



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Management of beach seine fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea

AN INITIATIVE OF THE EAF-NANSEN PROGRAMME



# Beach seine fishery

The beach seine fishery contributes to food security and provides a livelihood for many families within the coastal communities in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin.

Today, this artisanal activity is threatened because many coastal and marine resources are overexploited, and the marine habitats are highly degraded by human activities and increasing pollution.

In addition, the beach seines catch a lot of juvenile fish, which have no commercial value because of their small size. This is due to the use of seine nets with small mesh sizes, introduced to counter an overall decline in fish catches. This type of fishing takes place in ecologically sensitive areas, where several species with a high market value for many fisheries reproduce and grow.



# Importance of fisheries management

This subsistence artisanal activity, if not managed effectively, constitutes an additional threat to the sustainability of the coastal artisanal fisheries resources of the sub-region.

In the Gulf of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin have all developed and adopted beach seine fisheries management plans consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

The national plans include country-specific activities, to respond to particular problems and local specificities with regard to research and management but they are implemented in a concerted manner, so as to harmonize the management of these fisheries through regional collaboration.

The projects to support the **Management of beach seine fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea** are aimed at supporting the implementation of concerted management plans in order to harmonize fisheries management through regional collaboration.







## Capacity development in fisheries management

The projects support the organisation of practical training on fisheries management according to EAF principles and supports the creation of local, national and regional consultation frameworks with the participation of key stakeholders in decision-making on management measures and implementation of management plans.

## Gender approach

The projects also promote integrating gender equality in the fisheries sector, in accordance with the EAF-Nansen Programme Gender Strategy.

## Pollution and micro-plastics

The activities will also cover awareness-raising activities and management measures at community level on the impacts of marine waste and micro-plastics.







## Update and implementation of the fisheries management plans

Support is provided to the countries to update and implement management measures identified for managing these fisheries, especially:

- Controlling fishing effort
- Improving selectivity to reduce juvenile catches
- Introducing closed seasons
- Protecting critical habitats and protected species

The projects contribute to the expected results of the EAF-Nansen Programme, particularly that fisheries management institutions manage fisheries according to the EAF principles and related indicators.

The projects contribute also towards achieving the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



The projects to support the **Management of beach seine fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea** are part of the EAF-Nansen Programme (2017- 2022). The long term objective of the programme is to promote sustainable fisheries that will improve the food and nutritional security of populations of partner countries.

The programme is implemented by the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations Organization (FAO), in close collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).



## MORE INFORMATION

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