



Project 2

4 years

US\$ 2 988 030

Benin, Ivory coast,
Liberia, Nigeria and
Togo

The development of IUU fishing negatively impacts fisheries resources, the environment, the development of fisheries and undermining the national and regional efforts in sustainable and responsible management of marine resources

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Support the integration of migrant fishermen in the management of maritime artisanal fisheries

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. This volume represents a vital source people for food, jobs and income for more than 200 millions. Fishing deeply rooted in their traditions, generate for fishing communities a revenue and source for cheap animal protein contributing therefore to poverty reduction. However, this fishing zone is highly threatened by the negatively impacted by illegal, unregulated and undeclared fishing (IUU fishing).

IUU fishing is a real scourge that hinders the coastal countries efforts towards sustainable management of their fisheries and also their fight against poverty, including malnutrition and unemployment. IUU fishing, a plague for Coastal States, violates their sovereignty; overfishes the marine resources and contributes highly to the degradation of marine habitat. The recent political military crisis which affects countries in the region destabilizes governments (e.g. Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) leading to the high illegal activities in the sub-region.

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.

War situations in FCWC space (Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire) and even in Sierra Leone have brought about the proliferation of the phenomenon of IUU fishing. The fragile and vulnerable States lost control over their maritime space. The means of monitoring are dissipating. 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, favours 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. This should not be the case for some countries that have register of ships like Nigeria but it is clear that ships flying Niger and Ghana flags are regularly found in Benin, Togo waters without being the subject of legal prosecution. States exercise little control over their nationals.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to reduce deter or eliminate IUU fishing activities in the FCWC maritime space through the creation of regional and national centers for satellite fishing vessels monitoring and data processing. States will be encouraged to apply VMS systems monitoring to industrial fishing vessels operating in their waters and built a cooperation agreement among the States where rules and modalities of exchanges of information and rules to prosecute the offending ships are clearly defined.

Product 1: Traditional structures of migrant fishing communities are well understood

1.1 Conducting a study per country on traditional organizations of migrant fishing communities.

Product 2: Migrant fishing communities apply the laws and regulations of the host country

1.2 Organizing a workshop for validation of the studies per country

2.1 organizing awareness campaigns of fishermen on fisheries policies

2.2 organizing awareness campaigns of the fishermen on the laws and regulations.

2.3 create mixed organizations (Native and migrant) on fisheries management.

2.4 Train the Organizations in Internal governance

Product 3: Native women and migrant women work together in processing and marketing

3.1 conduct a study on the relationship between women in the field of processing and marketing

3.2. organizing studies validation workshop

3.3 Create mixed associations of processors and marketers to disseminate innovative processing techniques

3.4 Train women to internal governance (Holding meetings, work plan, setting of objectives and their evaluation etc.)

3.5 Introduce women to the understanding of the dynamics of markets and simplified accounting

Product 4: Migrant fishing communities are involved in the maritime artisanal fisheries management process

4.1 4.1 create a consultation framework between fishermen (migrant and national) and the authorities for the fisheries administration

4.2 Train the members of the consultation framework in the participation process

4.3 Guarantee the participation of fishermen (migrant and native) in the development and evaluation of

Product 5: Governments are encouraged to the integration of migrant fishing communities

management plans.

5.1 organizing a regional workshop to learn the lessons of the integration of migrant fishermen

5.2. Develop a sub-regional guideline for integration of migrant fishermen

PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

Product 6: Lessons learnt from the implementation of the project are disseminated

6.1 Supervise the project

6.2 Evaluate the project

PARTNERS and BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of the project are migrant fisher folks and indigenous fishing communities, fisheries administrations, extension services and NGOs. The secondary beneficiaries are other stakeholders involved in fisheries management and development including maritime surveillance services, fisheries management sub- regional organizations; other stakeholders in the six countries, partner institutions, the regional fisheries Organization, on-going project in the FCWC sub region.

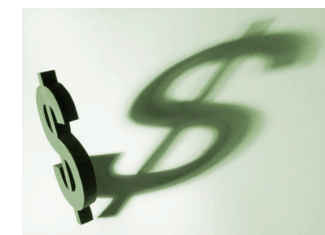
SITUATION EXPECTED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

At the end of the project, States and the fisheries administrations of the FCWC Member States and fishing communities are expected to have created a very favourable working climate. In fact, migrant fish folks will trust the different Administration and the civic responsibility and recommitment towards national and sub regional responsibility will gain momentum. Consequently, compliance to policies, laws and regulations will be understood by these migrants.

Governments working in partnership with migrant communities provide the necessary support to optimize their activities, including improvement the public investment rates in maritime artisanal fisheries. Migrant fishermen can benefit from the national efforts provided to poverty and vulnerability reduction.

Mitigation of conflicts between indigenous fishers and migrants is an important aspect expected to impact to project. The quality of fishing statistics is improved through the participation of those who produce the data.

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Product 1 Activities 1 to 2 : US\$ 138 000
Product 2 Activities 1 to 4 : US\$ 682 800
Product 3 Activities 1 to 5 : US\$ 417 600
Product 4 Activities 1 to 3 : US\$ 146 000
Product 5 Activities 1 to 2 : US\$ 27 200
Product 6 Activities 1 to 2 : US\$ 228 000