


<p>Comité des Pêches du Centre Ouest du Golfe de Guinée</p> <p>(CPCO)</p>		<p>Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea</p> <p>(FCWC)</p>
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REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ACC)

1. The meeting of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) was held in Accra, Ghana, on 16 and 17 December 2009, ahead of the third Session of the Ministerial Conference scheduled on Friday 18 December 2009.
2. Delegates from five of the six member countries took part in the meeting: the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Ghana, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Togo. The representative of the Republic of Liberia was unable to attend the meeting.
3. Representatives of the Regional Office for Africa and the Sub-Regional Office for West Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Guinea Current Large Programme for the Gulf of Guinea (GCLME), the West Africa Marine Programme Bureau of the World Wide Fund (WWF) and the West and Central Africa Component of the Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Programme in Africa (FAO/World Fish Centre), and some resource persons attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants is given in Annex 2.

I- Opening Ceremony

4. The opening ceremony of the ACC meeting was chaired by the Minister of Food and Agriculture and marked by the presence of the Deputy Minister in charge of Fisheries and the Chairman of the Fisheries Commission of the Republic of Ghana.
5. Before Honourable Kwesi AHWOI addressed the meeting, the FCWC Secretary-General, Mr. Seraphin Nadje DEDI expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Ghana for having accepted to host the third session of the Ministerial Conference as well as to the participants to this meeting for the importance attached to the FCWC. Mr. DEDI then wished all participants the traditional Akwaba.
6. Thereafter, Honourable Kwesi AHWOI warmly welcomed experts from member countries and partner organisations and wished them a pleasant stay in Ghana. He recalled the migratory nature of fisheries resources and emphasized the need for regular consultations among the stakeholders of the sub-region to address the various multi-sectoral and cross-border challenges related to this phenomenon of which the most important is Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. For this end he appreciated the attention paid to this issue by the FCWC and particularly the document on the proposed regional action plan to combat IUU fishing that will be discussed during this meeting. Mr. AHWOI also hoped that the FCWC would be able to learn lessons from the Ghana Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) experience initiated in November 2005. Before expressing his wishes for the success of the meeting, the Minister requested participants to integrate into the FCWC Strategic Action Plan in preparation other problems and challenges, especially non tariff barriers such as eco-labelling of fishery products, the need to reform national policies and legislations to conform to international standards as well as ensuring their harmonization and coherence. The address of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture is given in Annex 3.

II- Adoption of the Agenda

7. The proceedings were presided by Dr. Anvra Jeanson DJOBO, the Chairperson of the ACC. The meeting unanimously adopted the agenda which is given in Annex 1.

III- 2009 Annual Report of the Secretariat General

8. The FCWF Secretariat General recalled the activities planned for 2009, their level of implementation and the conclusions or recommendations for their continuation. He informed the meeting of visits organized in the different member Countries to speed up discussions with the relevant authorities in order to revive and deal with outstanding issues. The Secretariat also provided information on contacts made with Sub-Regional Organizations, particularly the Fisheries Sub-Regional Commission (CSRFP) and the Fisheries Regional Committee of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), to strengthen collaboration for the exchange of information and experiences.

9. The meeting was then informed by the Secretariat of its participation in various meetings scheduled by the regional fisheries management organizations, programmes and projects. These include: (i) the first technical planning meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA); (ii) the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries (EAF) – Nansen Fisheries Project for the Programme GCLM; (iii) the workshop for the assessment and planning of activities of the ACPFISH II Project; and (iv) the third meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee of the Strategic Partnership of the Investment Fund to support sustainable fisheries in Africa.

10. The Secretariat also informed the meeting of the continuation of the formalization of cooperation relations with the regional institutions, fisheries bodies, programmes and projects including the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the GLCME, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West Africa Marine Programme Office of WWF, and on the seek for funding from the World Bank, UEMOA and the GCLME.

11. The meeting was then informed by the Secretariat of the progress of actions taken to follow up and implement the recommendations of the second session of the Ministerial Conference and the other initiatives taken in conjunction with the technical and financial partners for the development of strategic partnerships.

12. Finally, the Secretariat gave details on the mobilization of financial support identified for the implementation of activities before underscoring the major constraints encountered and suggesting solutions.

13. The work done by the Secretariat and efforts made in performing its duties were greatly appreciated by the ACC despite the financial challenges mentioned. The ACC thus congratulated and encouraged the Secretariat General.

14. The meeting was informed of the recent adoption by the FAO Conference of the Agreement relating to port State measures aimed at preventing, deterring and combating IUU fishing which is presently open for signing by the FAO member countries including those in the sub-region.

15. The ACC was also informed of activities planned by WAEMU in 2010 as part of its three-year programme, namely (i) the elaboration of a regional Strategy for negotiating fisheries agreements with third countries, and (ii) the development of a support programme for the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). The Secretariat was urged to initiate the development of synergies and sustainable partnerships with WAEMU and other projects/programmes in the FCWC area for the

benefit of the member countries. These later are also urged to inform the Secretariat in due course of activities carried out by regional projects/programmes on their territory.

16. The meeting noted the commitment by Ghana to continue providing logistic support to the Secretariat and to ensure successful signature of the Headquarters Agreement not later than the first quarter of 2010 to facilitate the implementation of the FCWC activities.

17. The ACC welcomed the renewed commitment by Nigeria to provide the Secretariat with a voluntary contribution including an Expert and additional equipment (vehicle, computer) in 2010 and to settle its arrears of the 2010 contribution.

18. The meeting was informed of the effective establishment of the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Togo by the appointment of a Director in May 2009. Togo also reiterated its commitment to contribute regularly to the functioning of the Committee. Arrangements are being made to ensure payment of its contribution for 2009.

19. The member countries decided to respect their commitments, especially by paying their obligatory annual contributions as stipulated in the Convention in addition to voluntary contributions such as the payment of salaries of staff provided, the provision of offices, and equipment for the Secretariat. Each of the member countries present agrees to take the necessary measures to urgently settle their obligatory contribution arrears and adopt mechanisms to facilitate the regular payment of their contributions.

20. The meeting greatly appreciated the approval by FAO of the TCP relating to the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and a Programme to the implementation of this SAP for an amount of US\$ 220,000. That will enable the FCWC to have a road map for the next 10 years (2010-2020) and organize a donors meeting. The Secretariat was thus advised to involve the MCS sub-group of the FCWC in discussions on the Action Plan to combat IUU fishing and was invited to make use of the information available in the fisheries review papers prepared by the FAO Sub-regional Office for West Africa in each of the 15 countries concerned.

21. The meeting took this opportunity to again express its gratitude to FAO and other partners, particularly the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for the regular support provided to the FCWC Secretariat. It requested the continuation of this support to the FCWC and recommended that the member countries to fulfil their commitments to justify such support.

22. The Regional Coordinator of the GLCME Programme informed the ACC of their objectives and the activities recently developed in the region, notably the development of National Fisheries Management Plans for all countries and the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) which will integrate all the components and incorporate existing plans such as National Biodiversity Plans, Fisheries management plans, etc. He has specified that planned activities in the Fisheries component for 2010 include among others: training in the use of ECOPATH Modelling, further development of Fisheries management plans in each country, and organizing the Fisheries Trawl utilizing the NANSEN for the southern region of the LME (Angola, DRC and Congo Brazzaville). Congo). The meeting was also informed of the inclusion of a very detailed component on fisheries in the existing GCLME Strategic Action Plan (SAP). In view of the importance of stocks assessment in the elaboration of fisheries management plans, the ACC recommended that the activity related to fishing trawl be extended to all GLCME 16 member countries. The ACC noted the availability of the GLCME Programme to work in close collaboration with the FCWC and invited the Secretariat General to pursue discussions with the GLCME Regional Coordinator for the signature of the a Memorandum Of Understanding as planned.

23. To make the FCWC web site operational, the ACC encourages the member countries to regularly provide information to and consult the site.

24. The ACC noted the formalization of the partnership with the West Africa Marine Programme Bureau of WWF by signing a Memorandum of Understanding that comprises seven priority areas of cooperation. It is recommended to the Secretariat to take this opportunity to benefit from the rich experience of WWF in the region, especially by involving the fisher folk organizations from the start in the Committee and to extend this partnership to other projects/programmes in the sub-region.

25. The amended and adopted version of the 2009 Annual Report is provided in Annex 4.

IV- Consultant's Report on the preparation of the Regional Action Plan to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

26. The Consultant first recalled the background of the preparation of the Regional Action Plan to combat IUU fishing, the area of influence of the FCWC, the requirements of the international IUU Action Plan, the responsibilities of the coastal States and the responsibilities of the Port States. He then analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the countries in terms of combating IUU fishing before suggesting solutions at the national and regional levels to develop regional cooperation.

27. The ACC appreciated the quality of work done and congratulated the Consultant. It considers the various suggested strategic actions as pertinent to sustainably combat IUU fishing in the region. The ACC considers that the actions relating to: the introduction and generalization of the fishing license and access right, the establishment of national and regional registers, the harmonization and updating of fisheries legislations and policies, the strengthening of national MCS systems, the status of natural resources as well as the strengthening of the FCWC and its mandate based on the provisions of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement are priority for the FCWC.

28. To make the proposed Action Plan operational, the Ministers will be informed of the finalization process of the Action Plan by the ACC. This later recommended to the Secretariat General to prepare a plan for the implementation of the Action Plan (financing and regulatory provisions for the establishment of vessels registers), and to undertake the process for the appropriation of the regional IUU Action Plan by the various member countries through the FCWC Working Group for combating IUU fishing. Once the finalization process is completed, the Action Plan will be submitted to the next session of the Ministerial Conference for adoption.

29. To support the finalization of this action plan and express the political will of the member countries to combat IUU fishing, the ACC recommended that the Ministerial Conference adopt an Accra Declaration on combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

V- 2010 Work Programme of the Secretariat General

30. The 2010 work programme of the Secretariat General was presented. In view of material and human resources available, the ACC considered this programme ambitious. It invited the Secretariat to focus on the priority activities of the Committee including the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan, the finalization of the Action Plan to combat INN fishing and the follow-up of the activity relating to the signing of the headquarters agreement.

31. The amended 2010 work programme was adopted and is given in Annex 5.

VI- 2010 Budget of the Secretariat General

32. The provisional budget for the implementation of the 2010 planned activities presented by the secretariat was adopted after amendment.

33. The budget amounted to US\$ 430,000 of which US\$ 260,000 (60%) would be contributed by support projects to the Committee financed by ASDI, FAO and PAF-NEPAD. The budget estimates are given in Annex 6.

34. The ACC reiterated its recommendation to member Countries to take steps for the payment of the annual contributions for 2009 (US\$ 32,250 per member country) and arrears for 2008 (US\$ 37,250 per member country) to ensure the smooth running of the Secretariat.

VII- Thematic Presentations

35. The FCWC Action Plan to monitor migration was presented by the consultant who conducted the study on the migration of fisher folk in the sub-region whose report was approved by the second ACC meeting. Three strategic actions were identified for 2010 to manage migration in the sub-region: (i) identification of the foreign migrant fishermen; (ii) monitoring and support/advice to movement of foreign migrant fishermen and their fishing equipments; and (iii) elaboration and implementation of measures of integrating foreign migrant fishermen to professional organizations of the host countries. It was recommended that the FCWC Secretariat take steps to ensure that its 2010 work programme includes strategic actions identified to monitor migration of fisher folk.

36. The West and Central Africa Component of the Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Programme in Africa (FAO/World Fish Centre) informed the meeting of the results of the study carried out in 2008 and 2009, along the Abidjan – Lagos Corridor, on migration/mobility and HIV/AIDS. The study was aimed at analyzing how the existing services and strategies in each country could contribute to the implementation of the “Licence +” response in marine fisheries (regional response aimed at mobile and migrant groups) and to suggest an institutional mechanism for taking care of these target groups. A mechanism for taking care of marine and mobile fishers to combat HIV/AIDS in five FCWC member countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo) has been designed. The objectives sought through this mechanism, namely a change in behaviour, contributing to the reduction in the prevalence and increasing screening among couples, will be achieved through the institutional support both nationally (countries concerned, national response) and at regional level (FCWC; Lagos – Abidjan Corridor). The ACC strongly recommends that the FCWC Secretariat participate effectively to seek for funding and implementation of the “Licence +” pilot project in 2 countries (which will be selected on the basis of objective criteria) to test this mechanism.

37. The West Africa Marine Programme Bureau of WWF made a presentation on the impact and adaptation to climate change in fisheries by building on the results of ongoing activities in Western African Marine Ecoregion (WAMER). This is an advocacy tool to sensitize the decision makers on the issue of climate change and the need to design and implement strategies to adapt to climate change in the fisheries sector. The ACC requested the FCWC secretariat to start discussions on the initiatives to be developed in the region to address this pertinent issue based on existing experiences in the region covered by the CSRP.

VIII- Other Matters

38. The ACC noted the following information:

- Signature of the Headquarters Agreement in Morocco for the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT) between the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the current President, Honourable

DOUATI Alphonse, Minister of Animal Production and Fisheries Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the COMHAFAT and the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OCFC) of Japan, which will enable COMHAFAT to obtain funding on an annual basis to undertake its activities;
- Organization of the meeting of the CEEAF Scientific Committee in March 2010 in Accra and the CEEAF Session in October 2010 in Morocco;
- Holding of the meeting of Ministers in charge of Fisheries in Africa in March 2010 in The Gambia on the initiative of the African Union and NEPAD.

IX- Adoption of the Report

39. The report was adopted on 17 December 2009.

X- Closing Ceremony

40. The Experts congratulated the Authorities of the Republic of Ghana for the excellent arrangements made for the smooth running of this meeting.

Annex 1: Agenda of the Experts Meeting (Advisory and Coordinating Committee)

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

8:00 – 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening Ceremony**

1. Welcome of the FCWC Secretariat General
2. Opening Statement of the Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana
3. Group Photo

9:30 – 10:00 **Coffee break**

10:00 – 13:00

1. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of the meeting
2. Presentation of the 2009 Annual Report of the Secretariat General and Discussions

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 - 16:00

1. Presentation of the Consultant's Report on the preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
2. Discussions

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30 – 18:00

1. Examination and Adoption of the 2010 Work Programme
2. Examination and Adoption of the 2010 Budget

Thursday, December 17, 2009

9:00 – 10:30 **Thematic Presentations**

1. Migration and measures of monitoring actors / 2010 Action Plan
2. Presentation of the Operation « LICENCE + »

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Thematic Presentations (Cont.)**

1. Impacts and measures of monitoring climate change in the fisheries sector

12:00 – 13:00 **Other Matters**

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 – 18:00 **Preparation of the Report of the Meeting**

18:00 **Closure of the Meeting**

1. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
2. Closure of the Meeting

Annex 2: List of participants

**Third Meeting of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC)
Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC)
Troisième réunion du Comité Consultatif et de Coordination (CCC)
Comite des Pêches du Centre Ouest du Golfe de Guinée (CPCO)**

16 - 17 December/Décembre 2009

Accra, Ghana

List of Participants/Liste des participants

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Mr. Chairman

Hon. Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture

Secretary General of FCWC

Chairman and Members of the Fisheries Commission

Officials of the Ghana Fishing Industry

Fisheries Experts of the Sub-Region

Representative of FAO

Representatives of Development Partners

Members of the Print and Electronic Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocol Observed,

Before I proceed with my address, I wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Body of the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) for the opportunity to be invited to deliver the keynote address at the 3rd Ministerial Session of FCWC. I also wish to convey the fraternal greetings of our President, his Excellency Prof. John Atta Mills, the Government of Ghana and the entire people of the Republic of Ghana to all participants of this august Meeting.

Mr. Chairman, I have been informed that this the first time the Ministerial Conference is being held in Ghana since its establishment in 2006. Let me assure you that you made the right choice and that you are most warmly welcome to the home fisheries in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the high participation of countries constituting the FCWC shows the keen interest our Governments have in the activities of FCWC and our respective fisheries sectors.

Mr. Chairman, my Government shares and stands by the ideas and objectives of FCWC in:

- promoting collaboration among countries in management of fishery resources,
- improving the livelihoods of small scale fishers and processors including devising of appropriate measures to deal with migrant fishers
- harmonizing fisheries legislation and regulations among Member States
- strengthening sub-regional cooperation in monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement
- promoting the development of fisheries research capabilities
- promoting sub-regional cooperation in the marketing and trading of fish and fishery products

Mr. Chairman you will agree with me that the movement of fish does not recognize political borders and therefore they need no passport and visa to travel. This means that the problems and challenges that migrating fish create in the region are multi-sectoral and trans-boundary in character and therefore need the concerted efforts of all stakeholders in the sub-region to tackle them. It is in the spirit of the aforementioned facts that Ghana has always joined and participated actively in Regional Fisheries Bodies.

We appreciate the efforts of FCWC to promote management of the fishery resources in the sub-region in a sustainable manner. It will again interest you to know that the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana has in clear terms mandated the government to set up commissions to help to regulate and manage the utilization of the most important natural resources of the country including fish. I am happy to inform you that a reconstituted Fisheries Commission was inaugurated recently to advise the Minister in the management of the fishing industry.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, one of the challenges facing us in the West African region is the high incident of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and its associated trade in illicit drugs. Foreign vessels are not only poaching our fish but also using our waters as transit routes for their trade in hard drugs. I have been informed that one of the topics that will be discussed is a regional plan of action to combat IUU in our region. Ghana started a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) programme in November 2005 but has not been successful due to among others, contractual and financial problems. The VMS was solely financed by the Government of Ghana at a cost of £3million. Mr. Chairman you agree with me that VMS programmes are very expensive and therefore a regional approach will be cost effective. I challenged the FCWC to take advantage of what Ghana has started and develop it into a sub-regional programme. I am happy to inform you that the Government is in the process of acquiring two (2) patrol boats to strengthen the Navy and the Ministry to combat IUU fishing. Let us join hands as Sub-Regional Body to smoke out all those involved in IUU fishing from our waters.

Mr. Chairman, foreign exchange earnings from fish trade play an important component in the economies of our respective countries. Most of our countries in Sub-Region export to the European Union taking advantage of the ACP/EU Convention. The incentive to export to the EU under the ACP/EU Convention is great but the competition to enter the EU market is becoming stiffer. Annually, new non-tariff barriers are introduced by the EU. I am aware that with effect from January 2010, the EU IUU Regulation will come into force and satisfying the terms of the EU IUU Regulation is among the pre-requisites for our fishery products to be accepted on EU Markets. I have also been told that ecolabelling certification is looming in horizon as the next non-tariff barrier. What are we doing as a sub-region to promote trade among ourselves? Is it not possible to create the incentive package that has attracted us to export to the EU in our region? These and among others are the challenges that FCWC should find solutions to.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the issue of fisheries governance is something our respective countries should take it very serious. There is the need to reform our fisheries policies and law to conform to international standards and changing times. There is also the need to harmonize our laws and policies to accommodate migrate fishers. Migration of our fishermen within sub-region is something that has been with us since time memorial. Ghanaian fishermen in particular have migrated to most parts of the region. I am therefore happy to be informed that one of the issues for discussion is on measures to monitor activities of migrant fishermen in the sub-region.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that every organization has to change with the changing times. I have been informed that there are several international instruments that have not been either rectified or adopted by Member States of FCWC. Notably among them are:

- UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982
- UN Convention on Highly Migratory and Straddling Fish Species of 1993
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing of 1995
- FAO Plan of Action for Combating Fishing Capacity of 1999
- FAO Plan of Action for Combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing of 2001

- FAO Port State Measure of Action for Combating Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing of 2009.

I have been told that you will be formulating new Strategic Plan of Action. In doing so let us bare in mind the problems and challenges facing us and come out with programmes that would enable the fisheries sector contribute substantially to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, at this juncture, I have great pleasure to declare the 3rd Ministerial Conference of FCWC duly open. It is my fervent hope and expectation that you will have fruitful deliberations that will see you taking decisions that will move FCWC forward in the right direction for the mutual benefit of all Member States.

Thank you for your attention and May God bless you all.

Annex 4: 2009 Annual Report of the FCWC Secretariat General

I. INTRODUCTION

This report of activities of the Secretariat-General covers the period from January to November 2009 and revolves around three issues:

- The level of progress of activities planned in 2009;
- The follow-up and implementation of recommendations of the ordinary session of the Ministerial Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in 2008 and of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC); and
- The initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with the technical and financial partners for the development of new partnerships.

Finally, there is a brief account of the mobilisation of financial resources previously identified for the implementation of these activities for the year 2009.

II. LEVEL OF PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The activities revolve around six (6) elements from the FCWC Support Project document funded by the Swedish International Development Agency. This report recalls the activities planned per component, their level of progress and the conclusions/recommendations for the continuation of these activities.

2.1 Activities planned

It is noteworthy that the activities have been implemented in various ways based on the material and financial resources available.

COMPONENT 1:

IMPROVING SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Activity 1.1: Organising visits by the FCWC Secretary-General to the member Countries and the Sub-Regional Committees

The missions planned were conducted and the following observations were made:

At the level of member Countries, we note a frequency of structural reforms of ministerial departments in charge of fisheries, with a concomitant renewal of permanent responsible of these structures. Consequently the feed back on the committee and its activities to the hierarchy is not sufficiently or timely done. As such, some member Countries cannot ensure the follow up of the Committee's decisions and recommendations.

However, all member Countries visited commended the creation of the Committee and reiterated their commitment to support it. Particularly in Nigeria, the Authorities expressed their approval for requests for financial support including urgent payment of contribution arrears, additional equipment and the provision of an Expert to the Secretariat, as soon as possible.

The missions of the Secretariat have thus helped to speed up the sensitization of the Authorities met and to revive outstanding matters.

✚ The Delegations of member Countries present at the meeting are invited to provide details on efforts being made to fulfil their commitments.

Concerning the Regional Fisheries Bodies visited, especially the Sub-Regional Fisheries Committee (CSRP) and the Gulf of Guinea Regional Fisheries Committee (COREP), the Secretariat has noted that they are all being restructured to revive their activities.

Concurrently with the meeting on the planning of activities of the IUCN-MACO held from 13th to 19th November 2009 in Libreville, Gabon, the Secretariat was able to visit the COREP Secretariat. This Committee has just adopted a Strategic Action Plan and appointed a new Executive Secretary. However, the technical activities have been put off temporarily.

The CSRP has also renewed the mandate of its Executive Secretary and undertaken an important structural reform, of which the first perceptible effects are the creation of new positions, the change of staff with the objective of achieving results with a clear mandate. These efficient staff members have been engaged for the ongoing projects. Technical activities are being undertaken for the benefit of the member Countries and are mainly supported by a number of partners including the World Bank and FAO.

✚ The Secretariat wishes to continue its collaboration with these Regional Fisheries Bodies for the exchange of information and to benefit from their experiences and successes.

Activity 1.2: Attend meetings organised by the Regional Fisheries Management Bodies, Programmes and Projects

The progressive recognition of the FCWC by the development partners and other projects leads to regular invitations to the Secretariat to attend various meetings organised in connection with fisheries management and related activities. The secretariat of the Committee took part in the following activities:

(i) First Technical Planning Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA)

This meeting was held from 1st to 4th September 2009, at the Headquarters of the African Union Commission (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The AU and NEPAD have informed participants on the idea to bring together the African Ministers in charge of fisheries and aquaculture (CAMFA) to promote greater awareness of funding required for this sector and to develop synergies for leadership in this area.

Thus, the major themes to be brought before the Conference were discussed and the strategies for conducting this initiative identified. This meeting initially scheduled to take place from 1st to 4th December 2009, has been postponed to March 2010.

✚ FCWC Ministers of Fisheries are strongly advised to attend this meeting.

(ii) Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Project

The Secretariat attended the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the EAF-Nansen project for the zone of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems (GCLME) held on 29 October 2009 in Accra, Ghana.


This meeting was preceded on 28 October 2009 by the presentation of the conclusions of the deliberations of the CECAF Scientific Working Group for fisheries managers in the region. This

initiative seeks to ensure closer relations between the fisheries scientists and managers in the sustainable management of resources of the region. The participants greatly appreciated this course of action and hoped that this collaboration would be maintained.

The meeting of the Regional Steering Committee discussed the mid-term report of the project that indicated the low level of dynamism and delay by the West African Countries in the implementation of this project.


The meeting strongly urged the participating countries in the region to speed up the establishment of National Working Groups (NWG), and encouraged the NWGs already created to develop their Concept Notes reflecting the synergies and potential complementarities with other regional and national initiatives in order to promote the development of effective and efficient joint activities.

Some countries alluded to administrative difficulties in opening bank accounts to receive funds from the EAF-Nansen project. The meeting thus suggested that the funds be mobilized through the FAO Representation in each country.

 ***The Committee Secretariat urged the member Countries to ownership the activities of this project and take advantage of the financial and technical opportunities offered in order to develop the AEP in their fisheries policies. The Secretariat reiterates its commitment to assist the member countries of the Committee in the implementation of this project.***


(iii) Workshop on the assessment and planning of activities of the ACP/FISH II Project

For the start of the ACP/FISH II project in the West African region, a workshop to evaluate the needs of member countries was held on 20 and 21 October 2009 in Dakar, Senegal. The project designed to be implemented at national and regional levels, retained the three following priority actions: i) Support for the development of fisheries policy instruments (sectoral policy, fisheries management plan); ii) Support for the development of a cooperation strategy among the ACP States (information, development of common positions); and iii) Support for the formulation and implementation of national plans on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and support for the development of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).

 ***The Secretariat encourages the member Countries to collaborate with this project and to benefit from this support for a sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region.***

(iv) Third session of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of the strategic partnership for the Investment Fund to support sustainable fisheries in Africa

The Committee took part in the third ordinary meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee, held from 11 to 13 May 2009, in Mombassa, Kenya. The Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC) informed the meeting of the progress made by the Committee Secretariat in the elaboration of the Concept Note for submission to the Investment Fund to support sustainable fisheries in Africa and prospects for its adoption. Some countries like Mozambique and Namibia expressed keen interest in the fund and undertook to submit requests for funding.

 ***The FCWC was encouraged to submit the approved Concept Note to the FAO for the start of the project cycle for its support in that fund.***

Activity 1.3: Formalize cooperation among the regional Institutions, Fisheries Bodies, Programmes and Projects in the region.

(i) Proposed collaboration with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

The FCWC Secretariat submitted a request in 2008 on a draft cooperation agreement and a work programme outlining areas of cooperation between the Committee and the WAEMU Commission.

✚ This matter is being examined. However, the WAEMU Commission, invited to this meeting, could inform the meeting on any progress made.

(ii) Proposed collaboration with the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystems (GCLME)

In 2007, the FCWC Secretariat made a request comprising a draft cooperation agreement and work programme outlining proposed areas of cooperation between the Committee and the Regional Coordination of the GCLME project. The GCLME project management whose mandate has just been renewed is examining this matter.

✚ The Coordinator of the said project invited to this meeting could inform the Conference on the activities of this project, particularly how this proposed collaboration is progressing.

(iii) Proposed collaboration with ECOWAS

As part of his visit to the Authorities in Nigeria, the Secretary-General went to the ECOWAS Headquarters, particularly to the Agriculture and Rural Development Department. The Secretary-General was informed on the reforms envisaged by this institution for greater consideration of fisheries activities in its area of competence.

✚ The FCWC will collaborate with ECOWAS within the framework of the implementation of its planned activities in the region.

(iv) Proposed collaboration with WWF - WAMER

Following the adoption of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) between the FCWC Secretariat and the Programme Coordination of the WWF Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Programme, by the Consultative and Coordination Committee (CCC), the secretariat have proceeded to the signature of the said LoA with WWF on 21 October 2009 in Dakar, Senegal.

This LoA aims to define the Framework of cooperation and partnership through which FCWC and WWF would like to work together for the sustainable management of marine resources shared or common within the FCWC member Countries.

Activity 1.4: Seek for funding

(i) Funding of the Strategic Partnership for an Investment Fund to ensure sustainable fisheries in the major marine ecosystems in Africa

In line with the conclusions of the previous meeting of the Ministerial Conference, the secretariat undertook the Consultation for the preparation of a Project Concept Note, for submission to the Support Fund for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa financed by the World Bank for the benefit of the States.

The Concept Note approved by the Advisory and Coordinating Committee was sent to FAO, in September 2009, in order to initiate the procedure for its adoption.

- ✚ ***The FAO Regional Fisheries Officer and the Secretariat of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) of this fund, invited to this session could inform us of the state of progress of the Concept Note.***

(ii) Funding of the NEPAD Fisheries Programme for Africa (PAF)

The FCWC and the NEPAD PAF Programme have decided to collaborate to combat illegal fishing. Thus an initial funding agreement amounting to US\$ 20,000 has been provided to launch the activities of the FCWC Working Group on Illegal Fishing.

As part of this collaboration, a pilot study of the needs of the developing countries for the implementation of instruments that are binding on Port States to combat illegal fishing has been undertaken in six (6) developing countries. Côte d'Ivoire has been selected for the FCWC sub-region. A project mission visited Côte d'Ivoire from 23 to 30 November 2009 in relation to this matter.

- ✚ ***The Secretariat intends to share the results of this pilot study and if possible extend it to the other member Countries. The PAF Coordinator invited to this meeting could give us details of the projections and prospects of this project in our sub-region.***

(iii) FAO/TCP funding for the preparation of the FCWC Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

In 2008, the FCWC Secretariat submitted to the FAO a request for support to the Committee for the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan and a regional action programme. The objective of this assistance is to support the FCWC, with an amount of US\$220,000 to prepare this Plan (SAP) for the 2010-2020 period. A favourable response has been given to this request and the plan could be implemented in 2010.

- ✚ ***The FCWC member Countries and partners are requested to collaborate in the preparation of this plan so that their expectations can be adequately taken into account together with ongoing initiatives in the region.***

Activity 1.5: Organize technical sessions and meetings

The first technical meeting was organized as part of activities of the working group on the improvement of fisheries statistics, from 25 – 27 August 2009 in Accra, Ghana.

The objectives of the workshop were to formally establish the FCWC Working Group for the improvement of information on the state and trends of fisheries and to prepare the 2010 work programme. The FCWC and the FAO Fish Code-STF Project organized the workshop jointly. At the end of the deliberations, some recommendations and a work plan were adopted.

- ✚ ***The member Countries are invited to implement the recommendations adopted for a harmonious implementation of the 2010 work plan.***

The secretariat organized in Accra, Ghana, from 28 to 29 May 2009, the 3rd meeting of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee (ACC).

The ACC was informed of the finalization and distribution of the report of the previous Ministerial Conference, continuation of working visits to the various member States, participation in various scheduled meetings of the regional fisheries management organisations,

especially the 19th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the third meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of the Support Fund to sustainable investment in fisheries (RAC). The secretariat also gave information on the progress of studies carried out and on seeks for funding from the partners.

The ACC then adopted the proposed concept note, the report of the study on migration of fisher folk, the draft Letter of Agreement between the FCWC and the WWF Coordination of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Programme based in Dakar, Senegal.

Finally, recommendations were made for the consolidation of the achievements of the Committee, notably the effort to make the Headquarters fully operational (see the report of the meeting).

COMPONENT 2:

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK OF SHARED STOCKS

Activity 2.1: Evaluation of trends concerning the abundance of fishery stocks and consequences of fisheries within the framework of the Fish Code STF Project

- This activity is led in collaboration with the team of the FAO Fish Code STF Project. At the regional level, the following have been achieved:
- The creation of ad hoc working group on the improvement of information and the collection of the data on capture fisheries. In august 2009 the first meeting of the ad hoc working group took place in Accra.
- The ad hoc working group endorsed the ToR, discussed a number of topics related to fisheries information in the FCWC area and prepared a work programme for 2009-2010.
- The general objective of the working group aims at providing technical support to FCWC members for the improvement of fisheries data collection and information systems in the FCWC area (both sub-regional and national).
- The Committee benefited of the FAO Fish Code STF project by the creation of a Web site. The name of domain is recorded as: www.fish-fcwc.org or www.pêche-cpco.org. The website is operational.

✚ The FCWC member Countries and the partners are invited to exchange data and other useful information of their respective activities through this site.

At national level, FAO Fish Code STF project as a follow up of the Sub regional workshop of 2006 supports improvement of fisheries data collection. Letters of agreement have been signed with Ghana, Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and achievements can be summarized as follow:

- Frame surveys, socio economic surveys and pilot data collection involving fishing communities are ongoing in Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia
- In Ghana the project supports the registration/embossment of 1,000 canoes with as major objective to incorporate the canoe vessel register as a sample framework into the national data collection system.

✚ The member Countries attending this meeting could give additional information on the activities of this project.

Activity 2.2: Publication of results and recommendations of technical meetings.

At the end of the second session of the Ministerial Conference held in December 2008, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretariat published the final reports of the second session of the Ministerial Conference of the Committee, and of the 2nd and 3rd meetings of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee as well as the reports of the various Representative missions of the Committee which attended the scheduled meetings.

In order to share the successful experiences in fisheries management in the sub region, the Secretariat published a second article in the Magazine "Nature et Faune" volume 23 entitled, "The lagoon Crab, an emerging fisheries activity in the Assomlan Community in the southeast of Cote d'Ivoire". This article presents the organisation of the fishery community and its crab fishing activities, and its commitment to work in close collaboration with the Fisheries Department to implement two community projects on the organisation of the community and sustainable management of this resource, a source of income for this population. The success of this collaboration made it possible for this community to get in 2009 additional funding from the FAO to strengthen the achievements of this community.

Activity 2.3: Provide technical support to strengthen institutional arrangements for fisheries management and to their implementation.

At the invitation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Secretariat attended:

- The meeting for the adoption of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy ("Plan Directeur des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture - PDPA")
- The induction of the first promotion of fishery students of the National Agricultural Training Institute (INFPA) with a presentation on prospects for the development of the fisheries sector in the sub-region.

In Ghana, the Secretariat was invited to attend the awareness-raising workshop on the certification of fishery products initiated by the Marine Stewardship Council (MCS), on 28 and 29 January 2009. The objective was to enable the organisers to present the opportunities for certified fisheries in terms of improved value-added of fishery products.

COMPONENT 3:

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF FISHERIES LEGISLATIONS AND REGULATIONS

In order to ensure the harmonization of legal provisions throughout the member Countries, the FCWC has initiated a feasibility study on this subject in the other countries, namely Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of this consultation have been prepared.

At the end of this study, the FCWC member Countries will be invited to adopt the necessary minimum and common measures for the conduct of fishing activities in the sub-region.

- ✚ ***However this activity has not been pursued due to the unavailability of the consultants identified. It will thus be postponed to 2010 and harmonized with the conclusions of the Regional Action Plan to combat illegal fishing, which is in the process of being adopted.***

COMPONENT 4:

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Activity 4.1: Establishing an agreement on the minimum terms and conditions for collaboration

The entire FAO member Countries were invited to develop a National Action Plan as an instrument to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing not later than 2004. A meeting to promote awareness of the development of the said plans was organized by FAO in Accra, Ghana in 2005. Despite all these efforts, the FCWC member Countries, except Benin, have not prepared this plan.

To make up for the delay in the development of the National Action Plans to combat illegal fishing in the member Countries and create a coherent framework for action aimed at strengthening cooperation in this area, the Secretariat has undertaken the preparation of a Regional Plan to combat illegal fishing. The work was done over the period July to August 2009, and the report of this study is available.

✚ *The Secretariat thus requests the FCWC Advisory and Coordinating Committee to adopt the conclusions of this study and to identify the major areas that should be the focus of commitment of the member Countries.*

Activity 4.4: Initiating studies on the Sub-Regional Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)

As part of the preparation of the Regional Action Plan to combat illegal fishing, a study was conducted to determine the status of IUU fishing in each member Country.

The assessment reveals that there is a wide disparity in the institutional levels and importance of marine resources and fishing operations. But in general, all these countries feel the need for common regional action to combat this illegal practice that occurs freely in the waters under their jurisdiction. Indeed, the absence of a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system, of appropriate regulations and open access for artisanal and coastal fishing, the lack of control at sea and in landing sites denote the complexity of the situation and resources necessary to ensure effective surveillance of these areas.

✚ *The member Countries are thus requested to adopt an operational and efficient strategy to monitor vessels in the region in order to combat IUU fishing activities.*

Activity 4.5: Publication of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Reports


This activity was not carried out.

✚ *The Secretariat recommends that this activity be postponed to the next year, as part of activities of the Working Group on Illegal Fishing. It also invites the member Countries to appoint members of the Working Group on Illegal Fishing to ensure collaboration in the implementation of this activity.*

COMPONENT 5:

REVIEW OF FISHERIES POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT METHODS AND PROPOSITIONS OF ADJUSTMENT

Initially planned by the FCWC, this activity was finally undertaken as part of the review of fisheries policies of member Countries of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for West Africa.

 ***The Fisheries Officer of the FAO Sub Regional Office for Africa, invited to this meeting could give us additional information on this exercise.***

COMPONENT 6:

IMPROVING THE UNDERSTANDING OF SPECIAL MATTERS IMPORTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE SUB REGION

Concerning this component, the following was achieved:

(i) The study on the migration of fishermen

The report of this study shows the dynamics and importance of the migration of fisheries communities in member Countries. Thus, foreign migrants account on average for 80% of all the fisheries communities and are seasonal, semi-permanent or permanent migrants.


The factors that contribute to migration are mainly the actual fishing activities, population pressure, overexploitation or decline in fishery stocks in the countries of origin, lack of fisheries management plans, seasonality of catches, high prices of fish species and monetary exchange rate in the host countries, large investments in countries of origin, seek for labour, etc.

Besides, it was noted that the migrants contribute to the supply of fishery products, to food security in all the countries, and to capacity building of the natives as regards the transfer of technology.

However, these foreign migrants have scant regard for the fisheries regulations and would be responsible for the insecurity and lack of respect for rules of hygiene in the landing sites and would play an active part in the spread of diseases, etc.


Finally, the study also emphasized the lack or inadequacy of statistical data on fisheries.

The consultant suggested that FCWC take the following priority actions: (i) the establishment of a system to monitor the migration of fishing communities in the region; (ii) the involvement of all stakeholders, including foreigners, in the elaboration and implementation of national fisheries management plans by the member Countries; and (iii) support for the livelihood diversification of fisher folk, including incentives to leave the fisheries sector.

 ***The FCWC Secretariat invites the member Countries to update their respective data and to start discussions on the migration of fisheries communities as well as the implementation of the proposed follow-up actions at national level.***

ii) The diagnostic study on the dynamics of fisheries and analysis of the value chain have been initiated by the Secretariat in partnership with the West and Central African component of the Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Programme (FAO/World Fish Centre)

A regional consultant and national experts have been identified, and the TORs prepared. A TCP is under preparation for additional funding necessary to undertake this activity.

 ***The Coordinator of the West and Central African component of the Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Programme could provide information on the follow up of this approach and any additional information.***

2.2 FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the second session of the Ministerial Conference, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the main following recommendations hereafter were made:

- ✓ **The appointment of a focal point for the Committee within each National Fisheries Department**

To date only four countries have officially named their focal points for the Committee. However, they do not participate enough in the implementation of the activities and in the life of the Committee.

- ✚ *The Secretariat invites the other two member Countries (Nigeria and Liberia) to take the necessary measures to designate their focal points. It requests the National Directors of fisheries to further involve the focal points in the achievement of the objectives of the Committee. In this respect, the TOR have been prepared for them and are available.*

- ✓ **Provision of Headquarters and staff for the FCWC Secretariat**

The delegation from Ghana had informed the Ministerial Conference in December 2008 and the Meeting of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee, of the availability as soon as possible, of support staff for the Secretary-General and adoption of the Headquarters Agreement.

The staff promised is still not available. Efforts made by the Secretary-General to sort out this issue with the Authorities in Ghana responsible for fisheries have not been successful. Following institutional changes in Ghana, leading to the Ministry for Fisheries now placed under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Secretariat has forwarded the relevant documents on commitments made to the new Authorities in charge of fisheries in Ghana, in order to begin discussions to finalize adoption procedures.

- ✚ *The delegation from Ghana could inform the Committee on progress made on this issue. The Secretariat urges the new Authorities of Ghana, the host country, to give priority to the fulfilment of these recommendations that are hampering the proposed creation of the said Committee.*

2.3 OTHER INITIATIVES

- ✓ **Development of partnership between FCWC and the West and Central African component of the Fisheries and HIV/AIDS Programme (FAO/World Fish Centre)**

The FCWC Secretariat is collaborating closely with the said programme in the conduct of its activities, especially the joint planning of activities on migration, gender, HIV/AIDS and the dynamics of crab fishing in the region.

To this effect, a regional project for the diagnosis and formulation of a support programme for crab fishing in FCWC member countries is being prepared. The observation is that the crab business is important for a large number of persons involved in lagoon fisheries. The pressure on the resource is high but no management strategy has been developed and implemented with stakeholders in the sector. This finalized document will be submitted to the FAO in the form of a TCP.

Concerning fisheries and HIV, a feasibility study of the "LICENCE +" project has been undertaken in the member countries. Experts of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee will discuss the conclusions of this study.

✓ **Partnership between FCWC and IUCN/Marine and Coastal Management Resources Programme (MACO)**

The FCWC and IUCN intend to develop collaboration for the management of marine and coastal resources. Indeed, the IUCN has been undertaking relevant studies on the management of coastal resources in the CSR zone, and it plans to extend its activities to the entire West and Central African zone. To this effect, the FCWC has been invited to attend the technical meeting for the planning of the MACO activities on 16 and 17 November 2009, in Libreville, Gabon.

Thus, areas of collaboration have been identified between this structure and the FCWC. These involve, among others, the exchange of information, support for capacity building, support for the implementation of measures to monitor migration of operators, contribution to the establishment of protected marine areas along the West coast of Africa, etc.

IV- FINANCIAL REPORT

In line with the conclusions of the session of the Ministerial Conference of December 2008 (Côte d'Ivoire), the budget for the implementation of activities planned for 2009 was composed of obligatory contributions from member Countries and expected support from identified partners estimated at US\$ 193,500 and US\$ 185,000 respectively.

4.1 Status of the mobilisation of the contributions from the member Countries

It is necessary to recall that more than three (3) years after the Ministerial Declaration of Abidjan which expressed the willingness of the member Countries to create this Committee, it should be noted that the member Countries are having difficulties in honouring their commitment to ensure optimal functioning of the Committee.

This situation is hampering the smooth functioning of the Headquarters and is affecting the credibility of the Committee vis-à-vis the partners whose support tends to be conditional on the full state of existence of the Committee of which the functioning of the Headquarters is just one component.

Only Côte d'Ivoire in fulfilment of its previous commitments, to take care of the expenses of the Secretary-General, has fully paid its contribution to the Committee.

The other member Countries thus have contribution arrears for the 2008 and 2009 financial years, amounting to US\$ 69,750 per country and US\$32,250 for Togo.

✚ ***The delegations of the member Countries concerned could provide us with more information on this subject, particularly the measures being taken to settle their respective contributions.***

4.2 Mobilization of contributions from the partners

The main financial support from the partners to the Committee is that relating to the Support Project for the FCWC funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). In this respect a funding agreement was signed between the FAO and SIDA, on 27 June 2008.

Thus the financial resources, for the implementation of the technical activities of the Committee, for the year 2009, were authorized by the FAO. This funding initially expected to end on 31 December 2009, has been extended to June 2010, with any additional funding.


V. CONSTRAINTS

The constraints of the Secretariat are mainly due to difficulties linked to the non-fulfilment of commitments made by most of the member Countries or the occasional delay in meeting these commitments. Noteworthy are:

- Inadequate resources for the functioning of the Secretariat and which are only available in the last quarter of the year, despite the decision taken at the previous meeting fixing the first quarter as the deadline for the mobilization of operating funds.
- Administrative difficulties that require the clarification of the status of the Secretary-General.


5.1 Operating means


Despite the adoption of the 2009 budget in order to provide the Secretariat with the minimum operating means, the payment of contributions of member Countries poses a problem, thus, depriving the Secretariat of funds to function for ten (10) months of the current financial year.

-  ***The Secretariat recommends that an appropriate mechanism be found to provide it with minimum funds three (3) months after the adoption of the budget for the new financial year and provide regular operational support.***

5.2 Staff

The number of staff remains small. The Secretary-General is the only permanent official, despite appeals made to the host country to provide the Secretariat with support staff in line with the commitments made. This situation is becoming unbearable for the smooth running of the Committee.

-  ***The Secretariat requests, in view of the increasing expectations of the Secretariat, the authorization to recruit support staff, in particular a secretary/accountant, a driver and a worker to ensure the upkeep of the premises, in order to carry out its activities.***

-  ***It also requests the member Countries to provide the Committee with one (1) Fisheries Biologist or a Planning Officer to support the Secretary General to ensure greater effectiveness of activities.***

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this year have only been achieved through the technical and material support of the FAO and funding from the Swedish International Development Agency. Thus, most of the technical activities planned were implemented and need to be strengthened.

The Secretariat is pleased with the continuous commitment of the member Countries and partners towards the Committee, especially the FAO and NEPAD, as well as the adherence of the Committee, as a member or observer, to Steering Committees of the Fisheries Management Projects implemented in the region.

Given this increasing solicitation of the Committee, it is essential that the member Countries should maintain and strengthen their assistance to the Secretariat, particularly for the finalization of the process for the establishment of the Secretariat's Headquarters, provision of support staff, and timely payment of contributions to enable the Secretariat to be fully operational.

Concerning the implementation of technical activities for the strengthening of fisheries cooperation and management, the Secretariat encourages the member Countries to:

- ✚ Improve the national fisheries statistics within the framework of the Fish Code project and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Project.
- ✚ Adopt the Regional Action Plan and strengthen their collaboration through the Working Group on Illegal fishing so as to examine the subject more thoroughly and effectively combat this menace.
- ✚ Establish a national framework for dialogue and for monitoring the activities of migrant fishers in the region having regard to their contribution to food security but also the impact on the sustainability of fishery resources in the sub-region.
- ✚ Collaborate meaningfully with ongoing fisheries development projects and programmes in the region.

Annex 5: 2010 Work Programme of the Secretariat-General

INTRODUCTION

After the first phase known as the startup of the Committee whose activities have been marked by the reinforcement of the institutional and legal framework as well as the promotion of the Committee, we tackle the second phase referred to as the young institution of cooperation.

The Secretariat-General is proposing through this 2010 Action plan to pursue the promotion of the institution, the sector review of fisheries on the major themes and the mobilization of new partners.

Priority will be given to the starting of activities to implement the Regional Action Plan to combat illegal fishing through the Working Group and to the preparation of the 2010-2020 Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

I. OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to the improvement of governance through adequate cooperation between countries on the fisheries management resources in waters under their national jurisdiction.
- Promote the exchange of experience between Fisheries Departments in the sub-region on the implementation of fisheries policies and management plans.

II. MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Committee's activities will be funded by voluntary contributions from member Countries concerning the functioning of the Secretariat.

The planned technical activities will be conducted within the framework of the implementation of FCWC Support Project, the TCP in preparation of the SAP and in partnership with ongoing projects in the region, including Fish Code - STF, PAF, ACP Fish II, GCLME, and EAF projects.

III. HUMAN RESOURCES

The Secretariat plans to establish a minimum staff for conducting its activities.

Besides the permanent staff of the Secretariat-General, the contribution of national experts from each fishery department is necessary.

Services of specialized international consultants will be required in specific areas of policies, regulations and MCS for fisheries management.

IV. IDENTIFIED AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The first part of the funding of the project supporting the FCWC is terminated. The balance available will reinforce certain ongoing activities.

However, the priorities for this year 2010 will be the starting of the activities of the Working Group on illegal fishing and the preparation of the 2010-2020 SAP.

Thus, the following activities were identified for each of the five (5) components:

COMPONENT 1: Improvement of the management framework of shared stocks

Activity 1: Assessing trends relating to the abundance of fish stocks and the effects of fishing within the framework of the Fish Code STF project.

Activity 2: Publish the results and recommendations of technical meetings.

Activity 3: Provide technical support to strengthen institutional arrangements for the fisheries management and for their implementation.

These activities are conducted in collaboration with the Fish Code STF project, and will continue through the Working Group on statistics and ongoing national projects. For 2010 the following activities are planned: (i) the organization of the second meeting of the Working Group in January 2010; (ii) the finalization and recording of the results for granted; (iii) the development of a regional training program on fisheries data collection in collaboration with the University of Legon (Accra, Ghana); (iv) the exchange of results on the Committee website.

COMPONENT 2:

Improvement of the monitoring, control and surveillance system

Activity 1: Establish an agreement on terms and minimum conditions of cooperation.

Activity 2: Develop and share the list of registered and licensed vessels in each country.

Activity 3: Prepare to implement the mandatory measures of the State Port.

These issues will be discussed within the framework of the Working Group for combating illegal fishing. The activities of this working group will start from the first quarter of 2010. But also, partnerships will be developed for the establishment of the regional plan to combat illegal fishing. Finally, the experience of Côte d'Ivoire on the need for implementation of measures of State Port will be shared followed by building capacity activities at regional level.

COMPONENT 3:

Review of policies and methods of fisheries management and proposed adjustments

Activity 1: Review of the sector or the specific fisheries policies, and identifying appropriate strategies and policies options to remove constraints.

Activity 2: Assessing possible options and recommendations, with particular attention to their impact on the livelihoods of fishermen and other stakeholders.

Activity 3: Publish the summaries of documents.

A multidisciplinary team of international consultants will be recruited for the sector review in preparation of the FCWC Strategic Action Plan. The various studies will be done in conjunction with ongoing initiatives in the region in terms of projects implemented by FAO and other institutions involved in fisheries management like the African Union (AU), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), etc. Subsequent training sessions and meetings to validate reports of thematic studies will be organized as well as a roundtable of donors and partners.

COMPONENT 4:

Improve the understanding of important issues relating to sustainable fisheries management in the sub region.

Activity 1: Seek partners for the implementation of monitoring actions for fishermen migration; their impact on fisheries and improvement of their working conditions in host countries

Activity 2: Undertake cost and profitability studies (crab fishery)

Activity 3: Organize training sessions on climate change and its impacts on the fisheries sector

Activity 4: Conduct a feasibility study and sensitize stakeholders on the creation of marine protected areas in the sub-region.

Following the studies on migration, the member Countries will be encouraged to implement management measures identified in conjunction with interested partners. The second issue on the crab will be addressed to finalize the ongoing project document (TCP) for its adoption by identified partners.

Particularly, activities 3 and 4 will be respectively conducted in respect of the new commitments of the Committee with the following partners: i) the WWF-WAMER Programme for the development of pilot activities to understand and monitor impacts of climate change in fisheries and ii) the UICN-Coastal Marine Programme for West and Central Africa (MACO) and the GCLME programme for the extension of activities related to marine protected areas in the region.

COMPONENT 5:

Improve the sub-regional cooperation and ensure a sustainable fisheries management

Activity 1: Make necessary contacts in preparation and organization of planned meetings

Activity 2: Participate in meetings planned by regional Fisheries Management Bodies: CECAF, ICCAT, WAEMU, COMHAFAT, etc.

Activity 3: Formalize the relationships within organizations in the region: WAEMU, GCLME, ECOWAS etc.

Activity 4: Seek funding: SIDA, World Bank, WAEMU, ECOWAS, EU, etc.

Activity 5: Plan sessions of the Ministerial Conference and meetings of the Consultative Coordinating Committee (CCC)

Activity 6: Organize training sessions and technical meetings

Activity 7: Follow-up and report on the state of the implementation of decisions and recommendations.

At this growth stage of the Committee, it should be able to respond to requests from the other fisheries organizations and be present at major discussions forums on the sustainable fisheries management in order to seize opportunities existing in the region. Similarly regular sessions of the Committee will continue and technical meetings will be held on emerging major themes for the capacity building of its members particularly via working groups.

Concerning seek funding, initiatives will be taken to further FCWC Support Project. A first payment of US\$ 250,000 was received and the balance of the initial budget should be mobilised (US\$ 750,000).

The mobilization of new funds will be essential for further ambitions and objectives of the Committee. We will therefore have to adopt the FCWC Concept Note within the framework of the Investment Funds in Sustainable Fishing and explore with partners such as WWF and UICN to submit projects of common interest. Finally, we will request the support of ongoing projects particularly ACP Fish II and PAF for specific activities.

V. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The above activities will be conducted on the basis of case studies, networking arrangements, working groups, seminars and workshops. In most cases they will be jointly organized with the meetings of the Consultative Coordinating Committee in conjunction with partners.

The Committee will work closely with projects and non-governmental organizations as well as specialized agencies involved in the fisheries sector in the region.

VI. EXPECTED RESULTS

Ultimately, it is particularly expected that countries will have gained experience in sub-regional cooperation to resolve problems of fisheries development and management in waters under their jurisdiction.

The Committee will contribute to achieving these results by creating a platform for consultation, seeking technical and financial partners and providing necessary assistance to the implementation of activities identified. Thus countries can initiate actions to:

- Develop a system of integrated information management and decision making for fisheries management
- Develop procedures for the MCS
- Establish a comprehensive programme for monitoring and evaluation of living marine resources
- Develop regional strategies for long-term resources management
- Develop arrangements to ensure the welfare of small-scale fishermen (in terms of fishermen migration, safety at sea and fishery products marketing)
- Harmonize fisheries regulations
- Strengthen cooperation in fisheries management.

VII. CONDITIONS FOR SUCCEEDING

Completion of this program is subject to a number of conditions. In addition to natural hazards that could occur, member Countries should agree to cooperate with the General-Secretariat of the Committee. To do this they should honor on time their contributions to the budget and provide the Committee with equipments and staff.

Under its mandate, the Consultative Coordinating Committee should assist the Secretariat in removing blockages or delays that may arise in the implementation of this programme.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

COMPONENTS / ACTIVITES	PERIODE				RESPONSIBLE & COMMENTS
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
COMPONENT 1: Improvement of the management framework of shared stocks					
Activity 1: Assessing trends relating to the abundance of fish stocks and the effects of fishing within the framework of the Fish Code STF project					FAO Fish Code STF Project / Working Group/ Secretariat-General of the Committee
Activity 2: Publish the results and recommendations of technical meetings					
Activity 3: Provide technical support to strengthen institutional arrangements for the fisheries management and for their implementation					
COMPONENT 2: Improvement of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance System					
Activity 1: Establish an agreement on terms and minimum conditions of cooperation					Working Group / Secretariat-General of the Committee / Partners Priority Activity 1
Activity 2: Develop and share the list of registered and licensed vessels in each country					
Activity 3: Prepare to implement the mandatory measures of the State Port					
COMPONENT 3: Review of fisheries policies and management methods and proposed adjustments					
Activity 1: Review of the sector or the specific fisheries policies, and identifying appropriate Strategies and policies options to remove constraints					Implementation of TCP for SAP Priority Activity 2
Activity 2: Assessing possible options and recommendations, with particular attention to their impact on the livelihoods of fishermen and other stakeholders					
Activity 3: Publish the summaries of documents.					
COMPONENT 4: Improve the understanding of important issues relating to sustainable fisheries management in the sub region					
Activity 1: Seek partners for the implementation of monitoring actions for fishermen migration; their impact on fisheries and improvement of there working conditions in host countries					
Activity 2: Undertake cost and profitability studies (crab fishery)					
Activity 3: Conduct training sessions on climate change and its impacts on the fisheries sector					
Activity 4: Conduct a feasibility study and sensitize stakeholders on the creation of marine protected areas in the sub-region					

COMPONENT 5: Improve the sub-regional cooperation and ensure a sustainable fisheries management					
Activity 1: Make necessary contacts in preparation and organization of planned meetings					Secretariat-General of the Committee
Activity 2: Participate in meetings planned by regional Fisheries Management Bodies: CECAF, ICCAT, WAEMU, COMHAFAT, etc.					
Activity 3: Formalize the relationships within organizations in the region: WAEMU, GCLME, ECOWAS etc.					
Activity 4: Seek funding: SIDA, World Bank, WAEMU, ECOWAS, EU etc.					
Activity 5: Plan sessions of the Ministerial Conference and meetings of the Consultative Coordination Committee (CCC)					
Activity 6: Organize training sessions and technical meetings					
Activity 7: Follow-up and report on the state of the implementation of decisions and recommendations.					

Annex 6: 2010 Budget of the FCWC Secretariat General

INTRODUCTION

The committee's budget comprises of obligatory contributions of member Countries and financial support identified with the partners.

It must be indicated that, due to a poor level of fund raising expected from the member Countries in the budget of the precedent exercise, the major expenditure items over equipment and functioning were, for the most part, reconducted.

Whereas the charges related to the implementation of supporting projects of the committee will experience a distinct progression in the area of the implementation of the TCP notably the chapters related to the recruitment of consultants, travels and subsistence allowances for consultants during the organization of technical meetings and sessions to validate results of different activities.

A – CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

This consists of appealed supports made to member Countries so as to supply the required resources to the Secretariat:

FACILITIES NON-EDIBLE

1 –A vehicle (US\$ 40,000).

The budget makes provision for a vehicle for the Committee's Secretariat-General. It is indispensable to equip the Secretariat of a 4X4 vehicle.

2 – Other office equipments (US\$ 15,000)

Besides Ghana's efforts for the opening of the head office, it is appropriate to equip it with additional facilities notably:

- A laptop	US\$ 3,000
- A photocopier	US\$ 5,000
- An overhead projector with accessories	US\$ 4,000
- Small office equipments	US\$ 3,000

EDIBLE SUPPLIES

Edible office supplies (US\$ 10,000)

Printing paper, pens, pencils, felt pens, rulers, ink, cards etc.

STAFF REMUNERATION (US\$ 55,000)

In accordance with Article 11(3) of the Convention, the Ivorian government is responsible for the basic salary of the General Secretary and the Committee should supply additional allowances according to the salary scale and other allowances adopted during the Abidjan Conference in 2008.

On this same basis, the forecast salaries and allowances were done for the rest of the staff. The payment of salaries and allowances is to be covered. Based on the staff expected of the Secretariat comprising of:

- The General Secretary
- One (1) Bilingual Secretary
- One (1) Administrative and financial Officer
- One (1) Driver.

Staff payment including salaries and the corresponding allowances are estimated at US\$ 55,000 per annum.

OFFICIAL TRAVELS (US\$ 10,000)

These travels cover the Secretariat's staff participation in meetings initiated by the member Countries or supporting partners of the fishing sector in the sub region.

GENERAL OPERATIONAL COST

The Committee also should take charge of the general expenses of the Secretariat. These include:

1 - Fuel and maintenance of the Secretariat's vehicle

An estimate of the average, quarterly consumption of fuel and maintenance charges for the Secretariat's vehicle **(US\$ 10,000)**.

2 - Production, Publication and Subscription to Journals and Specialized Internet Sites (US\$ 5,000).

Access to the majority of specialized journals or Websites requires subscription. In this way, the Secretariat can subscribe to at least two (2) sites and three (3) journals. Also, the Secretariat should make provision for the charges of translation, editing and publication of results of all the main activities.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT (US\$ 25,000)

The FCWC will support the cost of travels of members of the Secretariat and consultants within member Countries as well as all additional costs pertaining to facilitation of the implementation of FCWC supporting projects and that of the TCP relating to the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).

In addition, this section will cover the cost relating to the preparing technical and educative tools for technical meetings, the working and training groups, as well as their translation.

The total sum of contributions of the member Countries is estimated to be US\$ 178,000. It is shared among the States according to the calculation method adopted in the Abidjan meeting:

- 60% of the budget as a fixed and equal amount for all countries
- 40% of the budget calculated on the basis of each country's catch production as provided in FAO statistic over the period 2005 - 2007.

The sharing system for the contribution of the countries is summarized in the following table:

Countries	Catch Production	Percentage
Benin	9 119	1.4
Côte d'Ivoire	26 364	4.0
Ghana	284 422	43.5
Liberia	9 529	1.5
Nigeria	305 791	46.7
Togo	19 176	2.9
Total	654 401	100

The expected contribution of each member Country is the following:

Member Countries	Fixed Amount (60%)	Variable Amount (40%)	Total US\$ (100%)
Benin	17 000	950	17 950
Côte d'Ivoire	17 000	2. 720	19 720
Ghana	17 000	29. 580	46 580
Liberia	17 000	1 020	18 020
Nigeria	17 000	31 760	48 760
Togo	17 000	1 970	18 970
Total	102 000	68 000	170 000

ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEARS 2008 and 2009

According to the provisions of the Convention of the Committee, member Countries contributions are mandatory. So hopefully arrears by Member countries during fiscal 2010 will be paid.

- ✚ **The total amount of arrears of contributions is US\$ 311,250.**

B – CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED FROM PARTNERS

These contributions are mobilized on the basis of project documents approved by donors. The expenditure items exclude daily operational and staff costs. Therefore, taken into account, are the headings as follows:

- *International Consultants*

The projects make provision for hiring international consultants for the sector review and advice on the identified principal themes and strategies.

- *Contributions of technical and legal advice services*

The FAO Legislative and Legal Rights Office (LEGN) will provide technical advices to FCWC to review and make adjustment proposals for certain texts: Convention, Rules of procedure etc.

- *National/Regional Consultants and Experts*

Specialists in fisheries management, planning and monitoring (Registry / VMS) will be hired in every country in one mission to conduct national diagnostics (surveys, analyses, monitoring and training)

- *Official Travels*

This concerns the cost of travelling of the project teams and the international and national Experts within the member countries for meetings to validate various diagnostics and analyses.

- *General Cost and Direct Operational Cost*

This section consists of the project's general operational cost, including the publication of reports of consultants and meetings/workshops.

- *Organization of Technical and Training Workshops*
 - Participative workshops will be organized on major themes for FCWC member Countries (Good governance / Fisheries management, MCS and Planning / Formulation of projects of common interest) and also will make it possible to validate the different missions and diagnostic studies of the sector established in every country within the framework of working groups.
 - A group of donors to support the implementation of programs and projects is planned.

The contributions expected from the partners for 2010 will come from the following projects and supports:

- (i) **The supporting project to the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea financed by the Swedish Cooperation (SIDA) following the Letter of Agreement signed by FAO and SIDA on 27th June 2008.**

It concerns the mobilization of previously allocated financial resources balance, remaining from the implementation of technical activities of the committee in the 2009 term. The closing date of this funding initially fixed on 9th December 2009 was postponed to 10th June 2010.

✚ **The amount available is estimated to be US\$ 20,000.**

- (ii) **NEPAD Funding – Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF)**

The FCWC and the PAF Program of NEPAD decided to collaborate for the implementation of the component “Combat Illegal fishing”. The launching of the activities of the FCWC working group to combat illegal fishing in the sub-region is funded.

✚ **The starting amount is US\$ 20,000.**

- (iii) **Funding / TCP development of the FCWC Strategic Action Plan (SAP)**

The FAO through this TCP aims at supporting the FCFWC for the preparation of the Strategic Action Plan and for a regional action program covering the period 2010-2020.

✚ **The allocation amount is US\$ 220,000.**

CONCLUSION

The total budget of the Committee for the fiscal year 2010 is **US\$ 430,000** of which the sum of **US\$ 260,000** available at the level of the partners intended for the implementation of the technical activities identified by the FCWC support projects. This contribution of the partners could increase with the co funding of certain activities by several partners.

The obligatory contribution from member Countries to this budget is estimated at **US\$ 170,000** and is necessary for the pursuit of the mission of the Representation of the Secretary, of the mobilization of the partners, the equipment of the Headquarters in movable equipment (vehicle) and the coordination of all the activities of the support projects as far as this fiscal year 2010 is concerned.

Finally, member Countries are invited to honor their commitment through regular payment of arrears owed to the Committee and estimated to **US\$ 311,250**.