



Project 8

5 years

US\$ 1 240 795

All 6 FCWC countries

Without the ships register, it is illusory to implement a policy for the management of fishing effort, even if a very important part of the fishing effort is made by traditional fisheries non-recorded in the national registers.

8

Support for the creation of fishing vessels registers in the FCWC member countries

Background

The FCWC countries have ratified the United Nations convention on the law of the sea. They are therefore bound by the provisions contained in the convention. Article 94 requires States to maintain a shipping register which must contain at least the names and characteristics of the ship. The FAO Code of conduct for responsible fisheries made a number of recommendations on ships registration and fishing licenses. It establishes the principle of issuance by the State of a fishing license to any ship practicing this activity either in international waters or in waters under the national jurisdiction or sovereignty. These fishing licenses must be listed in a register updated regularly, which will contain detailed information on ships, their owners and the licenses issued. It sets the principle of the responsibility of the flag State as to obtaining a fishing license to work in the waters of another State. The Code is global in scope and applies not only to States but also to entities engaged in fishing, to regional, sub regional and world organizations and, to all those concerned by fishing activity generally.

Very clear and detailed provisions on ships register and fishing license are proposed to the States in the international action Plan to prevent, to deter and eliminate UUI fishing. International instruments compel States to keep and update a national register of vessels flying their flag. This is contained in the national legislation of States. This national register must enable to monitor all of the life of the ship since its construction until its destruction or export, in the sphere of responsibility of the State (navigation, security, qualification of the crew, right of labor, operations etc.). However, it is found that apart from Ghana, no fishing administration keeps national fishing vessels register which would be the exact reflection of the country's capture ability. Unfortunately, the register of Ghana is not updated. It does not, therefore, enable to know precisely the State of the fishing fleet. In addition, apart from Nigeria and Ghana, none of the countries of the FCWC implements a formal system linking the naturalization of the fishing vessel to the issuance of a fishing permit or a fishing license.

PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

The will of States to cooperate in the objective of the project to establish national and regional registers aims at resolving the following problems:

Apart from Ghana and Nigeria, the other FCWC Member States have no fishing vessels records. Even those who have them do not update them. It is therefore imperative to assist all countries to establish fishing vessels national registers. Generally, the register of ships including fishing vessels in the States is kept by marine services. But the fisheries administrations are not integrated in the process of registration of fishing vessels by the marine administration. In addition none of the States has a procedure of informing the fisheries administration on post-registration events that may occur and which the maritime administration is aware of because they have implication on the ships national register.

Some FCWC countries have adopted the practice of a specific register for fishing vessels. In other countries, the texts do not make provision for the creation of a special register for fishing vessels. This lack of clarification can entertain conflicts of jurisdiction between maritime and fisheries administration. There is therefore a need to make clear at the level of the States the choice of authority in charge of the fishing vessels register.

To avoid conflicts a cooperation device between the maritime administration and the fisheries administration is to be established whatever the institution responsible for the registration of fishing vessels.

Finally, States must have computers easy to use for the establishment and maintenance of registers of fishing vessels. Keeping the register on paper could be a drag to its update and constitute obstacles to the exchange of information.

The establishment of the regional register of fishing vessels depends on the reliability of national registers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to assist States to create 6 national registers and a regional fishing vessels register. The project will establish a formal framework for collaboration between fisheries administration and maritime administration to facilitate team work and sharing and transfer of information and data between the two institutions. The project also aims at interconnecting national register, sub regional registry, regional register and international register.

Product 1: A formal Framework of cooperation between the maritime and fisheries administrations is implemented

- 1.1 Develop the ToR of the formal Framework for collaboration between maritime and fisheries administrations
- 1.2 Organize a regional workshop to adopt the formal ToR
- 1.3 Establish 6 formal cooperation frameworks

Product 2 :

National fishing registers are created

- 2.1 Organize a regional workshop on the variables to be taken into account
- 2.2 Support the Member States for the creation of the national registers
- 2.3 Connect the national registers to the regional register
- 2.4 Train technicians

Product 3:
A regional register of fishing vessels is created

- 3.1 Create a regional register
- 3.2 Train the technicians
- 3.3 Connect the regional system with registers of other sub regional and international organizations

Product 5:
An agreement for information exchange is applied between States

- 4.1 Develop an agreement for Exchange of data and information
- 4.2 Adopt the agreement
- 4.3 Negotiate and sign the agreement

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

SITUATION EXPECTED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

At the end of the project, national fishing vessels registers and a regional fishing vessel register are implemented. They conform to international criteria. They contribute to the exchange of data and information relating to fishing vessels involved in IUU fishing. The choice of the authority in charge of the fishing vessels registration is final but fisheries and maritime administrations create a framework for collaboration to facilitate the formal exchange of data and information to update the various registers.

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

According to the countries, the stakeholders will have different names. However, institutions commonly involved are: Fisheries administration, Marine administration, Customs, Ministry of transport, Ship owners, Ship consigned, Associations of traditional fishermen, FCWC and regional and international fishing organizations, Technical and financial partners.

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



Product 1 Activities 1 to 3: US\$ 150 000
Product 2 Activities 1 to 4: US\$ 372 900
Product 3 Activities 1 to 3: US\$ 171 000
Product 4 Activities 1 to 3: US\$ 236 500
Product 5 Activities 1 to 2: US\$ 228 000