



West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing



RECORD OF THE 4TH WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Lagos, Nigeria
25 – 26 May 2017





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1. Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Secretariat and member countries, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, in collaboration with a Technical Team (TT) which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) and Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS) developed a Norad funded project entitled, '*Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa*'.

Through this project the West Africa Task Force (WATF) has been established with the key task to operationalise important monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) commitments of the FCWC, including the 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone of the FCWC and 2009 FCWC Regional Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The WATF was formally established in 2015, when the FCWC Conference of Ministers adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Task Force (TF) and endorsed its existence.

Project implementation to support the TF has focussed on strengthening regional information sharing and cooperation between countries, strengthening cooperation between agencies at the national level, and sharing of intelligence between the TF and TT, to spur enforcement action. The key implementing structures of the TF include inter-agency representatives from each FCWC Member State, a TT of relevant experts, a Coordinating Team (CT), bi-annual TF meetings, a regional communications platform, capacity training and inter-agency National Working Groups (NWG).

The WATF held its first Task Force Meeting (TF1) in April 2015 in Accra, Ghana, the second TF Meeting (TF2) in April 2016 also in Accra and the third TF Meeting (TF3) in Cotonou in October 2016. The fourth Task Force meeting (TF4), the focus of this report, took place in Lagos, Nigeria in May 2017, attended by representatives of the six FCWC countries, the FCWC Secretariat, and the TT, together with observers representing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Programme and the WorldFish Centre.



1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General, Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadjé welcomed participants, and expressed gratitude on behalf of the WATF and the FCWC, to all who were in attendance. He conveyed his thanks to the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Government's representatives, for their commitment to the activities of the FCWC and the WATF. Mr Dedi encouraged the Federal Government to continue its participation and cooperation in this and other regional initiatives. Applauding the continued collaboration, he described the initiative as a network that adheres to international standards, and noted how all countries in attendance have benefitted from the WATF. Mr Dedi stated that the countries are working towards a joint legal framework, and commended the sharing of licence lists and the implementation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) ships numbers in Ghana and Nigeria as

successes. Noting that a lot remains to be done, he urged the countries to embrace the second phase of the project, encouraging collaboration at the national level as well as at the regional level with ECOWAS and other regional and international organisations.

Dr Parry Ochuko Obatola, Director of Fisheries Resources, the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), gave welcome remarks on behalf of Chief Audu Ogbe, the Minister of Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Recognising the attendees, she extended the greetings and gratitude on behalf of the Minister. She noted that as part of Nigeria's efforts to combat IUU fishing, patrol capacity has been strengthened in collaboration with the navy through the purchase of two patrol vessels. Nigeria has implemented mandatory IMO Numbers for all eligible national or state flagged fishing vessels, and from the 1st July

2017 will be enforcing a mandatory vessel monitoring system (VMS) and automatic identification systems (AIS). Dr Obatola applauded the establishment of a NWG in Nigeria on the 23rd May 2017, formalising already existing collaboration between relevant agencies. This and other measures are hoped to reduce IUU fishing activity in Nigerian waters and ensure adherence to international best practices. Thanking Norad for their continued support, Dr Obatola urged all attendees to use the opportunity to improve the regional capacity, and declared the meeting open.

Mr Duncan Copeland, TT, gave a brief introduction to the TF and its activities during the first project phase, thanking the TF Members for their support, and particularly noting the important role played by Nigeria. Mr Copeland thanked all for their attendance and stated that he looked forward to a productive two days.



THE WATF WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED IN 2015, WHEN THE FCWC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS ADOPTED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE AND ENDORSED ITS EXISTENCE.

2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 National activities

This session, facilitated by Mr Dedi, allowed Members to present their national progress, situation, experiences and challenges in combatting illegal fishing:

2.1.1 Benin

Mr Bernard Tossi thanked the WATF and FCWC for equipment received by Benin as part of the technical capacity support component of the project. He reported that documents for the accession by Benin to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA) were at the Benin Parliament waiting to be signed. Benin took part in the maritime operation organised by the US Coast Guard, and members of the NWG, established in 2016, took part in a seminar on managing the maritime region in April 2017 and carried out four sea outings. The Fisheries Department cooperates with the Port Authorities and other partners to deal with incidents of illegal fishing by vessels in restricted areas. He also noted the need for Benin to review their fishery legislation in line with international standards and requested if assistance could be given to develop a proposal for this.

DISCUSSION:

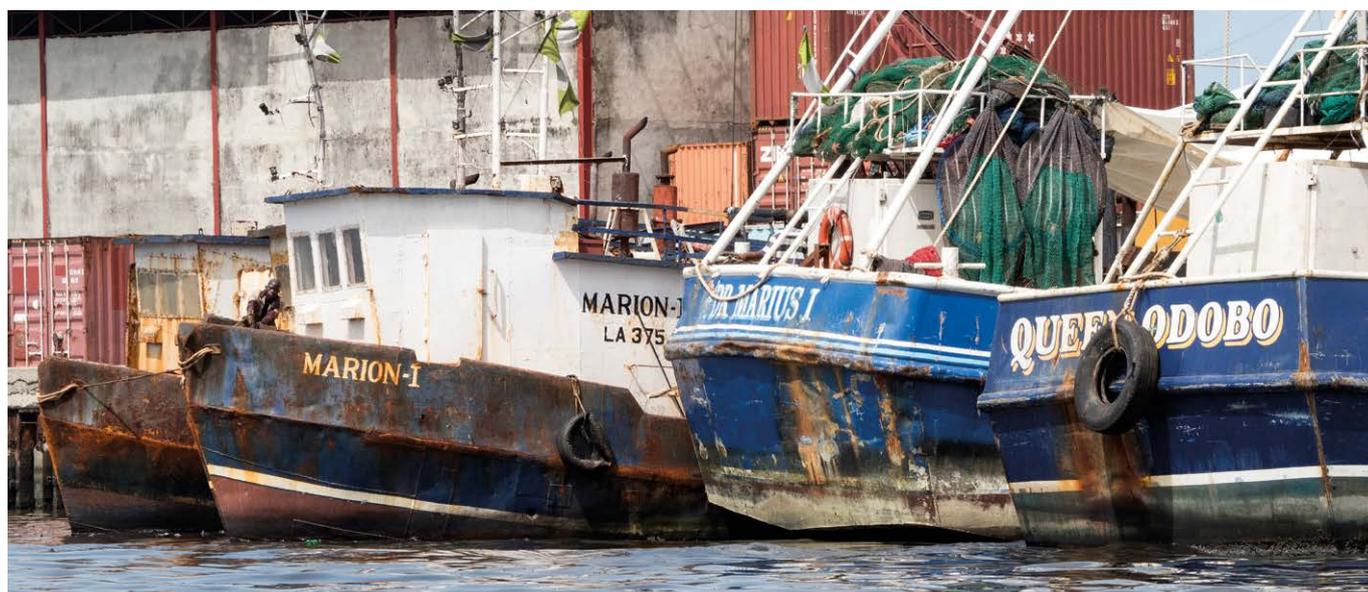
THE FCWC Secretariat encouraged Benin to continue making progress, noting that Ghana, one of the first countries to develop a NWG, is benefitting from this cooperation and successfully held a funded meeting in April 2017.

2.1.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Shep Helguile stated that port inspections have continued, and Côte d'Ivoire has enacted a new Fisheries Act and is developing new supporting legislation including new decrees to fight illegal fishing. Côte d'Ivoire held a national workshop in Abidjan to define conditions of service of the NWG and solidify agreements between relevant agencies. Côte d'Ivoire has four patrol boats and are awaiting a fifth. The Fisheries Department provides support to the navy to facilitate patrols and seven sea missions have taken place since TF3 fining illegal vessels over CFA 50 million which was paid to the Treasury. The Fisheries Department has held capacity building events to support the establishment of the new Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa. A catch certification system is being developed with the help of the European Union (EU) and trawlers operating in their waters now have VMS. Dr Helguile acknowledged that information sharing at national and regional level has helped combat illegal fishing.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to suggestions that meetings be held with the World Bank to set up a West African Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) in Cote d'Ivoire, authorities responded that artisanal fishing provides most of the fish consumed locally and that they don't support the approach of the World Bank that prioritises trawler fishing.



2.1.3 Ghana

Mr Nemorius Pengyir reported for Ghana. The NWG had met in April 2017. Ghana is implementing an observer programme that is expanding and they have put in place measures for vessels to give a 48-hour notice prior to their arrival at port. Legislation related to MCS has been strengthened with the minimum fine for IUU fishing being USD one million. Efforts are being taken to reduce the trawler fleet to 47 vessels from 97 by the end of 2018. He concluded by highlighting the programme developed to work with marine police to tackle illegal fishing in the artisanal fishery.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to queries regarding their reduction in trawler capacity, Ghana stated that they hope to have a reduction of 11 vessels by June and up to 27 vessels by December 2017. Vessels that have committed multiple offences, those yet to pay their fees and those that do not meet sanitary conditions will be removed first. The need to investigate vessel history prior to licensing was stressed as delisted vessels may try to set up operations elsewhere in the region. Ghana was asked to inform the TF of the de-listed vessels and the reasons behind this. Interested in implementing a closed season, Togo enquired as to Ghana's justification for the period selected in their closed season. Ghana responded that this was done with the support of scientific research and input from other stakeholders. It was noted that this will have an impact on the region and as discussed at the 2016 Ministers Meeting, there is need for a regional management and closed season plan.

GHANA IS IMPLEMENTING AN OBSERVER PROGRAMME THAT IS EXPANDING AND THEY HAVE PUT IN PLACE MEASURES FOR VESSELS TO GIVE A 48-HOUR NOTICE PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL AT PORT.

2.1.4 Liberia

Mr Ahmed Sherif presented for Liberia, noting that the NWG is active and has met twice since the last TF meeting. Executive Order 84 issued by the President reduced the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) and moved the Fisheries Department to become part of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA). The organisation Sea Shepherd in collaboration with the LCG had been carrying out patrols in Liberian waters. Two vessels, the Senegalese flagged FV HISPASEN-7 and the Chinese flagged bottom trawler FV SHENGHAI 9, had been fined for not providing prior notice of entry and exit and fined USD 15,000. Two further arrests were carried out by, one was a Ghanaian registered trawler FV LU RONG YUAN YU 988, and the other a Nigerian registered shrimper MFV STAR SHRIMPER XXV however, details of these patrols, investigations and payment of fines, were not discussed with the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) and this has caused significant challenges for inter-agency cooperation. The EU has issued a yellow card in respect to their regulation on IUU fishing, focused mostly on Liberian reefer activities, and a mandate to carry out certain tasks within six months.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to enquires about the arrests in relation to the Sea Shepherd and the Ministry of Defence, the need for increased inter-agency cooperation, particularly between the BNF and the Ministry of Defence, was noted and that the BNF is working to advise the Liberian Maritime Authority (LMA) in such matters.

2.1.5 Nigeria

Ms Bola Kupolati applauded her Nigerian colleagues for the recent establishment of a NWG, the last of the WATF members to do so. She noted with thanks the support provided to Nigerian fisheries authorities from the WATF that has improved its MCS capabilities. Two cases were discussed; a Nigerian vessel licenced to fish in Benin, by Benin, but without being authorised by Nigeria and a case of illegal imports identified through information shared through the WATF.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat congratulated Nigeria for its contribution to the WATF, before highlighting loopholes operators exploit and the need for policy harmonization in the region. The Secretariat informed the TF that Nigerian inspectors in the shrimp fishery received training from the United States (USA), relating to the turtle exclusion devices (TEDs), and that the experts from the US are planning training in Nigeria in 2018 on traceability of fish products. Nigerian Authorities added that the Nigerian Government has approved the purchase of two patrol vessels, which will be manned by the navy.

2.1.6 Togo

Mr Ahoedo Kossi thanked the WATF for their support, underlining Togo's continued commitment to inter-regional cooperation. Togo has held three maritime training exercises since the last meeting. A new law for fisheries and aquaculture has been adopted, and Togo is now building capacity to implement the law. Infrastructure and capacity is being reviewed at the port of Lomé including assessing the institutions operating in the port and the inspection equipment, including protective gear and cameras, to aid on-board inspections.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat applauded Togo's implementation of the PSMA and discussed the AU Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety held in Lomé that highlighted the need to focus on development, maritime security and illegal fishing.



2.2 Review of WATF activities to date and report on TF3 recommendations

Mr Copeland gave a review of the WATF's activities, discussing communications relating to cases, the sharing of licence information and the 'West Africa Task Force: Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication' report. The report describes the significant progress the TF has made in the fight against illegal fishing, largely due to the establishment of interagency working groups at the national level. Mr Copeland stated that the increase in interagency cooperation that has taken place through the establishment of NWGs has been significant and that by bringing key players together, raising awareness and establishing communication channels, much has been achieved.

Feedback on the outcomes and requests from TF3 were:

Outcome	Comments
Sharing of licensed fishing vessel lists	All WATF countries successfully shared their licence lists making the region an example of transparency and best practice.
Mandatory IMO numbers	Nigeria have made the IMO numbers mandatory for all fishing vessels including flagged vessels, while implementation is in progress in Ghana and authorities have sensitized vessel owners and provided them with guidelines for obtaining IMO numbers.
Establishing a national (and/or regional) closed fishing season	The suggestion by WATF members for a regional closed season was discussed at the FCWC Ministers Conference in December 2016, and resulted in Nigeria exploring the idea. Ghana has implemented two closed seasons, one in November 2016 and one from February to March 2017.
Provide updates on vessel arrests	Information sharing, particularly during cases that involve more than one country has been vital and successfully implemented.
TF to share approaches on small scale fishers	Progress has been limited as the initiative is targeted towards the industrial fishery.
Toolbox	New tools have been added by the TT, but no national documents have been added.
National Working Groups	All countries have established NWGs.
Fisheries Crime Working Group (FCWG)	Countries are still in the process of building collaboration with INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group (FCWG) projects as well as Project Scale. INTERPOL continue to coordinate FCWG meetings with other activities.
FAOLex	The TT has formally written to the FAO regarding the compilation of their legislation, no official response has yet been received.
National and regional legal frameworks	This is ongoing. The legal review identified ways forward and will be further developed into country specific reports. It identified the nine most common violations and this created a baseline against which we will be measuring criteria in Phase Two. The review has been forwarded to different Directors of Fisheries, and it is hoped that the relevant ministries will make use of these recommendations and engage all necessary stakeholders.
Ministers meeting	The meeting will be held in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2017. The TF needs to discuss what is to be achieved, and the FCWC Secretariat proposed awareness material be developed as FCWC are celebrating their tenth anniversary, making this a milestone year.

DISCUSSION:

The TF commended the bilateral exchange of expertise that has occurred between Ghana and Liberia, and requested that further capacity building support be provided to NWGs personnel in WATF countries. The FCWC Secretariat proposed that the TF investigate making mandatory IMO numbers a pre-requisite for flagging of vessels in WATF countries. Nigeria noted that they did not impose a closed season due to the demand for fish in the country, which currently is not being met, but rather encouraged domestic production.

Both Benin and Togo confirmed that they are cooperating with their National Central Bureau (NCB), and the TF was encouraged to cooperate wider in the region and contribute through its successes. Togo requested support to be reintegrated into the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the TT offered to consult with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a way forward. Responding to numerous comments regarding small scale fisheries, the TT noted that the focus of the WATF initiative is to improve compliance in industrial fishing, but that they would try to identify potential partners and a way forward to address the issue.

2.3 Port States Measures Agreement

Mr Dedi explained the relevance of the FAO PSMA to fisheries management in the region. The PSMA of the UN came into force in 2016, this agreement sets out the minimum controls a State should use when foreign fishing vessels enter, or apply to enter one of its ports, and to verify that all fish landed are legally caught. However, for this agreement to succeed it needs to be widely implemented and especially in ports in IUU hot-spots such as West Africa. The FCWC Secretariat is able to support countries to implement the agreement, although to date only two TF countries a party to the agreement. He urged countries to ratify or accede to the agreement to fully benefit from the support structures in place.

DISCUSSION:

Benin and Côte d'Ivoire are late in the state of progressing for membership to the agreement, and all TF members requested assistance to implement PSMs.

2.4 Operational challenges and opportunities for implementing PSMs

Mr Bergh defined the objective of PSMA as being a tool for port States to act against foreign flagged vessels. The PSMA is a minimum requirement and countries should consider the need for increased measures, e.g. taking photos of vessels, with their MCS department. An example, about documenting procedures when denying access to high risk or non-compliant fishing vessels was given. Examples from the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region were discussed, these have shown that from 20 cases analysed by the FISH-i Africa TF, only three uncovered only fisheries violations the others indicated other related and associated illegalities or crimes. This highlights the need for national and regional cooperation and adequate facilities for MCS. The value of the PSMA as a tool to garner political commitment to inter-agency cooperation was noted.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to a question regarding settlements, the TT informed that when settling, fisheries violations can be settled out of court but criminal violations cannot. Many cases are criminal and the penalties for criminal violations are higher. Including provisions like the Lacey Act in national legislation would allow countries to prosecute a vessel that committed a crime elsewhere but has been caught in their port. Nigeria reported that procedures to accede to the PSMA have begun and that the Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbe is fully committed. They noted that they are already implementing some of the measures.

2.5 IMO numbers for fishing vessels

Ms Kupolati stated that the Fisheries Minister gave the Department of Fisheries a directive to ensure all Nigerian vessels have IMO numbers. The Department of Fisheries called on all Nigerian flagged vessels over 100 gross tonnes to obtain an IMO number by March 1st 2017. Out of 152 fishing vessels in Nigeria, 145 vessels now have IMO Numbers while seven were not eligible. A guideline document is available for countries looking to obtain IMO numbers and this outlines the new option for flag States to apply for multiple IMO numbers.

DISCUSSION:

The TT explained that IMO numbers can be applied for by both flag and licensing States and can be included in licensing requirements. IMO numbers help to prevent vessel identity fraud and are increasingly required by market States. Nigeria noted that the uptake of IMO numbers is free and had been easily implemented in Nigeria. Currently 76% of vessels licensed by WATF members have IMO numbers.

Ghana and Togo informed the TF that they intend to ensure all their vessels have IMO numbers and that in Ghana the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) would assist in registration of vessels. The TT offered to assist Ghana and other TF countries interested in increasing IMO number coverage.

Representatives of Benin and Liberia support the initiative, although they currently have no flagged vessels. Liberia plans to include IMO numbers as a mandatory flagging requirement. They have also advised the LMA that there should not be trawling in the EEZ and all transshipment should be done in port.

Côte d'Ivoire support the initiative, despite vessel registration being the responsibility of Maritime Affairs. They committed to work together with the maritime authority as the lack of IMO numbers creates a loophole for illegal activity.

2.6 Transshipment strategy review

Mr Copeland reviewed a draft strategy for reefer controls, noting challenges such as collusion between captains and small-scale vessels, and large amounts of unreported catch. The proposed regional strategy would:

- Recognise reefers as fishing vessels
- Develop an improved understanding of the role played by reefer vessels
- Improve cooperation with neighbouring, flag and port States and regional organisations to reduce unverified catches
- Require flagged reefers to meet vessel tracking requirements
- Strengthen sea and shore based MCS
- Ban all transshipment at sea in national EEZs, without exception.

DISCUSSION:

Noting the proposals, Côte d'Ivoire stated that they are working with the EU to incorporate satellite tracking into their system to monitor vessels.

TF members agreed on the need for caution regarding transshipment, noting that the legitimate industry would be in support of banning it, and this would improve fisheries management.

Liberia highlighted the flagging of reefers internationally as a problem, as they are classified as fishing vessels and the BNF is unable to monitor these vessels at sea. This has led to problems between Liberia and market states and they urged other TF members to be careful. The TT offered support to Liberian fisheries authorities as they advise their government regarding the EU Yellow Card.

Proposing a way forward, the TT suggested banning transshipment in the legal framework of the TF countries as a first step, followed by developing and improving the capacity to enforce this. They emphasized the need for joint efforts to achieve this.

2.7 WATF legal review: next steps

Mr Dedi referred to the legal review, published in June 2016 that identifies priority activities and emphasises the importance of legal harmonisation. The harmonisation of legal frameworks in the region is being conducted through a World Bank project and offers opportunity for collaboration with the WATF.

2.8 WATF: Cooperation. Collaboration. Communication' report

An overview of the new WATF publication was presented, describing the region, its key issues, and the work of the TF, underpinned by good communication, cooperation and collaboration.

2.9 Update and input on the development of phase two of the project

Mr Copeland detailed plans for Phase Two of the initiative, driven by inputs from TF members and outputs from Phase One. The proposal, due for submission in June 2017 is for four years of further support and includes regional and national activities as well as international outreach.

DISCUSSION:

A second Phase of the WATF was supported. There were suggestions for further cooperation with organisations such as MESA to avoid duplication of efforts, and increased support to the NWGs was requested.

2.10 Identification of national needs and ways forward

The national needs of WATF members have been identified through needs assessment discussions, trainings and meetings at various levels. Mr Dedi summarised these:

- All countries requested training on the types of violations commonly encountered, securing of evidence, the existing fines and legal framework for dealing with offences. The need to include other agencies was identified.
- Countries that have developed a National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) requested assistance to implement their plan. Countries with no NPOA requested assistance to develop one, including through mobilisation of partners and financial resources.
- Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo have just passed new fisheries laws and will require assistance to develop regulations.
- Countries expressed a need to harmonise the licensing scheme within the sub-region.
- Countries expressed a need for support to ratify the PSMA, or for countries that have already done so, support to implement it.



3. Observer session

3.1 ECOWAS and the MESA Project

Mr Aboubacar Sidibé, Senior Policy Officer for Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), confirmed that all ECOWAS States are to benefit from an EU funded project 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' (PESCAO) and noted the synergy with the WATF and the potential for future funds to be allocated to support WATF activities. He urged the TF to develop means to ensure that the WATF initiative gains financial independence going forward.

Mr George Wiafe, Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Director, described the MESA project, which has been running since 2014 with the objective to improve information management, decision making and planning for coastal and marine resources management, using earth observation data. MESA will become a regional centre and works within countries with universities and research institutions, with the relevant Department Directors as focal points in the countries. MESA uses earth observation data to find potential fishing areas and can be used to bolster national capacity by reporting the presence of fishing vessels daily via email to focal points and responding to requests to track movements of specific vessels. Following a successful pilot, the World Bank funded an initiative to put transponders on all the semi-artisanal fleet in Ghana. It can be used as a fisheries management tool, to determine closed seasons and areas that should be protected. All the TF countries have MESA stations and there are plans to sign a MoU between MESA and FCWC to enable participation in the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Africa initiative.

DISCUSSION:

WATF members that had been exposed to the MESA programme noted similarities with other regional initiatives and called for harmonization, as well as further capacity building, in both English and French, to allow for better utilisation of the information. MESA confirmed that the information given is classified, and committed to contact all Directors so that as soon as possible all countries can meet and be sensitized to the project. It was noted that the WATF can support effective application of the information received from MESA and other initiatives.

3.2 WorldFish Centre

Dr Sloans Chimatiro, WorldFish Programme Manager, commended the TF on its progress. He highlighted the strong link between the informal fish trade and illegal fishing, emphasizing the importance of strengthening these linkages. He suggested that the WATF initiative should be replicated in the other sub regions and that Phase Two of WATF should focus some of its efforts on fish trade.



4. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

4.1 Outcomes of the Task Force

The TF agreed on the following outcomes, to:

4.1.1 IMO

- Implement IMO Numbers on all flagged and licensed fishing vessels with a target date of 31st October 2017.

4.1.2 Transshipment

- Finalise, agree and implement the Regional Transshipment Strategy.
- Strengthen MCS activities of small-scale fisheries transshipment into national efforts and to share experiences and successes between members.

4.1.3 MCS

- Explore opportunities to share additional types of information among the WATF, and across the broader region (such as AIS data sharing, vessel tracking data etc.).
- Share experiences and lesson learning among the WATF to strengthen and harmonise regional MCS capacity.

4.1.4 Fish trade

- Develop formal collaboration/cooperation to build links between fish trade (formal and informal cross-border) and IUU fishing.

4.1.5 Cooperation

- Focus all other regional and national initiatives and activities in support of MCS through National Working Groups.
- Extend communication (via the WATF Communications Platform) and cooperation with other sub-regional organisations – SRFC and COREP.
- Build close cooperation between MESA and the WATF, including an MoU with the FCWC and explore consolidation of national efforts and focal points of MESA and WATF efforts.

4.1.6 PSMA

- Continue to move towards becoming a party to the PSMA for each FCWC Member State, to apply for available support (technical and financial) to implement national port State measures.
- Explore the opportunity for a regional inspector programme

4.1.7 Legal framework

- Utilise the FCWC Member State Regional Legal Review to improve national and regional legal frameworks and harmonisation of laws to combat IUU fishing across the region.

4.1.8 Data confidentiality

- Develop guidelines for confidentiality of data in the WATF.

4.1.9 Fisheries management

- Develop a regional FCWC fisheries management plan to address fishing zones and implement/manage closed seasons.

4.1.10 ECOWAS

- Invite ECOWAS to become an observer of the WATF.

4.2 Requests from the Task Force

The TF agreed to the following requests to the TT, to:

4.2.1 IMO

- Provide ongoing technical support towards the uptake of IMO numbers by WATF members.

4.2.2 Transshipment

- Support the finalisation of the Regional Transshipment Strategy in French and English.
- Incorporate capacity building and technical support for the implementation of the Regional Transshipment Strategy into Phase Two.

4.2.3 ICCAT

- Support the integration of Togo into ICCAT.

4.2.4 Communications

- Explore other mediums for communication of outputs and successes of the WATF to senior staff to increase their engagement.

4.2.5 Cooperation with other initiatives

- Develop closer cooperation and coordination with other initiatives in the region, including with MESA (vessel tracking), WorldFish (trade), and ECOWAS (regional cooperation).

4.2.6 MCS

- Support efforts to strengthen sub-regional and regional MCS efforts and information sharing.

4.2.7 Phase 2

- Continue to support the development of a Phase Two of Norad support to the WATF.
- Share results from Phase One and particularly the Cooperation publication.
- Ensure that both English and French have equal prominence in all documents and communications and share project documents in both languages once available.
- Explore opportunities for the monitoring of illegal fish trade in FCWC/WATF activities.

4.2.8 Confidentiality

- Develop guidelines for WATF data confidentiality.

4.3 Additional requests outside the scope of the WATF TT:

4.3.1 Legal support

- Benin requires a legal expert to develop a proposal in respect to fishery legislation and international maritime law.

4.3.2 ECOWAS

- ECOWAS was encouraged to support the TF model of co-operation, collaboration and communication within the PES-CAO project with a view to combat IUU fishing at the regional level.
- ECOWAS encouraged the WATF to identify ways of becoming financially sustainable.
- ECOWAS could consider ways to support implementing of the PSMA and encouraging countries to become parties to the Agreement.



5. Closing remarks

Closing the meeting, Mr Dedi announced the collaboration between FCWC and the Government of South Korea for the establishment of the World Fisheries University, making 10 Scholarships available for FCWC Member State representatives to pursue a Master's programme in Fisheries Science with three options: Aquaculture Technology; Fisheries Resources and Management; and Social Science. He further stated that the Head of the LMA, Commissioner James Kollie Jr, was the new Chair of the FCWC Conference of Ministers for 2017. He thanked the observers for joining and the valuable contributions they have made, as well as the representatives of member States.

Mr Copeland thanked TF Members on behalf of the TT and applauded an interesting and successful meeting. He also thanked the observers for giving insight on the other initiatives in the region and the excellent collaboration they've had with the WATF. He hoped that Phase 2 of the project would support continued information sharing and cooperation. Thanking Nigeria for their hospitality, he closed the meeting.



6. Annexes

6.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIS	Automatic identification system	nm	Nautical Miles
AU	African Union	Norad	Norwegian Development Agency
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries	NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
CFA	West African CFA franc	NWGs	National Working Groups
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea	PESCAO	Project for Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa
CT	Coordination Team	PSMA	FAO Port State Measures Agreement
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	NCB	National Central Bureau
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
EU	European Union	PESCAO	Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
FCWG	INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
FV	Fishing Vessel	TED	Turtle Exclusion Device
GMES	Global monitoring for environment and Security	TF	Task Force
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	TF1	Task Force Meeting 1
IEZ	Inshore exclusive zone	TF2	Task Force Meeting 2
IMO	International Maritime Organization	TF3	Task Force Meeting 3
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)	TF4	Task Force Meeting 4
LCG	Liberian Coast Guard	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
LMA	Liberia Maritime Authority	ToR	Terms of Reference
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance	TT	Technical Team
MESA	Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa	USD	United States Dollar
MoFAD	Ghana Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
NCB	National Crime Bureau	WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program
NFDS	Nordenfjeldske Development Services	WATF	West Africa Task Force
NIMASA	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency	WIO	Western Indian Ocean
NIOMR	Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research		

6.2 Workshop agenda

Thursday 25 May 2017

08:30 to 09:00

REGISTRATION

09:00 to 09:45

OPENING SESSION

Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Secretary-General Dedi Seraphin

- Remarks from the Technical Team
- Opening by Government of Nigeria
- Introduction of participants
- Group Photo

09:45 to 10:00

BREAK

10:00 to 10:05

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Dedi Seraphin

- Agreement of agenda

10:05 to 10:15

RECAP OF THE WATF INITIATIVE

10:15 to 12:30

TASK FORCE PRESENTATIONS

- TF countries National MCS Activities since TF3

12:30 to 13:30

LUNCH

13:30 to 14:30

REVIEW OF WATF ACTIVITIES SINCE TF3 MEETING – Duncan Copeland

- Technical team report to the Task Force on TF3 recommendations
- Overview of all activities

14:30 to 15:30

PSMA

- Adhesion after entry in force – Dedi Seraphin
- Operational Challenges and Opportunities – Per Erik Bergh

15:30 to 16:00

BREAK

16:00 to 17:00

ECOWAS MESA PROJECT – George Wiafe

Achievements, Vessels monitoring system and opportunity for partnership

Friday 26 May 2017

09:00 to 09:05	REVIEW OF DAY 1 – Viviane Koutob
09:05 to 10:15	TRANSHIPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW – Duncan Copeland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and Discussion of the Regional Transshipment Strategy
10:15 to 10:30	BREAK
10:30 to 11:15	NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS: WAYS FORWARD – Viviane Koutob <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges for increased cooperation
11:15 to 12:00	WATF LEGAL REVIEW: NEXT STEPS – Dedi Seraphin <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to utilise the report to strengthen legal frameworks, discussion and identification of ways forward
12:00 to 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 to 14:00	UPDATE AND INPUT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHASE 2 OF THE PROJECT – Duncan Copeland <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview and discussion of proposal to Norad• Other potential support to the region
14:00 to 15:00	WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force discussion, requests and internal decisions
15:00 to 15:30	BREAK
15:30 to 16:45	WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION CONT.
16:45 to 17:15	SECURITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP OF SHARED INFORMATION – Duncan Copeland Developing Guidelines to ensure confidentiality and security of information shared by the West Africa Task Force
17:15 to 17:30	THANKS AND CLOSE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

6.3 Attendance list

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The West Africa Task Force brings together the six member countries of the FCWC – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal fishing and fisheries crime. The Task Force is hosted by the FCWC and supported by a Technical Team that includes TMT, Stop Illegal Fishing and NFDS with funding from Norad. By actively cooperating, by sharing information and by establishing interagency working groups the West Africa Task Force are working together to stop illegal fishing.

For more information go to:

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