,259
Sub total expenses and losses	19,382	21,019
Indirect cost recovery	(1,525)	(1,110)
TOTAL EXPENSES AND LOSSES	<u>17,857</u>	<u>19,909</u>
NET DEFICIT	<u>(162)</u>	<u>(1,522)</u>



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