

The African **Fisheries Partnership** Digest

A publication of the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF)



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Partnerships in Fisheries Development in Africa
- Africa Recognizes its Fisheries Potential at CAMFA
- Africa Speaks on Fisheries Management
- Lessons Learned on SPFIF Implementation
- SPFIF Strategic Alliances and Linkages



Strategic Partnership
for
Fisheries Investment Fund
Creating Wealth Through Sustainable Fisheries

FOREWORD



Partnerships are a key theme in the development of fisheries in Africa and the African Union is at the forefront in facilitating the sector's growth. AU-IBAR as an institution of the AU is mandated to expedite the development of the fisheries sector in the continent to realize its potential in contribution to the economic growth of the continent and has therefore established a fisheries section to initiate, coordinate and facilitate fisheries activities throughout Africa. The African Union's strong commitment to the development of the fisheries sector at the highest level, is demonstrated through concrete actions it has taken in the recent past, in addition to facilitating and housing two major fisheries projects; the Strategic Partnership for a Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF) and the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF). The AU focus on fisheries began in earnest in 2004 during the extra-ordinary Summit in Sirte, Libya, when the African Heads of State and Government made a Decision to promote the development and protection of fishery resources in Africa. Since then many activities focusing on fisheries have taken place, and the sector has quickly moved from the periphery and obscurity in the Agriculture sector to receiving prominence in the AU planning. The fisheries sector is therefore now firmly mainstreamed and operational in both the DREA and AU-IBAR 2010-2014 strategic plans.

The 'Fish for All Summit' held in Abuja Nigeria in 2005, endorsed the Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture which lead to the development of a framework for the development of fisheries in Africa, as elaborated in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Companion Document. The framework addresses marine, inland and aquaculture fisheries to guide fisheries development on the continent. The convening of the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) was a defining moment of the AU commitment to fisheries development in Africa. For the first time in the history of the AU, a conference dedicated to the ministers responsible for fisheries is included in the AU calendar in an effort to prioritize fisheries issues and ensure the responsible ministers become accountable in expediting fisheries growth and development.

The fisheries sector is fully integrated into AU-IBAR's strategic plan and with its renewed mandate, has spearheaded the creation of institutional linkages and partnerships in fisheries management to facilitate investments in Africa through projects and to encourage a common African voice in critical global and African fisheries issues. In this regard, AU-IBAR has established productive functional linkages with the key projects, and institutions and plans to develop a functional set-up and necessary structures required for the establishment of CAMFA secretariat that will implement and monitor the decisions of the CAMFA meetings as well as ensure projects' sustainability. Another key strategy of the AU-IBAR is to facilitate investments through improved fish health standards and accredited certification systems to promote and ensure sustainable global, regional and national fish trade.

All of these initiatives collectively contribute to the African Union's vision and mandate of improving the livelihoods of the African population and increasing their food security. The AU recognizes the importance and potential of fisheries to Africa in terms of income generation, contribution to food and nutrition security, enhancement of community livelihoods, and participation in the local and international trade. The need therefore for partnerships to ensure fisheries plays its rightful role in the African countries' economies through a well coordinated mechanism led by the AU cannot be overstated.

The fisheries sector world over is faced with a crisis, fuelled by the growing demand for fish products resulting from increasing populations, increased purchasing power and changing consumer preferences. This pressure will no doubt increase with the current high food prices all over the world. Despite the productivity and importance of the continent's fisheries, the current supply of fish falls short of demand and in Africa as a whole per capita availability of fish is declining. Unless action is taken to address these problems, the continent's fisheries resources risk a sustained decline and traditional management systems are inadequate to ensure sustainable use of these resources.

The question that begs to be answered is why despite the endowment with the rich marine fisheries Africa grapples with poverty. It is difficult to understand why the distant fishing nations thrive from our resources while Africa which owns doesn't derive optimal benefits. However, all is not lost as some countries such as Namibia are setting good pace on how fisheries can be turned into wealth through proper management and development. Their success story with the fisheries sector is featured elsewhere in this magazine. The AU through partnerships, therefore, ought to endeavor to link the fisheries resource wealth with financial wealth that can be seen through improved livelihoods and general well being of the people and the economies of Africa. The AU will provide the political leadership and guidance to achieve this. The SPFIF and PAF projects managed under the AU came at very opportune time as a financing mechanism to address some of these concerns but much more funding, focused planning and good governance are needed to promote the sustainable management and development of fisheries resources on the whole continent for effective poverty reduction and sustainable income growth of the people of Africa.

PROF. AHMED EL-SAWALHY,
DIRECTOR, AU-IBAR

AFRICA'S FISHERIES: OUR FISH, OUR WEALTH, OUR FUTURE.



Fisheries resources are a source of wealth, health, food and nutrition especially for those countries that own them, have recognized their value and put measures in place for their sustainable management and utilization. Africa is endowed with vast natural marine and freshwater fisheries resources, which could be turned into wealth and thus contribute immensely to poverty eradication in the continent, but sadly this is not the case. The continent has passively watched as these resources enrich other nations, but all this is about to change.

Africa is slowly realizing this massive endowment and starting to speak in one voice that fisheries resources are its wealth and future. The African States will therefore not sit back and watch this valuable resource plundered through unsustainable fishing methods that also include illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

This African voice is getting louder and stronger everyday. This came out clearly during the Conference for African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) held in Banjul, The Gambia in September 2010; the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting in Rome in February 2011 and more recently during the negotiation for Indian Ocean Tuna allocation criteria.

In all these fora, the African states are stating clearly that they would take control of their fisheries resources, including the way they are managed, harvested and traded, to ensure they contribute to their economic growth.

The African Union has initiated a mechanism for a coordinated approach to fisheries development in Africa. This paradigm shift requires policy reforms to ensure sound fisheries management and utilization are sustained to bless posterity. The African Union together with the Strategic Partnership for Africa's fisheries development are at the forefront in leading the process to re-claim our Fish, to create our Wealth, for our Future.

*Nancy Gitonga
RAC Coordinator*

THE VALUE OF FISH

In terms of importance and worth to over a billion people worldwide, fish are infinitely more valuable than diamonds or gold, for the following reasons:-

- Fish contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of many nations.
- Fish and seafood products are among the most widely traded commodities, worth billions of dollars annually.
- Fishing is a major source of employment: over 38 million people worldwide rely directly on fisheries for employment, and livelihoods thus supporting families and communities.
- One billion people worldwide rely on marine fish as an important source of protein.
- Fish is a powerhouse of health and the medical fraternity the world over, confirms the health benefits of eating fish which include; low cholesterol, rich in omega 3 fatty acids, protein, and a source of vitamins especially vitamin A and D.
- Omega 3 fatty acid in fish reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease.

The Strategic Partnership Initiative, funded by GEF and with the World Bank as the implementing agency is led by the African Union (AU), with support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to :

- (i) promote fisheries policy reforms in the region,
- (ii) communicate lessons learned and
- (iii) provide countries technical support as needed by countries to prepare and implement sustainable fisheries investments.

The Partnership which is advised by a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of donors, regional fisheries bodies and representatives of the Large Marine Ecosystem Projects, is funded through a GEF grant to the three partners, approved in 2007 for an initial three-year period. The NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) of AU is also part of this partnership. The investment fund component of the initiative aims to successfully demonstrate innovative sustainable fisheries projects, while at the same time actively supporting knowledge management, so that the experience gained would stimulate third parties to replicate similar projects throughout the region, significant contribution to the WSSD fisheries targets in Africa.



The African Union

The African Union, a strategic partner of the SPFIF initiative plays a very important role of political support and coordination leadership to the Partnership due to its convening power. This power and leadership was witnessed

during the first Conference for the African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture held in Banjul, The Gambia, in September 2010, where 33 countries were represented. The continent did not appear to be aware its enormous fisheries potential until 2004 when the African Heads of State and Government, at its Summit in Sirte, Libya directed that the fisheries sector be mainstreamed in AU activities. Since then a lot of ground has been covered to prioritize the fisheries sector for investments. Fisheries matters are thus now firmly articulated in CAADP companion document, ensuring that the sector is also targeted in the prioritization of country agriculture investments. A number of projects targeting the continent's fisheries sector are already in place under the AUC/NPCA. One of these projects is the fisheries partnership (SPFIF) project, whose coordination is conducted by the AU-IBAR in Nairobi, Kenya through a secretariat. The AUC is the chair of the SPFIF's Regional Advisory Committee. The other project is the DFID supported Partnership for Africa Fisheries (PAF) managed by NPCA. Through SPFIF, Africa has witnessed unprecedented investments in the fisheries sector through the World Bank and other development partners. Due to recognition of the fisheries potential and the need to expedite the growth in the sector, the AU has established a Fisheries Section at the AU-IBAR and recruited a Senior Fisheries Officer and a Fisheries Officer to deal with the emerging fisheries issues. The fisheries sector is well articulated in both DREA and AU-IBAR's strategic plans.



WWF is one of the largest independent conservation organizations with close to 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in

which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- * conserving the world's biological diversity
- * ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- * promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

With respect to fisheries, WWF aims to secure the health of the oceans by encouraging responsible fishing and stimulating demand for sustainable fisheries management. WWF supports efforts that build awareness and generate a sense of urgency while still offering hope and practical, achievable solutions. With the demand for fish escalating, the deteriorating health of Oceans and declining fish stocks, never has there been greater urgency for governments, industry, NGO's and consumers to work together to solve this international problem.

The SPFIF Initiative was born out of recognition by GEF on the need for partnerships to address the situation in the African LMEs. The inclusion of WWF into this partnership was envisaged to benefit the initiative from WWF's wealth of experience in the African Marine regions. WWF through the SPFIF initiative and in partnership with other key stakeholders aims at providing greater knowledge and support for the best practices in sustainable management of fisheries both at country and LME level. WWF's major role in the Partnership is to package lesson learned and best practices and disseminate through various communication media. In this regard, WWF assists with production of communication materials and SPFIF website updates. WWF is confident that concrete measures will be undertaken to secure sustainable fishing globally but this requires reducing fishing capacity, improving fisheries practices and fisheries policy reforms.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was founded in 1945 with the mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living; to improve agriculture productivity; and to

better the condition of rural populations. Within the mandate given by FAO's Governing Body, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is committed to working with its Members, and to forging closer and more effective partnerships with national and international institutions, academia, the private sector and civil society, to achieve long-term sustainable results in the fisheries sector. The Department has a commitment to team work in a spirit of cooperation and openness while building on past achievements.

The mission of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO is to facilitate and secure the long-term sustainable development and utilization of the world's fisheries and aquaculture. FAO is acutely aware of the fundamental social and economic roles in: meeting global and national sustainable food security; providing self and paid employment for fishing and aquaculture related communities as a means of alleviating poverty in these fishing communities and stemming rural/urban drift; contributing to national and international trade; and generating national incomes. Underpinning these basic social and economic objectives is the requirement for fisheries to be responsibly managed. This implies preventing overfishing, promoting sustainable aquaculture, co-ordination and delivery of effective research and extension and the empowerment of people, especially women. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department therefore provides, on the request of Members, technical assistance in all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture management and development. The Department thus promotes policies and strategies aiming at sustainable and responsible development of fisheries and aquaculture in both inland and marine waters.

Through the SPFIF initiative, FAO provides technical assistance in identifying areas that require interventions and preparing Project Concept Notes (PCNs) to the countries that wish to access the GEF partnership Fund. The FAO has worked with the countries and regions that have so far access the first tranche of the GEF Fund and will continue to assist others during the implementation of the second tranche. Through this process, GEF has released a grant of USD 27.5 with the countries leveraging this fund at the ratio of GEF 1:3 but sometimes up to six.

World Bank/ GEF



Governments of many coastal countries of Africa still do not have the financial resources or capacity to take control of their own fisheries resources to prevent overexploitation by regulating access to these resources and protecting the critical habitats that support them.

To support systematic reforms in fisheries management and governance in the Sub-Saharan Africa, (SSA), the World Bank has been implementing the Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa initiative that includes: a Partnership Investment Fund and a Strategic Partnership. The GEF created a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund of US\$60 million to be disbursed as grants, which would be availed over a ten-year period. This Partnership Investment Fund will be available to co-finance, country-level projects aimed at assisting SSA countries to achieve sustainability in their marine fisheries and meet the fisheries and poverty reduction targets set by the WSSD. The co-finances can be sourced from the WB through IDA credits and IBRD loans and/or funds from other interested donors

In order for the Partnership Investment Fund to be a regional stakeholder-driven funding mechanism, it was designed to be advised by a partnership of stakeholders including Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), led by the African Union and working through a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). The Regional Activities of the Partnership helps to ensure that the projects proposed for support by the Investment Fund reflect the priorities of the region and are in line with the eligibility criteria approved by the GEF Council, as well as complement existing initiatives such as the GEF-sponsored LME Programs. The partnership of stakeholders promotes lessons learned from the individual projects throughout the region, in order to encourage replication and the prioritization of sustainable fisheries in national development policies such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as well as the development planning of Country Assistance Strategies (CAS). The World Bank has assisted 8 countries in two African regions (West and East Africa) to access the co-financing funds of approximately 180 million dollars for the 27 million dollar grant availed by GEF for the projects in Africa's LMEs in the first tranche and is leading the Partnership in the preparation of the proposal for disbursement of the second tranche.

Partnerships in Fisheries Development in Africa

The Fourth Session of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF) in the Large Marine Ecosystems of sub-Saharan Africa was held at the Protea Hotel, Walvis Bay, Namibia from 1 - 3 June 2010

The SPFIF initiative is advised by the RAC that consists of the Strategic Partners; the RFBs, the LME project coordinators, civil society and GEF projects implementing agents as observers. The RAC sessions are held at least once a year, mainly to consider and approve Project Concept Notes (PCNs) review progress and advise the initiative.

The RAC 4th session was officially opened by Hon. Bernard Esau, Namibia's Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources. In his opening remarks, he noted that the Strategic Partnership is important in bringing about a coordinated approach to the management of

African fisheries for the benefit of the African people. He informed the forum that Namibia's Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is committed to the development of a sustainable fisheries and reduction of poverty through a renewed focus on the fisheries sector.

The minister urged coastal states to ensure that they utilize their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in such a manner that the fisheries resources derived from these zones can contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of coastal communities and also to the country's economic growth.

Her Excellency Mme Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the chair of the Regional Advisory Committee in her opening remarks read by Dr. Haile-Gabriel Abebe, Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, reiterated the need to develop a

mechanism that would ensure a coordinated approach to fisheries issues in Africa. This should include the establishment of a sustainable fisheries fund basket into which all players would contribute.

During the meeting, the RAC members including regional fisheries bodies, Strategic partners and large marine programmes reviewed the reports and proposed project concept notes, provided progress on approved projects, identified new intervention areas, synergies and exchanged lessons.

The Key Recommendations:

The RAC emphasized the importance of including fisheries within the CAADP compacts in order to increase fisheries investment in Africa. The RAC noted that it was important for countries to highlight the contribution of fisheries towards a targeted 6% annual increase of agriculture output in Africa.



The 4th RAC participants with the Hon Esau, Namibia's Minister for Fisheries and Marine resource in Walvis Bay, Namibia

In order to advise members' states appropriately, there is need for AU to develop a fisheries policy framework with guidelines on the important themes of: Governance; Capacity building; Fisheries management; and reduction of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing (IUU).

The RAC appreciated the unprecedented planned inaugural Conference of the African Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture, as a step forward towards prioritization of fisheries in Africa. The forum will create an opportunity

for Africa to develop a unified position and develop Africa Wide common fisheries policy anchored within the AUC framework.

The existing collaboration between the SPFIF and NEPAD/PAF, SPFIF and EAF Nansen was applauded, and strategic alliances were encouraged so as to develop and maintain networks, establish funding pools and resources, identify mobilization avenues, share scientific data and documentation of lessons learned as a continent.

The full report is available on www.SPFIF.

The 4th RAC Summary Recommendations:

- Emphasised the importance of including fisheries within the CAADP compacts in order to increase fisheries investment in Africa .and drew attention on the need for countries to highlight the contribution of fisheries towards the targeted 6% annual increase of agriculture in Africa.
- Advised countries that intended to prepare PCNs and required the World Bank assistance, , to ensure the fisheries sector is included in their Country Assistance Strategies (CAS).
- Noted with appreciation the existing collaboration between the SPFIF and NEPAD/PAF and encouraged its further increase and observed the need to develop an AU fisheries policy framework with guidelines on the important themes of governance, capacity building, fisheries management and the reduction of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.
- Considered the need to invite the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to participate in RAC as observers.
- Noted and endorsed the progress of the Senegal, SRFC and Kenya SPFIF projects and asked the Secretariat to coordinate with WB country missions and with WWF in order to monitor the progress of SPFIF projects and publicise lessons learnt.
- Sought the assistance of AUC and NPCA to facilitate the coordination of Sub-regional Fisheries Commissions in West Africa, and their integration within ECOWAS as specialized institutions.
- Recognised the contribution of the EAF-Nansen project and recommended the partner to maintain its efforts so as to provide knowledge and information necessary for sustainable fisheries management and to strengthen the partnership with SPFIF.
- Recognised the important role played by the civil society and regional NGOs in linking science to improved fisheries management in the LMEs and urged the RAC Secretariat to explore and further opportunities for engagement and developing synergies with the SPFIF project
- Took note of the AU Assembly decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.259 (XIII)) and encouraged the organisers to propose to CAMFA to take advantage of this provision and initiate a mechanism to develop Africa Wide common fisheries policy anchored within the AUC framework.
- Re-affirmed the importance of artisanal fisheries for inclusion in PCNs.
- Recommended the setting up a Working Group to develop a proposal for the second tranche of funding (USD 30 million). The Working Group would include the RAC Secretariat FAO, WWF and NEPAD.

The PCNs Presentations

During the 4th RAC Session, the following Project Concept Notes (PCNs) were presented:

1. Fisheries Commission for West Central Gulf of Guinea (CPCO/FWCP)

The RAC deliberated on the PCN and noted that the concept did not include sufficient collaboration with the recipient countries and it did not specify the co-financing contribution for the applicant States. The RAC recommended that the Concept Note should be revised and re-submitted for RAC consideration.

2. Mozambique and Namibia PCN

The RAC advised the RAC Secretariat to work closely with Mozambique and FAO to ensure that the PCN is finalized and brought forward to the next RAC Session for approval. Similarly, the RAC noted with satisfaction that the Namibia PCN had a close link of the between sustainable marine resources, livelihood strategies, national development as well as regional priorities and approved the PCN for funding through the Partnership.

3. SWIO Regional PCN:

RAC recommended the preparation of a regional PCN endorsed by SWIO countries, with identified national counterpart contributions, for subsequent submission to the RAC for approval.

Namibia Leads Africa in Sound Utilization of Fisheries Resources.

Namibia's fishing industry is well known for its world class capabilities in efficient sustainable fishing handling, distributing, and marketing of fish products. Today the fisheries sector is one of the highest contributors to the Namibian economy, and second only to the mining sector in terms of exports. Management of commercial fisheries is based on a system by which fishing rights are granted, total allowable catch are set based on research results and quotas are issued to rights holders.

The Namibian fisheries sector is governed by three objectives:

- To ensure sustainable management and utilisation of marine and inland fisheries resources
- To develop industries based on national fisheries resources to contribute to overall Economic and social development
- To develop sustainable aquaculture industries for household food security, employment creation and export earnings



Commercial fishing vessels off loading their catch at a fish processing plant. The fisheries sector is one of the highest contributors to the Namibian economy.

Learning from Namibia's World Class Capabilities.

The RAC visited some of the fisheries facilities In Namibia, during the 4th Session that took place at Walvis Bay in June 2010. The committee toured the National Marine Aquarium and Research Institute in Swakampund, a Hake-Fish processing factory and a Fisheries Patrol Boat, that revealed the key contribution of fisheries to Namibia's economy through employment, export earnings and enormous opportunity in fishing. It become obvious from this tour that the Namibian government has prioritized fisheries development. In this regard, the government has not spared resources to build capacity of both human and facilities for effective fisheries research, fish processing, marketing and monitoring control and surveillance to combat IUU fishing to ensure sustainable fisheries. It was refreshing to observe that all aspects of the fish industry are managed by the Namibians themselves. Countries expressed the desire to collaborate and learn from Namibia's vast experience and expertise in combating IUU and Namibia expressed their willingness to help.



The National Marine Institute Research Centre and aquarium is responsible for undertaking scientific research on marine resources. Through research and science, Namibia is able to monitor her fishery stock

Namibia has a well developed fish processing for mainly Mackerel and Hake. This Industry provides gainful employment and ensures economic gain from exports of fish and fish products.

The key strategies that Namibia has employed for the marine resources sector include the use of Namibians to man the Fisheries Patrol Boats.

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EAC seeks to learn from Namibia

In April 2011, the East African Community (EAC) announced, that it will dispatch a team of experts to Namibia to study how the region can benefit from the southern African country's fishing industry. In an interview with the Daily Nation, the outgoing EAC Secretary General Amb. Juma Mwachapu said the community had not benefitted much from its rich fisheries and wanted to borrow a leaf from Namibia which has maximized returns from the sector. He noted that despite the huge potential that lies in the East Africa region such as the long coastline and inland water bodies these states were yet to tap the region's rich fisheries to make the industry to contribute significantly to their economies.

Africa Recognizes its abundant Fisheries Potential

The First Conference for African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA)

The Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) was convened in an effort to prioritize fisheries issues in the African Union's Member States and also to ensure the Ministers responsible for fisheries renew their commitment to expediting fisheries development.

Thirty three (33) African Union Member States and Thirty Six (36) organizations including the Regional Economic Communities, Non-governmental and Civil Society Organizations participated in this conference the first ever that was held between the 20- 23rd September 2010 in Banjul, The Gambia. CAMFA was officially opened by the Vice President of the Republic of Gambia on behalf of the president.

The ministers meeting was preceded by a technical experts meeting.

During the opening of the technical experts meeting, the Representative of NEPAD Agency read a statement on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Agency who underscored the importance of event. The convening of CAMFA, he noted demonstrated AU's commitment and the member states to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Framework, as the key driver for enhancing agricultural development and sustained economic growth on the Continent. He reminded the meeting of NEPAD's integration into the AU structures as Coordination and planning agency (NPCA) and added that through CAMFA and PAF the African capacity to respond to fisheries reforms will be supported.

At the opening of the minister's meeting, Her Excellency Elizabeth Tankeu, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission reiterated African Union's call on National Governments to take steps to understand and appreciate the fisheries potential and prioritize the sector in their national plans and

budgets. The Commissioner also called for strategic dissemination of lessons learned from the success stories and best practices of the countries that have turned fisheries into wealth. She reaffirmed AU's commitment to ensure that the fisheries sector in Africa receives the attention it deserves for its own growth and its contribution to socio-economic development. This focus on fisheries is demonstrated through various initiatives that have taken place in the last five years since 2004, during the extra-ordinary Summit, held in Sirte, Libya where a decision was taken by the African Heads of State and Government to promote the development and protection of fishery resources in Africa.

The AU Assembly being the highest policy decision organ of the African Union, the Sirte directive facilitated fisheries to move from the periphery and obscurity in the Agriculture sector and began receiving prominence in the African Union Commission. Fisheries is therefore now well articulated in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AUIBAR) strategic plans as well as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA). The African Union's Commission pledged to provide the political leadership and guidance to CAMFA whose theme was "African Fisheries and aquaculture: Contributing towards Agricultural Development and Economic Growth."

The Gambian President demands Fair Fisheries Agreements

During the opening ceremony of the minister's conference, the president of The Gambia in his statement read by the Vice President of the Gambia and Minister of Fisheries demanded that international trade in fish and fishery products should be fair and equitable so that the sector

achieves sustainable development and responsible utilization of living aquatic resource.

He said that 'there should be no hidden barriers to fish trade which limits the consumer's freedom of choice, or that restricts market access for producers. There is a need for states dealing with Africa and wishing to introduce changes in the legal or regulatory requirements that affect fish trade, to give sufficient information and reasonable notice to allow us, the affected producers, to adjust by introducing changes needed to ensure Compliance. In this regard, consultations between trading nations on timeframes to implement new trading, market access and regulatory changes would be most desirable'.

The president noted the present generation of fisheries agreements is unfair, inequitable and consequently of little benefit to coastal states that own these invaluable natural resources. The Minister urged Africa as a continent to come together to demand access agreements that contribute to the sustainable development of the sector and to the improvement of the lives of its people.

The convening of CAMFA demonstrated the commitment of AU and the member states to the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Framework, as the key driver for enhancing agricultural development and sustained economic growth on the Continent. This first conference set precedence that indeed African States are taking charge of their fisheries resources and through dialogue and collective action, Africa recognizes that it can turn this fisheries potential to secure and improve the livelihoods of many Africans through economic gain from the fish industry.

CAMFA Ministers' Observations and Recommendations.

The ministers recognized the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Fish for all Summit recommendations including the new Regional Fisheries & Aquaculture Management Plans have been agreed upon and are being implemented by Member States. A coherent approach at all levels, national, regional and continental, is thus gaining momentum.

The ministers urged Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate wealth based fisheries best practices into regional and national plans in order to expedite the sector growth to contribute to the economic growth of States. The Member States are required to submit to AU/NEPAD Agency annual progress reports on the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture. The AU/NEPAD Agency should develop a mechanism to track progress on its implementation. The ministers recommended that Arrangements for regional cooperation on fisheries management frameworks be developed and included as part of the Minimum Regional Integration Plan by RECs.

The ministers recognized the wealth generation potential of African fisheries; but were concerned that this potential has not been fully exploited due to lack of awareness and capacity. The ministers thus called upon Member States to reinforce their commitment to develop fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors to increase productivity, profitability and sustainability. Member States were urged to include small-scale fisheries in their national strategies aimed at wealth generation; develop fisheries management plans that integrate rights-based and other economically rational management approaches to foster wealth creation in fisheries; and to engage in policy and institutional reforms that will create enabling environment for efficient partnerships to foster investment in fisheries and aquaculture.

The ministers recommended that Fisheries access agreements be negotiated at regional level and the Regional Economic Communities provide a supporting role, in order to increase benefits for African countries. The need to eradicate barriers to facilitate intra and inter regional trade of fish and fishery products was emphasized; an African Fisheries Day to highlight the potential of fisheries and aquaculture in wealth generation and economic development should be instituted. The ministers proposed that the next CAMFA be organized under the theme "African Fisheries only for Africans".

The ministers were concerned about ineffective fisheries governance leading to over-exploitation of the fisheries resources beyond the biologically sustainable limits; and the magnitude of illegal unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in Africa and its adverse consequences of both the economies of Member States and the fisheries stocks.

The ministers requested the RECs to assist RFBs to develop regional strategies for sustainable management of shared water resources, including the straddling and highly migratory species and to mainstream climate change in fisheries policies, development and management programmes.

The AU was requested to lead discussions with the EU with a view to review fisheries trade-related issues such as Rules of Origin in order to maximize benefits to the African countries. The AU should also and to facilitate harmonized position of Member States in WTO, ICATT, IOTC and other organizations.

The ministers recommended that Member States and RFBs adopt and integrate ecosystem approaches in their national and regional fisheries management plans and together with the RECs strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and foster regional cooperation to curb IUU fishing.

The ministers recognized the potential of the fisheries sector in achieving the 6% annual growth of the wider agricultural sector and recalled the commitment made by Member States to allocate 10% of their national budget to agriculture sector but were concerned about the low allocation of national budget to the sector. The ministers thus called upon Member States to comply with the recommendations of the 2003 CAADP Maputo commitment to allocate 10% of their national budget allocation to agriculture, increasing the proportion allocated to fisheries and aquaculture.

The ministers recommended that Member States constitute "Fish Expert Pools" to urgently engage in the country CAADP process and respond with Post-Compact fisheries investment interventions.

The ministers recalled that partnerships were identified by the Fish for All Summit as key ways to strengthen the capacity of Member States in sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development and requested the AU to assist Member States to develop mechanisms which effectively strengthen south-south cooperation in fisheries at all relevant levels, with a view to increasing coherence in best practices between African States. The AU should assist RECs, RFBs and Member States to document and share local and global best practices in fisheries management and aquaculture development and their adoption and adaptation in Africa.

The ministers recommended that the AU develop and implement a coordination mechanism among RECs and RFBs to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives with regional economic integration agenda and put in place a mechanism for broad-based participatory policy dialogue and fisheries management, particularly for the non-state actors.

The conference recommended that the AU institutionalize the biennial Conference of Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CAMFA); and develop a proposal indicating a functional set-up and necessary structures required for the establishment of CAMFA.

Stop press: All the CAMFA Decisions are endorsed by the AU Executive Council

The Executive Council(EC) of the African Union is made up of ministers designated by the governments of member countries. They discuss issues of concern and prepare material for the Assembly, to whom they are responsible. When the ministers' conference does not achieve a two thirds majority of member states, the recommendations are forwarded to the EC for endorsement. The EC makes its decisions by consensus. As the CAMFA registry did not reach the stipulated two thirds majority attendance of thirty five (35) member states, the CAMFA Ministers' recommendations were forwarded to the Executive Council for deliberation and endorsement. Notably, all the resolutions have since been approved by the AU EC in January 2011 and are to be assented at the next African Union Summit. This is indicative that the sustainable management of fisheries resources is a key agenda for Africa and forward strides are in progress

The full report and decisions can be accessed on www.spfif.org

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE.

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the First Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) on the implementation of Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture plans held in Banjul, the Gambia from 22nd to 25th September 2010;
And ENDORSES the recommendations contained therein;
2. URGES Member States to:
 - i. Increase budgetary allocations to the fisheries and aquaculture sector consistent with 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Maputo commitment to allocate ten percent (10%) of the international budget allocation to agriculture;
 - ii. Submit to the Commission annual progress reports on the implementation of the African Union (AU)/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
3. FURTHER URGES Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) to:
 - i. Adopt and integrate ecosystem approaches in their national and regional fisheries management plans;
 - ii. Strengthen, monitor, control, and undertake surveillance as well as foster regional cooperation to curb Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
4. CALLS UPON Member States to eliminate Trade barriers to facilitate intra and interregional trade offish and fishery products;
5. DECIDES that an African Fisheries Day be instituted to highlight the potential of fisheries and aquaculture in wealth generation and economic development for Africa;
6. REQUESTS the Commission and the RECs to:
 - i. Engage the European Union with a view to reviewing fisheries trade-related issues such as rules of origin in order to maximize benefits to African countries and to ensure that the new EU-IUU regulation does not represent a barrier to trade for African States
 - ii. Facilitate harmonized position of Member States in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICATT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and other negotiations, and strengthen the capacity of Member States to participate effectively in relevant regional and global fisheries fora;
 - iii. Facilitate discussions and engagement with development partners, to review their funding portfolio and increase allocation of fisheries sector investments, Including sustainable aquaculture development, within the CAADP framework;
 - iv. Develop mechanisms which effectively strengthen south-south cooperation in Fisheries at all relevant levels, with a view to increasing coherence in best Practices among Member States;
7. FURTHER REQUEST Member States in-collaboration with the Commission with to facilitate the application of the African Referential and Guide on Food Safety in Member States and the implementation of Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF);
8. CALLS UPON development partners to provide necessary technical and financial Support for the implementation of this Decision;
9. REQUESTS the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision

Sharing Indian Ocean's Tuna Resources

Indian Ocean Tuna Quota Allocation Process Begins

Coastal States of the South West Indian Ocean meet to develop a unified position for negotiations.

A looming crisis faces the tuna and tuna related fisheries due to excess capacity leading to over-exploitation and biodiversity destruction. Countless sharks, turtles and seabirds are killed indiscriminately as by-catch in purse seine nets or long lines targeting tuna. This intense fishing pressure, largely driven by foreign fishing fleets is threatening the SWIO region marine fisheries sustainability, marine environment, biodiversity and economic gain from the fishery.

The most recent available information and advice of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Scientific Committee concludes that the yellow fin and big eye tuna stocks might have been over or fully exploited in recent years. The IOTC Resolution 10/01 implemented a fishing ban for yellowfin and bigeye tuna within a specified area of the IOTC jurisdiction from 2011 to 2012 and requires further actions from the Scientific Committee, technical committees, contracting members and cooperating non-contracting members (CPCs).

The resolution requires CPCs to establish an allocation system (quota) for the main targeted species under IOTC area of competence and a technical committee meeting to discuss allocation criteria and recommend an allocation system for tuna in the Indian Ocean. The resolution also requires an allocation system or other “relevant measure” for yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be adopted at the IOTC plenary session 2012.

Coastal States meet to take position on the tuna allocation negotiations

Since the resolution 10/01 for the Conservation and Management of Tropical Tunas Stocks in the IOTC Area of Competence, the coastal states and in particular, the like-minded developing States have held various meetings to discuss common position to take during negotiations for tuna allocation criteria.

During the first consultative meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in February 2001 the participants made some recommendations for ministerial level considerations:-

- 1.The need for dealing effectively with immediate and long-term tuna management measures.
- 2.Coastal states involvement in quota management systems to ensure they are not adversely affected
- 3.Rationalization and Control of fishing power through fleet restructuring measures which include: Limiting Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of vessels to 1000; Number and tonnage of fishing vessels; Restriction of use of large purse-Seines.
- 4.Cessation of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)

The second and third consultative meetings in February were held in Nairobi before and during the IOTC technical Committee meeting - as a side event. WWF the global conservation organization facilitated the second meeting and involved the African Union's InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP) in the organization. The aim of this consultative meeting held on the 15th February 2011 with Coastal and States in the SWIO region, government agencies and experts was to bring to light the issues to be considered by the IOTC Technical Committee during their meeting 16th -18th February 2011. The objective was therefore to build capacity of the member states to ensure they have a full understanding of what the quota allocation issues entail.

During the opening of the coastal states consultive meeting, the Regional Representative, WWF-ESAR-PO reiterated the WWF's support to the transformation of tuna industry in the South Western Indian Ocean (SWIO) with a view to ensuring the Coastal States derive maximum benefits from their tuna resources in a sustainable environment. The Director of AU-IBAR, also highlighted African Union's support in addressing tuna related issues and the desire to work with member states to jointly review agendas that include their concerns and expectations in order to bring about equitable relationships to sustainable fishery stocks that will then contribute to improved livelihoods.

The forum provided the opportunity for coastal states to evaluate the various allocation proposals and build a position that would better suit their interest with regard to deriving more benefits from the tuna stocks in their respective EEZ, while ensuring sustainability. This position would assist the Coastal States in the allocation negotiations during the IOTC Technical Committee meeting.

The group, during this meeting and the side meeting of IOTC Technical Committee meeting discussed and agreed on the following guiding principles that may be used to formulate allocation criteria:

1. All historical catches taken in EEZs of a coastal state shall be attributed to that coastal state.
- 2 .Historical catches taken in high seas shall be attributed to the flag states
3. No Coastal State shall be worse off than current position with respect to agreed baseline.
4. A mechanism should be developed for new DWFN entrants.
5. Effective MCS as a means to combat IUU, which is fundamental to quota allocation must be considered.
6. Sustainability of resource, including the management of by-catch and

fishing methods must be considered. 7. Special needs and vulnerabilities of artisanal coastal communities should be considered in the negotiation of allocations.

8. Transferability (Lease) of allocations should be permitted.

9. Quota may be utilized anywhere within the IOTC competent area.

10. An interim management measure that may be implemented before a comprehensive quota management system is put in place will be essential.

IOTC Technical Committee Meets in Nairobi to discuss Allocation Criteria

The IOTC technical meeting took place from 16th --18th February 2011 to discuss allocation criteria and to recommend an allocation system for Indian Ocean tuna. A well thought out, negotiated and managed quota system would go a long way in ensuring rational and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks through conservation and management policies designed to protect resources and still meet the needs of the fishing industry. The allocation system must ensure that tuna resource is fairly shared amongst the Coastal States and other IOTC member states in a manner that does not allow the quotas to be exceeded. Once the quota system has been approved by IOTC members, the IOTC would implement it as a conservation and management measure and would therefore be binding on IOTC members.

This meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya and its outcome was a significant step towards future management of Tuna resources in IOTC area, this being the first time the IOTC members are engaging in allocating the Indian tuna resources. The IOTC Technical Committee meeting on Allocation, convened as result of the Resolution 10/01 "On the conservation and management of tropical tunas stocks in the IOTC area of competence" adopted in March 2010, is a forum established for IOTC Members to discuss, and eventually decide on the criteria to use to allocate quotas amongst the stakeholders in the fishery.

Members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as of 18th March 2010 include: Australia, Belize, China, Comoros, Eritrea, European Union, France, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Republic Of Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, United Kingdom and Vanuatu. The Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties include: Maldives, Senegal, South Africa, and Uruguay.

The meeting was officially opened by Honorable Amason Jef-fah Kingi, the Kenyan Minister for Fisheries Development and Mr. Randolph Payet, the Chairperson of IOTC chaired the meeting.

Criteria for establishing quota system for Indian Ocean tuna resources

Before presentation of the five proposals for allocation and ensuing discussions, the developing coastal states gave a statement to put the meeting in the right perspective for consideration of their rights. The coastal states thus informed the meeting that while considering the historical rights of distant water fishing nations (DWFN), coastal states' right for development have to be adequately addressed, in addition to the neighbourhood rights (e.g. area of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), length of coastline, area of the continental shelf, coastal fisher population, etc.), sovereign rights of the coastal states as well as socioeconomic criteria needed to be considered.

The Committee recognized that the process of establishing allocation criteria is complex and unlikely to be completed in the short time available for the meeting. It was however necessary to start the process on the basis of some common positions such as an agreement on basic principles that could guide further developments of an approach to allocation. The Technical Committee also recognized that there are advantages to a mechanistic approach including transparency, in which allocations are calculated on the basis of a formula that incorporates the basic principles, as opposed to a list of

criteria that would require extensive negotiations at each allocation cycle.

A quota allocation system should be structured around guiding principles (e.g. sustainable fisheries, equitable distribution of the benefits, etc.); the allocation criteria (e.g. catch history, socio-economic status, geographical location, etc.); and indicators that quantify each of the allocation criteria (e.g. catch by area or catch by flag, population size, human development indicators, size of the EEZ in the Indian Ocean, etc.). A formula that combines all these elements would be used to derive a baseline allocation.

This baseline would be adjusted according to defined correction factors (e.g. membership status, compliance status, etc.) in order to obtain a final allocation for each eligible CPC.

Rules of implementation could be defined to regulate the manner in which the allocation is placed into effect by each CPC (e.g. transfer (lease of quota), submission of a utilization plan, any additional monitoring requirements to ensure correct reporting of compliance with the allocation system).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the elements of a quota allocation system that were discussed and received support. The allocation system should include principal and criteria. Some of the elements put forward for consideration in negotiations include:

Principle elements such as:-

- Sustainable utilization of the resource;
- Fair and equitable fishing opportunities to all participants,
- The rights of both coastal states and distant water fishing nations,
- The aspirations of coastal states, including to develop further their fishing opportunities,

Criteria elements such:-

- Socio-economic factors, e.g. dependency of coastal state economies on tuna and tuna-like fisheries, and investments made in tuna sector.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

African States speak out on Ports States Measures Agreement at COFI.

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) is a global forum to discuss fisheries issues, which meets once in two years. The Committee presently constitutes the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fish workers, FAO and the International community.

The COFI held its 29th Session at FAO headquarters in Rome from 31st January to 4th February 2011, which was attended by 155 members of the Committee, representatives from 5 specialized agencies of the United Nations and by observers from 64 intergovernmental and International NGOs.

Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a global threat to sustainable fisheries and to the management and conservation of fisheries resources and marine biodiversity. As a tool to combat IUU fishing, the importance of enhanced Port State control has increasingly gained ground throughout the last decade. The growing reliance on Port States to combat non-sustainable fishing practices stems to a great extent from the failure of Flag States to effectively control fishing operations carried out by vessels flying their flag.

A great milestone during the meeting was the support COFI accorded to the Africa Group on the agreement to expedite implementation and entry to force of the PSM Agreement. COFI agreed that the IUU fishing continues

to be a global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and welcomed the finalization of the negotiations of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Many members are preparing for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Agreement. COFI recommended that the Global Record should be developed as a voluntary initiative under FAO supervision. The Committee recognized the need to provide assistance to developing countries to enable them participate in the Global Record.

Port State Measures (PSMA) are requirements established or interventions undertaken by Port States to ensure a foreign fishing vessel comply with or is subjected to as a condition for use of ports within the port state. National PSM would typically include requirements related to prior notification of port entry, use of designated ports, restrictions on port entry and landing/transshipment of fish, restrictions on supplies and services, documentation requirements and port inspections, as well as related measures, such as IUU vessel listing, trade-related measures and sanctions. Many of these measures have in recent years seen their inclusion and development in international instruments.

The Africa Group presented a coordinated approach to PSMA and a statement was read on behalf of Africa by the Minister for Fisheries in Mozambique. The statement received support, which was a milestone towards achieving a coordinated approach to fisheries issues



The 29th session of the Committee on Fisheries plenary session, Rome, Italy

Statement on Behalf of the African Group on PSMA by Mozambique's Minister for Fisheries

This session of COFI offers an opportunity to make progress on discussion of Mechanisms to assist in implementing the Ports States Measures agreement (PSMA). This is of vital importance to stop the plague of illegal fishing in our oceans and only global cooperation and full implementation will achieve the aim to close all ports to IUU Vessels. This Agreement will only be as strong as the weakest link, for this reason Africa considers implementation a priority.

We call on COFI to recommend that:

1. The FAO Secretariat supports the fast implementation and entry into force of PSMA.
2. The FAO Secretariat prepare for operationalization of Article 21 of PSMA prior to entry into force of the Agreement.
3. To facilitate these, the FAO secretariat forms a taskforce or similar mechanism that is open to any FAO Member, ensuring geographical distribution and adequate support for participation of developing states. Among the TOR of this taskforce should be; to draft the TOTs for the ad hoc working groups as established in article 21 of the PSMA; to support assessment of capacity needs; and to explore funding mechanisms.

We therefore call on the COFI to mandate the FAO Secretariat to facilitate this.

African Union Spearheads a Coordination Mechanism for Africa's Fisheries

Africa is in dire need of a coherent regional and continental approach to fisheries development in Africa following recognition of the fisheries potential that can significantly contribute to her economic growth. A collaborative working mechanism among all the sectors including governments, Regional Fisheries Board (RFBs), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International NGOs and Civil societies is essential. There is therefore a need for a coordinate structure to effectively manage and develop the sector to avoid duplication and overlaps from the multiplicity players.

There are considerable and significant investments in the fisheries sector in Africa by different organizations all geared towards to addressing the many challenges facing the fisheries sector. This effort notwithstanding, there has not been adequate Africa-wide coordination with a mechanism to ensure complementarities to avoid overlaps as well as to evaluate outputs and impacts. This lack of coordination has not assisted with the gaps and need assessment for further interventions. Most projects and programs report directly to their donor agencies with no obligation to give information to any other organization except the country implementing the project. In this regard therefore, Africa's information may be more available globally than from within the continent, especially from the African Union.

The fisheries sector in Africa demonstrates limited synergy, collaboration and networking among the various regional fisheries bodies, regional economic communities and other fisheries initiatives. This has resulted in duplication of efforts and waste of valuable resources. Conflict is sometimes experienced during the implementation of some of these projects that operate in the same region and targeting the same institutions, communities, ecosys-

tems and sometimes same donors.

In search of a sustainable coordination mechanism for fisheries sector in Africa

SPFIF has facilitated three consultative meetings to seek stakeholders' input on the development of a fisheries coordination mechanism and strategy.

The first consultative meeting was in Namibia, in June 2010. The recommendations made were based on the realization that most fisheries initiatives are neither linked to the AU nor to the RECs. Further, the meeting recommended that the RECs should have contacts with the various fisheries initiatives in the continents and link them to AU.

The second consultative meeting was in The Gambia, in September 2010, The meeting recognized the importance of building Strategic Partnerships and dissemination of best practices in fisheries. This was echoed in the CAMFA where the ministers recalled that partnerships were identified to strengthen the capacity of Member States in sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development. The ministers hence requested the AU to assist Member States to develop mechanisms to effectively strengthen south-south cooperation in fisheries at all levels, with a view to increasing coherence in best practices between African States.

The ministers recommended that the AU develop and implement a coordination mechanism among RECs and RFBs to ensure coherence of fisheries policies and initiatives with regional economic integration agenda and put in place a mechanism for broad-based participatory policy dialogue and fisheries management and sharing lessons learned also with non-state actors.

Institutionalization of the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAM-

FA), the ministers recognized the importance of the joint periodic review of the status of fisheries resources sector in Africa by Experts and Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture. The conference recommended that the AU institutionalize the biennial Conference of Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CAMFA); and that the AU develop a draft proposal indicating a functional set-up and necessary structures required for the establishment of CAMFA.

In the third meeting convened during the 29th session of Committee on Fisheries (COFI) a coordination mechanism spearheaded by AUC and NEPAD was deliberated. The Mechanism proposed will seek to have a one voice and action towards the issues plaguing the development of Africa in fisheries. It would further work towards solidifying partnerships, identification of clear synergies between development partners, Member States, RFBs, RFMOs, the private sector and RECs.

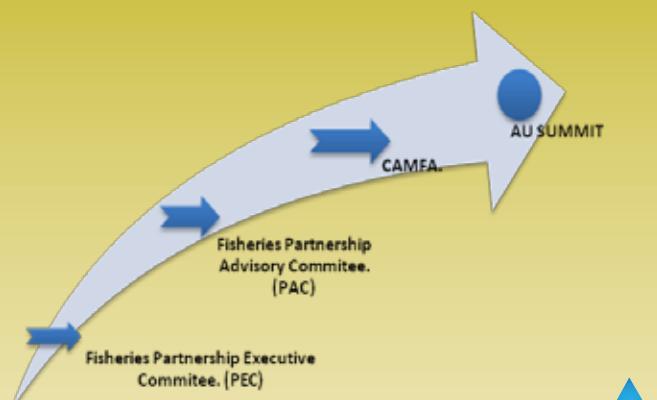
The mechanism which is yet to be established envisions a Fisheries Partnership Executive Committee (PEC) whose membership is drawn from partnership initiatives such as the AU SPFIF and the NPCA PAF projects (donors and project coordinators), AU, NPCA and other donors and partners in the partnership fisheries supported Africa wide projects. The PEC would meet twice yearly. This will then form a think tank group which will advise a Fisheries Partnership Advisory committee (PAC) whose membership will be drawn from a transformed Regional Advisory Committee to also include other identified stakeholders.

The PAC will meet annually to review the fisheries sector progress , the implementation of the ministers' of fisheries decisions and also determine issues that would require

CAMFA or Members States interventions.

The Conference of African Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA), now a policy organ of the AU will be a biennial forum. CAMFA will deliberate on fisheries issues that will advise the Head of State and Government Summits. The First CAMFA approved the establishment of a CAMFA secretariat to assist with the convening of the conference , the follow-up of the minister's decisions with member states and to ensure projects sustainability.

There is renewed interest of many potential players in partnering with AU and expediting the development of fisheries in Africa, as result of this development for coordination of the sector. A number of partners including Norway and the African Development Bank among others have pledged support for the coordination of this initiative.



A coordinating mechanism that endeavors to create synergy, efficiency and collaborative support mechanisms to the fisheries Sector in Africa



AU coordinated a stakeholder side meeting during the 29th Session of Committee on Fisheries in Rome, Italy where participants agreed on a Fisheries Coordination Mechanism structure.

AU-IBAR's Strategic Focus on Continental Fisheries and Aquaculture

The African Union Inter-african Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC), is mandated to support and coordinate the management and utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union. The AU-IBAR Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 outlines a comprehensive direction on how AU-IBAR will contribute to the development of animal resources and the natural resource base on which they depend. It also has a strong mandate for improving sector investment, animal resources marketing and trade on the African continent.

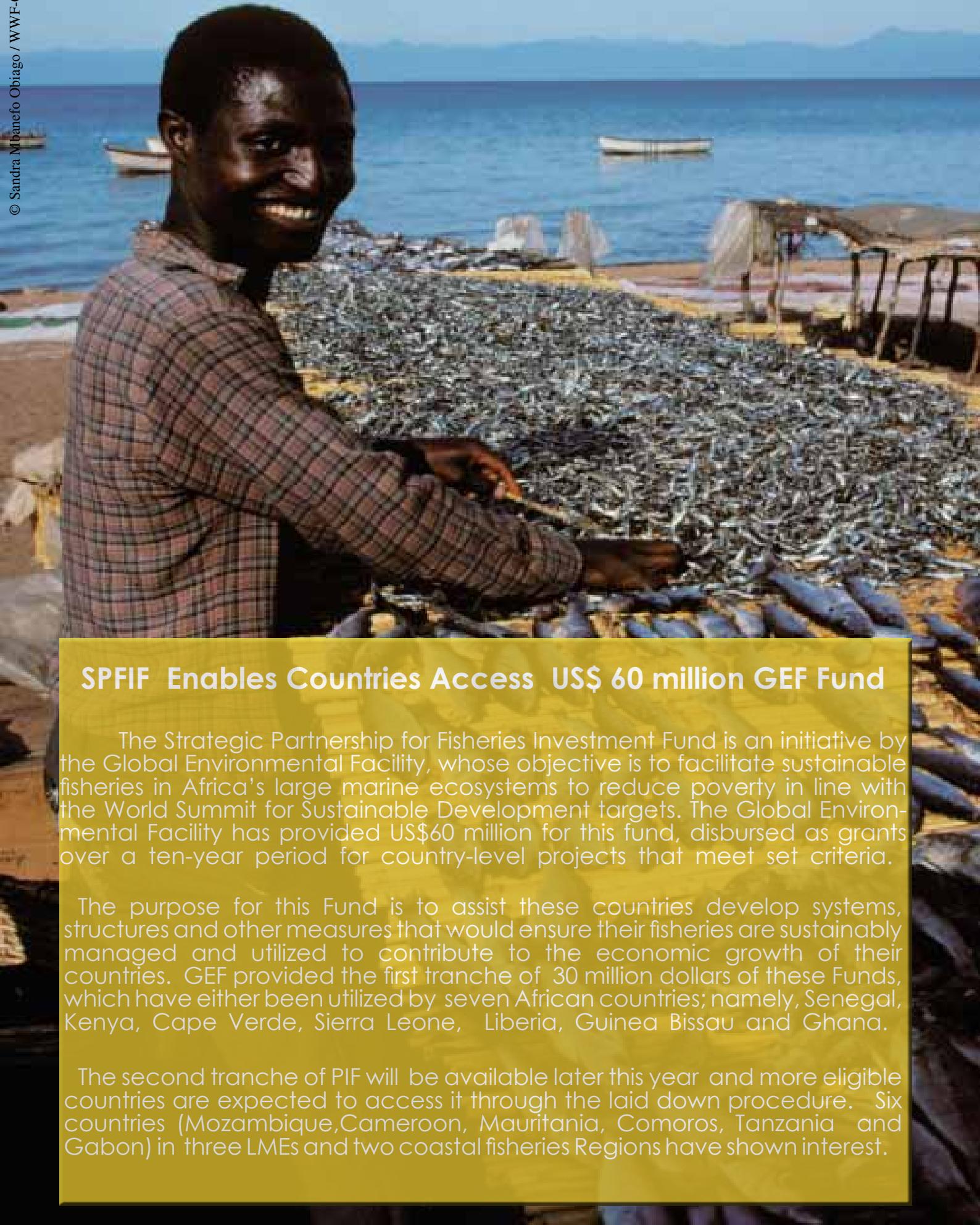
Specifically for the fisheries sector, the AU-IBAR strategic focus is on sustainable fisheries development for enhanced socio-economic growth through initiatives such as the formulation of continental common fisheries policy framework outlining guidelines on keys issues. Some of these issues include combating IUU fishing, fostering responsible fisheries, promoting sustainable commercial business-oriented aquaculture practices, creating equitable income for resource-adjacent countries by capacity enhancement for fair and just fisheries access agreement negotiation, and mainstreaming Climate Change impacts.

The poor coordination of the fisheries sector on the continent has partly contributed to the poor implementation of policies and weak fisheries management scenarios in Africa. The AU-IBAR vision for progress in fisheries management is underscored by the development and sustenance of a strong coordination mechanism for partnerships in fisheries.



The SPFIF Initiative aims to promote sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of Africa in order to assist coastal countries to make concrete progress towards achieving sustainable fisheries and poverty reduction targets set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The Partnership Investment funds seeks to accelerate country-level investments and actions in fisheries to assist individual coastal countries in Sub-Saharan Africa undertake the necessary governance reforms and sector adjustments towards sustainable management of their fisheries in a way that ensures a distribution of benefits that will contribute to poverty reduction and improved food securityies in a way that ensures a distribution of benefits that will contribute to poverty reduction and improved food security.



SPFIF Enables Countries Access US\$ 60 million GEF Fund

The Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund is an initiative by the Global Environmental Facility, whose objective is to facilitate sustainable fisheries in Africa's large marine ecosystems to reduce poverty in line with the World Summit for Sustainable Development targets. The Global Environmental Facility has provided US\$60 million for this fund, disbursed as grants over a ten-year period for country-level projects that meet set criteria.

The purpose for this Fund is to assist these countries develop systems, structures and other measures that would ensure their fisheries are sustainably managed and utilized to contribute to the economic growth of their countries. GEF provided the first tranche of 30 million dollars of these Funds, which have either been utilized by seven African countries; namely, Senegal, Kenya, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea Bissau and Ghana.

The second tranche of PIF will be available later this year and more eligible countries are expected to access it through the laid down procedure. Six countries (Mozambique, Cameroon, Mauritania, Comoros, Tanzania and Gabon) in three LMEs and two coastal fisheries Regions have shown interest.

Lesson Learning on Process and Procedures of PCN and Project Development.

Lessons learned so far are mainly on the processes of the development of Project Concept Notes (PCNs), and development of full proposal, which requires FAO and World Bank inputs, respectively, and identification of co-finances.

General

1. The projects developed under this Fund represent a new line of investments for the World Bank in the fisheries sector, from the traditional model of building boats and ports, to a focus on long-term efforts to strengthen governance

2. The countries that have co-finances for the second tranche proposal has been recognized as one of the ways to expedite project development and implementation.

3. The dissemination of information about the SPFIF initiative has generated interest and demand for the Partnership Investment Fund exceeds the capacity to handle

potential projects

4. Indications are that demand for GEF funds from the Investment Fund to co-finance sustainable fisheries projects remains high and therefore, the need to increase the grant.

5. Countries that have participated in the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) process and in reviewing their Fisheries Sector Strategy and Stakeholder Participation, which are requirements for the World Bank Co-financing consideration and the SPFIF Project Concept Note development respectively, have benefited from the exercise and have therefore been able to identify gaps, and areas for interventions and investments.

6. Information dissemination through brochures, newsletter and presentations has helped create awareness on the availability of the fund and countries have prioritized fisheries investments to the extent of co-financing the grant with

higher ratio in areas of fisheries management that are not physical or infrastructure development.

7. Projects in this portfolio, which include West African countries and Kenya, aim to introduce a wide range of technical and institutional innovations, including:

- A national and regional electronic dashboards of key fisheries sector information, in a fisheries industry transparency initiative;
- Fisheries policy and legal framework reforms
- Registration and licensing to the artisanal fishing fleets in a number of countries, to close the current open access conditions of the fisheries;
- Improved cooperation among government agencies to conduct surveillance activities to reduce illegal fishing, particularly by industrial trawl vessels;
- Empowerment of local fishing communities to develop and

Seamus Murphy / WWF-Canoe



Fisherman delivering the catch.

implement resource management measures for targeted coastal fisheries;

- Commercial micro-finance and training for volunteers to leave overcapitalized fisheries to undertake alternative livelihoods; and

- Transformation of fishing licenses into more secure and long-term access rights that in some cases would be transferable.

General Achievements Attained in the implementation of the first tranche of the GEF grant:

On the Investment fund

1. In 2005 when the GEF Council approved the initiative, the World Bank essentially did not have a fisheries portfolio, except the Tanzania MACEMP. Since that time, the Investment Fund has helped catalyze roughly US\$133 million in new World Bank financing to sustainable fisheries in Africa.

2. US\$27 million in GEF grants from the Investment Fund have been committed for sustainable fisheries, as follows:-Senegal for Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources Project (\$6M); West Africa Region Fisheries Program (\$16M, which include Cape Verde , \$2M, Liberia, \$3M, Sierra Leone \$ 5M, Ghana \$4M, and Guinea-Bissau \$1M); Kenya: for Coast development project (\$5M).

3. The World Bank and GEF are investing to promote sustainable fisheries in eight countries in Africa with the first tranche, almost twice the number initially anticipated.

4. Most of the projects co-financed by the Investment Fund begun to be implemented in 2009 and 2010.

5. The second tranche of the GEF Investment Fund will be enhanced to USD 40 million for country-level projects and about USD 5million for the Partnership Funding due to the success attained so far.

On Strategic Partnership

1. There is improved information exchange among key players in fisheries sector and the leadership role of AU is being recognized and appreciated as critical to expeditious fisheries development.

2. The impact of the initiative on the AU has been significant and likely permanent. The ongoing process of creation of a Fisheries section with permanent staff, and the establishment of the Conference for African ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) and proposed CAMFA secretariat, is demonstration of AU commitment to support fisheries development.

3. The Partnership has initiated a process for establishment of coordination mechanism for key players in fisheries sector to ensure coherent development. A coordination structure proposal has been developed and approved by cross-section of stakeholders.

4. Strategic Partnership has made good progress in launching projects in a seven countries with high demonstration value.

5. Sustainable fisheries have been included in the Africa Regional Integration Assistance Strategy (RIAS) of the World Bank, which guides regional investments in a manner similar to the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for individual countries.

6. There is enhanced focus on the fisheries sector through various partnership efforts and many countries are now including fisheries in their CAADP compact documents for investment prioritization.

7. In most cases, co-financing of the country level projects is high, revealing strong commitment from the countries to view the Investment Fund in a much broader context.

8. When all Tranche one projects come fully on stream, the impact on the fisheries is expected to be significant, and the demonstration potential equally important.

9. Expanding the scope of this initiative to include NEPAD and other partners such as the African Development Bank and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has broadened the impact of the partnership.

10. In terms of communication, a website has been developed and launched for the initiative (www.SPFIF.org) as a platform to help inform the fisheries dialogue in the region, and an 'African Fisheries Partnership Digest' is periodically published to inform stakeholders on progress.

Lessons learned:

Case Studies

1. Kenya Coastal Development Project

In 2005, the Government of Kenya requested for financial assistance from the World Bank to implement the Fishery Management and Sustainable Coastal Environment Development Project in Kenya (FIMACEDP) also known as Kenya Coastal Development Project (KCDP).

The project objective is to promote environmentally sustainable management of Kenya's coastal and marine resources, to be achieved by strengthening the capacity of existing relevant government agencies and by enhancing the capacity of rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in selected coastal communities. The KCDP is consistency with Policies of the Government of Kenya which includes Vision 2030 and Regional and International Obligations and aims to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Challenges encountered:

Project preparation

The PCN and PAD preparation was a lengthy process due to the stakeholder consultation process

compounded by involvement of many different participating partners, mainly from parallel government institutions.

Project Coordination

The project coordinating institution did not possess the required authority and power to convene the planning meetings and therefore more often than not there the quorum was not achieved.

Capacity building for the project

i. A Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) main streamed into the Kenyan government structure, responsible for project coordination and management has been established. This will also address the meeting convening issues .

ii. The World Bank accorded KCDP staff with the necessary training on its financial and procurement procedures to facilitate smooth the project implementation and financial management

The Regional/Countries Benefits and Achievements through the Investment Fund

2. West African Region Fisheries Project (WARFP):

This project implementation is coordinated by the Sub-Region Fisheries Commission (SRFC): The countries involved include; Senegal, Cape Verde, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Guinea Bissau. Through this project a coordinated fisheries management systems that will assist in the reduction of illegal fishing will be created.

a) Senegal

The Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources Project: Establishment and management of Marine protected Areas (MPAs) for sustainable management of fisheries resources.

b) Liberia

Already Liberia has demonstrated that through review of the legal framework that locked out foreign fishing vessels followed by enforcement, the fishery has started to recover and local fishers are reportedly starting to harvest bigger fish.

c) Sierra Leone

The project has supported fisheries policy and legal reforms to ensure clear guidance, goals and implementation strategies that are consistent with international best practice. The country has thus developed a Fisheries Policy, new draft Fisheries Regulations and created clear functional units such as the Policy and Planning Unit; Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Unit; and the Commercial Fisheries Unit. They have also used new Regulations to ban pair trawling and the use of monofilament netting materials for fishing purposes and this has led to an increase in fish stock levels. Revenue from the sector is also increasing.

What are the lessons and how can countries improve on the development of PCNs and the Project Development Process

One

It is paramount for countries that are interested in developing PCN and projects under the SPFIF source for co-finances before commencing the process.

TWO

All project should be managed through an established National and regional Coordination Unit.

THREE

Establishment of working groups dedicated to the development and implementation of the project to create a driving force of dedicated

manpower that are accountable to the progress and success of the project is critical.

FOUR

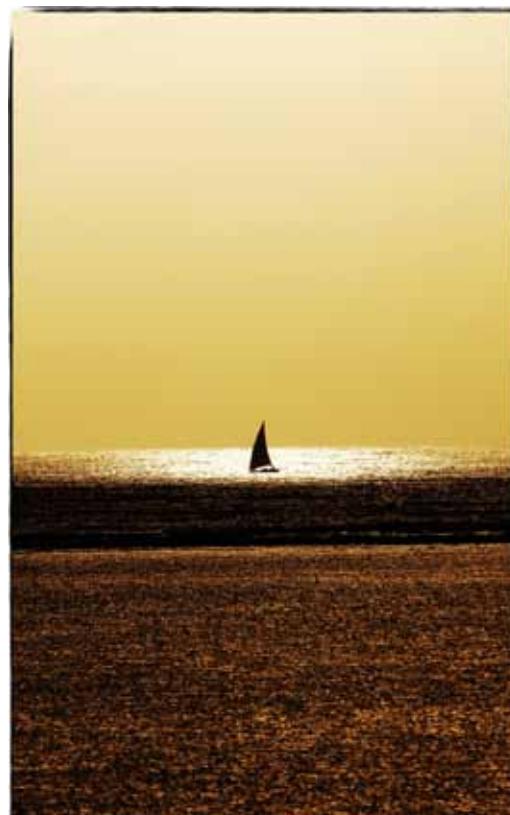
There is need to develop a mechanism to shorten the PCN process during the implementation of the second tranche of the GEF partnership fund to expedite development approval and implementation of the projects.

FIVE

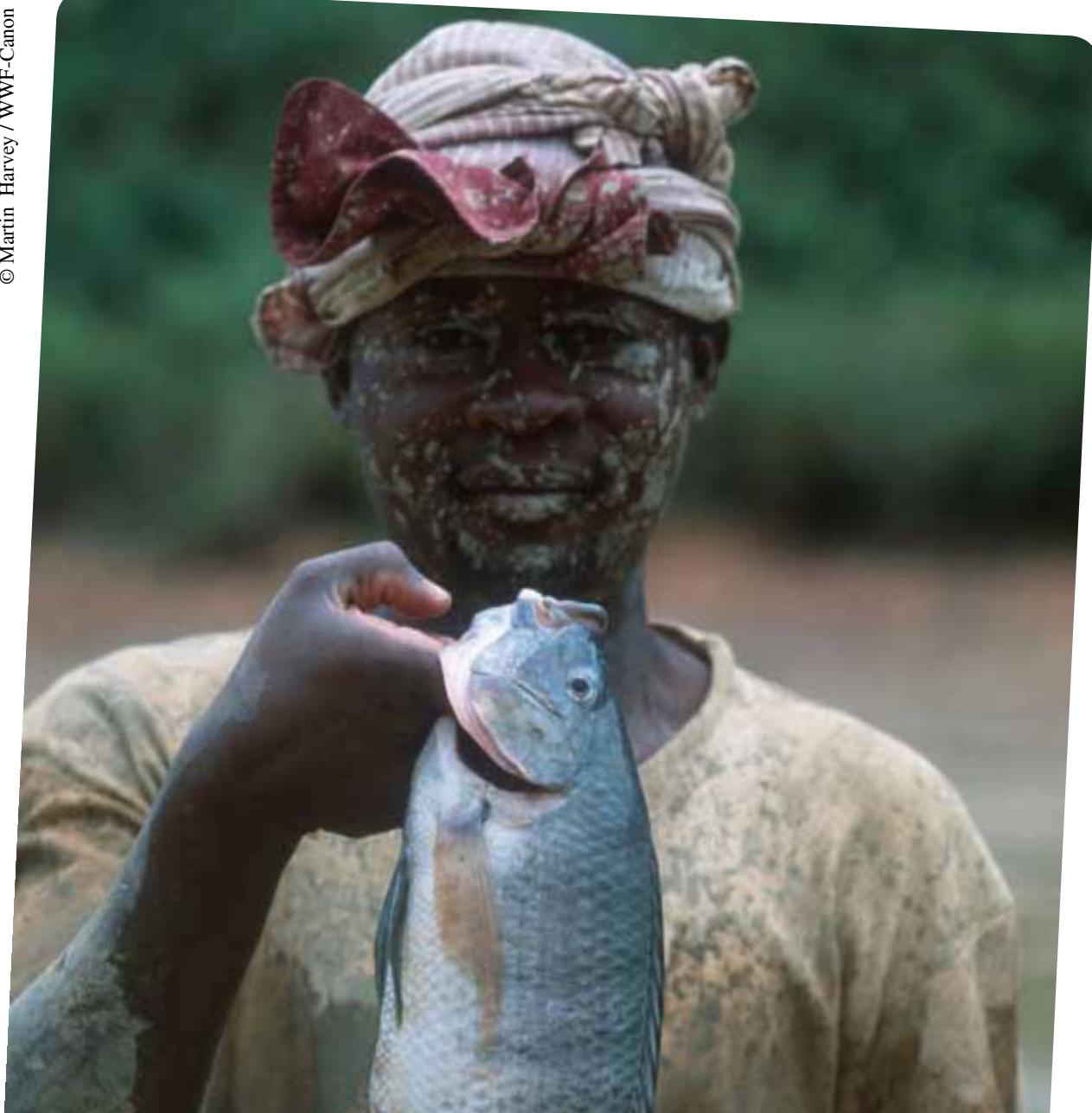
Countries should ensure all staff working on the projects receives the necessary capacity building on Procurement and Accounting systems required by partners and the World Bank to ensure accurate and efficient delivery of services.

SIX

PCN must adhere to the stipulated guidelines of ensuring the concept is in line with country, regional and international strategies and should endeavour to create linkages, synergies and partnership with ongoing projects LMEs in the region.



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The Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF)

Vision

A region that sustainably manages its marine resources
for socio-economic benefits.

Mission

To promote and facilitate sustainable fisheries management in the Large Marine Ecosystems of the coastal states of Sub-Saharan Africa to stimulate economic growth and improve livelihood through sound utilization of fisheries resources.

SPFIF Linkages with Key Players

Since the commencement of the SPFIF initiative, the partnership has continued to expand linkages with key players in the development and management of fisheries in Africa. Some of these linkages include the regional fisheries projects and programmes, such as, EAF-NANSEN, SWIOFP, ASCLME, PAF and BCC; Regional Fisheries Bodies such as SWIOFC SRFC, and FCWC; regional fisheries management organization such as IOTC; development partners such as DFID, USAID and SIDA; NGOs and CBOs. Some of these linkages have contributed significantly to the achievement of initiative's expected key results.

EAF-NANSEN Project

Ecosystem Approach To Fisheries - A Management Tool For Sustainable Fisheries Investment

By Dr. Kwame Koranteng, EAF-Nansen Project Coordinator, FAO, Rome

Introduction

At the 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), member States endorsed the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) as the appropriate framework for the management of fisheries. This historic move by COFI followed the declaration made at the 2001 Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem on the need to expand fisheries management objectives to include ecosystem considerations. The WSSD Johannesburg plan of implementation had also called for an ecosystem approach to be implemented by 2010.

This sequence of events had paved the way for a new approach in the management of fishery resources, both marine and inland. However, it also posed a major challenge for fisheries management particularly in developing countries. Recognising this problem, FAO sought financial support from its traditional donors to put in place projects aimed at building the capacity of its member States,

especially those in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Latin America to be able to face this challenge. Among these is the EAF-Nansen project which has initial focus on building EAF capacity in Africa. The SPFIF RAC (Regional Advisory Committee) is collaborating with the project in this effort.

What is EAF and why adopt it?

According to FAO, "the main purpose of EAF is to plan, develop and manage fisheries in a manner that addresses the multiple needs and desires of societies, without jeopardizing the options for future generations to benefit from the full range of goods and services provided by marine ecosystems". The ecological reality of life in the oceans in which "no fish is an island" because it is part of a complex system has been known to scientists for quite some time. Marine ecologists no longer talk about food chains but food webs. Every stock of fish impacts on others and is impacted upon by others. Similarly, the social, economic and political realities of natural resources use clearly demonstrate that fishing is no longer the "fisherman's business alone" but is part of general preoccupation of society. These realities call for new management approaches that take into consideration the ecological assets, the social and economic consequences of their use and the ability of society, especially governments to regulate the use.

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity "the objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choices" (CBD Principle 1 on Ecosystem Approach) and that in the management of these ecological assets the ecosystem approach should be used and should consider all forms of relevant information, including scientific and indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices. The CBD Principle 12 on ecosystem approach also requires all relevant sectors of society and

scientific disciplines to be involved in decision-making concerning the resources.

Ecosystem approach to natural resource use is, however, not a new concept and its connotations may be found in the Law of the Sea Convention (LOS, also often referred to as UNCLOS) of 1982. In some circles, North America in particular, EAF is referred to as Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM). Following an FAO Technical Consultation in 2002 the member States adopted EAF as a preferred alternative to EBFM and was subsequently adopted by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

The EAF-Nansen Project, an example of FAO's support to its member States

Presently FAO's support to its members States in Africa on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries is through the EAF-Nansen project "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries". The EAF-Nansen project offers an opportunity for coastal countries in eastern, southern and western Africa to receive support from FAO for the implementation of an ecosystem approach in the management of their marine fisheries. The project assists participating countries to develop national and regional frameworks for EAF, and acquire additional knowledge on their marine ecosystems for use in planning and monitoring. It focuses on:

- Putting in place policies and processes for the sustainable management of fisheries;
- Building the capacity of countries to manage fisheries using an ecosystem approach;
- Undertaking ecosystem assessment and monitoring for the improved management of fisheries;
- Encouraging stakeholder participation in the fisheries management process; and

- Increasing awareness of the benefits of an EAF for sustainable fisheries management.

The project has assisted participating countries to establish and operationalise EAF National Task Groups (NTGs) composed of key stakeholders of the fisheries sectors. The NTG is to assist in implementation of the EAF-Nansen project at the national level including promoting the incorporation and implementation of EAF principles and methodologies in national fisheries management. An EAF Regional Task Group (RTG) has also been established in each of the four operational regions of the EAF-nansen project. The RTG is a forum for learning and exchange of ideas and advice in relation to EAF in a given region.

Through workshops and training courses the EAF-Nansen project is building the capacity of many Africa fisheries managers and scientists to understand the EAF and to effectively ensure that national fisheries management is in line with the approach. The FAO/University of Ghana EAF Course that took place in April 2010 is one such capacity building activity. Scientists, managers, university lecturers from eastern, southern and western Africa attended the three-week course.

The project produces informative communication materials that help to bring the concepts and practice of EAF to a level understandable by all. A flyer produced in English, French and Portuguese gives clear and concise messages on EAF to fishery managers and also to stakeholders. The project also produces a quarterly Newsletter (e-APPROACH) and has a dynamic website www.eaf-nansen.org.

Recent Developments

In the recently held EAF-Nansen Forum in Ghana on 21-23 March 2011, it was observed that the use of EAF for long term fisheries management is not being contextualized and instead the EAF-Nansen was being viewed as a project with a life span. The forum therefore emphasized the need for the most efficient use of resources through coordination of projects and agencies in the application of EAF; and the need to apply EAF to all fisheries management systems for sustainability. In this regard, it was agreed that there was need to build EAF capacity for the regional level institutions to ensure sustainability of the management system.

ASCLME Project

Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem project (ASCLME), a part of the multi-agency GEF supported programme whose aim is to institutionalize a cooperative, adaptive and result-based management of the Western Indian Ocean coastal and marine resources. The geographical coverage of the project includes the maritime countries influenced by the two major currents; the Agulhas and the Somali Currents. This encompasses ten countries, namely; Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Somalia (and France; Reunion and Mayotte, non-funded). The five-year project funded by GEF ends in 2012. It is implemented by UNDP and addresses oceanographic variability; coastal artisanal and subsistence fisheries and other coastal livelihoods, critical habitats, marine pollution and invasive species.

The objectives of the ASCLME Project are to:

- Support the participating countries in the implementation of an ecosystem approach to marine resource management in the long term.
- Build capacity for countries and national institutions to manage their own ecosystem data and

information sustainably and effectively.

- Enable regional assessments, modeling, scenario-building, review and advocacy for policy options especially with regard to climate variability.

Expected Outputs

- Some of the expected outputs of ASCLME include:
 - Production of national policy briefs informing on national policy and governance reforms are required to implement ecosystem approach;
 - Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) aimed at scaling the relative importance of sources and causes of trans-boundary problems at the ecosystem level, and to identify potential preventive and remedial actions;
 - National Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs) an integrated tool to gather comprehensive, updated state of the environment information together, and also develop a diagnostic analysis of threats to the national marine ecosystem; and
 - Strategic Action Programme, a negotiated document on policy, legal, and institutional reforms.
 - Some of the acquired knowledge through the project include:
 1. New and unprecedented oceanographic and fisheries information has been collected
 2. More is now known about the dynamics and ecology of the Mascarene Bank
 3. The South bound Mozambique Channel currents have been elaborated unveiling eddy systems of down-welling and upwelling and interesting patterns of productivity.
 4. The system of sea mounts in the southern Indian Ocean has been investigated and has generated a wealth of information on the biodiversity of these habitats.
 5. Deployment of oceanographic instrumentation such as the Argo Float Drifters and ATLAS Moorings for continuous oceanographic data collection

SPFIF and EAF NANSEN

The Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund in Africa (SPFIF) "aims to promote sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) of Africa in order to assist coastal countries to make concrete progress towards achieving sustainable fisheries". It is obvious that the SPFIF and the EAF-Nansen project have a common objective and that is sustainability of fisheries. However, whereas SPFIF preaches the message of "creating wealth through sustainable fisheries" the EAF-Nansen project promotes collective decision making among all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the resources stay healthy to continue generating wealth. These are not conflicting but complementary messages. The operational areas of the two projects are also completely overlapping. As a member of the Strategic Partnership, FAO assists potential receivers of funding from the SPFIF to prepare good concept notes that can be developed into project documents. In its support, FAO puts its experience at the disposal of countries in the initiative. FAO ensures that the projects benefit from current thoughts and processes in fisheries. One such contemporary issue in fisheries is the EAF. It is expected that the expertise of the EAF National Task Groups will be used in the preparation of the project concept notes and the subsequent project document. This collaboration will ensure that the ecosystem approach to fisheries is taken on board in the fisheries management components of potential projects. This will not only make the project sellable but relevant, modern and acceptable by all stakeholders. The RAC Secretariat and the EAF-Nansen project coordination unit have established a collaboration mechanism which includes participating in selected events (steering committee meet-

ings, training, etc) of each project. The ecosystem approach to fisheries has been endorsed by FAO's Committee on Fisheries as the appropriate framework for the management of fisheries and all FAO member countries are making efforts to manage their fisheries in line with the approach. The EAF-Nansen project of FAO is building the capacity of African fisheries scientists and managers to include EAF in their marine fisheries management strategies. It is also working in partnership with some African academic institutions to introduce EAF in university curricula. The partnership between the project and the Strategic Partnership for a Fisheries Investment Fund in Africa will ensure that projects that are formulated for funding under the partnership will include ecosystem considerations in the management components and will also go a long way to ensure that African countries meet the WSSD target of implementing the ecosystem approach in the management of fisheries.

SPFIF and ASCLME Project

The SPFIF initiative seeks to promote the sustainable management of resources in the large marine ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa. The Collaboration with ASCLME and SPFIF seeks to raise awareness on recent developments in the region and proven approaches to management for sustainable fisheries, the state of regional fisheries and ecosystems and creating dialogue between stakeholders that will influence policies, programs and laws that will govern conservation and sustainable management of fisheries resources.

The ASCLME has been instrumental in identifying the areas of interventions for the countries that have expressed interest to access the partnership fund in their region. They have worked with the countries (Comoros and Mozambique) and FAO to initiate the PCN development targeting the second tranche of the GEF Fund.



© Meg Gawler / WWF-Canada

Fish market in Dar es Salaam Tanzania.

ACP Fisheries Ministers Adopt Action Plan

The second meeting of the fisheries ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, which took place in Mahe, Seychelles, in November 2010, adopted a resolution addressing climate change and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, among other issues.

In the resolution, ACP fisheries ministers: recognize the growing importance of aquaculture in meeting the increased world demand for fish protein in an environment of depleted fisheries resources resulting from overfishing, climate change, pollution and habitat destruction; express concern over the threat and current impacts of climate change on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and recognize that the identification and implementation of appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures will represent a high cost for vulnerable States. Ministers appealed to the ACP States to take steps to further integrate fisheries and oceans into the national and international climate change agendas to secure space for fisheries and oceans in financial instruments that support adaptation and mitigation, including in the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Special Climate Change Fund, and the Adaptation Funds. Ministers also urgently requested the international community to agree at the Cancun Climate Change Conference to a package of immediate and concrete action to assist ACP States, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change crises.

Ministers further requested that, in view of their special circumstances, ACP States benefit from a special and preferential treatment in respect of the overall prohibition of fisheries subsidies. They urged: ACP States to pool their technical and financial resources together to better combat IUU fishing; the international community to support financially and technically, through specific programmes, the efforts made at the national and regional levels to prevent, counteract and eradicate IUU fishing; and support international measures for combating IUU fishing such as the listing of IUU vessels by the EU and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), as well as the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The ACP fisheries ministers further agreed to a five-year strategic plan of action, expressing commitment to a more pro-active approach for the preservation of aquatic biodiversity and the economic value of the fisheries sector. They agreed to devise fisheries management plans and use relevant assessment tools for evaluating the efficiency of (ACP and foreign) fishing fleets.

African Women in Fisheries Network Launched

In December 2010, the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO), an inter-governmental fisheries cooperation organization, called for the establishment of a network of women in the fisheries sector. In a two days meeting in Saly (Portudal), about 70 participants, institutional representatives of 22 member states as well as women working in the fisheries sector, laid the foundation of the network.

ATLAFCO Executive Secretary Hachim El Ayoubi emphasized the scope of the initiative, which confirms the important role of women in fishing activities in the Atlantic area extending from the Moroccan Atlantic coast to Africa South. These African coasts are among the world's richest fishing grounds. M. El Ayoubi said the great challenge facing ATLAFCO will be to strengthen cooperation for a synergy of actions toward achieving sustainable development and enhancing the well-being of the organisation's member states. Furthermore, the network of women is now a concrete realisation of the will to structure and contribute in addressing the challenges facing the access of ATLAFCO member states to foreign markets and improving the quality of products.

Representatives of women in the fisheries sector intimated that while they do not go to sea to fish, they hold capital and invest in the fishing tool, and are also present from the beginning to the end of the value chain of fishery products. It is therefore necessary to support them to fully play their role and contribute in development policies at regional level, they insisted. The meetings come in a context of redefining fisheries governance in Africa to make it a strategic sector of African economies. The network will be the way in Africa to enable women in the fishery sector to be well structured and hold their visible role in ATLAFCO by making a greater contribution to implementing policies, especially with regard to fisheries management and post-harvest activities. This will help restore the place due to women in fisheries cooperation in Africa, and ensure their mainstreaming into the regional approach to development policies.

During the opening ceremony, Senegalese Minister of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Maritime Transportation Khouraichi Thiam said women working in the fisheries sector can play a key role in Africa's economic and social integration, urging them to tear down among the different regional countries. "We must reach a situation in which

a Senegalese or a Malian national coming to Dakar for fish is able to sell to Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Guinea and Nigeria and vice versa", M. Thiam suggested. "Barriers among the various African countries must be broken by women. They are organized, they are great fighters when they resolve to fight and they will enable us at the UEMOA and ECOWAS levels, as well as in the 22 COMHAFAT member countries, to reach this aim," Mr. Thiam concluded.

Source: ATLAFCO website, <http://www.comhafat.org/>

Fishing Earnings Set to Increase in Kenya.

Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities by foreign vessels have been cited as a major challenge in addressing growth of the fisheries sector in Kenya. At the Kenyan Coast foreign vessels reportedly come for highly priced prawns, tuna among other popular fish. The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute Director, Dr. Johnson Kazungu says 'Illegal fishing by foreign vessels has been a major challenge to the country' He noted that Kenyan fishermen are confined to waters near the shores of the Indian Ocean due to lack of appropriate vessels to venture into the deep seas. In an interview with the Kenya's EA standard in December 2010, Dr. Kazungu, noted that these and more fisheries activities are set to develop once a Ksh. 3 Billion (USD 37 Million) Kenya Coastal Developmental Project kicks off in January 2011. Experts say fish landing at the Kenyan coast could grow from the current 7,000 metric tonnes a year to more than 160,000 metric tonnes. Similarly, fishing earning are expected to grow from Ksh. 620 Million annually to Ksh. 12 Billion annually.

However, the Government of Kenya, under the new guidelines of new National Oceans and Fisheries Policy and the Kenya Coastal Development Project, the will establish a people friendly monitoring, patrol and surveillance unit to protect fish stocks in Kenya's exclusive economic zone measuring up to 350 nautical miles. The 'planned sea patrols and increased surveillance will ease the situation' Dr. Kazungu added. The Kenya Coastal Development Project (KCDP) is the implementing arm of this project of the Government of Kenya. The funds are a joint initiative of the World Bank and leveraging funds from Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Fund. This is through the Partnership Investment Fund that will encourage country-level investments' in better fisheries management GEF has availed this Investment fund of USD 60 million for country-level and regional projects to eligible countries that meet the set criteria and can leverage the Fund at the ratio USD 1:3 (GEF:Country). The leveraging

fund can be derived from an existing planned project that will meet the criteria or from World Bank.

Source EA Standard Newspaper

CONTINUED FROM PG. 14

Indian Ocean Tuna allocation quota

- The compliance record/status,
- Incentives for compliance with IOTC conservation and management measures.

Some CPCs, including some coastal states IOTC Members, indicated that some of the elements included in the coastal states statement would be acceptable. However, they expressed their clear disagreement on others such as the catch by area by DWFN; EEZ catch attributes to flag states and coastal states; and high seas catch attributes to DWFN and Coastal states. The Technical Committee agreed that while it would be desirable to have an agreed allocation procedure for 2012, the complexity of the issue might preclude such an agreement being reached before then.

The full report is available on the IOTC and SPFIF website



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Local fisherman in out in his boat, Kiunga Marine National Reserve

Fishing Access Agreements and Local Fish Industry

Unfair Fishing Agreements hinder Africa's Fisheries.

Fisheries Partnership Agreements between developed and developing countries have been accused of contributing to overfishing and helping the rich to steal from the poor. For centuries, fishers have traveled to remote waters in pursuit of their livelihoods. As early as 1575, vessels from Europe were fishing for cod in the waters of the New World, off Newfoundland in present-day Canada. In the 1970s, many coastal countries established offshore 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) - in part to protect their fisheries. This meant that foreign vessels then had to negotiate with the country concerned to obtain legal access to their waters for those countries that claimed their EEZs.

Economically developed countries, or trading blocs like the European Union, still negotiate Fisheries Partnership Agreements with the countries where their fleets want to fish. Spain, for example, had such agreements with 18 countries in 2004, 16 of which were developing countries - as far apart as Cape Verde in the Atlantic Ocean and Kiribati in the Western Pacific Ocean. Under these deals, the recipient government is paid a lump sum to allow foreign boats to fish in their waters. Fisheries Partnership Agreements with developing countries can, if properly designed, provide well-needed foreign exchange and contribute to sustainable development. However, these deals have been widely criticized for contributing to overfishing, threatening the food security of developing countries, and preventing the development of local fishing industries. Developed countries have also been accused of paying minimum fees for rich fishing grounds and paying little attention to illegal fishing by their fleets in distant waters. Although access agreements with foreign countries bring much needed income; they also put unsustainable pressures on limited fish

stocks, leading to conflicts between local and foreign fleets. This is further exacerbated by recent improvements in fishing gear that increase fishing efficiency, but also increase fishing pressures. The result is a vicious cycle. More pressure means fewer fish, which in turn drives the need to develop ever-more effective gear, which further threatens stocks.

A critical local fish industry

West Africa Fisheries in the West African Marine Eco-region (WAMER) generate some US\$400 million annually, making them the single most important source of foreign exchange in the region and a key source of revenue for economic and social development. Nearly 8 million people live along the West African coast and in Senegal alone, a country of 12 million, the jobs of over 600,000 men and women depend directly on fishing and fisheries related industries. The profile of the WAMER nations' fishing fleets differs dramatically. In Mauritania, for example, where landings top 600,000 tons annually, foreign industrial fishing fleets catch about 80% of the fish while the smaller scale, artisanal sector catches around 20%. African countries are not always aware how much their fish resources are really worth. Moreover, the EU often demands fishing rights in return for development aid. This is the case with Mauritania, which has the largest EU fishing agreement with the EU worth over half a billion dollars. The opposite holds true in Senegal, where the artisanal fishers land 80% of that country's yearly 400,000 tonne catch. In addition to domestic industrial and artisanal fishing fleets, many foreign powers - in particular the EU, Japan, and China - have negotiated important fisheries agreements to allow their boats access to waters of WAMER countries. Unfortunately, given the serious

economic constraints facing the developing countries of this eco-region and a lack of alternatives, many countries find themselves caught between the development needs of their people and the need to ensure the integrity of their natural resources.

Impacts of destructive fishing methods

With more and more boats searching for fewer and fewer fish, there has been a dramatic increase in the use of destructive gears and habitat-destroying fishing techniques like dynamite, bottom trawling, and beach seining. The increased fishing pressure has also led to increased capture of endangered marine turtles, juvenile fish, and a massive expansion of the trade in shark and ray fins. The latter is particularly destructive as sharks and rays are at the top of the marine food chain - the lions and leopards of the sea - and stabilize whole marine communities. They reproduce very slowly and have already disappeared from some areas and are seriously depleted in others. This is compounded by pirate fishing, which is currently on the rise. As the amount of available fish goes down, the frequency and severity of conflicts between users go up, leading to serious social as well as economic and ecological problems, which the governments and artisanal fishers' groups are unable to cope with. Surveillance patrols, ecological monitoring, or measures to address pollution from both land and sea have only limited success because they are costly and for the region's cash-strapped institutions do not have adequate resources for these activities. There is therefore need for other complementary and innovative approaches to deal with this problem.

Source:www.panda.org

Rules of Origin in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), EU-ACP.

The origin of fish caught in ACP EEZ remains an issue. Rules of Origin (RoO) are the criteria that determine whether a product can be deemed to come from a particular country for trade purposes. This matters since duties and restrictions will often vary depending on the source of imports. All governments require goods to have been “substantially transformed” in the country in question, however, additional criteria vary from country to country and include things like: percentage of value added, a specified processing operation, or whether the tariff classification changed. RoO will determine whether imported products receive most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment or superior terms of access under bilateral, regional, or preferential arrangements. In a globalizing world it has become even more important that a degree of harmonization is achieved in WTO Members’ practices. RoO form an integral part of preferential trade arrangements. Various methodologies are utilized by the EU-ACP RoO regime to determine substantial transformation in the exporting country, and most of the product-specific rules underlying EU-ACP trade relations have remained relatively unchanged over the past few decades beginning with Lomé 1. With the expiration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) waiver underlying the previous preferential trade regime, negotiations towards a reciprocal agreement reached an important milestone at the end of 2007 when the Cotonou Agreement expired, and new arrangements were put in place for some African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Since no comprehensive RoO negotiations between the European Union (EU) and ACP countries took place prior to the expiration of the Cotonou Agreement, a slightly revised set of rules were included in interim provisions drawn up by the EU. Market access through a special Council Regulation paved the way for a continuation of non-reciprocal preferences for ACP exporters to the EU until such time that Interim Economic Partnership Agreements (IEPAs) were implemented. From the perspective of ACP countries, this means that different trade regimes with the EU are currently in force: for countries that agreed on an IEPA, export goods may enter the EU under the interim market access provisions, which contain some revised RoO. For countries that failed to conclude an IEPA, preferential market access has reverted to the provisions of the EU’s Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)—or Everything but Arms (EBA) initiative—containing less favourable RoO than even under the Cotonou Agreement. The most important changes to the EU RoO for ACP countries concern the

treatment of textiles and clothing, as well as fish. Both of these sectors are of great importance to the ACP countries.

A paper published by ICTSD provides an analysis of different Rules of Origin that currently apply to trade between the EU and the ACP countries in several sectors, including fisheries. In the treatment of fish products, the new rules of origin are less restrictive than was the case under the Cotonou Agreement: a simplification of ownership and crew requirements linked to the vessel used to harvest fish means that some additional flexibility has been extended to ACP exporters. A far more fundamental change to the rules has been agreed with the Pacific Group, where countries that initialled an Interim EPA can now source fish from other regions and still qualify for preferential market access provided that the fish are landed and processed locally. This has long been sought by many ACP countries.

Indeed, many ACP countries contend that fish caught within their EEZs - over which coastal states have sovereign and jurisdictional rights - should be considered of local origin without some of the current restrictions in place regarding a vessel’s flag and ownership.

The paper highlights that this issue, involving fish caught within a country’s EEZ, has remained particularly contentious during the RoO negotiations. The issue became a stumbling block during the IEPA negotiations, particularly for the Pacific countries, and eventually resulted in special provisions for that group. Another country, Namibia, had a special Declaration concerning its position on the EEZ added to the IEPA text: “Namibia reaffirm the point of view it expressed throughout the negotiations on the rules of origin in respect of fishery products and consequently maintain that following the exercise of their sovereign rights over fishery resources in the waters within their national jurisdiction, including the exclusive economic zone, as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, all catches effected in those waters and obligatory landed in ports of Namibia for processing should enjoy originating status....”. Namibia is not alone in formally noting its views with respect to the EEZ and the originating status of fish caught within this zone.

Sources

Rules of Origin in EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), 2010

http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/09/naumann_web_final_opt.pdf

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

18 th -22 nd April	Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture.	Shanghai, China.
10 th -12 th May	Stakeholder consultation meeting of the Implementation of the FAO strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture.	Midrand, South Africa.
17 th -19 th May	MSC Developing World Working Group and Stakeholders Council meeting.	London, UK.
June 2011	Screening of 'End of the Line' Feature film.	Nairobi, Kenya.
August 2011	Rights Based Fisheries Management Workshop.	Nairobi, Kenya.
1 st -6 th October	World Seafood Congress 2011	Washington, DC, USA
Nov-Dec 2011	17th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17).	Durban, South Africa.

Past Events

21 st -25 th March 2011	EAF -NANSEN Partners' meeting.	Accra, Ghana.
13 th -16 th March 2011	SWIOFC 5TH Session.	Male, Maldives.
12 th March 2011	SWIOFP Regional and Policy Steering Committee 1st Special Session.	Male, Maldives.
18 th -22 nd March	IOTC 15th Session.	Colombo, Sri Lanka.
21 st -24 th February	Workshop on EAF Implementation SWIOFC Area.	Male, Maldives.
16 th - 18 th February 2011	IOTC Tuna Allocation Criteria Technical Committee meeting.	Pretoria, South Africa.
15 th February	SWIO Coastal States meeting on Tuna Allocation Criteria.	Nairobi, Kenya.
31 st January-4 th February	29th Session of Committee on Fisheries	Nairobi, Kenya.

For more on the SPFIF Project, please log onto www.spfif.org for more stories and follow our blog.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF) website. The header features the SPFIF logo and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes Home, About, Strategic and Technical, Resources, News & events, Partners, Blogs, and Contact Us. Below the menu, there's a large image of a fisherman pulling a net. The left sidebar has a 'Welcome to SPFIF' section in French and English, and a 'Bienvenue' section in French. The central content area has three main boxes: 'Latest News' (EAC set for fisheries cash boost after Namibian tour), 'Latest downloads' (Tuna allocation IOTC report, End of Year Message - 2010, Rapport de la deuxième réunion consultative (French version)), and 'Latest Blog' (The African Fisheries: Our Fish, Our Wealth, Our Future). The footer contains a 'Read more...' link.



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Front page
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RAC Secretariat

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