



FCWC

Fisheries Committee for
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



REPORT OF THE 11TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

Lomé, Togo

30th November 2018



FCWC

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REPORT OF THE 11TH CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

1. The 11th Session of the Conference of Ministers for the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) took place at 2 Février Hotel, Lomé, Togo on 30th November, 2018.
2. Ministers in charge of Fisheries from the Six (6) Member States namely Republic of Benin, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Liberia, Federal Republic of Nigeria and Togolese Republic attended the meeting.
3. Representatives of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre Zone F (MMCC), Stop Illegal Fisheries (SIF) attended the meeting as observers.
4. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
5. The FCWC Secretary General, **Mr. Seraphin DEDI NADJE** in his introductory address, thanked the government of Togo for accepting to host the Conference and Togo's commitment towards supporting sustainable fisheries resources. He emphasised that success in sustainable management of the sub-region's fisheries resources so far, has been driven by strategies and plans to curb illegal fishing, as well as the visibility of the organisation which attracted donor partners. He informed the ministers of the support of NORAD and the European Union in supporting fisheries projects. Mr Dedi invited the outgoing FCWC President to become the organisation's Ambassador.
6. **Mr DEDI** gave an overview of the activities of the Secretariat and urged each of the Member States to increase its engagement in fisheries cooperation. He also welcomed the presence of partners and expounded the theme of the Conference: 'Maritime security and sustainable fisheries development.'
7. Hon. Colonel **Ouro Koura AGADAZI**, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Water Resources in Togo welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Togo. He commended the improvement of fisheries management in the FCWC sub-region to meet its food and nutritional requirements and thanked partners who have supported and continue to support fisheries development the region.



8. The Chair of FCWC, Honourable **Heineken LOKPOBIRI**, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria. welcomed participants and expressed his appreciation to the five ministers for their first-time highest attendance at the Conference. This, he observed, was an indication of the cooperation of the member states to curb the menace of illegal fishing and protect the fisheries resources in the sub-region in order to safeguard livelihoods and ensure food security.

9. Recognising the need to improve the security of the maritime domain of the sub-region in order to secure its fishery industry, Hon Lokpobiri called for member states to strengthen cooperation in the protection of water and fisheries resources. He also urged cooperation in the development of harmonised fisheries management systems in the sub-region to win the fight against IUU. He further called for the promotion of intra-regional fish trade to improve the socio-economic life of the members of the sub-region.

10. The FCWC Chair acknowledged and commended the support of the international donor partners to the FCWC and requested for their continuous support towards an effective coordination of monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities, and coastal and fisheries management in the sub-region.

11. **Dr Lokpobiri** congratulated the FCWC for successfully operating to improve fisheries management and announced the renewal of the tenure of office of the FCWC Secretary-General, **Mr Seraphin DEDI**, as agreed at the close door meeting of the Ministers proceeded the Conference.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. The Chairman of the Conference presented the agenda, unanimously adopted. It is attached as Annex 2.

13. **Mr. John BABATUNDE**, the Director of fisheries, Nigeria and Chairman of the FCWC Advisory and Coordinating Committee, presented the report of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) meeting held on 28th and 29th November 2018.



PRESENTATION OF MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE FCWC SECRETARIAT

14. The report of the activities of the Secretariat for the year 2018 was presented by the Secretary General under the following sub-heads:

- i) Follow up on 2017 recommendations;
- ii) Activities scheduled and executed in 2018;
- iii. Financial and Audit Report of FCWC,
- iv. Further initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat and
- v. Progress made in the implementation of each of the nine (9) recommendations from the 2017 Conference of Ministers.

Follow up on 2017 Recommendations

15. Most of the above recommendations from the 2017, Conference of Ministers were successful addressed by the secretariat general with Member States and Partners support, except, Recommendation 3: Relocation of FCWC Office from Tema to Accra, Ghana. The Secretary-General was to continue to engage the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana, for a larger office accommodation in Ghana.

Activities Scheduled and Executed

16. The main activities of the year were the implementation of MCS Support Project funded by NORAD, the European Union funded programme, PESCAO, and the Fisheries Data Centre established under FAO/TCP project. The main outcomes of these initiatives include the approval of a Second Phase of the NORAD project, a successful launch of the PESCAO programme and a successful set up of a Regional Data Centre to store artisanal catch data from the member countries. Also highlighted was the adoption of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan and Regional Plan of Action against IUU.

Further Initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat.

17. The FCWC participated in a Consultative Meeting of Fisheries and Aquaculture Experts from the ACP Group to strengthen actions, support sharing of lessons and evaluate ways of implementing ACP Group Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies and Strategy. Member States are invited to work towards the implementation of policies and strategies.



18. The FCWC also participated in the Conference on Climate Change and Marine Fisheries: Assessing Vulnerability and Strengthening Adaptive Capacity in Africa. FCWC encourages Member States to identify their needs for the development of the value chain in fisheries and presenting their risk profile towards the impact of climate change in fishing communities.

19. The FCWC participated in other initiatives including the Financing Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies in Africa; PREFACE: International Conference on Ocean, Climate and Ecosystems; Sustainable Use of Aquatic Living Resources and Climate Change and Marine Fisheries: Strengthening Adaptation Capacity in Africa and Second Technical Discussion.

Financial Status and Audit Report

20. The total budget for the year 2018 was USD 1,422,500.00. The total expenditure of the period amounted to USD 200,042.43, which represents 14% of the total budget. There was a late mobilization of funds, despite previous commitments by states to pay their contribution in the first quarter of each year as the deadline. As result, it undermined the effective running of the Secretariat's activities. All expenditure is relying more on donors' support and less on countries contributions. The Secretariat invited Member States to fulfil their obligation on financial commitment on time.

21. The Audit Report recommended the recruitment of a Procurement Officer, in line with the procurement requirement as required by donor partners (the World Bank and the EU).

ENDORSEMENT OF THE FCWC WORKING DOCUMENTS

The Conference adopted formally the FCWC working documents to improve fisheries cooperation and management of the resources in the FCWC sub region:

- a) The regional action plan to combat IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU)-2019-2023**
 - b) The regional fisheries management plan (RFMP)- 2019-2023**
 - c) The strategy to combat illegal transshipment at sea**
 - d) Communication and visibility plan of action**
 - e) The Three-year Strategic Plan 2018-2020**
-

22. For the successful implementation of this management plan and strategy and of the FCWC having been in existence for over 10 years, the conference agreed that the Administrative Structure and financial mechanism of the Organization should be reviewed to reflect and meet the current environment of the Committee.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The West Africa Task Force Initiative

23. **Ms. Viviane Koutob** presented The West Africa Task Force initiative (FCWC / WATF project). The Conference welcomed the agreement by NORAD to support a Phase 2 of the project 'Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa', and pledged to support all activities at the international, regional and mainly national levels, to ensure its successful implementation as a key component of the FCWC's efforts to end illegal fishing in the sub-region.

PESCAO Programme

24. **Dr. Amadou TALL**, the Coordinator of the programme at ECOWAS, reviewed the global PESCAO programme, highlighting the challenges facing West African fisheries, which necessitated the need for PESCAO. He thanked the EU for funding the programme and explained the roles of ECOWAS and the FCWC in implementing the Programme and acknowledged the FCWC initiative of engaging maritime security agencies (CRESMAO) in the sub region to combat illegal fishing.

25. **Mr. Mamadou BALL**, the Technical Assistant of the Project to the FCWC, gave an overview of the training needs of personnel of Member Countries and the FCWC. These training needs relevant to the success of the PESCAO Program were validated by the conference.

26. **Mr Alexandre KEMPFF** of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) reviewed the work plan and contribution of the EFCA to the FCWC/PESCAO in providing training, operational, legal and technical support to the Member States. The 2018 activities already undertaken include, in particular, legal mapping, training of trainers of MCS officers from member states of the FCWC and support in preparation of the VMS Centre technical specifications.

27. **Mr Patrick ALLEN** of EFCA presented the main functionalities and technical options available for setting-up the FCWC Regional VMS.



28. The meeting commended the FCWC/PESCAO programme and underscored the essence of both strong policy and innovative initiatives to control fishing and overcome IUU. It was agreed that in acquiring a regional VMS, due diligence should be done. Full disclosure of the functions of equipment should be demanded when entering into contract with service providers.

Piracy of fishing vessels; key findings, lessons learned and pathways for regional collaboration piracy.

29. **Mr. Michael Arthur DADZIE**, the Executive Director of Fisheries (Ghana) reported an attack on a Ghana flagged vessel with the abduction of Korean and Ghanaian crew who were released only after ransom was paid.

30. Lessons learned were that policing of the seas should be taken over by security agencies, dedicated fisheries patrol boats are essential for security of fishers while at sea and regional collaboration in policing should be encouraged.

ECOWAS Regional Maritime Safety Centres – Case of Multinational Monitoring Coordination Centre (MMCC) Zone F.

31. Commander **Yussif BENNING**, the Director of MMCC Zone F delivered a presentation on the role of MMCC Zone F in general and in particular for combating illegal fishing. He said the Centre is equipped with facilities to conduct monitoring and surveillance of vessels, particularly fishing vessels. He stated that the major culprits in illegal fishing are Chinese, with connivance of some nationals in the region, and urged the FCWC to mobilise assets and resources to conduct joint patrols with the MMCC Zone F at sea, as a matter of urgency.

32. He called on the FCWC to help compile and share a comprehensive sub-regional fishing vessel register to enhance joint tracking and profiling of vessels to enable prompt detection of unlicensed vessels. Also he suggested for the review of the various regulations regarding AIS to make it an offence for fishing vessel operators to put it off.

WARFP (Liberia)- Progress and Development of Phase 2, Lessons Learned and way forward for Regional Collaboration

33. **Mr William Y. BOEH**, introduced the WARFP Phase 2 project preparatory activity in Liberia. This includes improving selected fisheries landing sites for small scale fisheries, improving national system for sustainable fisheries management, improving handling of fish products, improving MCS and the development of aquaculture, etc.



34. **Mr BOEH** informed that Liberia developed National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing and is still working on the drafting of a new Fisheries Bill as well as launched a NPOA on shark conservation in collaboration with Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and a management plan for shrimp fisheries in collaboration with the WARFP is being developed.

BUDGET AND WORKPLAN FOR 2019

35. Budget and work plan for 2019 was adopted subject to inclusion of new activities in the work plan including the revision of the organogram, revision of personnel regulations as well as regulations governing the nomination of the Secretary General.

36. An amount of 20 000 USD should be added to the budget for these activities. Five per cent (5%) of the total budget should be added as contingency.

37. The 2019 budget is adopted at an amount of 1, 147,125. 70 US Dollars with 250 000 US Dollars expected from Member States as statutory contribution to the Committee.

DECISIONS TAKEN

38. Following the presentation of the Experts meeting report and close discussion of the Ministers at this 11th session of the Conference of Ministers key decisions were taken summarized as follow:

39. Review of the FCWC structure, personnel recruitment procedure and financial management documents to meet the new working environment of the FCWC secretariat.

40. Renewal of the current mandate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the FCWC secretariat for a period of five (5) years starting in 2019 with the retention of Mr. Seraphin DEDI NADJE in his position at the Secretariat and its assumption of responsibility, mainly provided by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire.

41. Relocation of the FCWC Secretariat from Tema to Accra, Ghana, by Government of Ghana, to meet the international standard with facilities to host the FCWC VMS Centre equipment to be delivered by June 2019 under the PESCAO Programme.



RECOMMENDATIONS

42. Recommendation 1: In recognition of the small-scale fisheries sector in the development of Member states of FCWC region, it agreed to conduct a study on the migration of fishermen in the sub-region in order to regulate the artisanal fishery.

43. Recommendation 2: Following the renewal of the current position of Mr **Seraphin DEDI NADJE**, at the FCWC Secretariat for a period of five (5) years from 2019, Member States are invited to identify and send the new Secretary General to the Secretariat, at least two (2) years before the end of the current term.

44. Recommendation 3: Member States and Partners including ECOWAS commission are requested to assist the Secretariat to develop an organogram, appointment, recruitment, and permanent financial mechanisms and succession plan of staff at the FCWC Secretariat.

45. Recommendation 4: The Conference requested that in acquiring a regional VMS, due diligence should be done. Full disclosure of the functions of equipment should be demanded when entering into contract with service providers as well as all related legal base and support for full running.

46. Recommendation 5: Partners including ECOWAS commission are invited to assist in improvement of small-scale fisheries with modern landing sites in Member States.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

47. In accordance with Articles 7.1 and 7.3 of the FCWC Convention, the FCWC Conference of Ministers elected a new Bureau, composed as follow:

- a. President: Togo
- b. Vice-President: Benin

48. During his valedictory speech, the outgoing Chairman of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, **Dr. Heineken LOKPOBIRI**, expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General, whose leadership was welcomed as a guarantee of success this session. He subsequently assured the incoming President, Hon **Ouro Koura AGADAZI**, Minister in charge of fisheries in Togo to be able to count on the Secretary-General's collaboration in steering the FCWC Affairs.



DATE AND VENUE OF THE 12th FCWC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

49. In accordance with the procedure for setting the date and venue of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, the 12th FCWC Conference of Ministers should be held in December 2019, in Cotonou, Benin.

50. The Chairman of the Conference and the host country in connection with the Secretariat to fix the date of the holding of the Conference and inform the Member States.

STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

51. The Heads of Delegations from ECOWAS, ATLAFCO, Director of Cabinet at the High Council for the Sea of Togo and Ministers from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo made high level statements; all recognized the threat of illegal fishing to the security of the fisheries sector in West Africa and identified the ECOWAS Integrated Maritimes Strategy and Lomé Charter on Maritime Safety and Security as appropriate reference and framework to address Maritime Security and sustainable development of fisheries in our region.

52. The Conference commended the role played by FCWC in fostering cooperation among Member States and regional agencies in managing fisheries and fighting against illegal fishing and called for further support and cooperation between Member States for sustainable growth and development of the fisheries sector in the sub-region.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

53. The Report of the 11th FCWC Conference of Ministers was unanimously adopted as presented.

CLOSING OF THE MEETING

54. The New Chairman of the Conference of Ministers, **Hon. Ouro Koura AGADAZI** affirmed his commitment to provide the best leadership to FCWC.

55. The outgoing Chair of the FCWC, **Hon. Heineken LOKPOBIRI** thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 2:20 pm



ANNEX 1



FCWC
Fisheries Committee for the
West Central Gulf of Guinea

CPCO
Comité des Pêches du Centre
Ouest du Golfe de Guinée















11th Conference of Ministers ATTENDANCE SHEET














2 février Hotel,

Lomé, Togo 28-30 Dec 2018

DAY 3: Friday, 30th November, 2018 / Session of the Conference of Ministers (CM)

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ANNEX 2

AGENDA

Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) Session

Hours	Themes	Officials
DAY 1: PROGRAM		
08.30 – 09.00	Arrival and registration of participants / distribution of documents	FCWC
09.00 – 09.45	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by the Secretary General of the FCWC • Speech by the representative of the host authority • Coffee break and group photo 	FCWC Togo
TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION OF THE FCWC SECRETARIAT		
09: 45- 10: 00	Break and Group Photo	
10:00 - 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda • FCWC 2018 Activity Report • Follow up on recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities, and achievements • Additional initiatives led by the Secretariat • FCWC financial status and audit report • Discussions and recommendations 	FCWC/WATF
12.30- 14.00	Lunch Break	
REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION		
14.00- 15.00	FCWC / GTAO project - Intelligence and support for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance in West Africa. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary phase 1 - Synthesis of products, lessons and recommendations • Introduction of Phase 2 - Action Plan • Discussion and commitment of states 	FCWC/WATF



15.00- 15.15	Coffee Break	
15.15- 16.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCWC / PESCAO PROJECT - Improving regional fisheries governance in West Africa • Summary of start-up activities • Work plan 2019 • Discussion and commitment of states 	FCWC/WATF
16:15-17.30	Closing the day	TOGO/FCWC

Day 2: PROGRAM

Hours	Themes	Officials
THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND ASPECTS OF COLLABORATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES		
09.00- 10.45	<p>Ghana: Piracy of fishing vessels; key findings, lessons learned and pathways for regional collaboration</p> <p>EIMS -Presentation on Regional Maritime Safety Centers – Case of Zone F in the context of combating IUU fishing</p> <p>Liberia: PRAO - Progress and Development of Phase 2, Lessons Learned and Pathways for Regional Collaboration</p> <p>Discussions and recommendations</p>	<p>Ghana</p> <p>ECOWAS_</p> <p>MMCC Zone F</p> <p>Liberia</p> <p>All participants</p>
10.45 – 11: 00	Coffee Break	
PLAN OF ACTIVITIES AND FCWC 2019 BUDGET		
11:00- 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Work Plan and Budget 2019 • Discussions and validation 	FCWC
13:00 – 14.30	Lunch Break	
THEMATIC TOUR OF THE NEW LOME FISHING HARBOUR		
14:30- 16: 00	<p>Lomé Fishing Port, Togo - Progress and Prospects</p> <p>Discussions</p>	TOGO/FCWC



16:00 – 16.15	Coffee Break	
Documents and reports for Ministers		
16.15 – 18.15	Adoption of the final report of the Consultative and Coordinating Committee (ACC) Closing Ceremony of the session	FCWC /ACC

Day 3: Ministers Conference (MC) Session

Hours	Themes	Officials
08.30 – 09.00	Arrival and registration of the various delegations and Ministers followed by the distribution of the documents	Host Authority FCWC GS
09.00 – 10.00	Opening ceremony Opening remarks of the meeting by the Secretary General of the FCWC Welcome by the Minister in Charge of Fisheries of the Federal Republic of Togo Opening remarks by the President of the Conference of Ministers (Nigeria) Coffee break and group photo, visit of the stands	FCWC GS Government of Togo Government of Nigeria
10.00 - 10:15	Break and Group photo	
10.15 – 11.30	Adoption of the agenda Adoption of the Report of the Advisory and Coordination Committee ECOWAS High Level Declaration - ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy: Operationalization and Opportunities for Fisheries Development in the Gulf of Guinea. TOGO High Level Statement on the Charter on Maritime Safety and Security and Development in Africa: Assessment and Prospects for our sub-region	Participants FCWC Minister ECOWAS TOGO



11.30 – 13.00	<p>Statements by Heads of Delegations and Ministers</p> <p>Location and date of the 11th FCWC Ministers Conference</p> <p>Election of the new Bureau of the FCWC Ministers Conference</p>	<p>Participants</p> <p>FCWC Ministers</p>
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Adoption of the report of the 11th Conference of Ministers</p> <p>Closing ceremony</p>	FCWC Ministers
14:00 – 16:30	Lunch Break	
16:30	End of the day	<p>Participants</p> <p>FCWC Ministers</p>



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

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