



# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



## REPORT OF THE FCWC ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ACC) MEETING

Online

9 - 11 December 2020



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## REPORT OF THE 2020 FCWC ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ONLINE

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) held its second Advisory and Coordination Committee (ACC) meeting in 2020 virtually from 9 to 11 December, 2020 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin, who was represented by Mr. Innocent Togla, the Secretary-General of the ministry. The meeting was attended by 53 participants drawn from FCWC Member States (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo), representatives of technical partners including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), , the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Hen Mpoano, and the Tunisian Society for Sustainable Fisheries (TSSF).

Deliberations at the meeting 2020 focused on:

- o Reporting on the 2020 activities, achievements and challenges of the Secretariat of the FCWC.
- o FCWC Strategic Plan 2021-2030
- o Existing Regional Initiatives and Projects Implementation
  - o West Africa Task Force (WATF)
  - o PESCAO
- o New Regional Initiatives
  - o Improving Fisheries Governance in Ghana and the wider sub-region project
  - o Supporting effective PSMA implementation in Africa: Intelligence-led Port Controls

The conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting are summarised as follows:

### **1. REPORTING ON THE 2020 ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE FCWC.**

The Secretariat achieved good success in strengthening the MS capacity in fisheries statistics with the development of an internationally standard fisheries inventory and improving MCS support through the establishment of a regional monitoring, control and surveillance centre (RMCS). Nonetheless, COVID-19 presented challenges on the implementation of the



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planned activities due to the restrictions imposed on meetings and movement during 2020.

Follow up on recommendations from 2019

**a. Recommendation 1: Identification of a new Secretary-General:** Towards the implementation of this recommendations, member States have been invited to identify and propose any nominee for the position of Secretary-General (SG) in replacement of the current SG whose tenure will be ending in 2023, in preparation of the transition process.

**b. Recommendation 2: Restructuring of the FCWC:** This activity is included in the process of linking the FCWC to ECOWAS. A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared by the technical teams of the parties and submitted to the ECOWAS High Commission, awaiting signing.

**c. Recommendation 3: Due diligence in the procurement of a VMS for the regional monitoring centre, RC-MCS.** The FCWC duly completed the process to procure the vessel monitoring equipment in collaboration with EFCA. The equipment meant for the RMCSC have been installed whereas those meant for the MS will be delivered in the first quarter of 2021. A Regional Coordinator for the RMCSC was also recruited. Beyond the successful integration of Cote d'Ivoire, discussions are ongoing with the other MS to integrate national VMS and national vessel transponders data into the regional system.

**d. Recommendation 4: Improvement of small-scale fisheries in line with the theme of the Conference for year 2020:** 'Joint Actions for Secure and Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in West Africa. FAO actions supported FCWC small scale fishery with improvement of data collection and dissemination in conformity to international standards through the support of the FAO-FIRMS secretariat. MS currently have a harmonised data collection, analysis and reporting system in place and the capacity of fisheries statisticians has improved due to the training. States are encouraged to continue this initiative in collaboration with FCWC and FAO-FIRMS for the regular availability of fishery catch data and science-based management decisions.

## 2. FCWC STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2030

The JICA provides a technical and financial support to the FCWC pour the development of a second Strategic Plan 2021 – 2030. After the validation of the strategic plan by the Directors of Fisheries in September 2020, the final document was made available to the countries for formal adoption to enable activities in the first phase of the programme 2021-2025 to begin implementation.

## 3. FCWC / FISHERIES INTELLIGENCE AND MCS SUPPORT IN WEST AFRICA PROJECT -WEST AFRICAN TASK FORCE (WATF)

a. Some of the WATF project activities were hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic by way of restricted travel and physical meetings. Some achievements were made by way of shifting to online meetings and trainings, notwithstanding challenges with internet connectivity in MS and content delivery.

b. A draft technical guide for the Regional Record of Authorised Fishing Vessels was developed and presented for validation at the meeting. MS approved of the technical guide and were urged to read the document to be abreast with the guidelines for future engagements and subsequent implementation.

c. Amendment of the WATF Terms of Reference (TORs) adopted since 2015. The amendment sought to

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determine permanent and occasional observers to participate in the meetings of the WATF to enhance the effectiveness of its activities. Currently, ECOWAS is the only permanent observer and the proposal sought to include third party countries, international governmental agencies and other organisations. It will be the prerogative of the FCWC-WATF to decide on who will be a permanent or occasional observer. MS accepted the amendment and are expected also to identify potential entities as observers

d. To mitigate the COVID-19 impact on FCWC and partners' activities in the region, equipment was procured for the establishment of dedicated online meeting rooms in the MS to facilitate online meetings and training in the MS. The equipment will be provided to each MS in first quarter of 2021. MS approved the initiative and were requested to provide dedicated rooms to be used as meeting rooms.

Member States approved these new projects and were assured that further engagements will be done with them to enhance their understanding and contribution in the successful running of both initiatives in the region. It was recommended that partners should leverage synergies in the implementation of FCWC activities particularly the PSMA.

#### **4. FCWC/PESCAO PROJECT - IMPROVING REGIONAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE IN WEST AFRICA.**

The activities of the project in 2020 provided the following support to the MS with the aim of improving fisheries governance in the region:

- a. Ongoing legal review of legislation for Togo, Benin and Nigeria with technical support from EFCA
- b. National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Togo completed and awaiting validation by the national authorities.
- c. Regional MCS Centre established with the procurement and installation of equipment and recruitment of Coordinator. The Centre is now running but the project Team was still working to integrate national VMS into the regional system. The Centre will be officially launched in 2021 after the release of national VMS equipment and integration are completed.
- d. In support of the Regional MCS Centre activities, the project drafted a Regional Observer Programme. The meeting validated the process of the fisheries observer programme and as part of the next steps, MS are expected to review the drafted protocol guiding the observers' programme and also identify potential personnel drawn from MS for the pilot observer's programme.

#### **5. NEW REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

##### **a. Improving Fisheries Governance in Ghana and the wider sub-region project**

Mr. Kofi Agbogah, Director of Hen Mpoano, the leading partner involved in this programme gave a presentation on the 3-year project, a new initiative which will be piloted in Ghana and scaled up to other FCWC MS with support from Oak Foundation. The objectives of the project are: reduction of IUU, transparency in fisheries management, especially, licensing, science-based management for the small pelagic stocks, enhanced governance and co-management and capacity building of fisheries associations.

##### **b. Supporting effective PSMA implementation in Africa: Intelligence-led Port Controls**

This follows the ratification of the FAO PSMA by 5 out of 6 countries in the region. A new programme of support by TMT in partnership with Global Fishing Watch, SIF and FAO, aimed at adding value to

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already existing PSMA activities across the FCWC region. The project will be piloted in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, after which it will be scaled up to the other MS. The project outcome is improved capacity to implement PSMA to deter and combat IUU and eventually eradicate the use of West African ports in the IUU fish supply chain. The three-year project targeted at the West Africa sub-region covers six activity areas among other, the risk assessment, development of Port Control Tool, establishment of Advanced Request for Entry into Port (AREP) processes, dedicated analytical support and opportunities to increase transparency.

## **6. ADOPTION OF THE 2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

At the end of the presentations of outcomes of the secretariat activities and ongoing 2020 programs and the discussions, the 2020 session of the ACC congratulated the FCWC secretariat for the results obtained, activities planned and implemented in collaboration with the MS, technical partners despite challenges encountered due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The session adopted the FCWC report and gave the go ahead for the administrative and financial management for 2020.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2021**

In line with the focus areas identified in the FCWC 2021-2030 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and related Phase 1 (2021-2025) priority activities, as well as ongoing project activities under implementation by the FCWC Secretariat, a work plan and budget for 2021 were presented. A total budget of \$997,389.19 was proposed with \$637,676.62 available resources (63,93%); \$359,713.00 deficit needs to be mobilized from MS and other partners. The following recommendations were made:

- i. The work plan and budget for 2021 should contain contingencies to deal with emergency situations such as COVID-19.
- ii. The work plan should highlight small scale fisheries (SSF), in recognition of its contribution to over 70% to fish production which serves the domestic market in the FCWC region.
- iii. MS should endeavour to fulfil their financial commitments to the FCWC to achieve its objectives.

MS approved the proposed work plan and budget, subject to the inclusions of the recommendations. The 2021 work plan and budget are an integral part of this report and are attached as an annex.

## **8. LOCATION AND DATE OF THE 13TH FCWC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

Cote d'Ivoire confirmed, through a communication dated December 08, 2020 with reference No 2090 MIRAH/CAP/DAP, to host the 13th Conference of Ministers in 2021, with the hope that COVID-19 will come to an end to improve regional cooperation in the region.

## **9. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ACC)**

The report of the meeting was adopted as being a true reflection of the proceedings of the meeting. The FCWC Secretary and the Director of fisheries of Benin, Mr Gaston Djihinto expressed appreciation on behalf of the Government of Benin to the participants and commended countries commitment for the

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success of the FCWC ACC meeting and declared the end of proceedings of the ACC at 04:15 pm UTC

## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2019 CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS WERE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:**

**36. Recommendation 1:** Identification of a new Secretary-General: Member states are to identify and propose suitable candidates to the position of Secretary-General in replacement of the current one, two years before the end of his tenure, scheduled for 2023. The process of replacing a Secretary General of an organization being sensitive and can have a direct impact on the organization, MS are invited to be proactive to provide the qualified candidate for the position.

**37. Recommendation 2:** Restructuring of the FCWC: As an MOU is anticipated to be signed between the FCWC and ECOWAS, ECOWAS is therefore requested to be involved in the process and provide support relating to the restructuring of the organization.

**38. Recommendation 3:** Due diligence in the procurement of a regional monitoring centre, RC-MCS: Contract with service provider is expected to be signed and equipment delivered by early 2020. The major challenge concerning the RC MCS remains its full functionality, however this challenge can be mitigated by FCWC involving countries national experts to run the system.

**39. Recommendation 4:** Improvement of small-scale fisheries with the theme of the Conference for year 2020: 'Joint Actions for Secure and Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in West Africa. The aim is for the building of improved landing sites, regular data collection as well as address fishermen migration in this segment of the fisheries sector.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

40. The New Chairman of the Conference of Ministers, the Minister of MAEP, Mr. Gaston Dossouhoui affirmed his commitment to provide the best leadership to FCWC re-echoing the achievement thus far of the organisation. He thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 1:00 pm



## Annex 1 - 2021 Workplan & Budget

### III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

#### Area: 1 Implementing the Regional fisheries resources management plan (RFRMP)

	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Planned Activities</u>	<u>Allocated budget (USD)</u>
O1.1	A regional shared stocks development plan is elaborated	-Development of plan - Diagnosis research of fisheries	25,000.00
O1.2	The management plans for beach seine are implemented	Technical and financial support provided to the relevant countries	10,000.00
O1.3	The policies, laws and regulations of FCWC member States governing maritime fisheries are harmonized	National fisheries framework and harmonization, ACC & CM Meetings	110,000.00



### III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

#### Area 2 : Consolidating and extending the achievements of sub-regional cooperation in combating IUU and maritime insecurity

	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Planned Activities</u>	<u>Allocated budget (USD)</u>
O2.1	The legal and political fisheries frameworks are harmonized and compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of national laws</li> <li>- national action plans to prevent IUU</li> <li>- Strategy to combat illegal sea transshipment</li> </ul>	<b>43,000.00</b>
O2.2	Cooperation with regional and international institutions is developed to improve the sharing of information, analysis and cooperation in MCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular interaction with ICCAT, INTERPOL, UNODC, ECOWAS Coastal and marine resources management centre</li> <li>- WAFT Team to International meetings on IUU</li> </ul>	<b>70,000.00</b>
O2.3	WATF is institutionally integrated within FCWC and is operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of the technical staff planned for the 2nd phase</li> <li>- WATF regular meetings</li> <li>- Capacity building</li> <li>- Base camp</li> </ul>	<b>0.00</b>
O2.4	The human capacity of countries and of FCWC Secretariat in terms of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize experience sharing visits between MCS operators of the sub-region</li> <li>- Trainings, capacity building</li> </ul>	<b>25,000.00</b>
O2.5	A sub-regional surveillance system is established and operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VMS additional tools for operationalizing</li> <li>- Observers program,</li> <li>- Delivery of MCS Equipment</li> </ul>	<b>134,255.70</b>



### III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

<b>Area 3 : Developing fishing research and a regional information system to support decision-making processes in terms of fishery resources management.</b>			
	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Planned Activities</u>	<u>Allocated budget (USD)</u>
O3.1	Scientific know-how is generated to facilitate the implementation of fisheries/stocks development plans.	Support in the organization of scientists of the sub-region	0.00
O3.2	CECAF's management advice is effectively integrated into national frameworks for good governance in marine resources in the FCWC area	CECAF's management advice	20,000.00
O3.3	National and regional capacity is built in terms of fishing data collection and analysis	Sub-regional workshop to share lessons learned from existing data collection tools	30,000.00
O3.4	Improvement of knowledge on value chains	Promoting regional trade of fisheries products	20,000.00

III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

<b>Focus area 4 : Elaborating and implementing a coordinated aquaculture development policy at FCWC level</b>			
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Allocated budget (USD)</b>	
04.1 A Strategy to support the sustainable development of inland aquaculture in the FCWC area is elaborated and adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of actual aquaculture potentialities</li> <li>- regional sustainable development of aquaculture strategy</li> <li>- Publication/dissemination of the Strategy in Member States and among partners</li> </ul>	<b>35,000.00</b>	
04.2 Strategic partnerships between private and public sector are developed in the aquaculture sub-sector	Build capacity and support to the professionalization of aquaculture actors	<b>0.00</b>	



### III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

#### Area: 5 Organizational and human capacity building of FCWC organs

	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Planned Activities</u>	<u>Allocated budget (USD)</u>
O5.1	FCWC Secretariat has adopted a new organization chart	-Develop and adopt a new organization chart	<b>1,000.00</b>
O5.2	The internal management and control system is improved	-Staff training on Admin - Audit - Accounting software	<b>21,000.00</b>
O5.3	A monitoring-evaluation system is established in the Secretariat	Monitoring & Evaluation	<b>0.00</b>
O5.4	The capacity of the Secretariat and Member States is built to contribute to the implementation of the SAP	-Training courses and capacity building -Salaries & Allowances - General Operating Expenses, Equipment & Supplies - Transport & Travel & Other services costs	<b>334,576.84</b>
O5.5	The financial viability of the organization is secured	FCWC Secretariat Statutory missions in the member states	<b>19,000.00</b>
O5.6:	Information management within FCWC and quality of reporting are improved	Internal Server	<b>10,000.00</b>
O5.7	Internal communication, coordination and consultation within FCWC are strengthened	Communications	<b>35,000.00</b>

III - Presentation of the 2021 Work plan & Budget Headings by Outcomes

<b>Area: 6 Development of partnerships to support sub-regional cooperation and policies of the Member States</b>			
	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Planned Activities</u>	<u>Allocated budget (USD)</u>
O6.1	Funds are mobilized with partners to ensure the financing of the activities of the transition program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-project documents of request for financing</li> <li>-project negotiation meetings with partners</li> <li>-round tables with the TFPs</li> </ul>	<b>10,000.00</b>
O6.2	ECOWAS builds more on FCWC to implement its programs in the fisheries and aquaculture sector	-Alignment of FCWC intervention on ECOWAS policies and programmes	<b>20,000.00</b>
O6.3	Organic links are created with sub-regional economic organizations	Negotiation and signature of partnership agreements (FCWC, WAEMU and ECOWAS, Etc...)	<b>5,000.00</b>





## Annex 2 - Sources of Funding

<b>Expected Contributions from FCWC Member states for 2021 fiscal year</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
Bénin	26,800
Côte d'Ivoire	31,000
Ghana	64,000
Liberia	26,200
Nigeria	74,200
Togo	27,800
<b>Subtotal I - Expected Contributions from member states</b>	<b>250,000</b>

<b>Expected Partners' financial supports</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
EU - PESCAO Project	445,677
NORAD - WATF Project	144,800
OCEANS 5 Project	47,200
JICA	TO BE CONFIRMED
ATLAFCO	TO BE CONFIRMED
FAO/FIRMS/CECAF	TO BE CONFIRMED
<b>Subtotal II- Expected Partners' financial supports</b>	<b>\$ 637,676.62</b>



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<b>TOTAL COST OF THE 2021 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 997,389.19</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES MOBILIZED FROM DONOR AGENCIES FOR 2021</b>	<b>\$ 637,676.62</b>	<b>63.93%</b>
<b><i>GAP - BUDGET DEFICIT TO MEET</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 359,713</i></b>	<b><i>36.07%</i></b>



# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) facilitates cooperation in fisheries management between the member countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

For more information go to:

[www.fcwc-fish.org](http://www.fcwc-fish.org)

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