



**TOGO NATIONAL WORKING GROUP
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP
Lomé, 1st to 2nd August 2016**



Photo: Overview of the conference room

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1. INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the project ‘Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring Control and Surveillance Support in West Africa’ supporting the West Africa Task Force (WATF) initiative of the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), a national workshop was organised at the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Lomé from 1st- 2nd August 2016 as part of the implementation of project activities. This workshop was organized by the FCWC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Water and technical team partners TMT, SIF and NFDS with funding from Norad.

Workshop focus was on introducing the WATF concept to the Bureau of National Fisheries inter-agency partners, and strengthening national inter-agency cooperation. The following entities partook in the workshop: representatives of agencies member of the National Working Group namely the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Navy, the Department of Maritime Affairs, the High Council for the Sea, the Maritime Prefecture, the Maritime Brigade, the Department of Livestock and experts of the project’s Technical Team.

The list of participants is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Workshop activities

2.1- Opening ceremony

The opening address was made by the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture. After welcoming the participants, he thanked the experts for their availability to support the implementation of the project. He also reiterated the commitment of Togo to fight against illegal fishing by ratifying the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) on Tuesday, July 26, 2016. The Director of Fisheries on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Water, thanked the FCWC and partners for their commitment to support Togo in the fight against IUU fishing.

The Head of the Fisheries Promotion Department, and national focal point of the West Africa Task Force Mr. Kossi Ahoedo in his introductory remarks highlighted that IUU fishing is a global and national threat, calling for cooperative solutions between countries and national agencies in Togo. On that effect, he stressed the relevance of this project including the communication platform which promotes information sharing on illegal fishing practices.

Mr. Duncan Copeland, Chief Analyst from TMT and member of the Technical Team supporting the WATF, was welcomed to his first visit to Togo. He then set the workshop background while reiterating its goal in terms of strengthening the capacity of MCS agencies.

2.2- Establishment of presidium

A presidium has been established to lead the works and is as follows:

Chairman : Mr. AHOEDO Kossi, West Africa Task Force National focal point

1st Rapporteur : Mrs GARE U-Khairi, sociologist at the DPA

2nd Rapporteur : Mr. KATANGA Pikliwoé, legal practitioner at the DPA

2.3- Introduction of topics to be discussed

Presentation 1: Introduction of the West Africa Task Force

Viviane KOUTOB, West Africa Field Coordinator of TMT, member of technical team, briefly presented the project and the West Africa Task Force by mainly tackling its objectives, its partners, planned activities as well as those that have already been completed. She recalled that the project's main goal is to develop information sharing on fishing activities in the FCWC's region and mainly laid emphasis on Basecamp, the communications platform serving as information sharing tool between FCWC's member States who are members of the West Africa Working Group (WATF).

Discussions: Raising the issue of the origin of information that they should share, fisheries officers were reminded of the types of information that can be shared and mostly the source of the information currently shared between States. The project's technical team is currently sharing information from various sources (online sources, research, newspapers, informants etc..) from alerts on risk vessels or vessels heading to the ports of member States of the Task Force, analysis of the fishing vessels and reefers' movements in the region or information on vessels and their owners.

Presentation 2: Overview of MCS capacity and cooperation in Togo

This presentation was made by the national focal point of the project, Mr. AHOEDO Kossi and focused on the various forms of illegal fisheries in the EEZ of Togo, the initiatives taken by Togo in the fight against IUU fishing such as the temporary suspension of issuing licenses to foreign vessels as well as the registration of fishing vessels and the revision of the Fisheries Act. He recalled that Togo has ratified the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and needs support for its implementation. On that score, he expressed the capacity needs and challenges of Togo in terms of MCS.

Discussions: Mr. Ahoedo Kossi clearly highlighted that IUU fishing is taking place in Togo's EEZ and in its waters, in parallel with the legal fishing regulation. He also highlighted that IUU fishing components are not only the illegal aspect, but the unreported and unregulated aspects should also be taken into account. Furthermore, Togo has just ratified the PSMA, therefore Togo has to make sure that all vessels entering the port are legal. Sharing lists of fishing licenses between WATF member countries is also a means to ensure that vessels operating in the region do not engage in any illegal activities.

Presentation 3: Overview of the major fisheries violations in Togo

In a participatory exchange led by Mr. Jude Talma, MCS expert from the Technical team, participants identified types of IUU fishing in the Togo's EEZ and the challenges related to these fishing activities.

Types of IUU fishing activities:

- Fishing without licence ;
- Fishing with unauthorized methods or gears;
- Fishing in prohibited areas ;

- Use of forged documents ;
- Submission of incorrect or incomplete statistics;
- Illegal transshipment ;
- Illegal fish trade ;
- Targeting of unauthorized species.

Discussions: On whether there was illegal transshipment in the waters of Togo, it was recalled that reefers coming ashore at the port of Lomé should be inspected to ensure that fishing vessels with which they operate have licenses in countries where the catch was made and also to ensure that these reefers have the necessary authorisations for transshipment at sea since most national laws prohibit transshipment at sea.

Moreover, on the question relating to illegal fish trade, it was recalled that the Directorate of Fisheries has established a **validation certificate of import products in order to control imports**, a measure which management prevails and considers effective.

Recalling the possibility for operators to use forged documents, examples of forged documents were given (fishing license, authorization). It was noted that improved inspection of reefers can be a source of discovery of forged documents. Togo has about 7 reefer vessels attending the port and they are never inspected. But today with the PSMA, it would be possible to inspect them.

Following these discussions, an exercise on the challenges faced by Togo in the fight against IUU fishing was conducted. Below are the challenges and needs that were identified by the participants:

Operational challenges:

- Strengthening the monitoring;
- Increased number of patrols ;
- Lack of qualified human resources and working materials;
- Preparation of an inspection procedure manual.

Legal challenges :

- Implementation the Fisheries Act once adopted;
- Existence of fisheries inspectors but not accredited;
- Increase financial penalties to deter illegal fishermen.

Challenges related to investigations/surveys:

- Enhance the collaboration between agencies;
- Periodic inspection of vessels ;
- Continuous monitoring of fishing activities

Presentation 4: Fisheries intelligence and analysis

This presentation was made by Mr. Jude Talma and focused on the different steps of intelligence processing in order to have not only reliable data but also to encourage action to be taken.

- Definition of the mission: identifying information needs;
- Data collection: gathering information from a variety of sources;
- Data processing: conversion of collected information into a usable form by analysts

- Data analysis: integration, assessment of available data and preparation of information products;
- Data dissemination or data sharing: availability of analysed data

It was emphasised that fisheries intelligence provides the foundation for identifying risks in the fishery, and where and how MCS efforts should be planned and targeted. The technical team notes that intelligence/information is not useful unless careful analysis is conducted, and the findings are communicated and utilised effectively.

Presentation 5: Illegal fishing and fisheries crimes

The presentations on this topic by the experts enabled to have a deeper understanding of the concept of IUU fishing and also helped to make the link between these practices and other associated crimes. These crimes may be:

- Document forgery (such as licenses and import permits)
- Slavery and human rights abuses,
- Money and fish laundering,
- Arms and drugs trafficking,
- Pollution

These illegal practices require the establishment of a strong partnership and strong cooperation of stakeholders. It was highlighted that while these crimes often took place on fishing vessels, often it was other agencies other than Fisheries who had the responsibility and mandate to investigate and prosecute them. This further emphasized the need for strong inter-agency cooperation.

Discussions: Explanations about fish laundering has been given. Thus, Fish laundering is that occurs for example when catches aboard reefers come from both legal and illegal vessels, and are mixed together so that it is not identifiable which is which. When the reefer arrives in port, the illegal fish is landed into the market along with the illegal fish.

Presentation 6: Importance of inter-agency cooperation

In this presentation, it was highlighted that the objective of the West Africa Task Force is to succeed in fighting IUU fishing through communication, awareness and cooperation between countries at the regional level, and national fisheries agencies in each member country. The discussions focused on key issues of the implementation of the National Working Group and the benefits of inter-agency cooperation.

On this aspect, the experts reiterated the importance of effective organization and collaboration of the National Working Group in order to receive support at the regional level.

It was noted that a regional communication platform Basecamp is set up for this purpose and with the project support enables all member States of the Task Force to receive and share real-time information and intelligence on fisheries. However, in the perspective to find an effectively and cheap immediate approach to the communication issue at the national level, it was suggested that a network for sharing information on WhatsApp is created, which is being used effectively by Benin.

Discussions: How do Togo fisheries agencies foresee cooperation between themselves? What does the cooperation bring between agencies? To this question the link between illegal fishing and fisheries

crimes has shown that on board an illegal vessel, it is certain to find some other violations relating either to fraud, drug trafficking or violations relating to human rights.

Fisheries inspections should not only be limited to identifying violations relating to fisheries, this is one of the reasons why collaboration with other agencies is relevant. See obstacles to cooperation and suggestions to face the obstacles in Appendix 3.

Presentation 7: Control and inspection of reefers

This presentation was dedicated to the inspection of reefers. It addressed the challenges of reefers controls and procedures for inspection. An inspection form sample for this type of vessel was presented and discussed by the participants to build a model taking into account the realities and Togolese practices. An exercise on Togo's ability to control the activities of reefers was conducted and revealed capabilities as well as challenges. See Appendix 3.

Discussions: Togo does not inspect reefers coming to the port, but with the PSMA, it should be done. Under the project, the team developed a form that takes into account both the PSMA elements but is also a checklist to assist States of the Task Force in their inspections. This form and checklist will be further developed for use by Togo for inspections

2.4-Recommendations

- Develop an inspection procedure manual ;
- Adopt the fisheries law and draft the text for its implementation
- Strengthen the capacity of inspectors (training and logistics)
- Enable fisheries inspectors to take an oath
- Create a network group on WhatsApp consisting of the members of the National Working Group.

2.5-Closing ceremony

The workshop's closing ceremony was marked by speeches of Mr. Duncan COPELAND and Mr. AHOEDO Kossi.

After thanking all participants, Mr. Duncan COPELAND thanked everyone for their active participation in the discussions which have helped to identify the progress and the shortcomings in terms of MCS in Togo. He also reiterated the availability of project to support the technical capacity building of the members of the National Working Group of Togo.

For his part, Mr. AHOEDO addressed his heartfelt thanks to the team of experts for the various knowledge shared with the National Working Group. He underlined that the workshop enabled MCS agents to better know about the challenges of IUU fishing, to identify weaknesses and to express the MCS needs.

He asked the support of the project in the implementation of the PSMA. On behalf of the Director of Fisheries, he declared the end of the workshop of the National Working Group.

APPENDIX

List of participants

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Appendix 2 : Agenda

<p>West Africa Task Force Commitment of the National Working Group and training agenda</p> <p>TOGO</p> <p>AGENDA</p>

01/08/16		
Participants : Inter-agency representatives		
Hour	Activity	Facilitator/Moderator
09:00	Welcome address	National Representative Duncan Copeland
09:15	- Introductions - Review of the agenda	National Representative
09:30	Introduction – West Africa Task Force - What is it, who finances the project and its activities and what are the results to date - Review of Basecamp - Participation of Togo to date	Viviane Koutob Ahoedo
10:30	Coffee break	
10.45	Togo – Overview of MCS, capacity and cooperation	National representative
11.30	Review of main fisheries violations in Togo, and discussion on challenges to control them. - investigation - operational - legal	Viviane Koutob Jude Talma
12:30	Lunch	
13.30	Fisheries intelligence and analysis - Review of vessels moves in the region and in Togo’s waters - What does it represent and why is it relevant - Does this need an inter-agency cooperation?	Jude Talma Duncan Copeland
15:00	Coffee break	
15:15	Illegal fishing vs. Fisheries crime, and what does it represent for inter-agency cooperation	Jude Talma Duncan Copeland
16:15	Review of the next day activities	Viviane Koutob
17:00	End of the day	

O2/08/16		
Participants: Inter-agency representatives		
Hour	Activity	Facilitator/Moderator
09:00	National Working Group - Why a National Working Group? - Status of the inter-agency cooperation in Togo - To which extent is inter-agency cooperation crucial? What are the agencies presented in the National Working Group, and why are they the key agencies? - What is needed for the implementation?	Jude Talma
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	Introduction to the control of reefers - Definition of a reefer - Review of reefers' operations - Risks related to the control of reefer and approaches - Controls of port States - Inter agencies cooperation	Jude Talma and Duncan Copeland
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Inspection of reefer - Challenges related to the control of reefers - Inspection practical needs - List of inspection control	Jude Talma and Duncan Copeland
14:45	Summary and acknowledgement	
15:00	End of the day	
15:00	Assessment of needs in terms of capacity and activity planning in Togo	TMT and Togo Fisheries Department
16.00	End of the day	

Appendix 3 : Exercice on the National Working Group

National Working Group of Togo	
Agencies	Roles
Navy	Maritime security and surveillance
Maritime brigade	Investigation
Department of maritime affairs	Vessel registration
Ministry of fisheries	Fisheries, MCS management, and health control
ONEAM	Strengthening and coordinating activities in the maritime sector
Port authority	Port management
Immigration	Control and identification
Customs	Control of imports and exports
Department of environment	Protection of the environment
OCTRID	Agency for the fight against drug

Obstacles to inter-agency cooperation
Information sharing limited
Difficulty in having consistent meetings- meetings are only held when a case has to be dealt with by various agencies
Lack of human resources
Information sharing limited and lack of a communication strategy
Lack of mutual trust
Suggestions to take up these challenges
Set up a short-term communication network through a small group on social media
Define roles and responsibilities of each agency involved in the fight against illegal fishing activities
Define and implement a mid and long term communication and information sharing strategy

Appendix 4 : Exercise on the control of reefers

How could Togo make sure of the compliance of the reefers' activities
<u>What is the current ability of Togo to control foreign reefers in its waters ?</u>
Capacities are limited in terms de : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Means to control vessels' movements in the EEZ - notification report of entry and exit from the EEZ to the department of fisheries - Partol vessel to inspect vessels at sea - Get information on the vessel - Quick decision to conduct an inspection/investigation
<u>What is the current ability of Togo to control reefers' boardings at the port of Lomé ?</u>
Capacities and cooperation are limited in terms of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of qualified staff to inspect all port of call vessels - Notification of port entry as recommended by FAO PSMA - The Navy receives information on vessels' entry and information is not shared with the Departement of fisheries - Accreditation of authorised officers to perform inspections

- MCS standard operation procedure