



# Progress of Implementation of the FishTrade Program in Western Corridor

Information Sharing with the Fisheries Commission for West-Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC),

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# The FishTrade Program

- [FishTrade](#), a [European Commission](#) funded project implemented by [WorldFish](#), the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([NEPAD](#)) and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources ([AU-IBAR](#))





# Objectives of FishTrade Program

## Title:

*“Improving Food Security and Reducing Poverty through intra-regional Fish Trade in ~~sub-~~Saharan Africa”*

## Aims:

to strengthen value chains and, with a focus on sustainability, give better access to intra-regional markets and subsequently improve food and nutritional security and income in sub-Saharan

## Result areas:

1. **Information on the structure, products and value** of intra-regional fish trade in food security in Sub Saharan Africa generated and made available to stakeholders
2. **Recommendations on policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations**, well embedded in national and regional fisheries, agricultural, trade and food security policy frameworks
3. **Increased capacities for trade amongst private sector associations**, in particular of women fish processors and traders and aquaculture producers, to access domestic and regional markets
4. **Adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, certification procedures**, standards and regulations by key stakeholders participating in intra-regional trade





# Key Guiding Question for the FishTrade Program

## What are the realistic options for ensuring fish supply in Africa?

- Will promoting intra-regional trade simply **take fish away from consumers** in one area to feed other in another”
- Should there be consideration for policy recommendations to encourage **imports** – rather than “import substitution”?
- What are the possibilities for increased production of **small pelagic species** in both inland and marine fisheries?
- What are the implications of using small-pelagics for **fishmeal** as opposed to being food for poor consumers;
- Exports are known to **disrupt** local trade routes and local markets, how can these be managed; and
- What impact will **external or international demand** play on intra-regional trade in the future?





# Progress so far

- A total of three universities have been included in the partnership in the Western Corridor (ECOWAS):
  1. Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Institut de Géographie Tropicale (IGT), Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
  2. University of Ibadan, Nigeria
  3. University of Ghana, Department of Economics
- All universities have recruited students and/or interns and are implementing the cross-border trade monitoring (**average of 3 students per university**).





# Progress so far on University Partnership

- Universities have been involved in **collaborative research** that is aligned to national and regional priorities within the framework of the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.
- The program has helped create a platform for universities to **share expertise** on fish trade research and teaching
- The FishTrade Program has enabled students to use the field data for their academic credits (Masters and Doctorate Degrees), helping to create a critical mass of scientists as well as **practical degrees!**





# Key Findings the FishTrade Program

- Preliminary results from corridor analysis show massive movement of fish from country to country.
- The prominent species being traded across borders are the **small pelagic species** from both marine (sardinella, known locally as “εban” or “Amane”). Noting that these species are readily accessible to the urban and rural poor households.
- **Farmed products** are also being traded, and these are both from within the regions but also from outside Africa (mainly China).
- **Informal** fish exports/imports tend to be more important for the low income rural and urban traders and consumers







# What are the implications of using small-pelagics for fishmeal as opposed to being food for poor consumers?



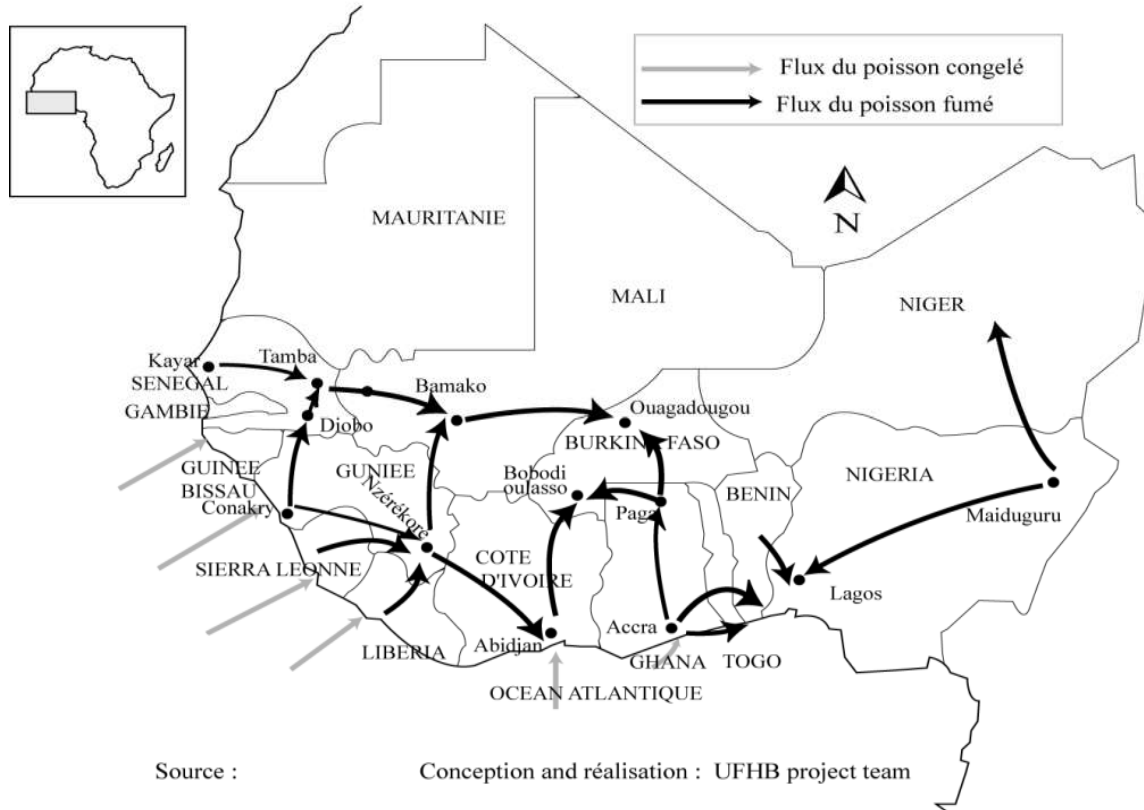
If small pelagics are processed poorly, they are likely to be used as ingredients in animal feed.  
➤ Therefore, value-addition will divert the fish back to human feed





# Informal fish export routes: Western Corridor

Carte des flux du poisson en Afrique de l'Ouest



Informal fish exports/imports tend to be more important for the low income rural and urban traders and consumers



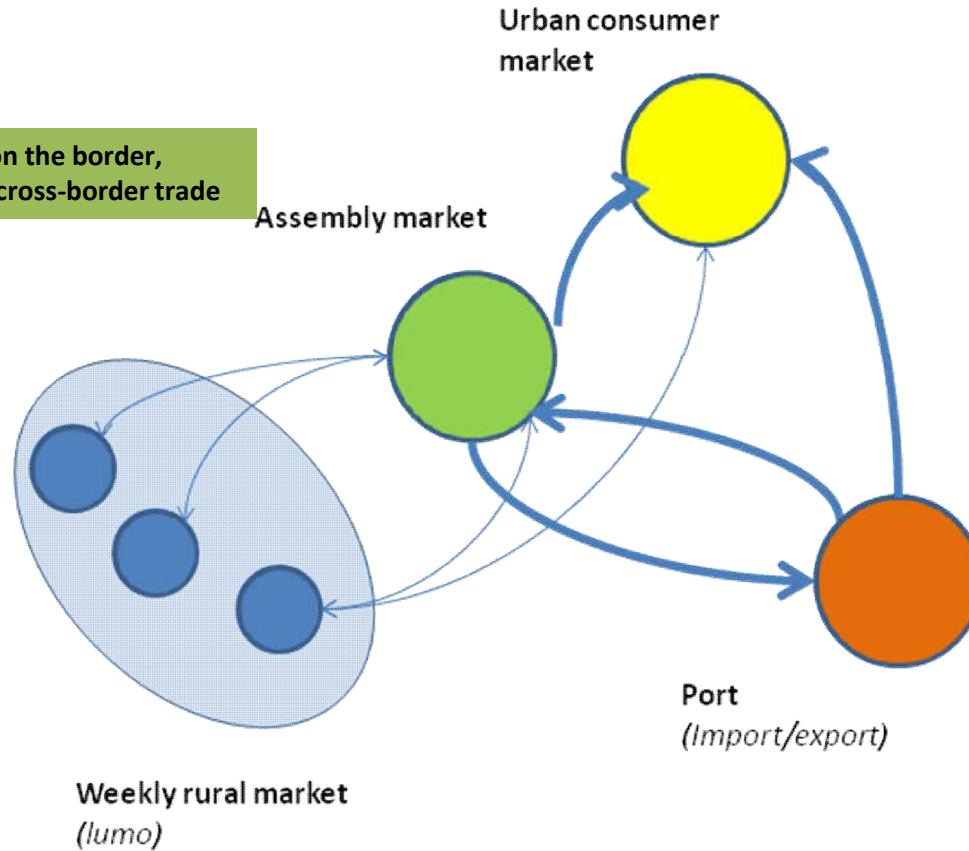
# Domestic and regional fish product flow in Ghana





# Marketing of fish products: Case of Senegal

Assembly markets tend to be on the border, hence, important for informal cross-border trade





# Key Findings the FishTrade Program

- Market structures comprise (i) weekly rural markets , (ii) assembly markets (many tend to be on the border, hence, important for informal cross-border trade), (iv) urban markets, and (v) point-of-production or port
- Importance of **factors influencing fish consumption** are:
  - (i) accessibility (**convenience**) and freshness (**quality**), for urban consumers; and
  - (ii) selling type (per piece, not per kg - **divisibility**), freshness (**quality**), and price for rural consumers
- Is there evidence for efficiency of marketing channels?:
  - Market Efficiency Index are favourable for fish producers and processors if wholesalers (middlemen) are excluded.
  - Wholesalers and retailers reap the best returns in the value chain, but they don't add value to the products; they depress profit for processors add value to the products (most of whom are women)
- Is there a case for aquaculture as a better source of traded fish products?
  - Farmed products have low market margins compared to captured products.
  - Therefore, it is **still cheaper to catch fish than to grow it** (implications for continued over-fishing, under-developed aquaculture and continued imports of farmed products)



# Policy Options

- Over 130 policies have been identified; hence, the problem is **“Policy Abstinence”** and not **“Absence”**
- Known trade flows in and out of Africa is the **formal trade**, but this does not contribute to livelihood and food security of majority. However, **informal trade** is more prominent
- Given SADC’s commitment to free movement of goods, services and humans. What are the challenges to implementation of existing policy commitments?
- Through policy research a number of gaps have been identified and these support to highlight evidence for change and design of better mechanisms for implementation
- Therefore, key trade policy implementation, small steps are needed, and these should focus on operationalizing mechanism for product specification, through:
  - standards - technical standards, animal health or **“trade-related measures”** to sustainable production, consumption (SPC) to enable exchange of fish products (trade)
  - To facilitate Cross-border trade by creating **One-Stop-Border-Post** (OSBPs)





# Recommendations

- There are more species and quantities of fish being traded informally in many countries than what is recorded in **official statistics**.
- In some countries, exports are overlooked completely, **undermining importance** in national economy and food security and nutrition.
- Therefore, it is necessary for informal trade figures to be captured and included in the **national statistics**
- Noting that **small pelagics** are readily accessible to the urban and rural poor households, it is important for governments to facilitate speedy importation of these species in order to promote food and nutrition security.
- It is important to incorporate **liberal trade measures** and harmonize trade and food safety regulations to be consistent with the REC's commitment to free trade. Key to this is possibility of **One-Stop-Border-Post** (OSBP) with **Conformity Assessment Framework**.
- **Create awareness** about the free trade measure among traders







# Recommendations

- Although **aquaculture** is emerging as an important source of fish in many countries in Africa, species from capture fisheries (especially small pelagics) are still prominent in the local diets.
- Therefore, policies aimed at aquaculture development should not be promoted at the expense of sustainable fisheries management.
- **Consumer studies** are critical in order to understand demand for fish
- WorldFish as an international research organization has redefined our work in Africa through working with **African Union** Member States and African Universities;





**Thank you for your attentions!**

