Fisheries and aquaculture are growing in most of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). However, growth has been slow and benefits do not always reach communities who rely on them for their livelihoods and food security. In addition, poor fisheries and aquaculture practices can put stress on the environments in which they operate.

FISH4ACP is a five-year programme led by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) that aims to tackle some of the underlying challenges to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. These include low economic performance, limited market access and poor social and environmental sustainability.

The programme, implemented by FAO with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is focused on enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of fisheries and aquaculture value chains, while ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

FISH4ACP will work with twelve value chains in twelve ACP countries to maximise economic returns and social benefits, while minimising detrimental effects on natural habitats and aquatic resources. It will pay special attention to small and medium-sized businesses, because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly those for women and youth.

12 value chains in 12 ACP countries

Africa
- Cameroon - shrimp
- Côte d’Ivoire - farmed tilapia
- Gambia - oyster
- Nigeria - farmed catfish
- São Tomé and Príncipe - pelagics
- Senegal - oyster
- Tanzania - Lake Tanganyika sprat, sardine and lates
- Zambia - small lake pelagics
- Zimbabwe - farmed tilapia

Caribbean
- Dominican Republic - mahi-mahi
- Guyana - Atlantic seabob

Pacific
- Marshall Islands - tuna
FISH4ACP is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) contributing to food and nutrition security, economic prosperity and job creation. FISH4ACP is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Contact
FISH4ACP@fao.org

Captured fishery production in ACP countries nearly doubled from 4.6 million tonnes in 1990 to 8.5 million tonnes in 2016.

Aquaculture production in ACP countries jumped from 50,000 tonnes in 1990 to 790,000 in 2016, but still represents less than 1% of global production.

In 12 ACP island states, fish exports accounted for more than half the value of all food merchandise exports in 2016.

The EU is a key market for ACP fish products. In 2016, exports to the EU accounted 50% of exports from Africa, 15% from the Caribbean and 50% from the Pacific.