



Project 6

5 years

US\$1 815 275

All 6 FCWC countries

IUU fishing is a real scourge that obstructs the action of the coastal countries in the sustainable management and fight against poverty, the deficiency of nutrition and unemployment. IUU fishing overuses the resources of the State, deteriorate marine habitat and violates their sovereignty.

# 6

## Support to the strengthening of the regional legal framework to combat IUU fishing

### Background

The six FCWC Member States (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo) total up 2500 km of coastline and produce annually over 1.293.000 tonnes of fisheries products. It is therefore clear that fishing is a vital source for more than 200 million people for food, jobs and income. In these countries, fishing is rooted in the traditions and actually represents a serious alternative to reduce the deficiency of nutrition, poverty and unemployment. However, this space is highly threatened by the negative effects of illegal, unregulated and undeclared fishing (IUU fishing).

In recent years, following a destabilized regional socio-political environment (war in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire), the maritime area of the West African recorded a lot of illegal fishing activities. The development of IUU fishing negatively impacted fisheries resources and the environment, undermining national and regional efforts for sustainable and responsible management of marine resources.

## PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

IUU fishing occurs as a form of tacit objection to the international waters system provided for by the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea. It is a real scourge that obstructs the coastal countries in the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

IUU fishing is becoming more intense in FCWC space and appears permanent and unhindered through: unlicensed fishing vessels, fishing in unauthorized areas, fishing in prohibited areas, fishing of protected species, sizes and weight, the use of prohibited gear and meshes, the lining of the nets, the illicit transfer, undeclared fishing, the discharges into the sea, dumping at sea, etc.

Political and military crisis in FCWC region have increased IUU fishing proliferation. The fragile and vulnerable States lost control over their maritime region. The means of monitoring are disintegrating. In addition, the laws and regulations to deal with issues relating to IUU fishing are inadequate, inappropriate and not binding. And defrauders can easily escape penalties. The intensity of poverty and unemployment, with its corollary of low economic opportunities for traditional fishermen, favors this practice by the national fishing units and makes its most dramatic impact on the future of natural resources and the conditions of life of communities.

At the international level, control and reduction of fishing capacity of other fisheries of the world are at the origin of the transfer of ships in areas of low capacity of control and surveillance as the Gulf of Guinea. And the absence of dissuasive and relevant jurisdictions supported this movement.

IUU fishing costs huge losses in volume and value. For example, losses due to the practice of IUU in Liberia are estimated at more than 10 million dollars each year (**Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)**). The reports of the MRAG in 2003 relating to the situation and consequences of IUU fishing are eloquent and show without ambiguity the intensity of this illegal fishing.

Currently, none of the FCWC member countries is able to say the absence of vessels flying its flag and engaged in this fishery or properly monitor and punish the stakeholders involved. In addition, the States exercise very little control over their nationals.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project aims at assisting States to update their national laws by incorporating the relevant provisions of international instruments, to adopt a sub regional convention on fighting IUU fishing, and finally to ratify the international instruments.

Product 1: National laws incorporate the relevant provisions of international instruments to fight IUU fishing

- 1.1 Analyze the laws of the Member States
- 1.2 Adopt the study report
- 1.3 Train the nationals in the development of national legislation
- 1.4 Develop the national laws Under the supervision of the FCWC
- 1.5 Adopt the national legislation
- 1.6 Adopt national laws

Product 3: States are encouraged to ratify the international instruments

- 3.1 Train the nationals in the jurisdiction of the Port State measures
- 3.2 Organize a regional workshop on the international instruments
- 3.3 Conduct a study of impacts of international instruments
- 3.4 Adopt the report of the study

Product 4: Stakeholders participate in the fisheries management process

- 4.1 Organize capacity building sessions for fisheries senior lawyers
- 4.2 Train two (2) fisheries lawyers per state

Product 2: A sub regional Convention on fight against IUU fishing is signed

- 2.1 Develop the Convention
- 2.2 Adopt the Convention
- 2.3 Negotiate the Convention
- 2.4 Sign the Convention
- 2.5 Put in place the mechanisms of the Convention

Product 5: Lessons learnt from the implementation of the project are disseminated

- 5.1 Organize the project supervision
- 5.2 Organize the project evaluation

**PRODUCTS  
AND  
ACTIVITIES**

## PARTNERS and BENEFICIARIES

According to countries, the stakeholders will have different names. However, institutions commonly involved are:

- Fisheries administration , National Navy , Maritime Affairs / Coast Guard
- Various Ministries with links with maritime management
- Industrial fishing units, Maritime artisanal fishing units , Industrial fishermen associations, Traditional fishermen associations
- FCWC, Technical and financial partners

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the administrations in charge of the management of fisheries, coastal surveillance, and national defence. The private stakeholders including ship owners and the consignees of vessels are also partners in the project.

Sub regional and international organizations are the second level of the partners to the project and NGOs (national and international).

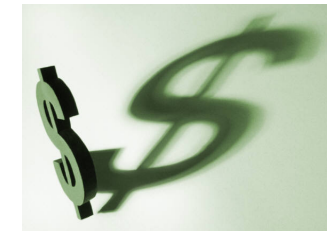
## SITUATION EXPECTED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

At the end of the project, sub regional and international cooperation in fight against IUU fishing is reinforced by an appropriate legal arsenal. Cooperation agreements are signed between the FCWC Member States and national laws incorporate the relevant provisions of international instruments. The member States are reconciled with the international community by adhering or ratifying international instruments including the Convention on trade in protected species (1973), the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea (1992), the FAO agreement of 1993 relating to the compliance with the conditions of conservation in the high seas, the FAO agreement of 1993 on the respect of the condition of conservation and the United Nations agreement on straddling and large migratory stocks (1995), the jurisdiction of the port State measures..

National administrations are equipped to accomplish their mission.

Séraphin DEDI NADJE  
Secretary General  
CPCO / FCWC Organization  
P.O.BOX bt 62 Community II  
Tema, Ghana  
+233207586321  
[www.fcwc-fish.org](http://www.fcwc-fish.org)

Finally, the technical and financial partners, regional fisheries organizations provide support and share the lessons learnt from the implementation of the project.



Product 1 Activities 1 to 6: US\$ 293 000

Product 2 Activities 1 to 5: US\$ 536 000

Product 3 Activities 1 to 4: US\$ 220 000

Product 4 Activities 1 to 2: US\$ 63 500

Product 5 Activities 1 to 2: US\$ 228 000