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FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC
Scientific Sub-Committee
Eighth Session
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 22–26 October 2018
MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE ARTISANAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

SUMMARY

The fifth session of the CECAF working group on artisanal fisheries was held from 26 to 27 July 2018 in the conference room of the Hotel Ndiambour in Dakar, Senegal. After a period of inactivity this was the first session of the working group after the adoption of the new terms of reference by CECAF in their 21st session in 2016. The overall objective of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group is to improve regional knowledge on small-scale fisheries in its member countries. The main outcome of the working group was a prioritized list of actions in relation to the main categories of work of the working group: data collection and analysis, socioeconomics and environment as well as specific suggested actions and a workplan for the 2018/2019 period. Discussions need to be held on potential partnerships and funding opportunities to ensure the implementation of the workplan proposed.

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth session of the CECAF working group on artisanal fisheries was held from 26 to 27 July 2018 in the conference room of the Hotel Ndiambour in Dakar, Senegal. After a period of inactivity this was the first session of the working group after the adoption of the new terms of reference by CECAF in their 21st session in 2016.
2. The overall objective of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group is to improve regional knowledge on small-scale fisheries in its member countries.
3. Thirty-four participants from 21 CECAF member countries as well as Spain, Norway and FAO attended the session. The work was chaired by Mr Aboubacar Sidibé of FAO/ECOWAS.
4. It should be noted that the word Artisanal is used interchangeably with small-scale fisheries in this document.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

5. Given the long time period since the last Working Group had met, specific objectives were set for this session of the working group to establish the foundations for the working group's future. Hence the meeting aimed to:
 - Develop a strategy to address the different aspects of the mandate that also addresses links to other CECAF working groups;
 - Identify short and medium-term priorities and agree on a draft work plan for the CECAF Working Group on Artisanal Fisheries until the next session, to be presented to the 8th meeting of the subcommittee CECAF scientist in October 2018;
 - Review the results of the previous regional consultation workshop on the SSF Guidelines and agree on the role of the CECAF Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group in promoting and contributing to the implementation of small-scale fisheries initiatives in the CECAF region;
 - Review links and collaboration with the AFRM SSF Working Group and other arrangements within the framework of the African Union.

PRIORITIES FOR THE WORK PLAN

6. One of the key activities of the session consisted in identifying priority area of work in relation to the main areas of work of the working group: data collection and analysis, socioeconomics, and environment. The general priority actions as identified by the group, are highlighted below.

Data collection and analysis

7. In general, the priority actions identified to improve the collection and analysis of artisanal fisheries data in the CECAF area are:
 - Harmonize and improve data collection methods, approaches and analyzes for artisanal fisheries to produce comparable data from one country to another;
 - Improve the availability and quality of data on small-scale artisanal fisheries on catches and effort but also in particular on the post-harvest sector where data are currently very limited;
 - Review existing methods for improving the knowledge of the spatial distribution of small-scale fishing effort, e.g. GPS applications in mobile phones, use of transducers; develop specific questionnaires to collect information on fishing grounds and areas using fishermen's knowledge, etc.;
 - Consider using existing experiences of using mobile phones or other technologies for data collection and increased direct involvement of fishermen; and
 - Encourage sharing of information with fishermen.

Socioeconomics

8. In general, the priority actions identified to improve knowledge on the socio-economics of artisanal fisheries in the CECAF area are:
 - Consolidate a list of socio-economic variables against which WG members provide validated national data for each meeting and develop related protocols and templates;
 - Prepare a study on the level of SSF organizations and their representativeness;

- Systematically involve small-scale fisheries stakeholders in the collection, analysis and validation of socio-economic information;
- Prepare an assessment of the socio-economic impact of regulatory frameworks on small-scale fisheries;
- Describe the market players and their role in the SSF supply chain for priority species;
- Review basic infrastructure; and
- Review of relevant international and regional frameworks and identification of implementation and monitoring through the CECF of CECAF. National working group members should then contribute to these processes by providing data and information through the working group.

Environment

9. In general, the priority actions identified to improve knowledge of the environment and its interactions with artisanal fisheries in the CECAF area have:
 - Develop and implement legal frameworks and develop appropriate measures for small-scale fisheries to avoid over-exploitation (near-season / permit-issuing area / canoes) and strengthen monitoring and surveillance, including participatory surveillance and monitoring, application with other organisms;
 - Investigate impacts on SSF habitats: - Destruction of the ecosystem (e.g. - Mangrove deforestation - Oyster farming, destruction of the sea floor - Dredging gear and ring gear such as trawl nets, ghost fishing - monofilament gillnet and gears, beach seine and trawlers);
 - Identify different sources of pollution from artisanal fishing activities (e.g. loss of outboard engines and fishing nets (microplastic pollution));
 - Mitigate illegal fishing practices;
 - Support regional and sub-regional coordination for fish management and fishermen migration; and
 - Identify and document threats from factors external to the SSF and collect information.
10. The specific proposed activities by categories are provided in Table 1 below

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SSC

11. The Scientific sub-committee is invited to discuss the areas of work and priorities identified by the Working group, and the suggested work plan.
12. Furthermore, the SSC members are invited to propose specific topics to be addressed as a priority and reflect on how the work plan can be achieved.

Table 1: Priority actions identified by the artisanal working group by category (general, data collections and analysis, socioeconomics, environment, collaboration and coordination)

Area of work and specific activities Artisanal Fisheries working group											
General		2018/3	2018/4	2019/1	2019/2	2019/3	2019/4	Description	How	Who	Linkages/ partners
Activity 0.1	Preparation of the report of the 5 th AF WG and prepare a summary to present to SSC	X	X					Report of WG available, summary available for discussion at SSC for recommendations to Committee		FAO CECAF	
Activity 0.2	Develop partnerships for implementing proposed WG activities and Preparation of the 6 th session of the AF WG			X	X			Seek partnerships for implementing proposed WG activities and seek support to the conduct of the 6 th session of the AF WG		FAO CECAF	
Activity 0.3	Conduct the 6 th session of the AF WG					X			Commitment by countries or donors required	FAO CECAF/Pays	WG chair
Activity 0.4	Preparation of the report of the 6 th AF WG and prepare a summary to present to SSC						X	Report of WG available, summary available for discussion at SSC for recommendations to Committee		FAO CECAF	

Area of work and specific activities Artisanal Fisheries working group											
Area of Work 1: Data collection and analysis		2018/3	2018/4	2019/1	2019/2	2019/3	2019/4	Description	How	Who	Linkages/ partners
Activity 1.1	Carry out an inventory of data collection methods and approaches used in the different countries with a view to exchange experiences and promote harmonisation of methods in particular in the context of fisheries targeting shared stocks	X	X	X	X			FAO Develop approach paper/template for countries to complete with national information by focal points	Explore possible support of consultant	FAO CECAF and countries	Other regional organizations
Activity 1.2	Define a limited number of variables that should be priority with regard to data collection on small-scale fisheries – this should include postharvest sector information.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Set down a reference small reference group to prepare a proposal to be discussed at the next AF WG and to be approved at SSC		FAO CECAF and identified resource persons	Other regional organizations
Activity 1.3	Prepare a study on what constitute an artisanal fishery including by using FAO characteristics matrix to define different types of fisheries and ‘métiers’ to improve the understanding of different types of small-scale fisheries and as an input into effort estimations, etc.	X	X					Share matrix with AFWG and also members other WGs and present CECAF SSC and TOC study report Present matrix to SSC for observations after SSC/Finalize matrix and get country inputs		FAO and countries	
Activity 1.4	Consolidate existing experiences on participatory data collection initiatives in countries	X	X	X				Some countries have successful experiences: Togo, Senegal, Ghana; Nigeria and Liberia; case study reports to be submitted to CECAF Secretariat for sharing with group; consolidate report by end 1 Q 2019	Consultant to describe existing systems later on		Link with TCP project on data collection

Area of work and specific activities Artisanal Fisheries working group											
Area of Work 2: Socio-economic		2018/3	2018/4	2019/1	2019/2	2019/3	2019/4	Description	How	Who	Linkages/ partners
Activity 2.1	Provide data on small-scale fisheries in relation to the identified variables for the next session of the working group				X	X		Information on socio economic variables as identified at the subgroup and prioritized though 1.2 shared in advance of the next WG following advice of chair/secretariat		Counties and FAO CECAF	
Activity 2.2	Provide list of available data sources on identified variables for next session				X	X		Information on socio economic variables as identified at the subgroup and prioritized though 1.2 shared in advance of the next WG following advice of chair/secretariat		Counties and FAO CECAF	
Activity 2.3	Develop studies on agreed topics (value chain; food security, role of women, SSF organizations, socio-economic impact evaluation of regulatory frameworks on small-scale fisheries, etc.) to inform future socio-economic activities	X	X	X	X			TORs for the different studies to be developed and shared with WG members; interest group for contributing to be identified; TORs and harmonisation of ToRs developed by interest group with lead of countries; Consultants or consortium may be approached for further support for implementation of studies	Recruit a consortium or consultants to do this study	FAO CECAF Members	Possibility for funding
Activity 2.3	Develop and organize training of SSF actor data collection, analysis and validation			X	X	X		Take stock of existing material and methods for training; to prepare future trainings; identify communication material for fishermen to engage them			
Activity 2.4	Review of existing relevant community-managed initiatives, and analysis of access conditions for small-scale fisheries										

Area of work and specific activities Artisanal Fisheries working group											
Area of Work 3: Environment		2018/3	2018/4	2019/1	2019/2	2019/3	2019/4	Description	How	Who	Linkages/ partners
Activity 3.1	Consolidate list of priority key species of importance to small scale fisheries and in collaboration with the CECAF assessment working groups address gaps in knowledge to improve understanding of impact from artisanal fisheries including gear specific impacts	X	X	X				Circulate current list and associated information based on information from other working groups. Circulate to countries for comments and feedback		CECAF FAO Ghana	
Activity	Baseline study on environmental	X	X	X	X			Develop the TORs in consultation		CECAF FAO	EAF Nansen,

3.2	impacts and external factors and their impacts of SSF							with group and seek partnerships with other initiatives to identify feasibility for collaboration and implementation			CCLME, PRCM; GCLME; MAVA
Activity 3.3	Prepare a study on potential impacts from SSF on target species, bycatch and habitats, including gear specific impacts and on how this information can be collected	X	X	X	X			Develop the TORs in consultation with group and seek partnerships with other initiatives to identify feasibility for collaboration and implementation		CECAF FAO	EAF Nansen, CCLME, PRCM; GCLME; MAVA
Activity 3.4	Prepare a proposal for sensitization workshops/awareness campaigns for fishermen to improve understanding of and the importance of having underpinning knowledge and information as well as the impacts of illegal fishing practices, etc.							Prepare a proposal for sensitization workshops/awareness campaigns to be presented at next meeting in collaboration with fisheries organization and selected members			PRCM Fisheries organization
Activity 3.5	Conduct a study on existing management measures and a review of management options for selected artisanal fisheries	X	X	X	X			Compile information on existing measures including participatory methods; develop the TORs in consultation with group and seek partnerships with other initiatives to identify feasibility for collaboration and implementation: Focus on current situation		CECAF FAO	EAF Nansen, CCLME, PRCM; GCLME; MAVA
Activity 3.6	Mapping the shared area and interaction between tourism, other industries and SSF							Prepare a general approach paper for the activity; Countries to prepare a report for the next WG; taking stock of what has already been done; Countries to prepare list of related documents	Look at the possibility of having a consultant		Partners

Area of work and specific activities Artisanal Fisheries working group											
Area of Work 4: Collaboration and coordination		2018/3	2018/4	2019/1	2019/2	2019/3	2019/4	Description	How	Who	Linkages/ partners
Activity 4.1	Review of existing relevant international and regional regulatory frameworks	X	X	X	X			Each country to prepare an overview report of existing initiatives based on template by FAO: Each country make contact avec partners and organisations in countries to talk about WG facilitate collaboration		FAO CECAF Countries	