



CONTRIBUTION OF THE AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF ARTISANAL FISHING ORGANISATIONS

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EVALUATION OF THE FISHERIES IN THE ECOWAS REGION

CONSULTATION AU-IBAR

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1. / 2 What are the main strategic issues for capture fisheries and aquaculture in the region? What are the main challenges and opportunities for these sectors?

- a. **Maintaining coastal communities livelihoods and Food security**, and improving the contribution that artisanal fisheries can make to it, is a strategic issue for the region.

There are two aspects to consider in this context:

- The first is the issue of **access to resources** that are the basis for our food security and livelihoods, the interactions/conflicts between the fleets (artisanal and industrial) and policies for access allocation which should protect small scale fisheries access rights to these resources on which they depend for their livelihoods, against privatisation of access to resources processes.

- The second aspect concerns **issues of trade** of these resources (tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional trade in artisanal products; recognition of the role of women for supplying the different markets, competition or complementarity between local/regional trade and international trade, use of (eco) labels to promote products of artisanal fishing, etc.).

- b. **Fisheries co-management and concerted management of the coastal area**

Although there are many statements by our governments that they want to put in place sustainable fisheries, they have often no concrete fisheries management plans, developed and implemented in a participatory way (co-management), which can help maintain a sustainable artisanal fishing activity and sustain livelihoods for our communities. The role of MPAs is also to be considered in this context. Strategies and policies should also be developed to enable artisanal fisheries, which currently target mainly coastal resources, often overfished, to develop offshore artisanal fisheries, for example for tuna species, so that our countries can derive more benefits from offshore fisheries.

On the other hand, the coastal zones of our countries are increasingly occupied by other activities like fishing, tourism, industrial developments, oil exploration, etc, that push fishermen and women fish processors out of their traditional working and living areas. To address this, there must be concerted coastal zone management, where artisanal fisheries sector is fully recognised and involved.

c. Transparency in the policies of access to resources and development assistance programs

The lack of transparency in African fisheries policies, including in the allocation of licenses, leads to overexploitation of resources, detrimental to our coastal communities. Transparency in this regard must become the rule and must be the basis for an informed participation of the stakeholders, in particular artisanal fishing communities. Greater transparency is also an important tool in the fight against IUU fishing, which is thriving when the opacity and corruption reign.

On the other hand, there are many aid projects and funds targeting the sector, particularly the artisanal fisheries (by NGOs, the World Bank, the EU, etc). So far, there are not many tangible results for our communities. Transparency also needs to be improved for these programmes and projects, as a basis for the participation of beneficiaries, - the coastal communities-, in the definition, implementation and evaluation of these projects and programmes.

d. Aquaculture

Policies must be put in place to develop small scale aquaculture, based on non-carnivorous species (i.e. which do not depend on wild fish stocks to produce their food), and with the clear objective of enhancing the food security of African populations.

3. What analysis do you make of the current human and institutional capacities in the region?

A big problem is the lack of synergy between the different institutions, which often work each in their corner, repeating what others are doing. There is a need for a better coordination between these institutions, which should result in an improvement of the capacities.

There are also sometimes problems in the mandate given to the institutions. For the management of shared stocks, like sardinella, no regional institution today has a mandate to manage these stocks (including the access to these stocks) at regional level – this should be a priority.

There is also a real lack of capacity at the level of the fisheries research (lack of staff, little valued status for the researchers, no dialogue between fishermen and researchers). Participatory research could improve the quality of data and scientific advice. Similarly, participative surveillance should be encouraged, to better combat IUU fishing (including trawlers incursions) in the coastal zone.

4 What are the strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities for the sectors, namely marine fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture (marine and freshwater) in the region?

We can only respond about maritime fishing. The strengths of the West African artisanal sector correspond broadly to the table presented by scientists a few years ago. (See end of document).

Weaknesses are the lack of policies for supporting the sector (access to basic infrastructures and services, education, priority and protected access to fish resources and to the coastal zone for small scale communities, etc). This is due to the marginalization of the sector and the lack of recognition of its potential role as an engine of sustainable development. The CAOPA, which is composed only of professional artisanal fisheries organisations, wants to provide a response to this issue, by making the voice of the professionals heard, for better consideration of artisanal fisheries at political level.

5 What analysis do you make of the level of the existing cooperation between the regional economic communities and regional fisheries organisations in the region and what can be proposed for strengthening cooperation and collaboration?

See response to question 3. A difficulty also, is that the Member countries of the regional economic communities are not always the same than in the regional fisheries organisations, which requires further reflection on how best to organize the synergies and collaboration.

It is also important to consider the major ecosystems of West African, as a basis for developing a regional management on these ecosystems.

6 What are the main stakeholders, and what is the extent of their participation and inclusiveness in the fisheries management process?

Artisanal fisheries professionals must be recognized as primary stakeholder by decision makers. Mechanisms must be put in place to have a real dialogue with the participation of all professionals. Civil society is also an essential interlocutor for the management of fisheries. But it must always be taken into account that there is a difference between those whose livelihoods depend on fishing (professionals, men and women) and those who do not (NGOs, etc). In that context, and even if they are often not organised, better attention should be given to consumers in our countries, as they also depend on fisheries for their lives.

The media, like the REJOPRAO (West African journalists network for sustainable fisheries), also have an important role to play so that there is a real public debate with citizens, about the choices of fisheries development models for our countries, and the place to be given to sustainable small scale fisheries.

7 What assessment have you about the level of acceptance or ratification and use of the Code of conduct of the FAO for responsible fishing and other relevant documents (guidelines, international action plans etc.) in the region or the country?









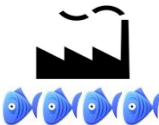









The level of implementation is low, because they are non-binding tools and also civil society and stakeholders are not always aware on the importance of the Code. We believe that there is an opportunity today for the African Union and the countries of West Africa with the development of international guidelines for sustainable small scale fisheries, because this inclusive process will strengthen the Code, both in terms of content and implementation.

8. What are the cross border issues in the management of fisheries and the environment in the region?

Many artisanal fisheries are cross-border, and sometimes this causes conflicts. Tools should be put in place to better manage these transboundary fisheries and prevent/manage conflicts. The CAOPA for example proposes the establishment of joint committees of professional from the countries considered, following the example of the joint artisanal professionals committee between Mauritania and Senegal.

As mentioned above, there is also the question of shared resources, like small pelagics, which must imperatively be managed (including in terms of allocation of access) at the appropriate regional level.

Efficiency in Marine Fisheries: Industrial and Small Scale Fisheries Compared¹

	Industrial	Artisanal/Small-Scale
Number of fishers and fishworkers employed in marine fisheries	 9 million	 52 million
Annual marine fish catch	 56 millions de tonnes	 34 millions de tonnes
Percentage of marine catch used for local human consumption	 56 %	 77 %
Capital costs of each job on fishing vessels	 US\$30,000 – \$300,000	 US\$250 – \$2,500
Annual marine catch destined for reduction to fishmeal and oil, and non food products	 Around 22 millions de tonnes	 Little
Annual fuel consumption	 14 – 19 million tonnes	 1 – 3 million tonnes
Quantity of fish caught per tonne of fuel used	 2 – 5 tonnes	 10 – 20 tonnes
Fishers employed for each US\$ 1 million invested in fishing vessels	 5 – 30	 500 – 4,000
Discard rate	 13 %	 3 %

¹ After Thomson, D. Conflict within the fishing industry ICLARM Newsletter 3(3) 3-4 1980 ; The Hidden Harvests (World Bank/FAO/World Fish Center 2010)