



# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



## REPORT OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

Accra, Ghana  
11-13 January 2023



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## REPORT OF THE 14TH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

### OPENING CEREMONY.

1. The Ministerial session of the 14th Conference of Ministers of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was held on 13 January 2023 at the Tang Palace Hotel in Accra, Ghana, after the work of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC), on 11th and 12th January 2023.
2. The Ministers in charge of fisheries and aquaculture from Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and representatives from Nigeria and Togo participated in the meeting.
3. Participants of the meeting included representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union Delegation to Ghana (EUD), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Co-operation for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE), Improved Fisheries Governance (IFG) project as well as the Ambassadors of Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana, Togo and Benin, and of the Kingdom of Norway to Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and representatives of the various national administrations of Ghana participated in person and online as observers.

The list of participants, both face-to-face and online, is attached as Annex 1.

4. Mr Seraphin Dedi, FCWC Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the host country, Ghana, for authorizing the hosting of the conference, and thanked the sector minister, Hon. Min. Koomson, for her support and availability. He further thanked the Chairman of the conference, Min. Touré, of Cote d'Ivoire and welcomed the delegations present.

Mr Dedi acknowledged the effort of the Committee of experts who produced the report and recommendations submitted to this Ministerial session. He continued his address, laying out the context for the selection of the new theme of the year 2023, "Supporting effective fisheries management for a sustainable blue economy," inviting Member States to align their national policies appropriately to support fisheries management and develop the blue economy for the benefit of their population. Aside from the technical objectives, he highlighted two key institutional activities certain to make significant changes to the FCWC as an institution: firstly, the MOU signed with ECOWAS which establishes institutional linkages with ECOWAS. This protocol will strengthen the organization's management capacity, and allow the mobilization of expertise and investments for the sustainability of the organization, and increased visibility. Secondly, the designation of a new Secretary-General, will confirm the internal dynamism of the organization and level of commitment and responsibility of its members. Finally, he invited the Conference to adopt the recommendations of the ACC and concluded



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by thanking all partners for their material, technical and financial support over the years.

5. In her welcome address, the Ghanaian Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Min. Mavis Hawa Koomson, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Government of Ghana and Ghana's fisheries and aquaculture associations. She praised the foresight of the FCWC in introducing aquaculture development as a new thematic area, and said Ghana was prepared to share its experience in implementing its aquaculture programme. She shared that in preparation for her role as the Chairperson and President of the Conference of Ministers, she undertook working visits to some Member States, and planned to visit the remaining countries (Liberia and Nigeria) in 2023 to share her vision for the organization. She expressed her desire to tackle challenges through joint actions and a regional approach and called for action to be taken to give visibility to artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, the backbone of Member States' respective fisheries. Min. Koomson asked participants to recognize the impact of marine pollution from plastic waste on the region's fisheries resources and requested that preliminary thinking began on regional approach to tackle the hazard.

6. In his opening speech, the Ivorian Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH), Min. Touré, welcomed the participants, thanked his fellow Ministers for their continued interest in the Conference, and development partners for their support. He commented on the theme of the year, noting that it offered the opportunity to bring out new sources of growth, based on innovative businesses and sectors of activity. He extolled key achievements of the organization since the last Conference that built regional cooperation, making specific mention of bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Ghana and Liberia in Cote d'Ivoire, and the signatures of MOUs with ECOWAS and ILO.

7. Minister Touré announced that the Cote d'Ivoire Government would establish a seasonal fisheries closure in their exclusive economic zone in 2023, and invited other Member States to do the same. He congratulated the outgoing Secretary General for working tirelessly to enable the Committee to acquire various instruments for the strengthening of legal bases, the technical framework of interventions, and securing support from Member States for better management of cross-border fisheries resources. Finally, he announced the secondment of two national experts to consolidate the sustainability of the achievements and declared the FCWC Conference of Ministers open.

The opening ceremony ended with a photograph session of the ministers and participants of the Advisory and Coordination Committee session.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented and attached as Annex 2.

## **PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Presentation and Adoption of Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) report**

8. The Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) report was presented by the Secretary General, Mr. Bina Fofana, Director of Fisheries of Cote d'Ivoire, Chairman of the ACC. He recalled the follow-up

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and implementation of the recommendations of the FCWC's 13th session of the Conference of Ministers, the activities planned and carried out in 2022, the new initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat and the FCW's financial report.

### **Follow-up on the FCWC's 13th Conference of Ministers recommendations**

The progress made on the implementation of each of the six (6) FCWC's 13th Conference of Ministers' recommendations was summarised as follows:

#### **Recommendation 1: Identification of a new Secretary General;**

9. The process of appointing a new Secretary General was finalised during the year and was to be adopted by the end of the conference. The selected candidate will spend a probationary year at the FCWC Secretariat, before taking up his full duties in January 2024.

#### **Recommendation 2: Restructuring of FCWC within the framework of the linkage of FCWC to ECOWAS;**

10. Following this recommendation, an evaluation document, funded by ECOWAS on the structure and financial mechanisms of the FCWC was produced and validated at the 12th West Africa Task Force Meeting. The final document was shared with the Member States and will be submitted to this session for adoption.

#### **Recommendation 3: Financing of a third phase of the WATF;**

11. Discussions between the FCWC Secretariat and partners (TMT/NORAD) resulted in the development and approval of a third phase of the WATF project. This phase will take into account new areas of support, including support to the RMCSC and the promotion of decent working conditions in the fisheries sector.

#### **Recommendation 4: Improvement of working conditions in the fishing industry; consideration of decent work issues in the fishing sector's entire value chain.**

12. A study was conducted by the FCWC on decent working conditions in the fishing sector in Ghana. Based on the results of the study and the relevance of the topic to the sector, the FCWC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Labour Organization (ILO). A joint ILO/FCWC work plan was developed and an Additional Protocol to the FCWC Convention to guide activities in this area is being prepared for adoption by the Member States.



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### **Recommendation 5: One-year cost-free extension of the end date of the FCWC/PESCAO Project - Improving Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa.**

13. The PESCAO project ended in April 2022, however a one-year extension at no additional cost was granted to ensure adequate closure of activities. The final and official closure of this project is scheduled for April 2023 and discussions for a potential new phase are underway at the ECOWAS and EU level.

### **Recommendation 6: Provide the FCWC Secretariat with staff**

14. The FCWC shared the list of required staff with the Member States. This list was being reviewed at the MS level for Secretariat staffing. To this effect, Ghana has sent four (4) individuals to the FCWC Secretariat, during December 2022 who will take up their duties at the end of January 2023. The Minister of Cote d'Ivoire also mentioned the staffing of two (2) members of his team to the FCWC.

## **PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT AND 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS**

15. The activity report for 2022 was presented by Secretary General, Mr Seraphin Dedi, based on the 2022 theme of the year - Using innovative technology to increase oversight of safe, fair and legal fishing - and on the second SAP 2021-2030, which integrates the six areas of intervention:

- (i) the implementation of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan (RFMP);
- (ii) the consolidation and extension of the achievements of the sub-regional cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing and maritime security;
- (iii) the development of fisheries research and the regional information system to support management measures;
- (iv) the formulation and implementation of a coordinated aquaculture development policy at the FCWC level;
- (v) the capacity building of FCWC bodies; and
- (vi) the development of partnerships to support sub-regional cooperation and the policies of the Member States

16. The Secretary General recalled the main achievements of the year, notably the commitment of the Member States for a better management of fishery resources and the adoption of collective actions for the benefit of the sub-region. These actions include the adoption of two major protocols, the validation of Standard Operating Procedures for the proper functioning of the FCWC Regional MCS Centre and the sustainability of the results of the various initiatives; the signing of agreements with new partners; and the institutional anchoring of the FCWC in ECOWAS as the technical arm for the implementation of the ECOWAS fisheries and aquaculture development policy.

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## **NEW INITIATIVES TAKEN ON BY THE SECRETARIAT**

17. The FCWC during 2022 undertook new initiatives as follows :

- (i) Collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). 8.7 Accelerator Lab programme promoting decent work with linkages between safety at sea and working conditions in fisheries
- (ii) the implementation of Project TCP/SFW/3805: Strengthening Regional Coordination Mechanisms to Combat IUU Fishing in West Africa in collaboration with FAO and ECOWAS;
- (iii) Effective PSMA implementation in Africa: intelligence-led Port Controls programme in collaboration with TMT and Global Fishing Watch (GFW);
- (iv) Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of payment for Ecosystem services and Coastal Nature-based solutions Project which is developed in partnership with IUCN and funded by GEF.

## **FCWC FINANCIAL REPORT**

18. The FCWC's financial report indicates that the total amount of actual resources raised plus the previous year's cash balance is US \$921,073.91, implying a mobilisation rate of 79.41%. Expenditures during the period amounted to 558,838.24 USD, with an expenditure rate of 49.14% compared to the total budget of 1,159,899.43 USD.

## **PRESENTATIONS OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Presentations were made on regional initiatives implemented as follows:

### **West Africa Task Force Presentation**

19. A summary of achievements under Phase 2 of the project Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) support in West Africa was presented by the TMT Regional Coordinator, Viviane Koutob, and TMT Executive Director, Duncan Copeland. The project's expected outcomes and related activities were successfully achieved. The ACC members congratulated the technical team and financial partner (NORAD). The project fostered national and regional cooperation; global processes were well integrated into national processes and positive trends in illegal activities are well noted. In view of a third phase, a one-year extension was granted and welcomed by the Member States.



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## **FCWC/PESCAO Project Presentation**

20. As the PESCAO project comes to an end, the Project Coordinator Ms. Koutob, presented a summary of all achievements under each outcome area. Highlights of the project included the establishment of the RMCSC, which is considered a catalyst and a Centre of Excellence in the region. The regional and national collaboration has been strengthened, and various training courses have been organized to support the objective of strengthening the capacities of fisheries administrations. Various means were explored to ensure sustainability of project's achievements especially the functioning of the RMCSC. Regarding the future of project, discussions for a potential phase 3 are ongoing at the ECOWAS level.

## **Collaboration with FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and Fisheries and Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS)**

21. Mr. Sakchai McDonough, from FAO/RAF, delivered a presentation on the missions of CECAF and explained the processes for providing advice to Member States on biological marine resources. He also gave an overview of the recent projects implemented in the sub-region: the CECAF-PESCAO project and the TCP RAF 3709 - Improvement of Regional Fisheries Governance in selected CECAF countries. The follow-up activities of these projects that CECAF is implementing are: the harmonisation of reporting functions for NS1 and STATLANT, FIRMS and CECAF working groups; and identifying the means to provide biological sampling of fisheries, and training in species identification.

Following Sakchai McDonough, Abena Asante of FCWC presented an overview of FCWC/FAO TCP/3212 2016-2018 activities aimed at improving the sample surveys implemented by FCWC and funded by FAO. She highlighted the major achievements of this project and the successive Letters of Agreement (LOAs) between FAO/FIRMS and FCWC in 2019 and 2021, to ensure the sustainability of the activities of this project and to ensure the regular publication of fisheries statistics data from the region. As a result of this support, the capacity of Member States and the Secretariat to collect and process data has been strengthened. However, data consistency issues still need to be resolved at the MS level. The Secretariat is therefore requesting additional support to help countries provide credible data.

## **Collaboration for the Establishment of a Working Group for Aquaculture (WGAq).**

22. In collaboration with JICA, the FCWC established an Aquaculture Working Group (WGAq) in 2022 and identified areas of collaboration for 2023- 2024.

JICA Expert Mr. Shoichiro Kawai, delivered a presentation on the working group and recalled that a work plan was developed to lead its activities for 2023-2024. He noted that the collaboration between JICA and the FCWC will focus on two aspects, firstly the working group and secondly on a capacity building program planned for 2023-2024. A survey on Human resources and research took place in 2022 to inform decisions on targeted persons to benefit from the capacity building program. Requests were prepared and submitted to JICA in 2022 through the member States' respective embassies for support in biosecurity in Aquaculture. Final validation of the requests is expected by March 2023.

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## THEMATIC OVERVIEWS AND AREAS OF COLLABORATION IN THE REGION

### Improved Fisheries Governance (IFG) Project

23. The project to improve fisheries governance in Ghana and the sub-region (IFG/AGP Project) was presented by Hen Mpoano Director and IFG Project Team Leader, Mr. Kofi Agbogah.

He presented the background, objective and expected outcomes of the project, as well as the partners involved in the implementation. Although the project activities are focused on Ghana, the regional component involves the other FCWC Member States. Therefore, current activities include the implementation of conservation and management measures such as closed season, and the development of harmonised conditions and license fees. In Ghana, the project was able to engage parliamentarians in fisheries management decision-making, stopped transshipment at sea, and trained journalists for a better coverage of fisheries issues. Looking ahead, the IFG plans to help decisionmakers to put fisheries at the forefront of national sustainable development agendas, support regional fisheries closure, and work with Ghanaian authorities to address issues related to the EU yellow card.

### Collaboration with ILO on Decent Work Conditions

24. Alix Nasri, ILO Global Coordinator of 8.7 Accelerator Lab Program in her presentation stated the objectives of the C188, in relation to minimum requirements for working on a vessel, conditions of service, medical care and social security among others. She recalled legal instruments that govern decent work and working conditions in fisheries and encouraged FCWC Member States to effectively implement their regulations under the UNCLOS with respect to labour conditions. She stated some new developments that took place at the regional level, including the FCWC-ILO MoU signed in 2022, the support by ILO for the ratification of Convention C188 and Protocol (N. 029) in all FCWC MS, development of a protocol on decent work in fisheries and widening of its scope to cover forced labour. Looking ahead, an action plan was developed on decent work and forced labour in the fishing sector as an area of cooperation between the ILO and FCWC.

### Regional Management Measures: Pilot Regional Closed Season

25. Dr. Kwame Koranteng, Regional Consultant, made a presentation focusing on the consultation activities with the fisheries authorities and stakeholders of the fishing industries in Togo and Côte d'Ivoire for a closed season under a pilot project initiated by the Committee in 2022. Due to time constraints, the administrative, social, economic, and political procedures necessary to implement a fisheries closure could not be fully addressed for the first pilot closed season to take place in 2022. Despite this, the FCWC and the states involved have gained some experience on the constraints and challenges of the process, and are now better positioned to facilitate such a management measures in the coming years. The key documentation prepared and the procedures adopted by Côte d'Ivoire for the pilot project, (i.e. consultations, and the roadmap) will be useful in facilitating such a management



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measure in the region.

### **Introduction of the IUCN/GEF/FCWC Project using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the Implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions.**

26. The IUCN/GEF/FCWC project on marine spatial planning was presented by Mrs Dorcas Owusuaa Agyei. The objective of the project is to implement a nature-based solution for the region to restore the habitat and maintain the ecosystem in the Gulf of Guinea. The specific goal of the project is to strengthen transboundary cooperation and management of coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems for improved food security, climate change resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the FCWC region. Further, she noted that the project will be implemented in Togo, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire and is expected to be approved by June 2023 and implemented between 2023 and 2027.

The GEF project will collaborate with and build on past and ongoing initiatives, specifically dedicated to coastal and marine resource management and restoration, and associated risks mitigation.

### **FCWC 2023-24 BIENNIAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN**

27. The two-year budget and work plan for 2023-2024 was adopted. The budget for 2023-24 is estimated at US\$ 4,244,000,00. Member States contribution expected for 2023-24 is estimated at 250,000 USD/year or 11.78% of the budget: the difference will be covered by existing and new projects.

### **HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS**

28. Alhaji Jallow, former Senior Fisheries Officer at the FAO-RAF Office, now a resource person, delivered a statement on the results of the study on the structure and financing mechanism of the FCWC. He shared that a strong sustainable mechanism for durable financing of the Secretariat and activities was needed. He recalled that a mobilization strategy was discussed and adopted by the technical experts in Cotonou in November 2022, noting that the strategy includes being a specialized entity of ECOWAS. He expressed confidence that the FCWC will deliver its function effectively if it benefits from donor funding accompanied by programme and project facilitation by technical agencies.

29. H.E. Ingrid Mollestad, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire delivered a statement on the vision and prospects for regional fisheries cooperation in West Africa. She acknowledged the key role FCWC has played since its inception in raising awareness of the challenges of illegal fishing and related crimes. Highlighting the support Norway provides to Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and the FCWC West Africa Task Force, she noted that the support has contributed to increased capacity (through the development of processes and tools), cooperation, information-sharing and enforcement actions for management measures and regulations. She noted that the FCWC being

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linked to ECOWAS was a promising development needed for regional cooperation, adding that Norway will remain a longstanding partner at the regional and global level for years to come. She reaffirmed Norway's readiness to share its experience and expertise in sustainable and integrated ocean management.

30. Yasuaki Momita, Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Ghana, delivered a statement on FCWC-JICA collaboration. He shared that JICA has been working toward achieving results on a broader scale in the promotion of aquaculture in West African countries with FCWC. The second FCWC Strategic Action Plan 2021-2030 developed with JICA's support identified the aquaculture sector as a priority, and technical cooperation projects are already being implemented in Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. With the establishment of a regional aquaculture working group, the completion of regional aquaculture research and seminars, and an intra-regional dialogue mechanism, the groundwork was completed for the development of the sector in a regional framework.

31. Christopher Ackon, delivered a speech on behalf of the European Union Delegation Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Irchad Razaaly, on the EU support to FCWC. He said that the fight against IUU is a serious political priority for the EU as one of the largest importers of marine fisheries products. He emphasized that transparency is key to achieve results in the fight against IUU, especially when information is made easily accessible and available to the public. He noted that the launch of the EU and ECOWAS-funded Regional MCS Centre is an important step toward establishing the minimum regional cooperation through which IUU fishing and fisheries can be managed effectively.

32. Dr Amadou Tall, Team Lead of the ECOWAS-PESCAO Technical Assistance delivered a statement on the institutional linkage between ECOWAS and regional fisheries bodies. He acknowledged the leadership of FCWC Secretary-General Seraphin Dedi for developing diverse collaborations with different regional and international organizations including ECOWAS. ECOWAS has agreed to grant a financial assistance to the RFBs and will include them as implementing partners for fisheries programs. He explained that the fisheries programs are expected to facilitate several important activities including the full functioning of the Regional MCS Centre and expanding regional closed seasons.

33. Yasmi Yurdi, Deputy Regional Representative at the FAO Regional Office for Africa delivered a statement on Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) guidelines. He noted that in West Africa, the momentum to implement the SSF Guidelines is supported by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. He emphasized that governments can use the guidelines as a reference when developing fisheries and aquaculture policies, laws and rights. He shared that the FAO remains ready to continue technical support to countries in adapting and implementing the SSF guidelines. He called on stakeholders to raise awareness of the existence of the standards in their various communities.



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## **FOLLOWING THE PARTNERS' STATEMENTS, THE MINISTERS OF BENIN, LIBERIA AND GHANA SHARED THEIR VISION OF FISHERIES COOPERATION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:**

34. Honourable Dossouhoui, Benin's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, began his address by thanking the government of Ghana for agreeing to host the conference and facilitating the arrival of his delegation. He praised the FCWC for working tirelessly for the good governance of fisheries in the subregion, highlighting the significant results it has achieved in the field notably the establishment of the regional West Africa Task Force, a regional information-sharing platform, and regional vessel monitoring. He expressed his delight that the recommendations from the 13th Conference of Ministers have been fulfilled, and encouraged pursuit of a regional closed fishery season, implementation of a regional observer program and the adoption of a regional fisheries management plan. He called for a standing ovation for Mr Dedi in recognition of his role as a pioneer of the FCWC and congratulated Mr Gaston Djihinto on his appointment as Mr Dedi's successor. He concluded his address by calling for continued cooperation and collaboration, especially over the transition period.

35. The representative of Liberia's National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Mr. William Boeh, Director of Fisheries, conveyed the Director General's (DG) statement to the FCWC Secretariat. In her statement, Madam Glassco thanked the Secretary General, Mr. Dedi for all the support provided during his years of service to his country. She noted that much has been achieved during the year 2022, including capacity building of technical and administrative staff, and recognition of FCWC as a technical arm of ECOWAS. She commended Nigeria for its ratification of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and shared that the signing of bilateral MoUs with Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire would ensure capacity building in port-to-port inspection for the successful implementation of PSMA in Liberia. She affirmed her belief that aquaculture would be a viable alternative to relieve the pressure on marine fisheries and called for more investment and knowledge sharing to support the burgeoning blue economy.

36. Ghana's Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Min. Mavis Hawa Koomson thanked all participants for attending the meeting and emphasized that collaboration was essential for the success of the aims of the Committee and fisheries cooperation in general. She used the occasion to thank her colleague Ministers for their participation in the 7th Meeting of Ministers responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) in Accra from 5 -8 April 2022. She thanked Secretary General Dedi and his team for their tireless efforts in organizing the 14th session of the FCWC Ministerial Conference.

## **DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

Following the various interventions and exchanges, the members of the FCWC Conference of Ministers adopted the following decisions:

37. The new structure and financial mechanisms of the FCWC sponsored by the ECOWAS is adopted,

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pending implementation by the Secretariat and the Member States

38. The new Secretary General is appointed from the Republic of Benin in the person of Dr. Gaston Antoine Djihinto, previously National Director of Fisheries in Benin, effective 1st January 2023 and will fully assume duty on 1st April 2023. The period January-March 2023 is a transition period during which administrative and financial authority shall be transferred to the newly appointed Secretary General.

39. The 14th FCWC Advisory and Coordinating Committee meeting report was unanimously adopted, including the biannual workplan and corresponding budget for 2023-2024.

40. The 15th FCWC Conference of Ministers will be held in Liberia, in December 2023 and the date is to be confirmed with the Liberian Authorities.

## **ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

41. In accordance with Articles 7.1 and 7.3 of the FCWC's Convention, the FCWC's Conference of Ministers elected a new bureau, comprising:

President: Ghana

Vice-President: Liberia

Secretary General: Benin

42. The new FCWC's Secretary General, Mr. Antoine Gaston DJIHINTO was introduced to the Conference of Ministers' participants.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a result of the proposals emanating from the work of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee, the high-level thematic presentations and the Ministers' exchanges, the following recommendations were adopted by the 14th Conference of Ministers:

43. Recommendation 1: Finalizing a project document and implementing a third phase of the project to support fisheries intelligence and MCS in West Africa, taking into account the new areas of interest identified by the Member States;

44. Recommendation 2: Pursuing discussions with the region's Member States for the implementation of regional fisheries management measures, including closed season, with the pilot countries and

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gradually extending it to all Member States;

45. Recommendation 3: Supporting FCWC Member States to ratify ILO Convention C188 to enable them take appropriate measures to ensure decent work in fisheries and aquaculture;

46. Recommendation 4: The implementation of the marine spatial planning project in partnership with IUCN/GEF approved and recommended the Secretariat to start the implementation with the pilot phases and gradually extend the findings and activities to all Member States;

47. Recommendation 5: to ECOWAS to Identify and implement another fisheries programme to consolidate the outputs from the implementation of the PESCAO programme, including financial support to the FCWC Secretariat to make the RMCSC functional;

48. Recommendation 6: Prepare and adopt an Additional Protocol to the FCWC Convention to integrate the promotion of decent work and the fight against human rights abuses in the FCWC region;

49. Recommendation 7: To Member States formulation of support project to the aquaculture sector and their submission to JICA in their respective countries to benefit from national aquaculture development projects following Côte d'Ivoire and Benin example.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

50. The new Chairperson of the Conference of Ministers, the Honourable Mavis Hawa Koomson, thanked all her fellow FCWC Ministers for the support already given to the organization. Mrs. Koomson emphasized that continued collaboration and sharing of experiences would produce the desired results for the organization. She emphasized that continued collaboration and experience sharing would produce the desired results for the sustainable and inclusive management of our shared resources. She also thanked all the participants and closed the meeting at 4:00 pm.





## ANNEX 1 - List of Participants

Name	Organisation	Country	Email address
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## ANNEX 1 - List of Participants

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## ANNEX 2 - Agenda

Agenda of the 14th Session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC  
from 11th to 13th January 2023, Accra, Ghana.

Time	Topics	Speakers
<b>Day 1: Programme</b>		
08.30 – 09.00	Arrival and registration of the various delegations and Ministers followed by the distribution of documents	FCWC
09.00 – 09.45	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks by the FCWC's Secretary General</li> <li>• Welcome remarks by the Advisory Consultative Committee President (ACC)</li> <li>• Welcome remarks by the representative of the host country</li> <li>• Coffee- Break and group foto</li> </ul>	FCWC Cote- d'Ivoire Ghana
<b>TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION OF THE FCWC.</b>		
09: 45- 10: 00	<b>Break and Group Photo</b>	
10:00 - 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>• Report on FCWC's 2022 activities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recap on the former theme of 2022</li> <li>○ Report on recommendations</li> <li>○ Projects activities and achievements</li> <li>○ Additional initiatives carried out by the Secretariat</li> <li>○ FCWC's Financial status and audit report</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion and recommendations</li> </ul>	FCWC/participants
12.30- 14.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS</b>		
14.00- 14.45	<b>FCWC/WATF Project – Fisheries intelligence and MCS support in West Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on achievements, lessons learnt and recommendations</li> <li>• Workplan for 2023 and priorities</li> <li>• Discussion and country engagement</li> </ul>	FCWC/WATF TMT Coordinator
14:45 – 15:15	<b>FCWC/PESCAO project – Improving fisheries governance in West Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main results and official closing.</li> <li>• Discussion and country engagement</li> </ul>	FCWC/PESCAO Coordinator/
15.15- 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30- 16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project (IFG) Improving Fisheries Governance in Ghana and the Sub-region (Key results, lessons learned and the way forward.</li> </ul>	HM
16:00- 16: 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JICA - FCWC Collaboration, Progress and prospects for 2023</li> </ul>	JICA CI
16:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCWC/ILO Collaboration for the Promotion of Decent Work Conditions in Fisheries: Activities and Initiatives in the Region</li> </ul>	ILO
17:15 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of the day</li> </ul>	FCWC



## ANNEX 2 - Agenda

Agenda of the 14th Session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC  
from 11th to 13th January 2023, Accra, Ghana.

Time	Topics	Speakers
<b>Day 2 : Programme</b>		
<b>THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND COLLABORATION ASPECTS IN THE REGION</b>		
09.00- 10.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Closed Season Pilot Project 2022; key results, lessons learned and perspectives /Discussions and recommendations.</li> <li>FAO/FIRMS &amp; CECAF Project: Key results and perspectives.</li> <li>Introduction of the IUCN/GEF/FCWC Project using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions</li> </ul>	FCWC/Consultant  CECAF/TCP  IUCN/FCWC
10.45 – 11: 00	Coffee break	
<b>FCWC ACTIVITIES PLANNING AND BUDGET FOR 2023-24</b>		
11:00- 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of the workplan and budget for 2023</li> <li>Discussion and validation</li> </ul>	FCWC
13:00 – 14.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>FIELD VISIT</b>		
14:30- 16: 00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit of the Regional Monitoring Control and Surveillance Center (RMSCS) and Cultural Sites</li> <li>Discussions</li> </ul>	GHANA/FCWC
16:00 – 16.15	Coffee break	
<b>DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS TO SUBMIT TO THE MINISTERS</b>		
16.15 – 18.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the Advisory and Coordination Committee (ACC) meeting report</li> <li>Closing ceremony</li> </ul>	FCWC /ACC



## ANNEX 2 - Agenda

Agenda of the 14th Session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC from 11th to 13th January 2023, Accra, Ghana.

Time	Topics	SPEAKERS
<b>CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS SESSION (CM)</b>		
08.30 – 09.00	<b>Arrival and registration of the various delegations and Ministers followed by the distribution of documents</b>	Host Country SG FCWC
09:00 – 10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening ceremony</li> <li>Opening speech by the Secretary General of FCWC</li> <li>Welcome remarks by the Minister of fisheries of GHANA</li> <li>Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Conference of Ministers, Ministers of Livestock and Fisheries (Cote-d'Ivoire)</li> </ul>	FCWC GHANA  COTE- D'IVOIRE
<b>10:00- 10:15</b>	<b>Coffee break and group photo</b>	
10:15- 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the agenda</li> <li>Adoption of the Advisory and Coordination Committee meeting report</li> </ul>	SG/Chairperson ACC
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Topic Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Advocating for the institutional sustainability of the CPCO</b> - Results of the study on the structure and financing mechanism of the FCWC</li> <li><b>High Level Statement by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway</b> to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire: <i>The Vision and Prospects for Regional Fisheries Cooperation in West Africa.</i></li> <li>JICA Ghana High Level Declaration: <b>JICA - FCWC Collaboration, Progress and Perspectives for 2023</b></li> <li><b>ECOWAS High Level Declaration - Institutional linkage with the regional bodies (SRFC/FCWC): Implementation perspectives for fisheries development in West Africa.</b></li> <li><b>FAO High Level Declaration on Artisanal Fisheries Guidelines: What opportunities for fisheries development in West Africa</b></li> </ul>	Consultant  Norwegian Ambassador Ghana/CI  JICA – GHANA  ECOWAS  FAORAF
12:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder of the appointment process of the Secretary General</li> <li>Presentation of the new Secretary General</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
13:00- 13:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statements by Ministers and Heads of Delegation</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
13:15 – 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place and date of the FCWC 15th Conference of Ministers</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
13:30- 13:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of the new FCWC Conference of Ministers Bureau</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
13:45 – 14: 00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of the 14th Conference of Ministers report</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
14:00 - 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing Ceremony</li> </ul>	Participants FCWC Ministers
<b>14:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Close of the day</b>	Participants FCWC Ministers







# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) facilitates cooperation in fisheries management between the member countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

For more information go to:

[www.fcwc-fish.org](http://www.fcwc-fish.org)

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Report Of The 13th Session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - December 2021