

10
YEARS



FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE
WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA
(FCWC)

REGIONAL COOPERATION
2007-2017

THE PIONEERS OF FISHERIES COOPERATION

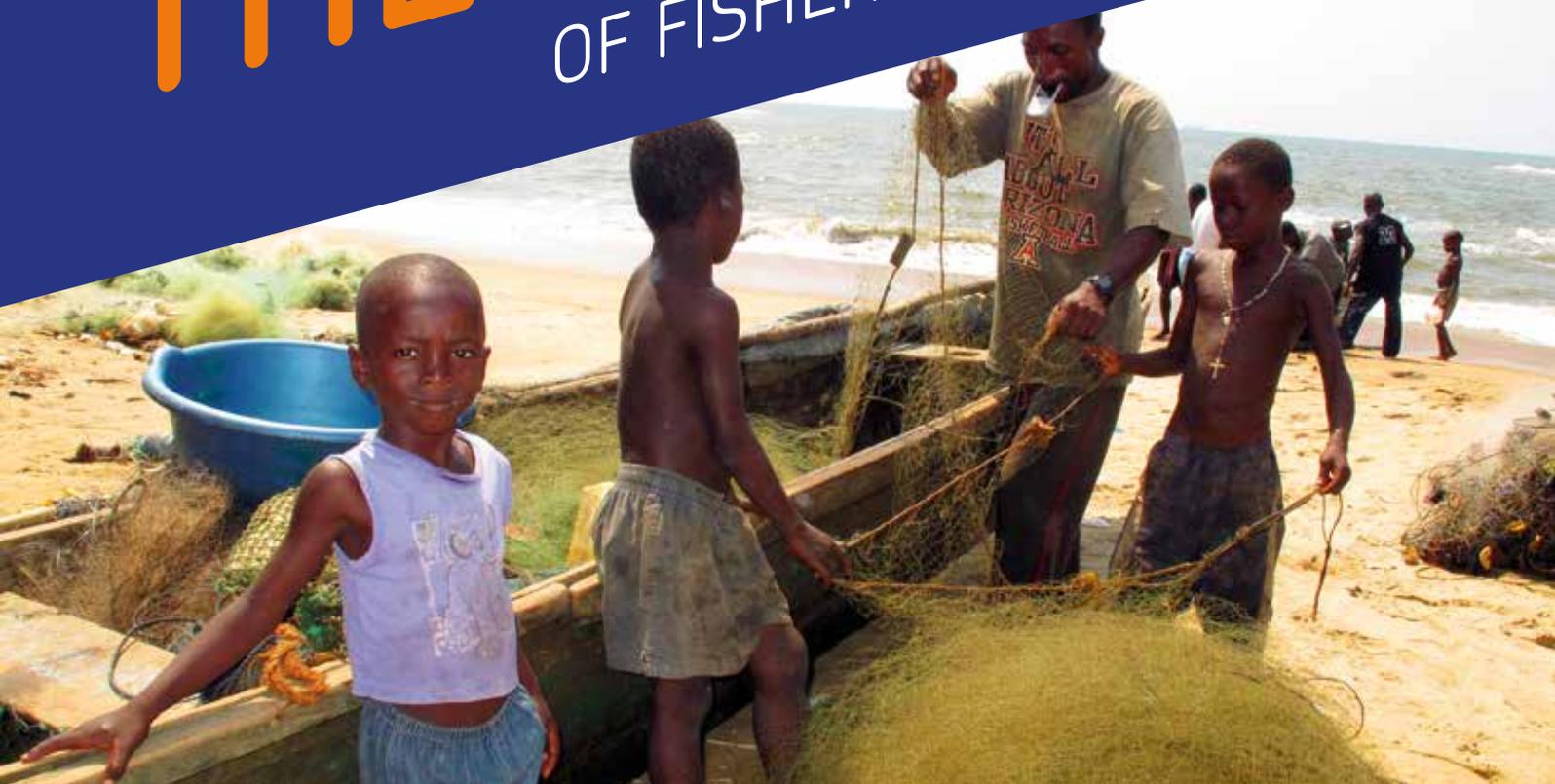




Table Of Contents

WELCOME FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL	5	OUR PARTNERS	22
THE FCWC	6	International Organisations	23
OUR STATE MEMBERS	9	African Union	23
Benin	10	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	26
Côte d'Ivoire	12	IMCS Network	29
Ghana	14	Cooperating Partners	30
Liberia	16	African Development Bank	30
Nigeria	18	European Union	31
Togo	20	Norad	32
		Sida	32
		Technical Partners	33
		Stop Illegal Fishing	33
		Trygg Mat Tracking	35
		Regional Organizations	36
		ATLAFCO	36
		The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem	37
		TECHNICAL EXPERTS	38
		OUR SECRETARIAT	44





Welcome from the Secretary General

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has agreed to host the tenth Session of the Conference of Ministers of our Organization from 12 - 15 December 2017.

This Session coincides with the tenth Anniversary of FCWC. Indeed, it was the 7th of November 2007 that the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was created at the Cotonou Convention in Benin signed by the six coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea that are Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

The FCWC was thus established and during the ten years of its existence, all the stakeholders including the FCWC Secretariat, the member States, the technical and financial partners and the various experts intervening in the sub-region, have committed to making the Committee a strong instrument of fisheries cooperation for the welfare of fishing communities and all people who derive most of their sustainable livelihoods from the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

To celebrate this, the FCWC Secretariat is publishing this review called "Pioneers of Fisheries Cooperation", by duty of remembrance and as a sign of recognition.

The purpose of this review is to highlight the key role played by the member States, the Secretariat, partner institutions and technical experts who have accompanied and continue to accompany the FCWC at its birth and during its ten years of existence.

In addition to this review of the Pioneers a report highlighting the achievements but also the challenges met during the ten years of existence of the Committee. On the basis of this report, the second FCWC 2018-2020 Triennial Plan will be prepared to project us towards the perspectives and priorities of our Organization.

May all the people who contributed to this exalting work be warmly thanked. Together we will continue to pursue the objectives of fisheries cooperation in West Africa.



Mr Séraphin DEDI NADJE
Secretary General of the FCWC

The FCWC

The FCWC is composed of six coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea namely the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Liberia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Togolese Republic.

The FCWC area has an area of 1,766,463 km² and is populated by 237,765,553 inhabitants. The FCWC counts among its member states the giant of Black Africa, Nigeria, with its 170,123,740 inhabitants.

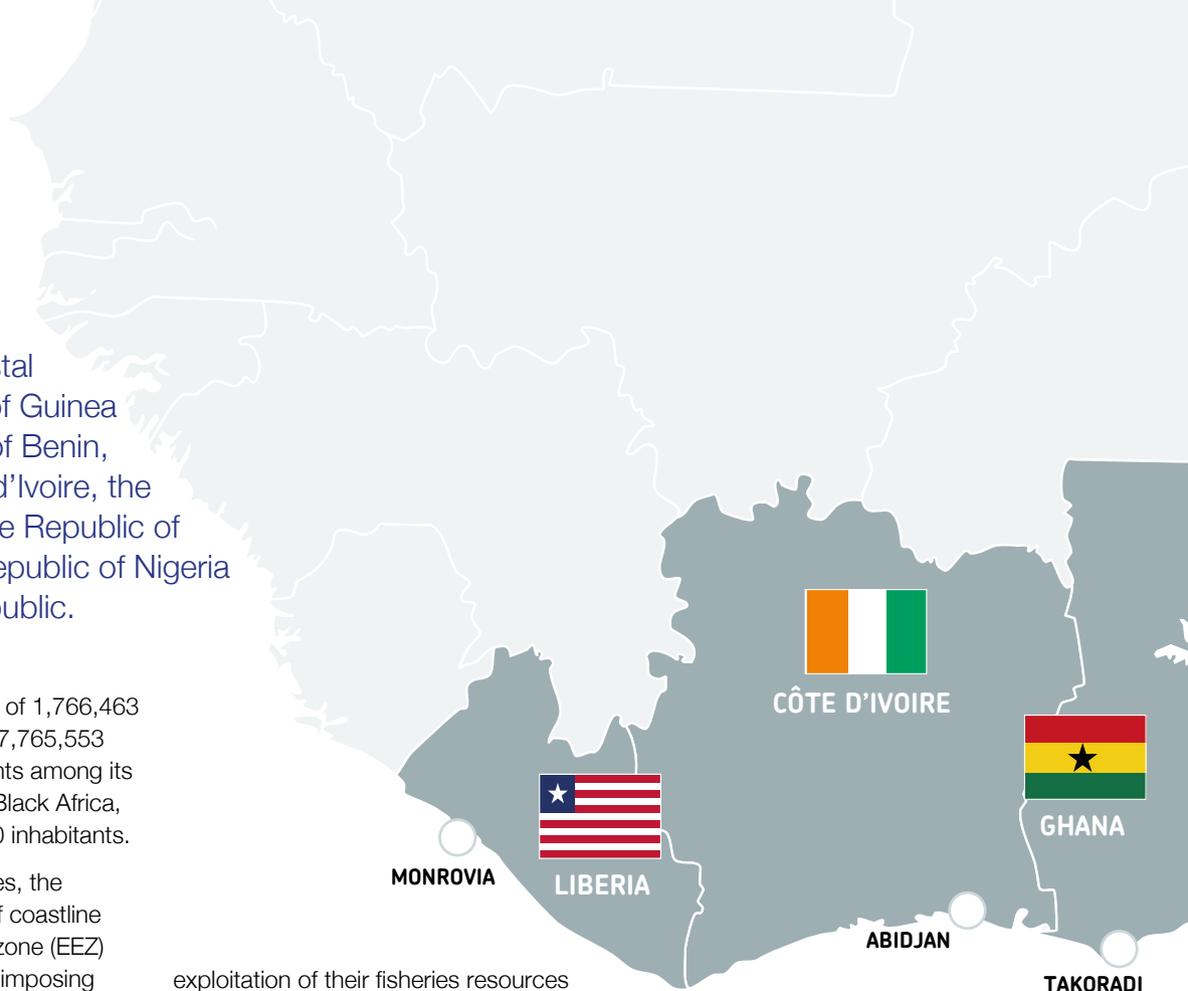
In terms of fisheries resources, the FCWC area has 2,633 km of coastline and an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 923,916 km². Despite its imposing maritime space, the FCWC area does not produce enough fish to feed its population. Only Ghana is relatively "self-sufficient" in fish production. Its imports of fish products represent less than 10% of the total availability of fresh equivalents. All five other countries in this zone are dependent on imports of fish products to more than 70%

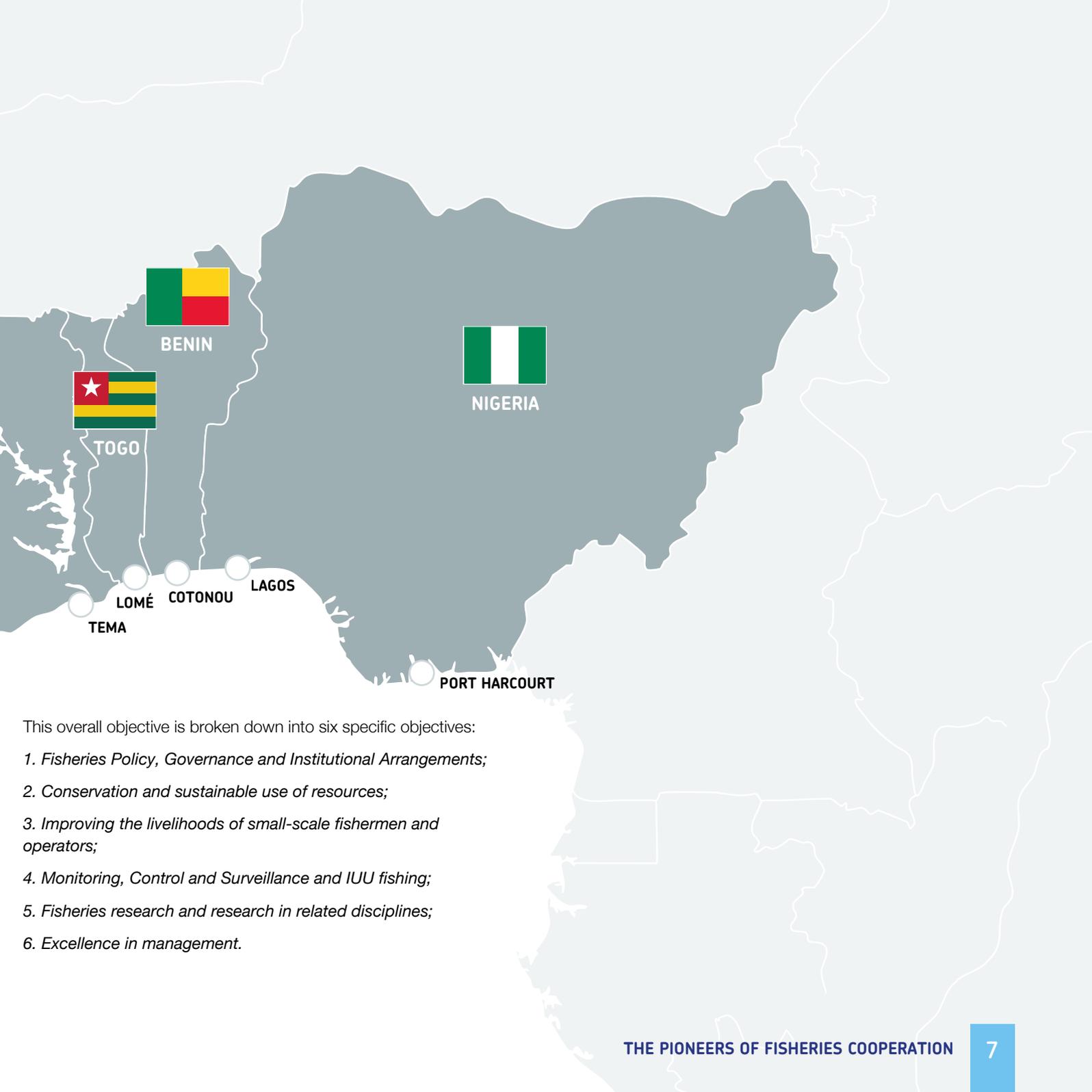
Despite the poor performance of their fisheries sector, the countries of the sub-region are not immune to over-

exploitation of their fisheries resources as a result of the difficultly controllable development of foreign industrial fishing and IUU fishing (illegal, Not declared and Not regulated). These countries are not immune to the degradation of the marine and coastal environment. This is the main reason for the creation of the FCWC by the States of the subregion to boost the fisheries sector, by ensuring the sustainable management of their fisheries resources.

Clear objectives have been assigned

to the Committee. Indeed, according to Article 5 of the Convention establishing the FCWC, the Committee seeks to promote cooperation between the Contracting Parties with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the preservation and optimal use of living marine resources covered by the Convention and to encourage the sustainable development of fisheries on the basis of these resources.





This overall objective is broken down into six specific objectives:

- 1. Fisheries Policy, Governance and Institutional Arrangements;*
- 2. Conservation and sustainable use of resources;*
- 3. Improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishermen and operators;*
- 4. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and IUU fishing;*
- 5. Fisheries research and research in related disciplines;*
- 6. Excellence in management.*



OUR MEMBER STATES





BENIN



Benin



Mr. Roger DOVONOU
Former Minister of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fisheries



Mrs. Catherine HOUNKPE
Former Director of Fisheries

The first Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Committee, hosted by the Government of Benin, led to the establishment of the FCWC on 7 November 2007 with the signing of the Convention by the six member States.

The Conference was chaired by His Excellency, Roger Dovonou, then Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Benin, and saw the adoption of the first annual action plan and the related budget for the effective start of the Committee's activities. During his time as Chair of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, Mr. Dovonou, assisted by his Fisheries Director, Catherine Hounkpe, monitored the FCWC activities in close collaboration with the Secretary General and ensured the official recognition of the Committee by FAO.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire



Dr. Alphonse DOUATI

Former Minister of Animal Resources
and Fisheries Resources

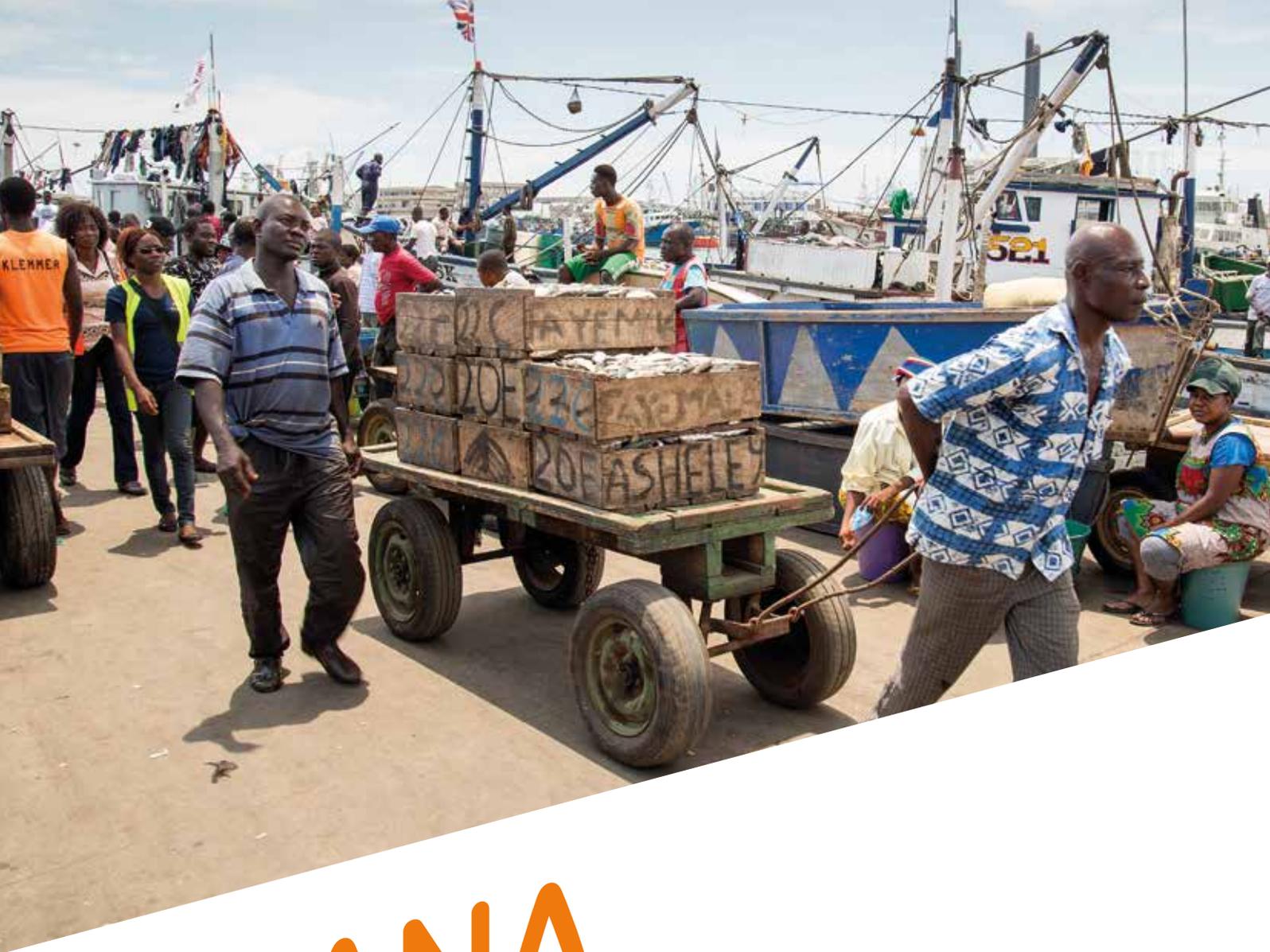


Mr. Kobenan ADJOUANI

Minister of Animal Resources and
Fisheries Resources

Côte d'Ivoire demonstrated early commitment to support the FCWC including the acceptance to put at the disposal of the Committee a Secretary General, namely Mr Dedi Nadjé Seraphin who was the National Director of Fisheries of Côte d'Ivoire, to lead this initiative and through the full payment of his salary from the National Budget.

Former Minister of Animal Production and Fisheries Resources Dr. Alphonse DOUATI personally attended all Sessions of the Ministerial Conference during his time in office and the Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire organized the second and seventh sessions of the Conference of Ministers of the Committee, respectively in 2008 and 2014. Côte d'Ivoire's commitment has continued under the Minister, His Excellency Kobenan Adjoumani with continued strong representation to various FCWC meetings including that of the current Director of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Mr. Helguilé Shep who has been involved in the life of the Committee since its creation.



GHANA



Ghana



Hon. Hanny Sherry AYITEY

Former Minister of Fisheries and
Aquaculture Development



Mr. Samuel QUAATEY

Former Fisheries Commission Chair

Since the establishment of the FCWC, Ghana has demonstrated its commitment to developing fisheries cooperation with the other members, and is the host to the FCWC Headquarters.

The negotiation process of the Headquarters Agreement, initiated by Alfred Tetebo, the former Fisheries Director, and pursued by the former Fisheries Commission Chairperson, Samuel Quatey, finally came to a successful conclusion thanks to support from her Excellency, Hanny-Sherry Ayitey, then Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

Samuel has provided further valuable support to the FCWC through the release of Ghana's annual statutory contribution and the provision of staff and has always followed-up the Committee's recommendations by including any action relating to FCWC in its annual work plan prepared at the end of each session of the Conference of Ministers.



LIBERIA



Liberia



Dr. Moses M. ZINNAH
Minister of Agriculture



Dr. Sizi SUBAH
Deputy Minister for Technical Services,
Ministry of Agriculture

At the end of the period of socio-political crisis and with the establishment of a Government following democratic and transparent Presidential elections, Liberia pledged to strengthen fisheries cooperation through FCWC.

The Ninth Session of the Conference of Ministers of the Committee, chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Vice-President of Liberia, was held in December 2016 in Monrovia. It was an opportunity for Liberia to fully reconnect with the Committee.

Dr. Sizi S. SUBAH, Deputy Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Responsible for Fisheries, now retired, has been one of the most regular personalities at the sessions of the Conference of Ministers of the Committee, since its creation.

Following the ninth Session of the Conference of Ministers, Dr. Moses M. Zinnah, Minister of Agriculture of Liberia was elected President of the Ministerial Conference. Dr. Zinnah is the first Liberian Authority to preside over the destiny of the Committee.



NIGERIA

Nigeria



Mr Bukar TIJANI

Former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



Mrs Bola Aduke KUPOLATI

Deputy Director of Fisheries and Head of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Nigeria has been a strong supporter of the FCWC and organized the Fourth Session of the Conference of Ministers in 2010, and will host the Tenth Session and the celebration of the tenth Anniversary in 2017.

His Excellency Bukar Tijani, in his role as Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, between 2011 and 2013 acted as Chair of the Ministerial Conference, and enabled the activities of the Committee to be re-launched by regularization of arrears of the statutory annual contribution of the members.

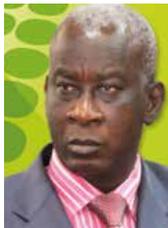
Mrs Bola Aduke Kupolati, Deputy Director of Fisheries and Head of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS), Nigeria has contributed significantly in fighting against IUU fishing, through strengthening cooperation and collaboration between national agencies with an interagency National Working Group which comprised of the representatives from Federal Department of Fisheries, Nigeria Maritime and Safety Administration (NIMASA), Nigerian Navy, Marine Police, Attorney General of the Federation Office, Interpol, Port Authority to combat IUU Fishing in the Nigerian waters. Under her action, Nigeria was able to make the IMO Number mandatory for all fishing vessels including flagged vessels and work to get the Government of Nigeria place a ban on pair trawling in the Nigeria waters. She facilitates together with Nigerian Navy in arrest of fishing vessels in violations of fishing regulations.



TOGO



Togo



Mr. Kossi Messan EWOVOR

Former Minister of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fisheries



Colonel Ouro-Kouro AGADAZI

Minister of Agriculture,
Livestock and Fisheries

Togo has played a leading role in the development of fisheries cooperation within the sub-region.

His Excellency, Mr. Kossi Messan Ewovor, former Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries championed the importance of fisheries within Togo through the establishment of a Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2009. The Director, Dr. Domtani Ali actively contributes to the life of the FCWC and has helped in the preparation and organization of the fifth Session of the FCWC Conference of Ministers in 2012 in Togo.

The current Minister, His Excellency, Colonel Ouro-Koura Agadazi was the first Minister in charge of fisheries of Togo; he undertook important reforms for the sustainable fisheries resources management and the fight against IUU fishing.

OUR PARTNERS

Partnership has been at the heart of the success of the FCWC. Over the ten years that our Committee has existed we have been privileged to have the support of a range of organisations. International organisations provide support and amplify our endeavours. Regional organisations

enable us to share lessons and resources as well as and strengthen the impact of our work within West Africa. Cooperating and technical partners work with us on innovative projects, allowing us to lead practice and thinking on issues such as tackling illegal fishing.

International organisations

African Union

The African Union (AU) was established in 2002, to promote unity and solidarity of African states, to spur economic development, and to promote international cooperation. The AU and its specialized technical bodies of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) organized the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA), in 2010, in Gambia. The CAMFA consolidated the position and visibility of Fisheries Organizations through its recommendation to make regional fisheries bodies technical arms of regional economic communities in fisheries development. As part of the implementation of these decisions, the first meeting of a pan-African Policy framework and fisheries reform strategy was held in 2012 in Côte d'Ivoire. The FCWC has been involved in conducting regional fisheries assessments, as part of an exercise led by Dr Mohamed Seisay covering the five regions of Africa in



Dr Simplicie NOUALA

Chief Animal Production Officer, African Union



African Union (AU) and its specialized technical bodies of the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and NEPAD organized the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in September re 2010, in Banjul, The Gambia.

The CAMFA consolidated the position and visibility of Fisheries Organizations through its recommendation which is supposed to make RFBs (Regional Fisheries Bodies) technical weapons of RECs (Regional Economic Communities) in fisheries development. This recommendation is the basis for the gradual rapprochement of the FCWC and ECOWAS. As part of the implementation of these decisions, the first meeting of a pan-African Policy Framework and fisheries reform strategy was held from 4 to 6 June 2012 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire under the aegis of Dr. Simplicie NOUALA.

AU-IBAR

AU-IBAR has shown ongoing support to the FCWC and most recently has supported an evaluation of the regional plan to tackle IUU fishing and the development of a regional fisheries management plan.



Dr Mohamed SEISAY
Senior Fisheries Officer, AU-IBAR



Muhamed has specialised in fisheries resources evaluations and forecasting, fisheries policy development and formulation of fisheries management plans. He has 28 years working experience in fisheries. Prior to joining AU-IBAR, he worked at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone, as well as on projects in Malawi, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone and as Regional Fisheries Consultant to the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Mohamed's responsibilities at AU-IBAR include the development of strategies to improve good governance of African fisheries for increased productivity, profitability and sustainability.

AU-IBAR has attended several sessions of the FCWC Conference of Ministers during which the cooperation of the two institutions was enhanced.

'The African Union is fully aware of the role and importance of regional fisheries bodies and regional economic communities in West Africa. We are pleased to be able to say that we have had excellent relationships with the FCWC and ECOWAS, both of which are highly supportive of the African Union's reform agenda for fisheries and aquaculture on the continent.'

AU-IBAR has a special role in the implementation of the African fisheries and aquaculture policy and the Malabo Declaration, the African Union, in partnership with the WorldFish and the NEPAD and with support for the European Union, the project "Improving Food Security and Reducing Poverty through intra-regional Fish Trade in sub-Saharan Africa" and the "Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Enhance Governance of the Fisheries Sector in Africa.'

NEPAD



Dr. Sloans CHIMATIRO

Coordinator of a Pan-African FishTrade Program,
and Country Director for Zambia and Tanzania.



Sloans is a fisheries and aquaculture specialist with more than 20 years' experience of research in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as fisheries administration, policy reform and management. He helped formulate the NEPAD Fisheries and Aquaculture Action Plan in 2005 that was endorsed by African Union Heads of State and Governments during the Abuja Summit in August 2005, as a precursor to the current AU Fisheries Policy. Between 2006 and September 2014, he was the Head of Fisheries at NEPAD, where he was responsible for the development of the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy; and assisting African countries and regional organizations to design and implement fisheries policy and governance reform.

Currently Sloans works for WorldFish as Coordinator of a Pan-African FishTrade Program, and Country Director for Zambia and Tanzania.

Sloans has had a long working relationship with the FCWC since initiating the involvement of the FCWC as a key player in the Partnership for African Fisheries Trade and Governance project to the recent research project for promotion of informal cross-border fish trade between Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin.

'Regional economic and political integration are enshrined in the Africa Union as the basis for Regional Economic Communities as well as Regional Fisheries Bodies such as the FCWC. It is important for governments to support FCWC in order for the institution to be able to coordinate the development and implementation of national and regional fisheries development plans that are coherent with the African Union's regional integration agenda.'

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the parent organization to the FCWC and has strongly contributed to the creation of FCWC and its development through its staff including, Mr. Alhaji JALLOW, Mr. Germain DASYLVA and Dr. Kwame KORANTENG.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Alhaji JALLOW

Resident Country Representative of FAO, Uganda.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Alhaji holds a B.Sc (Hons) *Fisheries Studies from HumberSide University, UK* and an *MSc Fisheries Economics from the University of Portsmouth, UK*. Before his appointment in Uganda in 2011, he served 5 years as a Fisheries Socio-economist in an FAO Regional Programme based in Cotonou, Benin and 12 years in the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) in Accra, Ghana as Regional Fisheries Planning Officer and Senior Regional Fisheries Officer for Africa respectively. He served as Secretary of several regional bodies, including the Fishery Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFA) and FAO Regional Conference for Africa. He also worked in several positions for many years in the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Government of The Gambia.

Alhaji is one of the pioneers of FCWC as Secretary of CECAF at RAF, in Ghana. He facilitated the establishment of the FCWC by supervising support from Swedish Cooperation (SIDA) for the first funding. He also facilitated mobilisation and sending of SIDA Experts as well the intervention of the Consultant, Dr. SATIA. In addition, Mr. JALLOW mobilized CECAF funds for the organization of the first session of the FCWC Conference of Ministers. He also made available his team (Secretariat) that accompanied the FCWC for its effective establishment.



Germain DASYLVA

FAO representative in Côte d'Ivoire



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Germain began his career as a fisheries expert with a number of roles with the FAO in Madagascar. In 2004, Germain became Fisheries Planning Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Ghana and, in 2006, Fisheries Officer, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO Sub-Regional Office for West Africa, Ghana. In September 2010, he was appointed FAO Representative in Chad and since February 2014, FAO Representative in Côte d'Ivoire.

'I would like to congratulate the FCWC Secretary General for his leadership and dynamism over the last 10 years. This has allowed FCWC to continue to operate, especially during periods when contributions from Member States were lacking. My small contribution to the FCWC first consisted in the formulation and implementation of the TCP? in support of the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan that allowed the FCWC to have an orientation tool and own planning.

Today the FCWC is a well-established institution based on a sub-regional cooperation dynamic that deserves to be strengthened. I look forward to seeing strengthening of financial and human capacities and an increase in awareness of the Committee's actions amongst member States, technical and financial partners.

As the FCWC matures it should now go beyond the stage of initial political engagement and gradually enter the stages of starting a coordination of public policies on fisheries management. This is particularly relevant to the issues of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance to better combat IUU fishing. Other projects are to be opened, on the regulation of access conditions, the harmonization of fisheries regulations and licensing arrangements and on sub-regional cooperation in research and sectoral monitoring.'

EAF Nansen

The FCWC is a key partner of the EAF Nansen project and its Secretary General serves as a member of its Steering Committee. Through this partnership, each of the six FCWC members have been assisted to prepare a management plan for one of its fisheries using the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) framework. The Project also worked with the FCWC in capacity development activities on various subjects for national scientists.



Dr Kwame KORANTENG
FAO



Kwame was the Coordinator of the FAO EAF-Nansen Project from 2008 to 2017. He has over thirty-five years experience in aquatic resources assessment, conservation and sustainable use and has advised local communities, Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations on fisheries matters. He joined FAO from the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Before that Kwame was with the Marine Fisheries Research Division of Ghana, during which time he played very active role in the work of CEEF Working Groups and Scientific Committee. He has served on several other international scientific committees including panels of the Global Ocean Observing System (IOOS of UNESCO) and the FAO Advisory Committee on Fishery Research.

'It has been a pleasure to work with the FCWC and their member States as the new \$80 million research vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen has been developed. This vessel is one of the most advanced research vessels in the world and is part of an ongoing project with the FAO to support developing countries improve the management of their fisheries. With seven laboratories dedicated to collecting data on marine ecosystems, climate change and pollution to help developing countries improve fisheries management

The EAF-Nansen project works with 32 coastal countries in Africa to help them obtain detailed information on their marine resources so that they can develop fisheries management plans, with a focus on maintaining ecosystem health and productivity.'

IMCS Network

The International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Network was established in 2001 to provide a mechanism for fisheries law enforcement professionals to share information and experiences as they monitor the increasingly complex harvesting and marketing of fish around the world. The rise in illegal activities that has accompanied globalization underscores the need for cooperative law enforcement across national borders.



Cooperating partners

African Development Bank

The overarching objective of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries thus contributing to poverty reduction. This is achieved through the mobilization and allocation of resources for investment and the provision of policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts.

The ANRC has been supporting the FCWC and its Member States in the utilization of legal instruments, and especially port and market measures, to fight IUU fishing.



Jean-Louis KROMER

Chief, African Natural Resources Center (ANRC) - African Development Bank (AfDB)



Jean-Louis has more than 30 years of extensive work experience for various international organisations (AfDB, EU, FAO, IFAD, IUCN, UNDP and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), in the conception and implementation of numerous field projects, and the design of policies, in fisheries, aquaculture and watershed management. He has worked in 35, mainly African, countries and has an in-depth knowledge of both inland and marine artisanal fisheries, and aquaculture, all over Africa and the Indian Ocean islands. His field experience includes the implementation of projects in post-conflict situations as well as some pioneer work in fisheries co-management. More recently, he has been working on the development of the blue economy in Africa and its islands.

'More specifically we provided some technical assistance to FCWC Member States for the ratification of the FAO Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) and by preparing a simplified guideline to assist them in being compliant with the EU 1005/2008 anti IUU regulation. We supported the FCWC to organise a workshop in Cotonou in 2015, on these themes, which was attended by representatives of all FCWC and SRFC member, countries and we also assisted in the organization of the 9th FCWC conference of ministers.'

'I have seen the evolution of the FCWC since 2013 and like others I may have at some time doubted that the institution would survive, but looking at the very positive developments during these last 2 years I am now confident that it is on the right track to become a strong regional fisheries organization.'

European Union

The European Union are supporting the FCWC through the development of a new five year project: 'improved regional fisheries governance in West Africa' (PESCAO), which is due to begin implementation in 2018. The PESCAO initiative has been developed at the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and will be implemented through the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the FCWC.



Alioune Badara SY
Technical expert



The ACP FISH II Program was supported in West Africa by Alioune, a socio-economist expert with 30 years of experience in the fisheries sector. From 2000 to 2011, Alioune was heavily involved in the drafting of national sectoral policy documents both within the Studies and Planning Unit of the Ministry in charge of Fisheries and the Prime Minister Office in Senegal.

Since 2013 Alioune has been an independent Consultant and carried out several missions for the Government of Senegal and some international development agencies (e.g. WAMER, NEPAD, EU, FAO, USAID, IFAD).

Alioune has worked on the preparation, financing and implementation of projects of the FCWC Secretariat, including the study on the establishment of national registers of industrial fishing vessels; support for the implementation of the FCWC Regional Action Plan against IUU fishing; technical assistance for capacity building of the FCWC through the development of its website.

I note today, with great interest and satisfaction, that in the wake of our earlier work, the FCWC has developed skills and recognized expertise in the fight against IUU fishing. The implementation of the project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS in West Africa' and the subsequent development of the West Africa Task Force to stop illegal fishing is a significant development for West Africa. We are leading the world and showing how illegal fishing can be effectively tackled.'

Norad

Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, supports an ongoing project called 'The Fisheries Intelligence and MCS support in West Africa'. This has enabled the creation of the West Africa Task Force to stop illegal fishing that is hosted by the FCWC and brings together Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo to share information and intelligence on licensed and flagged fishing vessels in order to increase compliance.



Sida

SIDA is a government agency working on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government, with the mission to reduce poverty in the world. SIDA were strong supporters of the establishment of FCWC providing important funding and providing a staff member, Jessica Olausson



Jessica Hjerpe OLAUSSON
Fisheries Expert



Jessica started working with fisheries management in 2002 at the Swedish Board of Fisheries, working with local and regional management methods, the interaction with environmental issues and also with development aid connected to fisheries in West Africa. This work brought her to the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Ghana for one year, where she worked with FCWC.

Jessica now heads the Maritime Cluster of West Sweden, working broadly with development in the maritime sector, including seafood, marine energy, coastal management, marine biotechnology and marine tourism.

'My time in Ghana was my first time in a sub-Saharan African country. I lived there together with my husband and our one-year old daughter. The work I undertook together with the FCWC Secretary General was in many ways rewarding. The Swedish Board of Fisheries who cooperated with SIDA stationed me in Ghana on fisheries management issues. I was to support FCWC in the establishment of the Committee and this meant for me learning about the West African traditional fisheries management methods. I also travelled together with Dedi to visit the countries included in FCWC and during our travels he taught me a lot about the African ways.

With a one-year old daughter at home I sometimes found it hard to be away and worried while travelling, but Dedi took good care of me! After my year in Ghana I came home with a lot of new knowledge about fisheries management in the FCWC area and with many good memories. I want to thank all the dedicated people I met during my time in Ghana and I hope that my small contribution will have contributed in some little way to the success of FCWC. I wish you all the best for the future.'

Technical partners

Stop Illegal Fishing

Stop Illegal Fishing and FCWC started cooperating in 2007, in respect to regional MCS training, support to the FCWC MCS Committee and bringing West African evidence into international and African policy processes.

Mr Seraphin Dedi, Secretary General of the FCWC has served as Vice Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing since it became a Not for Profit in 2013 until 2017. He works closely with Stop Illegal Fishing on the coordination of the West Africa Task Force, established in 2015 and hosted by FCWC, the WATF is coordinated by TMT and Stop Illegal Fishing with funding from Norad.



Per Erik BERGH
Coordinator



Per Erik's driving interest is fighting illegal fishing and assisting fisheries inspectors to bring perpetrators to justice. He achieves this through his extensive global network gained from working in over 50 countries and engaging in international fishery and maritime affairs since his career began in the Norwegian coastguard. Per Erik has, for the last two decades lived in Africa, working mainly to assist countries to build capacity in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Per Erik is the Coordinator of Stop Illegal Fishing and he heads up the Investigative Unit, leading operations and investigations into illegal fishing and fisheries crime: work that takes him and his colleagues from fishing vessels to boardrooms all over the world. In 2016, when Per Erik was awarded The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit (Knight First Class) in recognition of his outstanding service in the interests of Norway, his key role in fighting IUU fishing and fisheries crime was recognised and praised.

'Through working together with the countries of the FCWC, particularly with the West Africa Task Force, we have uncovered the extent of the illegalities that are taking place in our ocean every day. I look forward to continuing to collaborate to develop stronger frameworks and procedures, build capacity and to establish and implement transparent systems so that the region can make further progress and ensure that the fishery resources are safe from the hands of illegal operators. I commend all members of the FCWC for their achievements in fighting illegal fishing and in regional cooperation over the past decade.'

Stop Illegal Fishing

Stop Illegal Fishing and FCWC started cooperating in 2007, in respect to regional MCS training, support to the FCWC MCS Committee and bringing West African evidence into international and African policy processes.

Mr Seraphin Dedi, Secretary General of the FCWC has served as Vice Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing since it became a Not for Profit in 2013 until 2017. He works closely with Stop Illegal Fishing on the coordination of the West Africa Task Force, established in 2015 and hosted by FCWC, the WATF is coordinated by TMT and Stop Illegal Fishing with funding from Norad.



Sandy DAVIES
Treasurer



Starting out as a scientific fisheries observer, working onboard fishing vessels in the South Atlantic Ocean, Sandy has worked in fisheries management and sustainable development for 30 years. In 1994, she moved to the African continent to work on a remote lake in Nigeria, since then Africa has been her home. During these years, Sandy has worked across the continent contributing her experiences and knowledge into fisheries policy processes; fisheries management systems; and to guide and train many individuals. She spent eight years as the Southern African Development Community Fisheries Adviser and since then has focused her efforts to support evidence based engagement and influence in regional and global fisheries processes.

Sandy is a founding member of Stop Illegal Fishing, and she believes that through cooperation not competition, through building teams not dividing people and institutions, we can move closer to realizing our SDG 14 target – to eradicate IUU fishing by 2020.

‘Congratulations to all members of the FCWC and its Secretariat for your excellent progress towards sustainable conservation and optimal utilization of the fishery resources within your waters and region. It has been a pleasure to work with many of you during the last ten years: crafting an African Voice at the table of the United Nations; reviewing fishing access policies and practices; identifying illegal operators through the West Africa Task Force; and finding ways to simply join-up the dots and do things better. I warmly wish you good cooperation, collaboration and thriving fisheries in the decade to come.’

Trygg Mat Tracking

Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) is a not-for-profit entity registered in Norway that provides support to fisheries enforcement agencies and other relevant international partners, with a focus on African Coastal States where capacity and resources are extremely limited.

TMT have worked closely with FCWC on the establishment of the West Africa Task Force, which brings together the six member countries of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal fishing and fisheries crime. The Task Force is facilitated by the FCWC Secretariat and supported by a Technical Team that includes TMT and Stop Illegal Fishing with funding from Norad.



Duncan COPELAND

Executive Director, Trygg Mat Tracking



Duncan is a recognised expert in IUU fishing in Africa and has been with TMT since its establishment in 2013. Duncan's work has focussed on fisheries development and enforcement in developing countries for over 15 years, as an ecologist, in NGOs, and as a specialist MCS adviser to African Governments.,

Duncan has been working with the FCWC since 2010 on various initiatives in the region. This cooperation expanded in 2014, when TMT entered into a partnership with the FCWC to assist with the establishment of the West Africa Task Force. The project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa' was developed to achieve this objective, with support provided by Norad. The aim of the West Africa Task Force is to improve compliance and governance in the region's large-scale fisheries sector, leading to sustainable exploitation of fish stocks and more income and fish available to coastal states.

'Working with the FCWC to develop the West Africa Task Force has provided an opportunity to support the work of the FCWC by operationalizing key FCWC conventions and processes that had been signed between member countries on information sharing, cooperation on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), and the establishment of long-term, sustainable mechanisms to ensure fisheries compliance in the region. Over the last three years it has been exciting to see the members of the FCWC working actively together, sharing information and really pulling together to fight illegal fishing. I am proud to be part of this journey.'

Regional organizations

ATLAFCO

ATLAFCO, as an intergovernmental organization comprising 22 coastal African countries, from Morocco to Namibia, played a role in the creation of the FCWC through the recommendations formulated by the ATLAFCO Member States during their 1999 and 2005 meetings.

The FCWC Secretary General has been committed to developing a strategic partnership with ATLAFCO, leading to the signing of two Financing Agreements in 2013 and 2016 with the current Executive Secretary, Mr Abdelouahed Benabbou. The 2013 Convention provided the FCWC with a support fund to (i) implement the process of adopting the harmonization of conditions for access to shared resources and information exchange of information on fisheries and (ii) support Member States' administrations for the control, inspection of vessels in the fight against IUU fishing. Beyond these financing agreements, the ATLAFCO is regularly represented at the FCWC statutory meetings. Likewise, the FCWC Secretariat actively participates in the various meetings organized by ATLAFCO.



Abdelouahed BENABBOU
Executive Secretary



Abdelouahed is the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, the intergovernmental organization comprising 22 coastal African countries, from Morocco to Namibia that played a high-level political role to help create the FCWC.

The FCWC Secretary General was committed since the creation of the Committee to develop a strategic partnership with ATLAFCO. This led to the signing of two Financing Agreements in 2013 and 2016 with the current Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU.

The 2013 Convention provided the FCWC with a support fund to (i) implement the process of adopting the harmonization of conditions for access to shared resources and information exchange of information on fisheries and (ii) support Member States' administrations for the control, inspection of vessels in the fight against IUU fishing.

'Our cooperation with the FCWC has made it possible to conduct a review of the fisheries legal framework of FCWC Member States and to operationalize national, regional and international instruments. The Convention on Minimum Conditions for Access to fishery Resources in the FCWC Area has also been analysed and recommendations made to ensure compliance with the FCWC requirements and a plan for implementation has been drawn up.'

The ATLAFCO is regularly represented at the FCWC statutory meetings. Likewise, the FCWC Secretariat actively participates in the various meetings organized by ATLAFCO.'

The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem

The Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) is considered to include the exclusive economic zones of 16 countries, namely, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo. It is rich in living marine resources, with the fishing industry providing livelihood for thousands of fishermen and foreign exchange for the countries. The GEF-funded GCLME project focussed on improving the sustainability of the fisheries and reducing land and sea-based pollution.



Technical experts



Konan ANGAMAN

Technical Advisor for Fisheries,
Ministry of Animal and Fisheries
Resources of Côte d'Ivoire

Konan has 33 years of experience in fisheries policy development, legislation and regulation, and project management. He has been involved in numerous projects in the region, including a Regional Project under the Sustainable Livelihoods in Fisheries Program, the ACP-Fish 2 project, and as focal point for the World Bank's West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP). Since 2009, he has been the Technical Adviser for Fisheries at the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources in Côte d'Ivoire where he participates in the development of fisheries policies and strategies particularly related to of blue economy and growth ,and the negotiation of fisheries partnership agreements between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union.

'On the sidelines of an FAO International Fisheries Meeting held in Abuja in 2000, Mr Wake, Director of Fisheries of Benin, Dr. Satia, FAO Officer and myself were talking about sub-regional fisheries management institutions. We noted the institutional vacuum for the six countries that are Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. It was therefore agreed to consider the creation of an organization that would bring them together. After a study to define the organization and operation of this new organization by the FAO the conclusions led to the establishment of the FCWC which was focused on the baptismal font in 2007 in Benin. Such was my modest contribution to the birth of CPCO. During the ten years of the FCWC, I have worked with and supported the Secretariat of the FCWC and have participated in many Ssssions of the Conference of Ministers.'



Joseph CATANZANO
Technical expert

Joseph has held senior posts in both IFREMER and IRD (formerly ORSTOM), as Director of Fisheries Economics Research. He co-founded the Institute for Sustainable Development and Aquatic Resources (IDDRA) and has extensive international work experience with both international development organizations and national governments, mainly in Africa, with a special focus on fisheries policy and management.

Since April 2014, Dr. CATANZANO has been associated with the FAO Blue Growth Initiative. Joseph also assists with the development of cooperation programs and projects with the World Bank and the African Development Bank (African Package in the partnership between FAO and the two development support institutions).

A strong supporter of strengthening regional fisheries and economic integration organizations in Africa over the last 30 years, he recently contributed to the development of the Global Environment Fund's Coastal Fisheries Initiative Program.

'I remember the young man I met at the FAO offices in Accra ten years ago when the Committee was established. During an interview, organized by a friend then stationed there, we welcomed Dedi, recognising that he had already succeeded in opening up new opportunities with the FAO itself. He exhibited a powerful will to share his desire to succeed for this mandate, for this institution, and for those countries in this region, including his own. The FCWC has developed quickly; by listening and learning from others and their experiences, the FCWC has created a shared vision between the countries and the desire to work together and seek common solutions. This will be achieved by pooling their capacities and their commitments. He probably already knew, but we did not know yet, that he was not going to let go. I did not know either that from there would be born a friendship that continues to grow

We already had in common the idea that it is the actions that decide the value of men and institutions. Dedi has made his own action, in respect of international laws, those of the FCWC and thus transferred his energy to the service of all. He committed us to these sides to bring our experiences, our expertise to the first strategic reflections.'

**Professor Benedict SATIA**

Affiliate Professor, School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Benedict is Affiliate Professor at the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, USA. Prior to November 2004 he was Chief of the International Institutions and Liaison Service, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and Secretary to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research. For several years, he was the Director of a regional small-scale fisheries project covering twenty coastal countries in West and Central Africa from Mauritania to Angola. He has authored or co-authored over 80-refereed scientific and technical papers, technical reports and book chapters in fisheries and aquaculture. Benedict Satia has held a number of key advisory roles, including Board Member of the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) now WorldFish Center. He is very conversant with African fisheries and aquaculture and has played a key role in many initiatives related to these important disciplines in the continent.

As resource-person, he elaborated the first draft of the constitutive documents for the establishment of the FCWC and developed the strategic plan of the FCWC. in consultation with a cross-section of the relevant stakeholders from the sub-region and with inputs from external experts and partners.



Dr Moustapha KÉBÉ
Technical expert

Moustapha is a Senegalese national and an economist specializing in fisheries and agriculture. He has significant experience in research, rural development and the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa with many international institutions such as FAO and the AfDB.

Moustapha has attended almost every session of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, either as FAO staff or as a FCWC resource person.

'I extend my sincere congratulations to the Secretary General of the FCWC; I have been delighted at his frank collaboration, and for his open-mindedness, his sense of responsibility and his leadership. These qualities have made it possible to develop a credible and strong Committee, despite the many difficulties encountered. The commitment of the member States is also to be emphasised; the support of the Governments, through their Ministers of fisheries and the active participation of the Directors of Fisheries have ensured the success of the FCWC.

As part of the team ensuring the success of the annual Minister's meetings I have seen first hand the hard work and dedication that goes in to making the FCWC a successful organization.

All that remains is to speed up the pace, as we say here, of genuine fisheries cooperation between the Member States for the benefit of the fishing communities. This will require the strong and continued cooperation between regional organizations and civil society.'



Dr Amadou TALL
Technical expert

Amadou is a veterinarian specialist in fish and fishery products with over 30 years experience in the field of post-harvest fisheries. He served as the first Director of the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa, (INFOPÊCHE) from 1995-2008.

Amadou currently works as a consultant involved in various issues including feasibility and marketing studies; trade facilitation; e-commerce; value chain and research and development in value addition. Amadou has worked for many regional and international institutions including the World Bank; FAO; UNIDO; AU; EU; IFAD; NORAD; AfDB and ATLAFCO.

'I remember during my first years at INFOPECHE, I was determined to contribute to the birth and development of sub-regional organizations that are useful for ensuring the sustainability of the fishery resources of our continent. Thus, we advocated for the creation of a sub-regional fisheries commission for the countries of the West Central region of the Gulf of Guinea. As it was up to FAO and the States to lead the negotiations for the establishment of this Committee, the arrival of Dr Benedict Satia, to the COFI-FAO Secretariat has been beneficial for the creation of the FCWC.

A few years after the birth of the FCWC, I had the opportunity to attend a session of the Conference of Ministers during which a round table of Donors was organised for the financing of the Strategic Plan of the Committee which came from to be adopted. It was a great opportunity to work together and to appreciate the will of the Secretary General to succeed in his mission as Secretary General of the FCWC. His professionalism and self-sacrifice have enabled the FCWC to earn its place as a credible organization with an international reputation.'

OUR
SECRETARIAT



Mr Seraphin DEDI-NADJE
FCWC Secretary- General

Mr Dedi Nadje is the first Secretary General of the FCWC, appointed to lead the organisation on its formation in 2007.

Dedi has established the administrative and legal basis of the FCWC and under his leadership many regional and sub-regional projects and initiatives have been implemented.

After completing his qualifications as an Engineer of Waters, Forests and Environment Management at Felix Houphouët Boigny Polytechnic Institute, Côte d'Ivoire in 1996 Dedi obtained further qualifications in Pedagogy, Fisheries policy, Aquaculture development, MCS, Ethics in Economy and Sustainable Development. Starting his career as Trainer and later Head of vocational Center of Fisheries and Aquaculture practitioners in Bouake and Tiebissou Dedi managed several projects in fisheries communities around Kossou and Ayamé lakes in Côte d'Ivoire, under World Bank projects.

Appointed as National Director of Fisheries of Côte d'Ivoire in 2002, Dedi contributed to the implementation of Cote d'Ivoire's National Fisheries Policy, negotiation of Fisheries Agreement with EU, coordination regional projects funded by technical and financial partners and attended international meetings as representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

As Secretary General of the FCWC Dedi has overseen the organisations participation in a range of regional and international projects from EU funded ACP FISH II, the FAO EAF Nansen Project; Conference of African Ministers in charge of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) in 2010 and 2014 as well as contributing in ECOWAS and Africa Union Fisheries and Aquaculture policies development for coherence and strengthening institutional collaboration in African fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Vice-chair of Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) from 2013 to 2017, Dedi was an active member of the AU-NEPAD Team to establish the "African voice in fisheries" at FAO COFI since 2009. His contribution to the development of a strong strategy of awareness for West Africa coastal countries to combat illegal fishing has led to the establishment of the West Africa Task Force (WATF) which provides the region with a multi-agency and international approach to fighting illegal fishing.



Abena Serwah ASANTE
Fisheries Technical Advisor

Ms Asante is an Assistant Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

She has varied experience in the fisheries sector in Ghana, having started as a District Fisheries Officer in the year 2000 providing extension services to fish farmers. She successfully managed one of the first community-owned cage culture and integrated agriculture aquaculture projects in Ghana. Abena was actively involved in engaging artisanal fishermen in Tema, sensitizing them on relevant parts of Ghana's fisheries and arbitrating in conflicts at sea. She also contributed to training fisheries officers across West Africa in fisheries statistics. Having a strong passion for evidence-based fisheries management, has been involved in marine fisheries research, particularly in the area of catch assessment statistics and participated in the planning of regional fisheries resources surveys in West Africa, managed by the UEMOA. Abena has also participated in national surveys in Ghana, aboard the research vessel, R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen one of which she was the Co-Cruise Leader.

Abena joined the FCWC Secretariat in 2016 to assist in promoting cooperation among member states to ensure evidence-based management of the region's fisheries resources, and Abena is keenly involved, as the regional Coordinator of the FAO TCP on strengthening routine fisheries data collection in FCWC region in support of decision making process and fisheries management.



Viviane KOUTOB

Regional Project Coordinator –
West Africa Task Force

Viviane is currently working closely with the FCWC for the implementation of a project aiming at combatting IUU fishing in the FCWC member countries waters.

Viviane has a legal background, and is currently completing her doctoral studies specialising in maritime and environmental law as well as fisheries policy related to IUU fishing.

Viviane has been a consultant for many international organizations and projects including Oceana, USAID/COMFISH, Sea Around Us, and has collaborated with the University of British Columbia, and was the lead researcher on IUU fishing impacts and catch estimations in Senegal. Her valuable work as a monitoring, control and surveillance expert strengthens the FCWC staff.

For the last three years, Viviane has been the Regional Field Coordinator at Trygg Mat Tracking, working closely with the FCWC Secretariat for the implementation of a project aiming at combatting IUU fishing in the FCWC member countries waters. Her valuable work as a fisheries expert provides support to strengthen the FCWC staff, which makes her a valuable asset to the Organization. Her contribution as a legal advisor to the organization on all legal related matters as well as maritime and environmental related issues are very well appreciated within the region.



Ostone KPADONOU

Webmaster

Mr Kpadonou is the webmaster of FCWC which he joined in 2010. He is an experienced website administrator with a demonstrated history of developing and hosting websites for restaurants, churches, NGOs and others.

He studied at Université Protestante de l'Afrique de L'Ouest, ATI-Formation and Micheal & Vivian Blair Information Technology Centre. His professional skills include website development and hosting, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Visual Basic, Java SE, PHP, WordPress, Joomla, Hardware and Networking, Microsoft Office and more.



Joel Bio BATA

Administrative and Financial Assistant

Mr. Joel Bio Bata is the Administrative and Financial Assistant of the FCWC, which he joined in 2013. With ten years of experience as an expert financial administrator, he has actively contributed to the improvement of the Financial Information System (FIS) of the organisation.

A management accountant by training, Bio Bata studied at Ecole Supérieur de Commerce et de Gestion and Institut Cerco-Benin.

His previous experience includes Finance and Administration of Development Projects and Programmes of the European Union in Benin for the Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles d'Eleveurs de Ruminants (ANOPER) of Benin and the Consortium IGF FOUNDATION & ED ONG in Benin.

He also worked as an Accountant for PGIPAP, a programme implemented by the Directorate of Fisheries of Benin with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB).



Felicia AGYEI

Secretary to Secretary-General

Felicia Agyei has been with the FCWC since 2011 and has served as the bilingual secretary to the secretary-general for this period. She is a Ghanaian with excellent oral communication skills which aid her in her contributions to the wider work of the FCWC.

She discharges several duties in addition to her secretarial duties including administrative support for the organization, handling logistical and travel arrangements among others.



FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE
WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA
(FCWC)

REGIONAL COOPERATION
2007-2017

CONTACT INFORMATION:

4th floor of Marine Fisheries Research Institute Building
Lumumba Drive, Community 2, Tema, Ghana
Postal Address: P.O. Box BT 62 Tema, Ghana
Phone : +233 30 320 5323 / 30 320 5328
Website : www.fcwc-fish.org

