



CONTRIBUTION OF  
**FISHERIES**  
TO **NATIONAL**  
**ECONOMIES**  
IN WEST AND CENTRAL  
**AFRICA**

POLICIES TO INCREASE THE WEALTH GENERATED BY SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES



# **CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES TO NATIONAL ECONOMIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

**The aim of this policy brief is to:**

**Highlight the important role of the fisheries sector,  
and of small-scale fisheries in particular,  
in the economic and social development  
of West and Central Africa**

**Stimulate the commitment of national policy  
decision-makers and their development partners to  
include small-scale fisheries in development policies**

**Propose strategies that could increase the  
contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty  
reduction and food security in the region**

## CONNECTING FISHERIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The fishery sector plays multiple roles in the economies of West and Central African countries, some of which are not well documented by national statistical systems. Nevertheless, these contributions are important for achieving food security and poverty reduction – two essential elements of global development strategies as expressed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This focus on poverty reduction has been reflected in the programmes of multilateral financial institutions, most notably the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Since 1999, these organizations have made concessional lending, and subsequently eligibility to the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative, conditional upon countries submitting Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

PRSPs – which should evolve from a highly participatory and transparent consultation process – prescribe a combination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies consistent with poverty-reducing outcomes at national level. They are instrumental in strengthening donor coordination around the national policy priorities identified. It is therefore vital that the actual and potential contribution of fisheries to national economies be properly recognized in order that the sector be integrated into these poverty reduction strategies. In November 2005, of the 59 countries which completed either a full or interim PRSP, the majority (30) were from sub-Saharan Africa.

With recent projections suggesting that over 60 percent of the poor will still be in rural areas by 2025, the current focus is aimed at dealing with rural poverty. Yet, while evidence indicates that the fisheries sector can contribute to improved livelihoods and the achievement of food security in many developing countries, the sector has often been neglected in national poverty reduction strategies.

### CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES TO MDGs IN AFRICA

<b>GOAL 1</b>	<b>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<b>Income to 10 million poor households through fish capture, processing, trade and allied industries</b> <b>Food security for 200 million poor, strengthened through affordable, high quality food</b>
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>Achieve universal primary education</b>	<b>Indirect benefits through increased income for women and improved health of children</b>
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<b>Women strongly engaged in artisanal processing and trade, gaining income and power</b>
<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>Reduce child mortality</b>	<b>Fish nutrients (such as fatty acids) improve neural development in the foetus and lower the risk of low birth weight, key factors in child mortality</b> <b>Child nutrition improved through supply of protein and minerals</b>
<b>GOAL 5</b>	<b>Improve maternal health</b>	<b>Improved nutritional status of women</b>
<b>GOAL 6</b>	<b>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	<b>Fishing communities are among the hardest hit by HIV/AIDS; progress here is vital for combating the pandemic regionally</b> <b>Affordable proteins and micro-nutrients help mitigate the impacts of disease among the poor and are essential for the effective use of drugs</b> <b>Incomes from fisheries enable the poor to obtain further services</b>
<b>GOAL 7</b>	<b>Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	<b>Good fisheries governance, such as through regulated small-scale fisheries, can contribute to sustainable aquatic resource management and provide lessons for water governance</b>
<b>GOAL 8</b>	<b>Develop a global partnership for development</b>	<b>Fish is a leading export commodity helping African nations to improve their trade balance, and offering opportunities for developed countries to promote and adopt good trading practices</b>

Source: WorldFish Center (2005)

# CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Direct and indirect employment** is an important way in which the fishery sector contributes to national economies. There are an estimated 10 million fishers in sub-Saharan Africa, 7 million of which are from West and Central Africa. These are mainly fishermen, fish processors and fish traders, but other associated jobs should be added to this figure.

The post-harvest subsector provides women with many jobs, playing an essential role in economic and social development. In the Congo, for example, between 80 and 90 percent of the fish traders are women. This has an immense impact on household well-being, particularly the health and education of children.

**Value added** generated by the fisheries sector substantially increases national wealth. However, assessing this contribution in national accounts is generally limited to the primary sector, i.e. the catching or farming of fish through the first sale of fish products.

## VALUE ADDED IS AN IMPORTANT MEASURE IN ESTIMATING GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

**Value added is the net output of a sector after totalling all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs.**

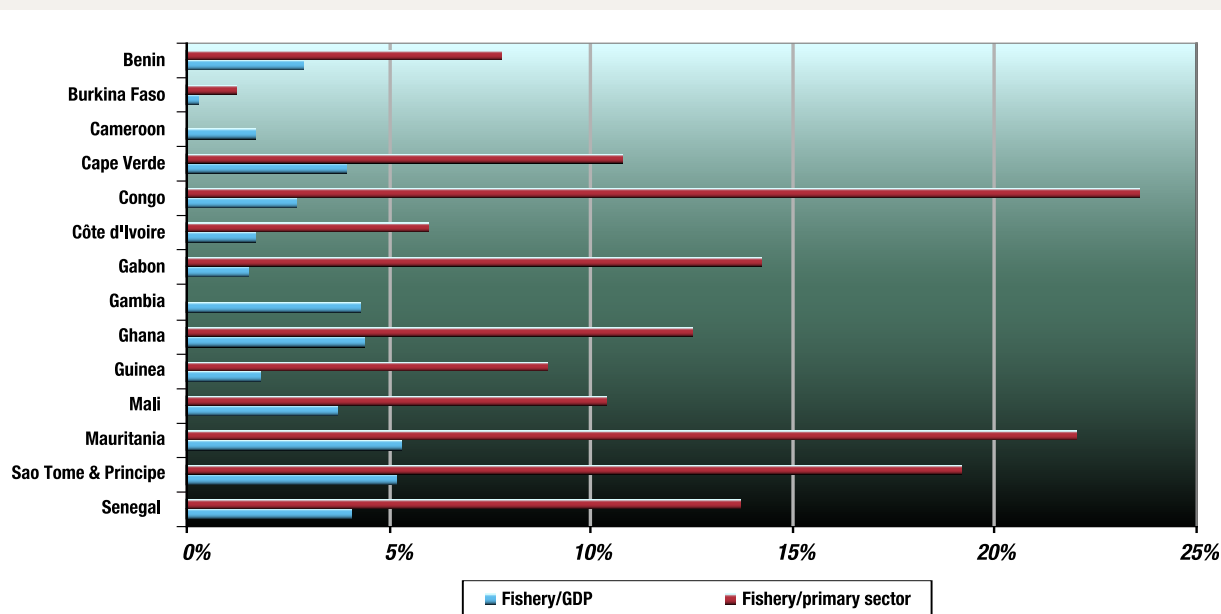
**Gross (or total) value added (GVA) is derived as the sum of the value added in the agriculture, industry and services sectors.**

**The link between GVA and GDP can be defined as:  $GVA + \text{taxes on products} - \text{subsidies on products} = GDP$**

To obtain an accurate estimate of the total value added by a given sector, it is necessary to take into account all activities, including those related to the secondary and tertiary sectors. In the case of fisheries, the secondary sector includes processing activities (drying, salting, smoking, freezing, etc.) and the tertiary are those related to trade (of fresh, processed and imported products) and catering.

Recent surveys in countries participating in the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) show that the value added generated by the fish production subsector represents on average only 60 to 70 percent of the total value generated. The rest (30-40%) is derived from the secondary and tertiary sectors.

## EXAMPLES OF THE FISHERY SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO GDP



Source: SFLP national studies were carried out in 2005 and available on the SFLP Web site at: <http://www.sflp.org>. Data refer to 2003, except for Benin (1999), Gabon (2001), Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Mauritania (2002).

**Fish exports** help national economies enter international markets, particularly in high added value segments (crustaceans, cephalopods, etc.). When the trade balance in fishery products is positive, as in Gabon, Mauritania and Senegal, fisheries is a net provider of currency to the national economy.

Between 2000 and 2003, the difference between fish imports (US\$1.2 billion) and exports (US\$3 billion) in Africa gave an average positive balance of US\$1.8 billion per year – making the continent a net exporter of fish products.

Better information on the transboundary trade of fish products among African countries would likely show even greater volumes than those actually recorded in trade statistics. This is especially the case in inland fisheries for which data are generally poor so that their contribution to exports is often underestimated.

**LAKE CHAD BASIN: AN EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL FISH TRADE**

For 12 months in 2002-2003, the volume of fish traded in the Lake Chad basin (the geographical area that includes: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria) was equivalent to 177 170 tonnes of fresh fish, for a production value at first sale of US\$54 million. Most of the processed fish (dry and smoked) was sent by truck to urban markets in the south of Nigeria through well-organized marketing networks. The commercial value of fisheries in the area of the Lake Chad basin is highest in Nigeria (US\$26 million and 48 percent of the total value), followed by the Niger (US\$15 million and 27 percent), Cameroon (US\$8 million and 15 percent), Chad (US\$15 million and 10 percent) and the Central African Republic (US\$254 000 and 1 percent). Given the difficulties in collecting data on fish trade, these values are likely underestimated.

Source: SFLP (2004)

**Fishing licences and fishery-related taxes** are an important source of income for many countries. These taxes are typically applied on imported fishing inputs, such as fishing gear, engines and fuel, and on fish exports. On average, taxes represent approximately 5 to 10 percent of the value added from fisheries-related activities in the countries of the region.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION UNDER EU FISHING AGREEMENTS**

	Financial contribution (million euros per year)	Targeted actions (%)
Cape Verde	0.7	41%
Côte d'Ivoire	1.1	100%
Gabon	1.3	70%
Guinea	3.4	41%
Guinea Bissau	10.0	6.70%
Mauritania	86.0	5%
Sao Tome & Principe	0.6	40%
Senegal	16.0	18.75%

Source: European Commission (2005)

As well as contributing to funding the costs of fisheries management, these financial resources can be used to ensure the development of basic social infrastructure and services (schools, health centres, etc.) both inside and outside the fishery sector.

Fishing agreements with the European Union provide an average of 120 million euros per year to eight West African countries. The biggest share of this income (72%) is directed to Mauritania. A variable component is allocated to actions promoting resources conservation and sustainable development, which are called “targeted actions”. While in Senegal, the financial contribution received from the fishing agreement represents only 6% of the value of national fish exports, for a very poor country such as Guinea Bissau, the payment is an essential contribution to the National Treasury.



## CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES TO LOCAL ECONOMIES

Both employment and revenue in the fisheries sector create multiplier effects in other sectors of the economy – highlighting fisheries’ importance to national economies as a whole. For example, when the number of fishermen increases or decreases, a “domino effect” occurs. Fish processors and traders are obviously affected but so are boat builders, fuel providers, wood sellers and other less financially rewarding, often temporary and unrecorded, jobs which provide a real “safety net” for the poor. These include unloading fish from a canoe, breaking ice blocks, cleaning, packing and transporting fish. In many places, the catering sector is also very dependent on the good health of the fishery sector. Unlike most rural populations, fisherfolk earn cash on a daily basis. This income is used to purchase goods and services from other sectors of the economy, making fisheries an important engine driving local economic development.



### NUMBER AND TYPE OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AT THE TANJI FISH LANDING SITE, GAMBIA

Socio-professional category	Number		
	Female	Male	Total
Canoe owners	0	54	54
Crew members	0	423	423
Owners of engine + gear (for one type of gear only)	0	27	27
Cured fish processors	225	75	300
Fish smokers	134	156	290
Fresh fish mongers	15	225	240
Fish driers	118	6	124
Fish unloaders	42	0	42
Cured fish traders	15	15	30
Fish transporters (lorry)	0	30	30
Fish transporters (push-push)	0	20	20
Fish transporters (motorcycle)	0	15	15
Fish transporters (bicycle)	0	15	15
Net repairers	0	15	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>1 076</b>	<b>1 625</b>

Source: SFLP field work (2005)

In Cameroon, the National Accounts Office has created an income multiplier indicator, called the social accounting matrix multiplier. The results of a simulation show that fisheries activities have a strong multiplier effect on revenue (7.312) and therefore a strong “domino effect” on the rest of the economy. This means that an investment of one million CFAF in the fishing sector generates additional revenue of 6.312 million CFAF in the national economy.

Part of district government revenues are produced by levying taxes on fisheries-related activities, notably at the landing site and marketing stages. These are paid by wholesalers, retailers and processors, and are variously called, “added value taxes”, “trading licenses”, “commercial taxes”, “municipal taxes”, “packaging taxes”. Further, for small water bodies (rivers, small lakes, etc.), the local authorities, rather than the central state, collect money from a fishing license, thus providing them with supplementary income. There are also informal taxes at the production level, which in most cases correspond to user rights for access to a fishery or for the use of a given fishing gear.

## CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES TO FOOD SECURITY

Fish products contribute to food security both directly, by providing animal protein and nutrients, and indirectly by providing a source of income to fisherfolk and the state.

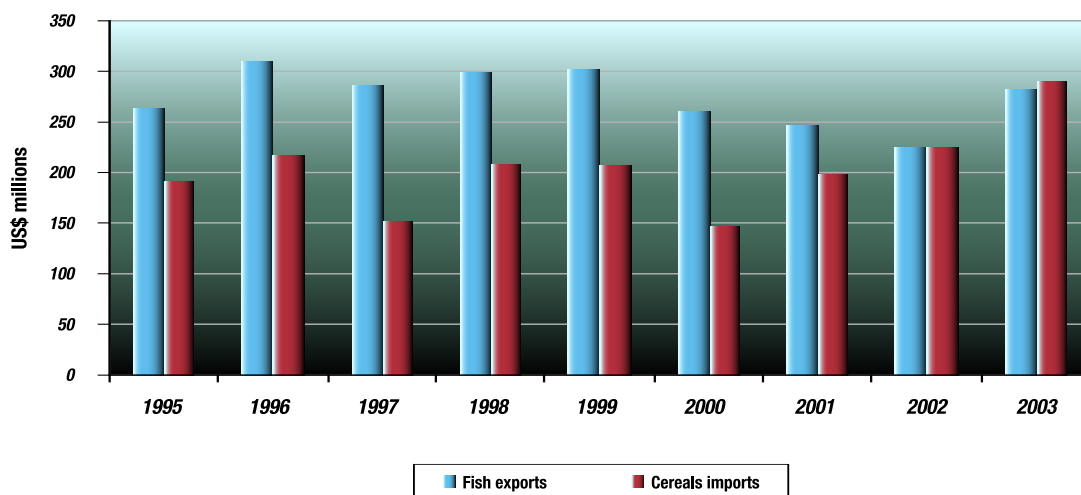
While fish consumption per capita in Africa is less than half the global average (7.8 kilos vs. 16.3 kilos in 2001), this figure has to be seen in the context of the generally lower total protein consumption in African diet. Fish provides 18.6% of animal protein in Africa – above the global average of 15.9%. In the case of Mali, a landlocked country benefiting from important inland fisheries, average fish consumption is higher than meat, 5.4 kilos vs. 4.7 kilos per person in 2001.

In countries such as the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Ghana, fish provide almost 50 percent of animal protein needs. It is often more accessible than meat or poultry for the underprivileged populations, particularly those close to fishing areas.

From a nutritional perspective, fish products are an important source of nutrients (protein and poly-unsaturated fatty acids), vitamins (A, B and D), minerals (calcium, phosphorus and iron) and oligo-elements (iodine).

Many countries rely on the income from fish exports to generate the hard currency they desperately need to import food staples for their population. When exports mainly concern high-value fish, this does not necessarily threaten the supply of lower-value fish on local markets. In Senegal, for example, only 15 percent of cheap small pelagic catches are exported (mainly to other African countries) compared to 80, 95 and 100 percent of demersal, shrimp and cephalopod catches, respectively.

IN SENEGAL, REVENUES FROM FISH EXPORTS HAVE GENERALLY EXCEEDED THE VALUE OF CEREAL IMPORTS



Source: FAO (2005b)

## HOW FISHERIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY

	Employment	GDP	Fish trade	Fish supply	Taxes
<b>Congo</b>	6.8% of the labour force is involved in fisheries  80% to 90% of fish traders are women	Fisheries contributes to 2.75% of GDP and 23.6% of the primary sector	37% of the national fish supply is provided by imports	Fish consumption averages 25 kg per year per person  Fish provides 46% of animal protein	Taxes are mainly collected from fishing licences but their contribution is marginal
<b>Ghana</b>	The livelihood of one in ten Ghanaians depends on fisheries  300 000 people depend on Lake Volta fisheries	Fisheries contributes to 4.5% of GDP  The small scale sector alone contributes 3.4% of GDP	Exports amounted to US\$95 million in 2002, representing 4.74% of total export earnings	Fish consumption averaged 27.2 kg per person in 2003  Fish provides 45% of animal protein	Taxes are from fishing licences and market tolls and represent less than 5% of local revenue
<b>Mali</b>	Fisheries provide 285 000 jobs, of which 70 000 are fishermen, and represent 7.2% of the national labour force	Fisheries related activities contribute 4-5% of GDP	Official exports are marginal; however, 15-20% of the fish traded in Mopti (Niger Central Delta) is exported to other countries in the region	Fish consumption averages 5.4 kg per person per year, compared to 4.7 kg for meat	Taxes on added value represent about 10% of the total value
<b>Mauritania</b>	Small-scale fisheries represent only 10% of fish production, but provide 80% of the jobs	Fisheries contributes to 4-5% of GDP and 22% of the primary sector	Fish exports represent 70% of total exports, half from small-scale fisheries	Fish consumption averages 4.3 kg/year but varies regionally – it is 17.1 kg/yr in Nouadhibou and 9.2 kg/yr in Nouakchott	From 2000 to 2004, fisheries contributed to 41% of budgetary revenues, mainly through EU fishing agreements (34%)
<b>Sao Tome and Principe</b>	Between 1999 and 2002, the number of fishermen increased from 3 310 to 5 296 (+60%)	Fisheries contributes to 5.2% of GDP and 19% of the primary sector	International fish trade is insignificant	Fish consumption averages 28kg per person per year – well above the world average of 16.3 kg	Main source of revenue is the EU fishing agreement providing 600 000 euros per year
<b>Senegal</b>	600 000 people are employed in the sector, i.e. 17% of the national labour force	Fisheries contributes to 4.1% of GDP and 13.7% of the primary sector	Fisheries are the leading export sector, representing in value 37% of total exports	Fish consumption averaged 30.8 kg per person in 2003  Fish provides 44% of animal protein	25% of the value added goes to the state  In the fishing commune of Joal, the sector provides 27.5% of the budget revenue

Source: 15 national studies carried out in 2005 with the support of SFLP and available on the Web site at: <http://www.sflp.org>



## IMPLICATIONS ON POLICY FORMULATION

Expressed in terms of policy objectives, the level of each different contribution cannot be maximized at the same time. Fisheries governance must make “hard choices” or compromises. A policy that seeks to grant access to fisheries resources to the greatest number of poor people as an occupational “safety net” will not be compatible with an objective of optimizing the present and future economic value of that resource. Promoting fish exports will likely reduce supply on domestic markets. Moreover, the capacity of national governments to manage their fisheries is presently limited. In the absence of appropriate investment in this area, the resource base may be depleted in the future, jeopardizing the overall social and economic benefits produced by the sector to the country.

The growth and export-raising potential of the fisheries sector can be important for national policy strategies. Indeed, for African countries rich in fish resources, it represents a potential advantage over agriculture and livestock-based products for raising export revenues and increasing economic growth. If the price of an agricultural commodity rises, other countries will respond by augmenting their supplies leading to a price adjustment which can be dramatic, as shown in the cases of coffee and cocoa. For fish, similar responses will not occur because of the limited nature of the resource. Moreover, the demand for fish in European and other developed countries’ markets is likely to be quite inelastic since health-conscious consumers are aware of the benefits of a wholesome and fish-based diet.

Nonetheless, the issue of using these resources in the best possible way is not straightforward. From a policy point of view, there may be very different scenarios. In the case of a country where fisheries’ contribution to employment and local diet is marginal, the challenge is that of sustainable fisheries management and export promotion. In other countries, the scope for wealth maximization must be balanced against fisheries livelihoods and consumer interests. If the government decides to promote sales of a higher share of the fish catch in international markets, spill over effects on local fishermen and domestic consumers will occur. For a given fish production, higher exports will increase pressure to raise local fish prices which is likely to benefit fishermen while harming domestic consumers.

In many West and Central African countries, a high proportion of the economic benefits from fisheries are generated by the small-scale sector. Policies encouraging industrialization and export promotion can undermine them and the increased revenues from the industrial sector may not always compensate for those losses.



### WHAT DEFINES A SECTOR AS AN ENGINE OF GROWTH?

#### Criteria used to assess pro-poor growth potential:

- the economic size of the activity (% of GDP)
- the growth rate in past years
- the part of income or incremental income for rural households
- its role in employment generation
- the domestic demand potential for its products
- its ability to create multiplier effects
- limited import costs

FAO (in press) PRSP review on role of agriculture and rural development sectors. TCA, Policy Assistance Division, FAO, Rome

# POLICY DIRECTIONS TO INCREASE FISHERIES' CONTRIBUTION TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The sustainable harvest of fish stocks has ecologically-determined upper limits. Within those limits, there is scope for increasing the contribution that fisheries make to poverty reduction and economic growth. In some cases, current contributions to poverty reduction are less than they could be, because the resources are already overexploited and harvests are reduced. Often, too much capital and labour is invested in resource extraction, relative to the value of the output. In these cases, improved fisheries management can enhance the contribution of the resources to poverty reduction. There are also instances where current support to the different elements of poverty reduction are very high but may have to be decreased. For example, export goals may exceed the capacity of the resource to sustain the necessary levels of catch.

Key policy requirements to encourage appropriate fishery sector development should therefore:

## 1. Identify the role that the fisheries sector can play in poverty reduction, food security and economic growth

The fishery sector is dynamic and reactive to its local, national and international environment. The policy formulation process should build on the various existing roles that the fishery sector plays in the national economy. One useful concept to guide policy formulation is to ask: Given the size and value of the resource (potential or actual) how can the fishery sector provide the greatest contribution to national poverty reduction?

### EXAMPLES OF HOW RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS AND NATIONAL CONTEXT MAY INFLUENCE PRO-POOR FISHERIES POLICY DIRECTIONS

RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS AND NATIONAL CONTEXT	POLICY ORIENTATION FOR MAXIMIZING CONTRIBUTION TO POVERTY REDUCTION	TRADE-OFFS
Large, productive, high value, low local demand	Maximizing the rentable value of the resource and generating income from fishing agreements	Loss of value added components; large investment in fisheries assessment and enforcement needed
Large, productive, low value, high local demand	Managing the fishery for its contributions to employment, local multipliers and domestic demand for fish	Low sectoral economic efficiency (high labour input costs relative to financial output), total rentable value of resource remains low
Limited resources of low value	Fishery can act as a safety net, to provide supplementary seasonal or emergency incomes to the poor	The fishery provides little net contribution to poverty reduction beyond sustaining the livelihoods of those who access the resources; total rentable value negligible

In most countries, a “one-size-fits-all” national policy will be inappropriate because different fisheries play, or could play, different roles in poverty reduction and food security. There may be a need to set distinct policy goals and strategies for inland and marine fisheries, for example. In this respect, the decentralized governance system represents an opportunity to put such a policy into practice.

In West and Central Africa, regional economic commissions such as ECOWAS<sup>1</sup>, UEMOA<sup>2</sup> and CEMAC<sup>3</sup>, and the fisheries commissions, like SRFC<sup>4</sup> and COREP<sup>5</sup>, can also be active in promoting regional strategic goals for the fishery sector.

<sup>1</sup> Economic Community of West African States

<sup>2</sup> Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine

<sup>3</sup> Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale

<sup>4</sup> Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission

<sup>5</sup> Comité régional des pêches du Golfe de Guinée

## **2. Ensure a fair representation of the fisheries sector in poverty reduction strategies at the macro- (national), meso- (departmental/district/regional) and micro- (local) levels**

Once policies to enhance the contributions to poverty reduction have been identified, it is important to ensure that the fishery sector is adequately represented in poverty reduction policies.

In most cases, the current and potential role of small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction and food security is poorly recognized in the region. Following national studies carried out with SFLP methodological support, several actions can be considered to increase awareness of the role of the small scale-sector in poverty reduction:

- to improve the national accounts, in particular, integrating the secondary (processing) and tertiary sectors (marketing and catering);
- to carry out livelihoods studies and sectoral value chain analysis to identify the distribution of benefits and multiplier effects in terms of employment and revenue;
- to develop appropriate methods and operational tools to better assess the pro-poor income distribution and growth potential of the sector;
- to better target the fishing dependent communities in household surveys aiming at poverty assessment.

These actions will require strengthening of the collaborative ties between those ministries responsible for fisheries, the PRSP and finance, local/decentralized governments, development partners, and NGOs and other members of civil society.

### FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN THE NIGER PRSP

**Annual fish production in Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, is estimated at 20 000 tonnes - the major part of which, especially in the Lake Chad basin, is exported to Nigeria. The number of active fishermen is thought to be 10 000, while the fisheries-dependent population is likely more than 50 000. Apart from this, the sector offers many casual job opportunities in good rainy seasons. Consequently, fisheries' contribution to the Niger's economic growth cannot be neglected.**

**At their request, SFLP assisted the Niger's national fisheries authorities in designing a sub-programme, "Fisheries and Aquaculture", within the framework of the Rural Development component of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy. This highly participatory planning exercise involved the Fisheries Department, the Permanent Secretariat of the PRSP, the drafting group from Rural Development Strategy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), fishing communities and NGOs. Financing is being sought through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives fund.**

Source: SFLP Liaison Bulletin N° 17-18





#### RE-EVALUATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES TO GDP IN THE CONGO

**A SFLP-supported study carried out in Congo in 2005 revealed that the GVA, i.e. the difference between the value of production and the intermediate consumption, generated by the fisheries sector amounted to 30 billion CFAF (around US\$50 million) in 2002. The contribution of small-scale fisheries was 85.5%, mainly due to inland fisheries (62,3%).**

**However, the General Directorate of Economy estimated it at 12 billion CFAF. The difference was caused by an underestimating by GDE of both the small-scale producer price and inland catches. Once adjusted, the fishery sector appears to contribute 23.6% of the primary sector instead of 11.2%, as previously indicated.**

Source: SFLP National Study (2005)

In many West and Central African countries, SFLP studies have highlighted that the small-scale sector provides the larger share of the fishery sector's contribution to poverty reduction. Specific actions to enhance the subsector's contributions could include:

- establishing a national task force for poverty reduction in fisheries;
- strengthening the organizational capacities and participation of fishing communities in the policy formulation and implementation processes;
- assisting small-scale producers to access both national and international markets;
- addressing factors that make small-scale fisherfolk vulnerable and currently reduce their capacity to contribute to poverty reduction and participate in resource management and fisheries policy making (see Policy Brief N°1 in this series).

In essence, the main policy message is that fisheries' contribution to poverty reduction is generally undervalued and that many benefits come from the small-scale sector, often neglected in both fisheries and poverty reduction policies.

**TEN FACTS ABOUT FISHERIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

1. Twenty of the world's 40 poorest countries participate in the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP)
2. Fish catch from the 25 SFLP countries represents 59 percent of the total in sub-Saharan Africa
3. The inland waters of Mali, a landlocked country, produced 100 000 tonnes of fish in 2002 – as much as Guinean fishermen caught that year in the Atlantic Ocean
4. In the Congo and Ghana, fish provides 45% of animal protein in people's diets
5. Between 1995 and 2003 Senegal exported US\$250-300 million of fish products each year

6. The value of fish at first sale caught from Lake Chad is US\$50 million per year
7. Forty-one percent of Mauritania's tax revenue comes from the fisheries sector, 83% of which is based on a fishing agreement with the European Union
8. Ten percent of the populations of Benin and Ghana derive their livelihoods from fishing-related activities
9. Nigeria imported US\$456 million worth of fish products in 2003, one-third of the total fish imports within Africa
10. In the Congo, the fisheries sector contributed an estimated 23% to the value added of its primary sector in 2002

**COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**





# RESOURCES

Most of the data used in this brief come from studies carried out in 2005 in 15 countries participating in the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP). These studies aimed to provide an assessment of the economic contributions of the fishery sector. They were supported by SFLP and undertaken by national teams comprising staff of the Fisheries Department and the National Statistics Department in charge of National Accounts.

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**This series of policy briefs, produced by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme, explores new directions and partnerships in addressing fisheries and development issues**

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