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FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

Scientific Sub-Committee

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WORKING GROUP ON ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Role and future perspectives in the light of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)

SUMMARY

The small-scale fisheries sub-sector employs over 90% of those active in capture fisheries, making a major contribution to food security and livelihoods. The importance of the sector is slowly being recognized in international and regional fora and policy processes. One outcome of this recognition is the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the FAO Committee on Fisheries in June 2014. These SSF Guidelines are also included in the African Union/NEPAD Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture adopted in 2014. CECAF established its Artisanal Fisheries Working Group in 2000. The group has met four times however, the last meeting dates back to 2007. Given that there is now important momentum for improvement in small-scale fisheries, the CECAF artisanal working group could be an important vehicle for creating awareness among CECAF members on the elements of the SSF Guidelines and the AU/NEPAD policy framework objectives. The Working group could be a vehicle to address these in an operational context to identify and support common priorities and opportunities for action and share good practices at national and regional level, building on on going or planned initiatives and on previous areas dealt with by the working group. The scientific sub-committee (SSC) is therefore invited to consider from a technical perspective the pertinence and viability of the working group reflecting also upon partnership opportunities and the appropriateness and possible revision of the current TORs of the Working Group in light of regional and global initiatives. The SSC is also asked to reflect upon how the SSF Guidelines can be used as a tool for the working group in the future and how the working group can contribute to national, regional and global policy processes, resulting from the SSF Guidelines and other processes such as the AU SSF Think Tank, and to consider the formulation of advice with respect to the above to the committee.

INTRODUCTION

1. Globally, there are approximately 120 million full-time and part-time workers directly dependent on commercial capture fisheries value chains for their livelihoods. Over 90 percent of them work in the small-scale fisheries subsector, and almost all of them are living in developing countries. Women play a crucial role in small-scale fisheries, in particular in processing, marketing and trade, but also as boat owners and investors. Small-scale fisheries contribute over 50% of the world's capture production and nearly all of this is used for direct human consumption. But small-scale fisheries also make important contributions to trade and to national GDPs. According to the World Bank (2012), the fisheries sector in Africa employs 25.4 million people, of whom 7.4 million are small-scale fishers, 0.4 are industrial fishers and 17.6 work in post-harvest. The CECAF member countries account for a large share of these small-scale fisheries operator.
2. The artisanal fisheries system in the CECAF zone is complex, with the existence of different fishing practices often generating conflicts of interest, and a market in most of the countries in which the demand is always greater than the supply. The conservation and preservation of fisheries resources, to ensure food security and contribute to the fight against poverty in the sub-region is of particular importance.
3. All of this is slowly being recognized at regional and international level by a number of fora and policy processes, where, at a normative level, member States continue to call for a greater focus on the sector, and resulting documents highlight the role of fisheries including small scale fisheries in achieving food security and poverty alleviation, for example:
 - 2012 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for the UN General Assembly: It is the first such report on fisheries in the context of food security and the right to food. It recognizes that fisheries provide food security and nutrition to a vast number of people, as well as providing livelihoods and incomes. It also identifies challenges facing global fisheries, including environmental sustainability and the globalization of the fishing industry. The report notes that pursuing a human rights approach is critical to achieving sustainable development in the fisheries sector.
 - 2012 - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: The outcome document The Future We Want strongly emphasizes the role of small-scale fisheries as catalysts of sustainable development in fisheries. The signatories committed "to observe the need to ensure access to fisheries, and the importance of access to markets...". The document also stresses the need for empowerment of all to make a full contribution to development.
 - 2014 - Committee on World Food Security - Report of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition on fisheries and aquaculture: this report states that fish is one of the most efficient converters of feed into high quality food. It also stressed the many interactions between several environmental, development, policy and governance issues that influence fisheries development. It questions the roles and contributions of the various actors in fisheries, which are often affected by power imbalances. It therefore highlights also the importance of social security and decent employment, of gender equity and of overall sector governance.
 - 2014 - African Union/NEPAD Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture. This strategy includes small-scale fisheries development among the identified policy arenas, with the objective of improving and strengthening the contribution of small-

scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits of fishing communities.

THE SMALL SCALE FISHERIES GUIDELINES

4. From a fisheries perspective the above mentioned issues and arguments emerged also in the long-lasting and inclusive consultation process leading to the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by COFI in 2014.
5. The SSF Guidelines seek to enhance the contribution of SSF to food security and nutrition. They also aim to contribute to and improve the equitable development and socio-economic condition of small-scale fishing communities alongside sustainable and responsible management of fisheries. They aim at enabling and empowering stakeholders, in particular fishing communities and their members, to actively and meaningfully participate in decision-making processes to make their full contribution to food security and poverty eradication. The SSF Guidelines complement other international instruments, in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; Right to Food Guidelines and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which have a common grounding in human rights principles.
6. The SSF Guidelines are divided into three main parts. Part 1, the introduction, sets out the objectives, nature and scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other international instruments. The guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines include non-discrimination, respect of cultures, social and economic viability, gender equality and equity, equity and equality, transparency, rule of law, consultation and participation, accountability, economic, social and environmental sustainability, holistic and integrated approaches and social responsibility and feasibility.
7. Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines is entitled responsible fisheries and sustainable development and represents the thematic heart of the SSF Guidelines. It contains the following chapters dealing with: Sustainable resource utilization/stewardship and secure rights to fishery resources and land and the ability to benefit from them for SSF communities; Social development dimension of SSF livelihoods (e.g. access to social services, need for equality and equity), employment and incomes, and fair and decent working conditions: The postharvest sector and trade and consideration of the whole value chain; Importance of gender and the need to promote equality and equity; and Vulnerabilities of small-scale fishing communities in the context of disaster risks and climate change
8. Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines focuses on ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation. This includes improved institutional coordination and collaboration at various levels to ensure policy coherence; Research, information and communication; capacity development and monitoring.
9. The application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines will require commitment and investments from donors, governments, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders in order to turn them into effective tools for change. The overall strategic approach for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should build on the inclusive and consensus-seeking spirit and environment that characterized the development process of the SSF Guidelines so far. Accordingly, future implementation of the principles of the SSF Guidelines should be based on participation and partnerships, with implementation anchored at the national and local levels within a framework of regional and

international collaboration, awareness raising, policy support and capacity development. This will require support to and collaboration with many different actors and regional organizations have a role to play in this.

10. The SSF Guidelines are also closely related to another international instrument adopted by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012, the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG Tenure): This instrument represents one of the first occasions in which fisheries are considered in an intersectoral approach to development. It recognizes that tenure security is necessary for the achievement of human rights and the progressive realization of the right to food.

The CECAF ARTISANAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

11. Recognizing the important role of small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region, CECAF at the first session of the Scientific Sub-Committee (CECAF SSC) in 2000 adopted the creation of an Artisanal Fisheries Working group to complement the work of the assessment working groups providing advice on the state of pelagic and demersal fish resources and fisheries. A first terms of reference was adopted at that session, later amended at the fourth session of CECAF SSC in 2005.

12. At that session and based on the discussions of the results of the Third Session of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group held in Accra, Ghana from 7 – 9 June 2005, the importance of creating synergies and avoid overlap between the work of the Artisanal Working group and the Assessment Working Groups were noted, and an amended TOR was adopted (See Appendix 1). Amongst others it was proposed to: replace the first activity “Determine the biological parameters of the major target species in artisanal fisheries”, which has been already identified by the Small Pelagics and Demersal Species Working Groups to “Encourage the collection of size frequency data of the major target species in artisanal fisheries.” rather than the former.

13. The second observation was on the second activity of the first task “develop and disseminate the methods/tools for the assessment of the social and economic importance of artisanal fisheries”. In conducting this activity in the countries, it has been recommended to address the degree of the actual contribution of artisanal fisheries in the development of the respective countries concerned.

14. The artisanal fisheries working group has met four times, the last meeting of the group dating back to 2007:

Year	Session	Venue/Dates
2001	Consultative meeting of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee	Cotonou, Benin, 19-21 September
2002	First Session of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group of the CECAF Scientific Sub-Committee.	Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 2-4 July
2003	Second Session of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Conakry, Guinea, 16-18 September
2005	Third Session of the Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Accra, Ghana, 7 – 9 June 2005
2007	The fourth session of the working group on artisanal fisheries	Douala, Cameroon, 17 -19 September 2007

15. The CECAF Working Group on Artisanal Fisheries has already investigated a number of key issues in relation to small-scale fisheries in the region, including for example migration, contributions of fisheries to the national economies, socio economic importance of small scale fisheries and characterization of fishing gear, etc. Although substantial work has been initiated, there is still more to be done.
16. The fourth session of the working group in 2007 formulated recommendations for their work programme in relation to different issues of relevance to artisanal fisheries, including: The need to finalize a methodology guide for studies on cost and earnings. The conduct of studies on the contribution of artisanal fisheries to the national economies to in all African coastal member countries of CECAF;
17. The promotion of the role of artisanal fishery in the national economies in all member countries of CECAF through mass media;
 - Studies on migration of fishermen in the zone;
 - The need for national studies on the role of women in artisanal fishery in the region must be studied at the level of each country
 - The classification of fishing gears in the CECAF zone; Assess the distribution of fishing gears and fishing units as well as migrations in the CECAF zone; and
 - The implementation of frame surveys.

ROLE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR THE CECAF ARTISANAL WORKING GROUP IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPEMENTS

18. The issues and topics addressed by the CECAF Artisanal working group are all of high relevance to the ongoing global and regional processes, as described above. The SSF Guidelines, as well as the AU/NEPAD Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and the particular importance of artisanal fisheries in the CECAF area, provide important momentum to enable small-scale fisheries to make a full contribution to food security and poverty eradication.
19. In this respect the CECAF artisanal working group could be a vehicle for creating awareness among CECAF members on the elements of the SSF Guidelines and the AU/NEPAD policy framework objectives, and to address these in an operational context to identify and support common priorities and opportunities for action and share good practices at national and regional level, building on ongoing or planned initiatives and on previous areas dealt with by the working group.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SSC

20. In context of the above the Scientific sub-committee is asked to consider from a technical perspective :
 - i. The technical pertinence and viability of the working group reflecting on partnership opportunities.
 - ii. The pertinence of the current TORs of the Working Group in light of regional and global initiatives and possible revision.
 - iii. If and how the SSF Guidelines can be used as a tool for the working group in the future and how the working group can contribute to national, regional and global policy processes, resulting from the SSF Guidelines and other processes such as the AU SSF Think Tank.
 - iv. Formulation of advice with respect to the above to the committee.

**Appendix 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP,
FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC, SCIENTIFIC SUB-
COMMITTEE, Third Session, Accra, Ghana, 7 – 9 June 2005**

Stock Assessment

In collaboration with the other working groups (Demersal and small pelagics) on stock assessment, the Working Group will:

1. Develop/disseminate methods or tools on artisanal fisheries catch and effort data collection and analysis
2. Contribute to improving knowledge on the dynamics of the major fisheries: interactions between the fisheries; migration of target stocks; aspects related to nurseries, breeding grounds and shelter; biology of the principal target species.

Fishing Units (gears, canoes, crew)

1. Analyse the dynamics of fishing units (canoes, gears, crew): typology, function, interactions (inter and intra)
2. Formulate recommendations on the conservation of resources exploited by artisanal fisheries: e. g. regulation of mesh size of the major fishing gears

Socio-economics

1. Promote entrepreneurship in the sub-sector
2. Contribute to improving knowledge on the importance of artisanal fisheries in national economies and in the reduction of poverty: profitability; utilization of revenue; source of financing; characterization of stakeholders in artisanal fisheries; and the analysis of the dynamics of their interactions (commercial and social relationships, improving their livelihoods), etc.
3. Document the effect of enforcement of laws and regulations on artisanal fisheries.
4. Contribute to improving knowledge on utilization of artisanal fisheries products (processing and marketing) and their role in the development of the sub-sector
5. Promote the use of Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) to provide relevant information for a participatory and sustainable management policy for exploited resources.

Environment

1. Conduct reflections on the negative impacts of artisanal fisheries activities on the habitats and coastal ecosystems (fuelwood collection, acadja fisheries, harmful artisanal fishing practices on other living aquatic resources);
2. Identify activities that have negative impact on artisanal fisheries;
3. Formulate recommendations for responsible and sustainable artisanal fisheries.