



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



REPORT OF THE RESTITUTION AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON STUDIES INITIATED BY THE INTERAFRICAN BUREAU OF ANIMAL RESOURCES OF AFRICAN UNION (AU-IBAR) FOR THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE FOR THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA (FCWC)

7 - 8 MAY 2018, NAIROBI, KENYA.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

The workshop to validate studies on (i) the development of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the sub-region covered by the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and (ii) the assessment of the implementation status and the review of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Member Countries of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)) to formulate a realistic Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing, was held in the AU-IBAR conference room in Nairobi, Kenya on 7-8th May 2018.

The delegates of the six (6) member countries of the FCWC, namely the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Liberia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Togolese Republic, representatives of AU-IBAR, the European Union (DG-MARE & EFCA), the USAID (Sustainable Fisheries Management Project in Ghana) and the FCWC Secretariat as well as the Consultants who conducted the studies and resource persons from the region took part at the said meeting. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2.

The opening ceremony was facilitated by **Dr. Simplicie Nouala**, Head of the Animal Productions Department of the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR). He welcomed the participants and recalled that the two studies that will be the subject of restitution and validation were funded by the AU on behalf of the FCWC in the framework of the partnership with Regional Fisheries Organizations (RFOs).

In his welcome address, **Dr. Baboucar Jaw**, Head of Animal Health Unit of AU-IBAR, on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR, **Professor Ahmed A. Elsayalhy**, expressed his gratitude to the participants for accepting the invitation and welcomed their commitment to the aspirations of the Pan-African Organization to Combat Poverty and Hunger at the continent level. He extended sincere greetings of **Honourable Ms. Josefa Leonel Coretta Sacko**, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union **Honourable Moussa Faki Mahamat**. He then emphasized that this workshop is the result of the collaboration between AU-IBAR and the RFOs, especially the FCWC.

Dr. Jaw clarified that AU-IBAR's mandate is essentially to support AU Member Countries in the areas of improving conservation of natural resources and strengthening cooperation. He recalled the importance of fishing in the sub-region, particularly the exploitation of small pelagic for the food security of the populations. He emphasized the critical nature of regional cooperation, especially with regard to the establishment of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in a context where most fisheries resources are over-exploited or full exploited, and significant losses related to IUU fishing are recorded.

Dr. Jaw greatly appreciated the important support of the EU to AU-IBAR and the excellent work of the consultants who conducted the studies for which this workshop aims at validating the results. Finally, he wished for good deliberation during these two days of exchanges.

The Secretary General of the FCWC, **Mr. Seraphin Dedi-Nadje**, at his opening address, welcomed the presence of Delegates from Member Countries and Partners which shows the importance and commitment of the member countries to the FCWC's fisheries sector but also and especially to the activity of developing plans mentioned above. He then presented his apologies to partners, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS), who did not participate in the workshop. He thanked AU-IBAR, on behalf of the Hon. Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairperson of the FCWC Conference of Ministers, for this support aimed at strengthening fisheries governance in West Africa.

Mr Seraphin Dedi welcomed the presence of development partners, in particular USAID and the European Union, who are being asked to provide support for the effective implementation of the two Plans that will emerge from this workshop. He also hopes to continue benefitting from the African Union support through a possible second phase of *Projet GoV*, one of the main projects in the implementation of the Policy Framework and the Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. Before declaring the session opened, he urged the FCWC member countries to take ownership of the two plans that will be validated and to actively seek material and financial means at the national level for their effective implementation.

II. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The following persons were nominated to conduct the work:

- Chairperson: **Mr. Séraphin Dedi-Nadje**, FCWC Secretary General
- Rapporteurs: **Dr. Moustapha Kébé** and **Mr. Alain Kodjo**, Resource-persons.

The Chairman presented the agenda to the participants, which was adopted unanimously. The agenda is attached as Annex I.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION 'DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FCWC SUB-REGION

The Consultant, Mr. Alioune Badara Sy, Consultant, presented the results of his work in two parts. The first part focused on the descriptive analysis and diagnosis of fisheries. While the content and option for the Fisheries Management Plan was presented in the second part.

First Part: Fisheries Diagnostic and Descriptive Analysis

Mr. Sy started his presentation by clarifying the concept and the word 'FISHING', as defined by FAO. It is from the components of the concept that the diagnosis of the status of marine fisheries in the area covered by the FCWC was made.

Broadly, the following strong trends were noted by the Consultant: (i) impoverishment of the main marine fish stocks exploited as a result of overexploitation and the weakening of marine ecosystems particularly in the coastal area; (ii) management systems that are still inadequate despite the substantial efforts made in recent years by the sub region countries to improve the management of marine fisheries (scaling of the fight against IUU fishing, updating and adaptation of legal instruments management, reinforcement of sub-regional

cooperation actions, etc.).

Mr. Sy pointed out that, overall, the management measures in the FCWC Member Countries are not yet producing the desired effects and are still not very effective in stopping the cycle of over-exploitation and expansion of fishing capacity. This is true in a context in which all FCWC Member Countries are net importers of fish products and face increased deficits in their external accounts because of the increase in demand for fish, but also because of the loss of productivity of fish. their marine fish stocks which reduces supply capacities.

The Consultant concluded this part related to the diagnosis by underlying the inadequate and inefficient national responses to these constraints and challenges as management issues have become regional and the need for cooperation among FCWC Member Countries is vital, particularly for the reasons following: (i) the existence of shared stocks; (ii) cross-border mobility of fleets in the sub-region, especially small-scale fleets; (iii) the need to harmonize management measures given the interdependence and overlap of the maritime fisheries of the countries of the sub-region; (iv) the need to develop a regional strategy for the conservation of fisheries resources and fragile ecosystems through the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) whose expected benefits extend beyond the maritime boundaries of a single State, etc.

Second part: Presentation of the Fisheries Management Plan - Content and Option

Mr. Sy indicated that the regional management plan developed is part of the legal and political cooperation framework of the FCWC countries that it will contribute to making operational. He also demonstrated the coherence of this plan with regional and international instruments, including: (i) the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS); (ii) the Regional Fisheries Program and the WAEMU Fishing Guidelines; (iii) the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF); (iv) the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure the Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (PA Guidelines), etc. the objective of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan is to contribute to the improvement of food security and the economic and social well-being of FCWC member countries. More specifically, the Plan aims to create the conditions for the sustainable management of FCWC's marine fisheries by strengthening sub regional cooperation. In addition, the four (4) expected outputs

In addition, the four (4) outcomes of the Regional Fishery Management Plan have been reviewed by the Consultant, namely: (i) the development, adoption and implementation of plans for management in FCWC fisheries; (ii) the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations governing marine fisheries; (iii) regulation of access to fisheries resources in artisanal fisheries; and (iv) the integration of MPAs in the management of coastal fisheries.

Mr. Sy informed the meeting that the operationalization of the Regional Plan will build on the achievements in the region, including support for the implementation of beach sewage management plans developed and adopted at the regional level. of the FCWC and Fisheries Management of Ghana. He also indicated that a focus will also be placed on the management of shared stocks responsible for the mobility of fishermen.

He clarified that the Regional Fisheries Management Plan will be implemented over a period of four (4) years, in a flexible, ie adaptive and evolutionary way according to the principles of co-management with effective involvement. stakeholders at all levels. The overall cost of the Plan is estimated at US \$ 5,391,840,000, of which 30% is expected from FCWC Member Countries and 70% from participation of Regional Economic Communities (WAEMU, ECOWAS), Technical and Financial Partners (World Bank, EU, etc.).

During discussions following the presentation, the Consultant was congratulated for the quality of his work. However, a number of questions have been raised and deserve to be taken into account in the final version of the document.

The issue of quality of data on the fisheries situation in the different countries of the sub-region used by the Consultant for the analysis was raised. It results largely from the diversity of sources in some countries (Fisheries Administration, Research, Profession). Corrected data for the reference year (2016), considered official, were made available to the Consultant during the meeting. This should help refine the diagnosis of the fisheries situation in the sub-region. For this purpose, the Consultant was asked to specify the source of any used data in his analysis. The Consultant was invited to integrate this data and take into account the following elements when finalizing the document:

- i. Summarize the diagnosis in a SWOT chart (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats);
- ii. Conduct an analysis of stakeholders, including public and private institutions involved in the implementation of the regional management plan;
- iii. Retain the following four (4) axes of interventions: Consolidation of initiatives underway in the region; Harmonization of policies and legislation; Regulation of access to resources for artisanal fisheries; Shared stock management.
- iv. Provide a schedule of execution over a period of five (5) years.

The report submitted on the “Development of the Regional Fishery Management Plan for the sub-region covered by the FCWC was validated subject to the consideration of the comments made.

IV. PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

Mr. Samuel Quatey, Consultant, presented the results of his work on assessing the status of implementation and reviewing the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Undeclared Fishing and non-regulated (INN) in FCWC member countries to formulate a realistic Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing. The presentation was in two parts: (i) Descriptive analysis and evaluation of the status of implementation and Review of the 2009 Regional Action Plan; (ii) Content of the FCWC new Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing.

Part I: Descriptive Analysis and Assessment of the Status of Implementation and Review of the Regional Action Plan.

Mr. Quatey underlined that the specific objectives of the RPOA-IUU have been partially achieved especially by way of awareness creation and subsequent attraction of development partners to provide technical and financial assistance in implementing some aspects of the RPOA-IUU and adopted NPOA-IUU by three (3) FCWC Member Countries.

He also mentioned that the priority actions to a large extent have been achieved by way of improved and strengthened MCS in member Countries especially Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria; review and enactment of new Law and Regulations to combat IUU fishing by Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin; and acquisition of patrol boats by member Countries to enhance at sea patrol and inspection in their respective EEZ.

Mr. Quatey noted that Member Countries have ratified/acceded to relevant instruments, they have a register for industrial vessels and a register of licenses and authorizations for industrial vessels. However, he underlined that very little has been done for port control measures by all member Countries although Ghana and Togo have ratified/acceded to the PSMA (Port State Measures Agreement). Traceability system/

scheme to ensure that member Countries do not export fish caught by IUU fishing is weak in all member Countries except Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana

Part 2: Presentation of the content of the Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing

The 58 measures for the revised RPOA-IUU were presented by the Consultant.

During discussions following the presentation, the meeting congratulated the Consultant for the work well done. The relevance of issues of combating IUU fishing was again underlined by the meeting.

When finalising the Plan, the Consultant is invited to proceed to the following adjustments:

- i. To merge certain proposed measures, to present a synoptic table of these measures, highlighting the achievements for each of the measures contained in the former Regional Plan to make more visible the measures recommended in the new Plan;
- ii. To prioritize actions, with the support of Member Countries;
- iii. To emphasize the awareness of Member Countries on IUU fishing;
- iv. To take into account the principles of transparency and subsidiarity, specifying what is the responsibility of the FCWC General Secretariat and what is the responsibility of the Member Countries;
- v. To provide guidance for implementation in order to allow Member Countries to circumvent difficulties related to the ratification of texts (often too long delays).

The document "Assessment of the Status of Implementation and Review of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Central Fisheries Committee Members" West of the Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) to formulate a realistic regional plan to combat IUU fishing "was validated subject to taking into account the comments made by the participants.

V. ADVISORY SECTION OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS AND PARTNERS

Strategies for Implementing the Regional Fisheries Management Plan

Following the presentation of **Dr. P O Obatola** from the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research of Nigeria, the establishment of a Working Group within the FCWC Secretariat General for the implementation of the Plan Regional Fisheries Management Program has been confirmed. The objectives of this Working Group are to establish a strategy to reduce the gap between research activities and fisheries managers' activities of the region, improve collection of relevant data required for the Management Plan (including scientific research studies) and to describe the main role of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Plan. Management. National teams including all stakeholders with focal persons related to the sub-regional Working Group will be established.

Member Countries welcomed this initiative to strengthen and operationalize the current fisheries management framework in the sub-region and pledged to accompany the implementation of the Management Plan by working closely with the Working Group which will be put in place.

Update and Implementation Level of the FCWC 2018 Work Plan

The FCWC Secretariat General informed the meeting on the level of implementation of the organization's 2018 work plan, including the start-up of the planned PESCAO over a period of four (4) and to support the implementation of the Strategic axis 4 (Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and fight against IUU

fishing) of the Strategic Plan of the FCWC.

PESCAO is a partnership between the FCWC Member Countries, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the Delegation of the European Union in Ghana and the Cabinet AGRER which provides the Technical Assistance with the recruitment of **Mr. Mamadou Ball**, MCS Expert, who was formally introduced to FCWC Member Countries during this meeting.

In total, the Project has six (6) expected results:

- i. Fisheries legal frameworks are harmonized and consistent with international standards to ensure proper fight against IUU fishing
- ii. Cooperation between countries, administrations and organizations is facilitated
- iii. FCWC is equipped with a Regional MCS Centre with a strong link to national MCS structures
- iv. Countries and FCWC capacities in operational MCS are strengthened, along with their ability to sustain this in the long-term through enhanced training programmes.
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- vi. FCWC countries get support in the development of a pool of regional observers.

The Member Countries have committed to support the implementation of PESCAO by working closely with the Project Team including the Technical Assistant (Mr. Mamadou Ball) who will soon start visits to each country.

VI. RECOMMANDATIONS

36. The meeting welcomed the quality of the presentations and exchanges during the two days. She expressed her sincere thanks to BIRA-AU for accompanying the FCWC in order to have a Regional Fisheries Management Plan and a new Regional Plan to combat IUU fishing.

At the end of the meeting, a number of recommendations were made:

Towards the Consultants:

- To finalize as soon as possible the documents taking into account the observations formulated

Towards FCWC

- To widely disseminate the two Plans once finalized
- To seek necessary funding for the implementation of the two Plans
- To monitor the implementation of the two Plans and carry out regular reporting
- To support for the request for the establishment of a second phase of the FishGov Project.

Towards FCWC Member Countries:

- To take ownership of the two Plans and to contribute to their implementation;
- To include in the national budgets the financial contribution to the implementation of the regional fisheries management Plan.

Towards the AU-IBAR:

- To continue supporting FCWC for the implementation of the two Plans in a perspective of a second phase of the FishGov Project, through advocacy with technical and financial partners.

Towards FCWC technical and financial partners (European Union, USAID, ECOWAS, WAEMU, etc.)

- Support the implementation of the two Plans.

VII. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chairperson clarified that the report of the workshop will be finalized within two (2) weeks with input from the different participants.

After thanking again the Consultants and participants for successful exchanges, the BIRA-AU team for the constant support and the excellent working conditions, and the interpreters, the President declared the meeting closed at 5:30pm.

ANNEXE I: DRAFT AGENDA OF VALIDATION AND RESTITUTION WORKSHOP:

- A. Development of Regional fisheries Management Plan for the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) sub-region
- B. Assessment of the implementation status and Review of the regional Plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the member countries of Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) in order to formulate a realistic regional plan of combating IUU fishing. Nairobi - Kenya, 07- 08 May 2018.

DAY I		
Times	Events	Responsible person/Facilitator
8:00-9:00	Participants registration and installation	SG of FCWC
9:00 -09:15	arrival and installation of Authorities	SG of FCWC
09:15-10:00	Opening ceremony 1. Speech of the SG of FCWC 2. Opening Speech of AU-IBAR Director 3. Introduction of participants	SG of FCWC / Chairman of the opening session
10:00-10:15	Group Photo and Coffee Break	
10:15-10:30	Appointment of the workshop chairman and Secretariat	SG of FCWC/ Chairman of the opening session
10 :30-11:45	Presentation of the report of the Consultancy: « Development of Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the Fisheries committee of West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Sub-region » First part: Fisheries diagnostic and descriptive analysis	Mr.Alioune SY, Consultant
11:45-01:00	Discussions	Workshop chairman
01:00-02:30	Lunch break	
02:30-03	Presentation of report of the Consultancy (continued): Development of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Sub-region Second part: Presentation of Fisheries Management Plan - content and option.	Mr.Alioune SY, consultant
03-04 :00	Discussion	
04-04 :20	Coffee break	

Times	Events	Responsible person/Facilitator
04:20-05:00	Debate (continued) / Conclusions, recommendations and summary of the work of day I	Session chairman
DAY 2		
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival of Participants and Registration	SG of FCWC
09:00 - 09:15	Appointment of the workshop chairperson and Secretariat	SG of FCWC
09:15 - 10:00	Report of the Consultation presentation: Assessment of the implementation status and Review of the Regional action plan to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the FCWC member countries in order to formulate a realistic regional plan of combating IUU fishing First Part: Descriptive analysis and assessment of the implementation status and Review of the Regional action plan	Mr. Samuel Quatey, consultant
10:00 - 10:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:15 - 10:45	Discussions	SG of FCWC / Chairman of the opening session
10:45 - 11:45	Presentation of the report of the Consultancy (continued): Assessment of the implementation status and Review of the regional Plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the FCWC member countries in order to formulate a realistic regional plan of combating the IUU fishing. Second part: Presentation of the contents of the new Regional Plan to combat the IUU fishing	Mr. Samuel Quatey, consultant
11:45 - 12:15	Discussion	Chairman of the workshop
12:15 - 01:00	Discussion (continued) / Conclusions, recommendation and summary of the consultation works	Chairperson of the workshop
01:00 - 02:30	Lunch break	
02:30 - 03:00	Consultative section of FCWC national Directors and partners on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation strategies of new proposed plans and participants' commitment. • Progress and update on implementation of FCWC 2018 Work Plan 	SG/FCWC Directors Partners
03:00 - 04:00	Discussion	
04:00 - 04:20	Coffee/Tea break	
04:20 - 05:00	Conclusions and synthesis of work	
	Closing Session	Session chairman

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS