



Towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in West and Central Africa

Regional consultation for developing an action plan to implement the SSF
Guidelines within the African Union policy framework

23–25 July 2018
Dakar, Senegal



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Preparation of this document

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework”, held in Dakar, Senegal, on 23–25 July 2018.

Ms Hillary Smith, FAO Fellow/Duke University, prepared the main draft of this report. The background report for this consultation was prepared by Mr Djiga Thiao, Consultant. An updated version of the background document is included in the Annex.

Abstract

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014, and in line with Paragraph 13.6 of the SSF Guidelines promoting the development of regional plans of action for their implementation, a regional consultation was held to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in West and Central Africa.

The “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework” was held in Dakar, Senegal on 23–25 July 2018. It was hosted by FAO in collaboration with the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) of the African Union, the ECOWAS Commission and the FIRST programme. The consultation was attended by 70 participants, including government representatives from Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and the EU; representatives of regional organizations, small-scale fisheries organizations, other civil society organizations and Non-governmental Organizations, research institutions and development partners; and FAO staff and resource persons.

The objective of the consultation was to raise awareness of the important role of the small-scale fisheries sector and how this is addressed in the African Union’s Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS), the ECOWAS regional fisheries and aquaculture policy (under development with support from the FIRST programme), and the SSF Guidelines. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences and identify actions needed to support and promote small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region.

During the three-day consultation, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through topical presentations, and discussed priorities and actions for implementing the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels, in support of existing regional frameworks. Key priority areas to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes were proposed by the consultation, as well as next steps for different actors.

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The “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework” greatly benefited from the dedicated contribution of regional partners and a large number of individuals. All of them are gratefully acknowledged for their efforts during the preparation of the consultation and throughout its course. The organizers are particularly grateful to the presenters of the working groups, as well as to ECOWAS and the FIRST programme for providing the chair of the consultation. The collaboration of the African Union in the preparation of the regional consultation is also recognized.

The generous and efficient support provided by the FAO Regional Office for Africa and the FAO Office in Senegal is much appreciated. Sincere thanks are due to the members of the FAO Technical Network on Small-Scale Fisheries for their support in the preparation of the consultation.

The financial contribution of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation to this regional consultation is gratefully acknowledged.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AFRM	African Fisheries Reform Mechanism
ATLAFCO	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
AU	African Union
CAOPA	African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Professional Organizations
CEBEVIRHA	Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CFI	Coastal Fishery Initiative
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
CSO	Civil society organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation
EMUWA	Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FIRST	Food and nutrition security impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative
GDP	Gross domestic product
IBAR	Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MESA	Monitoring for Environmental Security in Africa
MPA	Marine protected area
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
PRCM	Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa
PTF	Project Task Force
REO	Regional Economic Organization
SRFC	Subregional Fisheries Commission
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
TBTI	Too Big To Ignore
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
WADAF	West African Association for Development of Artisanal Fisheries
WANSIFA	West African Non-State Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Executive summary

The “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework” was held in Dakar, Senegal on 23–25 July 2018. It was convened by FAO for the West and Central African coastal member countries of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the FIRST (Food and nutrition security impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation) programme, and the Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) of the AU.

The consultation was attended by 70 participants including representatives of 19 governments¹ and the EU, regional and international organizations, fisherfolk organizations, NGOs, academia and other relevant actors.

The objectives of the consultation were to raise awareness of the important role of the small-scale fisheries sector and how this is addressed in the AU PFRS, the ECOWAS regional fisheries and aquaculture policy (under development with support from the FIRST programme), and the SSF Guidelines. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences and identify actions needed to support and promote small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region.

Accordingly, the expected outputs of the consultation were as follows:

- Increased understanding among participants of the status and importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and of the relevant policy frameworks: the SSF Guidelines, the PFRS, and the ECOWAS regional policy formulation in the context of the FIRST programme;
- Identification of priorities and actions, including potential resources and modalities, for the implementation of a regional action plan for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries within the framework of the regional policy and the SSF Guidelines;
- Sharing of lessons learned and experiences from past and ongoing initiatives relevant to small-scale fisheries governance and development;
- Recommendations made to the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group and the Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM).

Over three days, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, learned through thematic presentations, and discussed elements of a regional plan of action to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, in support of existing regional frameworks.

The consultation noted that small-scale fisheries are of major socio-economic importance in the region, with some variations from one country to another. Small-scale fisheries constitute a dynamic and diverse sector, one that uses different gear types and targets different species. In this case small pelagic species are particularly important in most countries in terms of food security and nutrition. The consultation stressed the need for accessible and affordable fish products in order to maintain food security in coastal areas and in the interior, as well as in landlocked countries. There is also growing

¹ Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

competition over marine and coastal space by other sectors (e.g. oil and gas extraction) and actors (e.g. fishmeal industry).

Co-management, and hence more participatory decision-making, is becoming more common in the region. Women do play an important role, but are not always involved in decision-making. The consultation noted the need to include socio-economic aspects in fisheries management. The lack of data on small-scale fisheries, in particular on socio-economic dimensions, is a challenge that needs to be addressed in this context, including through the involvement of small-scale fisheries actors. It was also noted that despite existing supportive frameworks, regional fish trade is often hampered in practice. Existing regional frameworks and initiatives were recognized such as the AU PFRS (which specifically includes the implementation of the SSF Guidelines) and the ECOWAS FIRST programme. At the same time, the consultation called for better communication and coordination of regional policies and strategies among different regional organizations and actors.

OUTCOMES OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Key priority areas to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes proposed by the consultation included:

Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

- There is a need to *strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between states as well as fishing communities* in order to guarantee equitable access to fishery resources. Ways of doing this include having consultative councils or committees and fisheries management plans, which should be developed in close consultation with small-scale fisheries actors. CECAF has an important role to play at the regional level, and the implementation of CECAF recommendations should be monitored.
- *Fishers and fishing communities are often not involved in the collection and use of data.* The capacity of fishers and their organizations to collect data should be strengthened, for example with guides and manuals adapted specifically for small-scale fishers.
- *Tenure legislation relevant to small-scale fisheries is often missing or not applied.* Regulations generally need to be updated and harmonized across the region; moreover, the capacity of governments to operationalize tenure legislation should be strengthened. Likewise, fishing communities and small-scale fisheries organizations need support to strengthen their access to and understanding of legislation.
- *Development projects affecting the small-scale fisheries sector are often carried out without the involvement of fishers and their communities.* These groups should be consulted and their priorities should be taken into consideration. Commissions or committees in charge of small-scale fisheries issues, where they exist, should be strengthened.
- There is a *mismatch between existing fishing capacity and the productivity of the fishery resources* available to small-scale fisheries. Fishing production needs to be reduced in order to ensure a sustainable use of resources. Management measures currently used in countries in the region include quotas, closure of fisheries to allow stocks to recover, and closed seasons. Stock assessments of shared resources should be carried out and management plans developed and implemented accordingly.

Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)

- *Small-scale fisheries face competition in the spaces where they operate* due to tourism development, oil/gas exploration, marine protected areas (MPAs) and industrial fisheries. This arises from the lack of socio-economic considerations in marine spatial planning and impact assessments, as well as the lack of status of the small-scale fisheries sector. A human rights-based approach is therefore needed to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries. Participatory mapping of small-scale fisheries sites should be conducted and should inform policies and regulatory frameworks.
- *The adaptive capacity of small-scale fisheries in relation to climate change* needs to be strengthened. The erosion of coastal areas is recurrent in the region; small-scale fisheries have a high level of adaptive capacity compared to industrial fisheries, and this should be further developed. Climate change impact assessments on small-scale fisheries should be conducted to inform the development of specific adaptation plans.
- *Better access to alternative livelihoods, social amenities and improved landing sites* should be provided to stabilize local communities and reduce incentives to migrate. There is currently no regional mechanism that facilitates migration and protects migrating workers. At the regional level, migrant activities, including cross-border trade, should be documented, and specific protocols for intraregional trade of fish products should be developed or implemented. Explorative surveys on alternative livelihoods should be conducted, and good practices should be documented and shared, with related training provided as well.
- *Access to information for small-scale fisheries* (e.g. in relation to safety-at-sea issues, trade rules, regulations and rights) is of fundamental importance to support sustainable small-scale fisheries. Information should be provided in local languages, using simplified versions, videos, etc. targeted at different audiences and disseminated through related advocacy campaigns. Governments should partner with Too Big To Ignore (TBTI), join the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and sign Memorandums of Understanding to share information about small-scale fisheries in the region.
- *Access to financial services, savings and social protection*, in particular for women and youth, is often a challenge for small-scale communities in the region. A reason for this is the lack of awareness of the contribution of the sector. There is hence a need to provide these services as well as innovation and technology to enable small business development, better handling practices, improved products and access to markets. Good practices should be shared across the region and small-scale fisheries organizations' capacities in providing/accessing financial services need to be strengthened.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

- In the post-harvest sector, there is a need for *investments in appropriate infrastructures and technologies*. Good practices exist in several countries in the region with regard to integrated centres for fish processing and marketing, which include both technical and social infrastructure (e.g. child care facilities). When planning such infrastructure investments, it is crucial to consult with the future users and those who will manage the centre to ensure that the facilities are appropriate and that there are already plans for management and maintenance from the outset. However, first it is recommended that a baseline study be carried out at the national level to get a better understanding of the needs and to establish what already exists.

- *Value chain actor organizations require capacity development* to allow for their enhanced participation in decision-making processes as well as in the management of infrastructure and facilities mentioned above. Initiatives should have a special focus on women – as they are the main actors in the post-harvest sector – and include, among other things, leadership training and sharing of good practices, both through guides and exchange visits. Some training material already exists in some countries and with some organizations; building on this, training modules that are adapted to local needs should be developed and implemented.
- *Post-harvest losses and waste need to be addressed* and efforts made to increase value added. This will lead to both increased earnings of post-harvest workers and reduced negative impacts on the environment. There is also a need to improve and facilitate regional trade and promote the use of post-harvest practices that comply with existing relevant sanitary and quality standards.
- *Post-harvest actors, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as women and youth, are rarely part of fisheries decision-making processes.* This situation requires capacity development for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Small-scale fisheries organizations – at local, national, regional and international levels – should ensure that their decision-making processes are gender-balanced and that men and women have equal opportunities to make their voices heard.

Climate change and disaster risks (Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) were considered throughout the discussions as cross-cutting issues.

NEXT STEPS

Concrete mechanisms, including tools, are needed to implement the SSF Guidelines in the context of existing relevant regional frameworks, policies and initiatives. This also requires collaboration, funding and support from governments, regional organizations, small-scale fisheries organizations and other technical and financial partners. Accordingly, the consultation identified the following next steps:

- *Consultation participants* should report on the outcomes and recommended actions of the meeting to governments, colleagues and partners. They should also identify other opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the SSF Guidelines and related good practices in the context of the AU PFRS, and act as champions for the SSF Guidelines at relevant meetings and events. Moreover, in general they should advocate for small-scale fisheries at the highest levels and encourage the upscaling of good practices.
- *Governments* should consider the outcomes of the consultation in their relevant policies and strategies, and ensure the inclusion of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making processes. They should present requests for support to small-scale fisheries to development partners. Moreover, governments should prioritize increased support to small-scale fisheries, including in regular budget provisions, in line with their commitment to implementing the SSF Guidelines and the pan-African reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. In addition, they should ensure that access agreements do not harm small-scale fisheries. Finally, governments should better recognize the role of women in small-scale fisheries and overall development.
- *Regional Economic Communities* should support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in their food security and poverty reduction strategies.
- The consultation results should be presented at the forthcoming 5th session of the *CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group* on 26–27 July 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. Using a transdisciplinary approach, the Working Group should compile, collect and analyse socio-economic and environmental data on small-scale fisheries to improve the sector's visibility. CECAF should also establish a Web site for information sharing.

- The *AU* should continue to advance the implementation of the policy objectives of the PFRS in relation to small-scale fisheries, and allocate specific funding to small-scale fisheries development.
- *Regional organizations such as the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), the Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP)* should advocate in support of small-scale fisheries in the subregions, and collaborate with development partners to develop small-scale fisheries projects and management plans. In addition, they should develop the research capacity of national members in relation to environmental and governance aspects of small-scale fisheries, and also provide capacity development on relevant SDGs, in particular SDG 14.b, to support sustainable ocean/coastal management and inland fisheries. In general, these organizations should further improve their coordination at the regional and subregional level.
- *CAOPA/WANSAF/WADAF/PRCM*² should share the outcomes of the consultation with their members and organize advocacy/capacity development in support of SSF Guidelines implementation (e.g. during World Fisheries Day celebrations) in partnership with regional organizations and others.
- *Development partners* should consider the outcomes of the regional consultation and provide specific funding lines in support of small-scale fisheries. They should also ensure that all projects relevant for small-scale fisheries take into account the SSF Guidelines as criteria for approval of funding (including for non-fisheries projects).
- *FAO* should continue to provide support to efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional level, in the context of the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. FAO has been invited to organize a similar event on inland fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the continental level.

² The African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Professional Organizations (CAOPA), the West African Non-State Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSAF), the West African Association for Development of Artisanal Fisheries (WADAF) and the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM).

OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

Chair: Mr Aboubacar Sidibé, FAO

The consultation was opened with a welcome address by Mr Ndiaga Gueye, FAO Regional Office, Accra, Ghana. Mr Babacar B. Diop, First Technical Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Economy, Senegal, provided the opening address. The value of the regional consultation was highlighted in relation to alleviating poverty and improving food security and nutrition. The value of small-scale fisheries for African economies, livelihoods, and nutrition and food security was emphasized, a point acknowledged by development partners, ECOWAS Member States and the AU. Participants were called upon to actively engage and offer their input in consultation discussions.

The opening statements are presented in Annex 1.

Ms Nicole Franz moderated an introduction of participants, outlining the different stakeholder categories and language preferences.

The opening was followed by a group photograph of the consultation participants.



OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND *MODUS OPERANDI*

Ms Lena Westlund, FAO

Ms Lena Westlund, FAO consultant, presented a background overview of the SSF Guidelines and their ongoing implementation activities. The current consultation was placed in the context of prior regional consultations and other relevant policy tools, including the AU PFRS and the related action plan for small-scale fisheries. As was highlighted, the focus should now be on the implementation of these instruments.

The overall objective of the consultation was to raise awareness of the important role of the small-scale fisheries sector and how this is addressed in existing policy frameworks: the PFRS, the ECOWAS FIRST programme, and the SSF Guidelines. The consultation also provided an opportunity to share experiences and identify the actions needed to support and promote small-scale fisheries.

Ms Westlund stressed that implementation of the SSF Guidelines should be anchored at the local and national level with strong links to regional and international policies and strategies.

Accordingly, the expected outputs of the consultation were as follows:

- Increased understanding among participants of the status and importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and of the relevant policy frameworks: the SSF Guidelines, the PFRS and the ECOWAS FIRST programme;
- Identification of priorities and actions, including potential resources and modalities for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines;
- Sharing of lessons learned and experiences from past and ongoing initiatives relevant to small-scale fisheries governance and development;
- Identification of priorities and actions, including potential resources and modalities, for the implementation of a West and Central Africa Regional Plan of Action for improved small-scale fisheries;
- Recommendations developed for the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group and the Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group of the AFRM.

The regional consultation had brought together governments, civil society organization (CSO) and fisherfolk representatives, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), researchers, and regional and international organizations. Over a total of three days it would feature thematic plenary presentations, plenary discussions and working group sessions, conducted in French and English. Presentations and discussions were designed to build towards a shared set of conclusions and recommendations to be taken up by regional consultation participants and other partners, including the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group, to guide national and regional actions and follow-up.

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Towards implementation of the SSF Guidelines: summary of key initiatives

Ms Lena Westlund, FAO

Following a short video,¹ the presentation provided an introduction to the SSF Guidelines, the first-ever negotiated international instrument entirely dedicated to small-scale fisheries and representing a global consensus on principles and guidance

¹ The video was produced by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, and is available online in English – www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-lwE; French – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQgO6RmQaiA>; Spanish – www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=ItefavilKa4; and Portuguese – www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3cJoeSqN-c.

for their governance and development. The Guidelines go beyond what is traditionally dealt with by fisheries administrations and bring together social development and responsible fisheries.

The SSF Guidelines complement other international instruments, in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), which have a common grounding in human rights principles.

The objectives of the SSF Guidelines encompass food security and nutrition; equitable development and poverty eradication; responsible management of fishery resources; economic, social and environmental sustainability; ecosystem-friendly and participatory policies; and public awareness and advancement of knowledge. These objectives should be achieved through the promotion of a human rights-based approach; by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes and to assume responsibility for sustainable use of fishery resources; and by placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three main parts. The introduction sets out their objectives, nature and scope, their guiding principles, and their relationship with other international instruments. The guiding principles include non-discrimination; respect of cultures; social and economic viability; gender equality and equity; equity and equality; transparency; rule of law; consultation and participation; accountability; economic, social and environmental sustainability; holistic and integrated approaches; and social responsibility and feasibility.

Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines is entitled “Responsible fisheries and sustainable development” and represents the thematic heart of the Guidelines. Its chapters are detailed below:

5. Sustainable resource utilization/stewardship and secure rights to fishery resources and land, and the ability of small-scale fisheries communities to benefit from them;
6. Social development dimension of small-scale fisheries livelihoods (e.g. access to social services, need for equality and equity), employment and incomes, and fair and decent working conditions;
7. The post-harvest sector and trade, and consideration of the whole value chain;
8. Importance of gender and the need to promote equality and equity;
9. Vulnerabilities of small-scale fishing communities in the context of disaster risks and climate change.

Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines focuses on “Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation”. Because the small-scale fisheries sector cannot be looked at in isolation – it is embedded in a wider policy and institutional context – the SSF Guidelines therefore call for better integration of the sector into broader development processes, policies, strategies and plans. This requires improved institutional coordination and collaboration at various levels to ensure policy coherence. In this context, fishers’ and fishworkers’ organizations are also encouraged to collaborate among themselves to facilitate their involvement in policy- and decision-making processes.

The SSF Guidelines also emphasize that environmental, social, cultural and economic information (and related research and communication) are crucial to better understanding the sector, to supporting decision-making and action, and to ensuring transparency and accountability. This information includes the traditional knowledge available in fishing communities. The SSF Guidelines also acknowledge the often-encountered lack of capabilities and capacities in both government administrations and communities. They therefore provide guidance for specific capacity development

measures, stressing the need to develop appropriate representative structures for small-scale fisheries actors and to develop the skills of government authorities and agencies, in particular at decentralized and local levels. Finally, the SSF Guidelines provide guidance on awareness-raising processes and promote the development of monitoring and evaluation measures that allow feedback into policy-making processes.

Examples of implementation activities of the SSF Guidelines thus far include information events to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable small-scale fisheries, such as during the 2017 UN Our Ocean Conference, as well as the development of implementation guides and videos, and the translation of the SSF Guidelines into 20 languages. Examples of progress towards implementation at the national level exist in countries like Costa Rica and the United Republic of Tanzania. The establishment of non-state actor platforms through the AU is in line with principles of the SSF Guidelines and also supported by FAO in this context. The role of regional organizations and CSOs was also highlighted, including CAOPA's efforts in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to develop national plans of action to implement the SSF Guidelines. Between 2015 and 2017 other regional consultations were held in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean regions, Near East and North Africa, and Latin America.

Finally, the momentum to implement the SSF Guidelines is provided by the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 14.b which specifically calls for *providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets*. The SSF Guidelines are also linked to the 2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, the AU policy framework and the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group.

A regional perspective on small-scale fisheries: African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, the small-scale fisheries action plan, and the Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)

Mr Sidibé Aboubacar, FAO/ECOWAS

Mr Sidibé Aboubacar presented on behalf of IBAR the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS). The PFRS was adopted in May 2014 by resolution of the AU joint conference of ministers of agriculture, rural development, fisheries and aquaculture and endorsed by heads of state.

The PFRS contains seven main areas:

1. Conservation and sustainable resource use
2. Small-scale fisheries development (marine and inland fisheries)
3. Sustainable aquaculture development
4. Responsible and equitable fish trade and marketing
5. Strengthening regional and subregional cooperation
6. Awareness raising and human capacity development
7. High seas fisheries

Expected outcomes for small-scale fisheries reform at the regional level include improved livelihoods of small-scale fisheries workers, greater socio-economic benefits, improved bilateral and regional cooperation around management of shared resources, safeguarded decent working conditions for small-scale fishing communities, support for fishers' organizations, participatory management, provisioning of elements for implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and strengthened tenure systems.

Strategic actions to promote, support and coordinate sustainable development of small-scale fisheries include: supporting the autonomy of small-scale fishing

communities and their participation in decision-making, adopting co-management and ecosystem approaches to small-scale fisheries management, and supporting data sharing.

Progress and next steps include the establishment of a specific Working Group on Sustainable Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the AFRM, an action plan for small-scale fisheries development in Africa, and the establishment of Continental Platforms of Non-State Actors.

Contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food and nutrition security in West Africa: the place and role of artisanal fisheries

Mr Sidibé Aboubacar, FAO/ECOWAS

Mr Sidibé Aboubacar presented an overview of the fisheries sector in West Africa, where an estimated 3 million tonnes of fish are produced, supporting 60 percent of the population's animal protein and micronutrient needs. Over 70 percent of fish in the region is landed by small-scale fisheries, with the majority used for human consumption. The cultural importance of small-scale fisheries was also noted. Major challenges in the region include the absence of a coordinated regional policy to improve the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security, and a lack of coordination between existing programmes in the region. ECOWAS has requested support from FAO to develop a regional policy under the FIRST programme (a partnership between FAO and the EU) with a focus on food security and nutrition as an enabling environment for regional policy harmonization.

Results of the programme include achieving consensus on the changes necessary in the sector to achieve food security and nutrition objectives, through a regional ECOWAS fisheries and aquaculture sector (via the regional ECOWAS Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture) as well as the AU-established WANSFA. Priority actions at the national level to improve availability, accessibility, use and sustainability of fish and fishery products have been identified through the review of national fisheries policies. Member States are aiming to collect improved data that reflect the real contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and the gap between realized and ideal contributions in this context. An example for Ghana is provided below.

TABLE 1
Gap in domestic fish production, Ghana

Item	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total fish production (tonnes): fisheries and aquaculture	456 148	434 120	413 077	451 099	465 357
Fish imports (tonnes)	181 825	150 701	145 910	180 802	192 131
Fish exports (tonnes)	62 984	37 617	57 358	53 750	53 100
Available fish supply (tonnes)	574 988	547 204	501 630	578 151	604 388
Fish demand (tonnes)*	1 036 336	1 062 194	1 088 749	1 108 000	1 132 332
Deficit (tonnes)	461 348	514 990	587 119	529 849	527 944
Available fish as % of country demand	55.5	51.5	46.1	52.2	53.4

* Based on the target of 40kg per capita consumption times the total population.

Source: Ghana Fisheries Commission, 2017.

Major obstacles to addressing supply gaps include the lack of implementation of available international instruments like the SSF Guidelines and the PFRS; the level of representativeness, legitimacy and coordination among non-state actors; and the lack of data or reliable information on small-scale fisheries in West Africa. Key actions planned under the FIRST programme include: (i) strengthening of human

capacities at national and regional levels in terms of integrating food security and nutrition considerations in fisheries and aquaculture development, and vice versa; (ii) mobilization and strengthening of public and private investments in the sector for increased food security and nutrition; and (iii) development of a regional sector strategy and related improved actor coordination.

Introduction to the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group

Mr Ndiaga Gueye, FAO regional office

Mr Ndiaga Gueye introduced the structure of CECAF, a regional fisheries organization established in 1967 under FAO constitution Article 6 whose main purpose is to promote the sustainable utilization of resources in the eastern central Atlantic region. CECAF consists of a committee, a scientific subcommittee, and a number of working groups, including an artisanal fisheries working group. The terms of reference for the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group were reviewed in 2015, with a focus on data collection and analysis, socio-economics and the environment. Additionally, the Working Group will contribute to the assessment of the implementation of regional and international initiatives relevant to its work (e.g. VGGT, SSF Guidelines, AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa), and the recommendations from the regional consultation will be presented to the next session of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group for consideration and uptake.

Small-scale fisheries in the region

Mr Djiga Thiao, FAO consultant

The presentation was based on the background paper (see Annex 7) and provided a wide overview of the small-scale fisheries in the region in light of the SSF Guidelines. It also highlighted some key elements to be included in the CECAF work plan. The methodology used was mainly based on a desk review, quantitative data collection through an Excel file (with 16 of 22 countries responding) and a qualitative questionnaire (15 countries responding). All information gathered were analysed to create a profile of each country.

Small-scale fisheries are of considerable socio-economic importance, but this varies in magnitude from one country to another. However, the lack of detailed and reliable data is a major constraint for comparing the different countries and producing a comprehensive assessment covering all dimensions of small-scale fisheries in the whole region. Small-scale fisheries are a part of the culture of some coastal communities, and represent the main – indeed sometimes the only – source of products for domestic consumption. They also directly create jobs, ranging from a few thousand for some countries (e.g. Benin, Togo, Democratic Republic of the Congo) to more than one million for Nigeria. The post-harvest activities in which women predominate are also crucial for reducing unemployment and combating poverty. As gross domestic product (GDP) is rarely known, the real contribution of small-scale fisheries to economies remains hidden.

With regard to the fisheries activities, there is considerable heterogeneity from one country to another. While in Nigeria and Senegal the size of the fishing fleet exceeds 10 000 canoes, it barely reaches 500 canoes in Togo. There is great diversity in fishing gear but the most common types are hooks and line, gillnet and purse seine. Landings vary from the low tens of thousands in most countries to around 400 000 tonnes in Ghana, Senegal and Mauritania, and up to 800 000 tonnes in Nigeria. With a predominance of small pelagic fish, small-scale fisheries often account for more than 80

percent of the total landings in most countries. However, the recent trend is towards stable production, or even reduced production in some countries.

Small-scale fisheries are mainly governed by fisheries codes or acts and regulations. In addition, almost all the countries have documents that define fisheries strategy and policy. Access to resources is often subject to payment of fees (licenses or fishing permits), but in practice their application is problematic. There are also other access control initiatives such as management plans and MPAs. Small-scale fisheries fall under the institutional responsibility of a given country's Ministry of Fisheries or National Fisheries Authority. However, the general orientation towards co-management allows fishers and other workers to participate in decision-making through their associations. The level of participation is very heterogeneous depending on the country. Women participate through the associations, but their role varies depending on the country's level of gender promotion.

Small-scale fisheries face multiple risks related to climate change. Among the most worrying are coastal erosion and rising sea temperatures. These phenomena could lead to the destruction of ecological habitats, housing, and fishing infrastructure.

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region has been rather limited, due mainly to the slow pace of operationalization. The implementation process is still in its early stages, and is only now being incorporated into legal and regulatory instruments and into strategic fisheries management and development documents. The AU has already incorporated the SSF Guidelines into its policy and has developed an action plan. CAOPA has also undertaken initiatives in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal in line with its commitment made at the Our Ocean Conference in 2017. The main success factors for implementation are political will and the involvement of small-scale fisheries organizations. The limiting factors are the lack of knowledge about small-scale fisheries and the lack of communication about the SSF Guidelines at the national level.

Plenary discussion and session summary

Participants commented on the presentations in a plenary discussion focusing on specific issues related to small-scale fisheries in the West and Central African region. Summarizing this discussion and the earlier presentations from the first day, the following key points emerged:

- Implementing the SSF Guidelines is important, including finding concrete mechanisms and tools to support this process as well as related funding and direct support, in particular for small-scale fisheries organizations.
- The small-scale fisheries sector is of major socio-economic importance in the region, with some variations from one country to another. It is a dynamic and diverse sector, one that uses different gear types and targets different species – but particularly small pelagics in most countries.
- There is not enough data on small-scale fisheries, in particular on their socio-economic dimensions. There is a need to improve data collection and ensure that results are shared with fishers and fishing communities.
- There is an apparent lack of communication and coordination of regional policies among different regional organizations; coherence between actors and policies could be improved.
- Co-management, and hence more participatory decision-making, is becoming more common, but there is still a need to promote approaches to fisheries management that take into account the human dimension.
- Women play an important role, but they are not always involved in decision-making and face barriers and discrimination in representation in small-scale fisheries.
- Fish and fishery products need to be accessible and affordable to ensure food security, both in coastal areas and in the interior and in landlocked countries. However, regional fish trade is often hampered in practice, with cross-border

mobility challenges a concern, especially considering the perishable nature of fishery products.

- There are increasing conflicts between small-scale fisheries and oil and gas development projects, as the latter are expanding in the region.
- There are also safety-at-sea issues, and hence better security for fishers needs to be prioritized.

THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Women in African small-scale fisheries: importance and challenges

Ms Nedwa Nech, Mauritania 2000

Women have a key social role in terms of contributing to feeding the family and ensuring education for children, but also play an important role in food security and are linchpins in the value chain, from pre-harvest (e.g. financing small-scale fisheries operations) to post-harvest (including fish handling and processing).

Despite their important roles, women face a myriad of challenges, including the following:

- Women face precarious working conditions and health hazards such as those posed by smoking fish or being in the water for long hours harvesting invertebrates. Difficult conditions are common on landing sites where women may face sexual abuse and gender-based violence and harassment. Often only poor facilities are available for them to do their work.
- Competition with men and fish plants or larger wholesalers for access to resources is a common challenge in the region. Women often cannot buy fish in large quantities because they do not have access to credit or traditional loans/funding and are outcompeted by larger buyers, or increasingly by fishmeal plants.

Suggested solutions include raising awareness on the role of women, improving data collection and knowledge (e.g. through gender-disaggregated data), advocacy, promotion of livelihood diversification, and development of technologies and training for women to improve their products in order to enter new markets.

Multiple examples of positive developments were presented, including training on women's rights in the sector, workshops and seminars that recognize the importance of women, peer exchanges within and outside the region, better access to credit and savings, improved facilities and hygiene, and training in product diversification. As women are able to improve their products they face further challenges related to accessing global markets. This requires the development and application of shared standards for all to ensure that higher quality products from small-scale fisheries can enter these markets.

Women in African small-scale fisheries: the case of Côte d'Ivoire – gender issues in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Ms Micheline Dion, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives Côte d'Ivoire

Women are involved in all stages of the small-scale fisheries sector, including leadership, marketing and distribution. Yet women face specific challenges and their equal participation needs to be ensured, in line with the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines. The relevance of specific provisions of the SSF Guidelines to improve gender equality was discussed, including in relation to equal access to resources and decent working conditions. Specific pilot projects have been created in Côte d'Ivoire, for example to address post-harvest loss, which is a critical issue that impacts small-scale fisheries and particularly women. A study conducted by FAO found post-harvest losses in fisheries in Côte d'Ivoire to be around 25–30 percent. In addition, women are exposed to smoke and hazardous working conditions. The lack of child care is a related issue that affects women's productivity and can prevent children from accessing education. In response, a project in Côte d'Ivoire has created a kindergarten alongside a fish processing site to support women's work and ensure children are educated. Other positive examples exist in the region, including support provided by Morocco in

coordination with CAOPA members and FAO to improve fish processing conditions for women.

Following the presentations on gender, there was a discussion focusing on specific issues women face in the region. The key points are summarized here.

- There is a general lack of gender-disaggregated data, frameworks and registries to identify women and their contribution to small-scale fisheries.
- Market accessibility and identification of outlets for products, access to certification, and overcoming barriers to exporting products are important issues in the region. The potential for the SSF Guidelines to help women address these issues was noted.
- As women in the region face similar issues, it is important for there to be celebrations and exchanges where they can share their experiences, such as CAOPA's celebration of International Women's Day.
- Improved technologies, such as smoking ovens and processing techniques, are needed to reduce negative pressure on the environment (such as cutting mangroves) and negative health impacts (inhaling smoke from fish processing).
- Forming cooperatives and making collective purchases was discussed as a way for women to buy greater quantities of fish and be more competitive on the market.

Relevance of the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines for improving equity and sustainability in Ghana's fisheries sector

Mr Peter Kuusana, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)

Mr Kuusana presented the "Securing Sustainable Fisheries" project, a partnership between EJF (a local Ghanaian NGO) and the EU, with a focus on the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines. Its objective is to ensure greater environmental sustainability in fishing and improve capacity for co-management. The project includes three core areas: monitoring of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; empowering small-scale fisheries actors to participate in governance; and promoting alternative livelihoods.

An overview of the status and importance of Ghanaian small-scale fisheries and issues related to the VGGT and SSF Guidelines was presented. Small-scale fisheries support the livelihoods of about 10 percent of the national population; moreover, fish provides 60 percent of animal protein, of which 70 percent is provided by small-scale fisheries. At the regional level, Ghana accounts for about 11 percent of the West African small-scale fisheries fleet. Yet, while there have been increases in boat size (from 10 to 22 metres), net size (up to 800 metres in length), crew size (up to 25 people) and outboard motors (up to 25 horsepower), landings have actually been decreasing. Threats and challenges were outlined, including overexploitation and poor management; competition with the industrial sector targeting small pelagics using undersized nets; centralized management systems offering little role for small-scale communities; loss of access to fishing grounds and landings sites to oil and gas; tourism; and conflict with coastal development.

The presentation concluded with some initiatives and solutions. In Ghana, a participatory mapping of landing sites and fishing grounds is being conducted using mobile devices and open source software to build a geodatabase with maps linked to metadata on the small-scale fisheries sector. The hope is that these maps can be used to formalize and secure tenure and inform fisheries and land management. The project is also working to increase participation and input from local fishers in the revision of the Ghanaian fisheries law. With support from FAO, a national round table on how to use international instruments like the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines in the fisheries sector was organized in early 2018.

Overview of CAOPA-led initiatives in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Mr Gaoussou Gueye, African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Professional Organizations (CAOPA)

CAOPA was established in 2010 with a focus on strengthening professional small-scale fisheries organizations; its member organizations come from 24 countries. CAOPA is committed to transparency and gender equity, requiring gender parity of member organizations and in CAOPA leadership.

Following the commitment to promote a participatory and gender-sensitive approach to sustainable small-scale fishing made during the Our Ocean Conference in Malta in October 2017, CAOPA has concentrated on two areas of implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Africa:

- developing national plans of action for sustainable small-scale fisheries; and
- strengthening the capacities of small-scale fisheries professionals.

At the pan-African level, CAOPA has made this commitment within the framework of the AU Policy and Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture Reform in Africa (via the platform of non-state actors).

At the country level, national workshops were organized in Guinea, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire in 2018, resulting in the establishment of committees for the development of a national plan of action in these countries. The workshops will continue in other countries with the collaboration of FAO.

The capacity building of professional organizations includes improving their capacity to analyse issues and proposals made to governments and improving their skills through training, exchange of experiences, and sharing information / raising awareness by the media. National organizations need to be legitimate, gender-balanced, democratic and transparent. CAOPA maintains that accountability to members is key for professional organizations to be legitimate representatives of their sector.

CAOPA organizes two meetings each year at the pan-African level: World Fisheries Day and International Women's Day. CAOPA also participated as an observer at COFI33 in Rome, Italy. Additionally, CAOPA contributes to a Web site (sipanews.com) that helps document coastal issues in Africa and promotes greater awareness in collaboration with journalists.

The national process to implement the SSF Guidelines in Senegal

El hadji Abdoulaye Coume, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Senegal

Senegal has organized a national-level workshop on the SSF Guidelines and developed a path towards a national action plan. This includes the establishment of a national advisory committee of seven members to steer implementation. The committee has already held one workshop and four meetings to ensure a participatory process in its development. A national multistakeholder outreach workshop on the SSF Guidelines was organized for 71 participants in partnership with the Senegalese Government, The National Interprofessional Council of small-scale fisheries in Senegal (CONIPAS) and CAOPA. During the workshop 15 high-priority areas of implementation were identified, including the replacement of wooden canoes with other materials, translation of the SSF Guidelines into local languages, and finalization of the inland fisheries code, among others.

The establishment of the national advisory committee included identifying stakeholders, ensuring representation, and developing the scope and mandate for the committee, which is composed of representatives of the fisheries administration, fishing

professional organizations, women operating in small-scale fisheries, and regional organizations. This group also contains multiple subcommittees tasked with different areas of focus. The preparation of the national action plan has three stages: identifying strategic pillars, drafting and review. Currently the plan is still in draft form with the review process ongoing. The plan's current outline includes four pillars: information and communication on the SSF Guidelines, improving working and living conditions, improving good governance, and mitigating risks from disasters and climate change.

Strengthening the voice of small-scale fisheries: West African Non-State Actor Platform

Mr Moussa Mbengue, General Secretary, West African Non-State Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSAFA)

WANSAFA is the West African platform of the AU framework to promote non-state actor involvement in fisheries on the continent. Its creation is the result of studies and consultations that started with a mapping launched by IBAR identifying 801 relevant non-state actors in Africa. Since this study, several meetings have been held to build the platform, including the first coordination meeting at the continental level held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015. A second workshop was held in Lomé, Togo in 2016. The first general assembly of WANSAFA was held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2018. At the general assembly an action plan was created and the headquarters established in Dakar, Senegal. The purpose was to create a unified platform for non-state actors in fisheries, including networks of professional organizations and NGOs of fisheries and aquaculture at national and regional levels, with the following goals: supporting the implementation of policies and frameworks to reform fisheries at multiple levels, aligning actions with shared ethical governance principles, working towards policy coherence, enabling coordination among diverse actors, and supporting stakeholders to improve resilience and status in relation to other sectors.

The organization is composed of a regional body of all members and a regional executive bureau composed of seven members. Members come from different areas across the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The presentation concluded with a brief overview of the draft plan of action and future plans.

Small-scale fisheries in Morocco

Mr Mustapha Oumarous, INRH Morocco

In Morocco, small-scale fisheries play an important socio-economic role. There are more than 100 landing sites along the Moroccan coast, and about 15 000 boats with a size of generally less than 3 GRT. Small-scale fishers use various types of gear and operate during various seasons to target several pelagic, semi-pelagic and demersal resources. The sector contributes to economic growth and food security, and provides significant employment opportunities as well. As part of the operationalization of the SSF Guidelines, several actions have been taken in the small-scale fishing sector to ensure the sustainability of this type of fishing. These include the construction of landing facilities (equipped landing points and fishing villages); modernization and upgrading of the small-scale fishing fleet; scientifically guided management of fisheries; prevention of IUU fishing; traceability and marketing of fishery products; establishment of a system of identification of small boats using radio frequency identification of products; and provision of social security to small-scale fishers as well as the close coordination of the administration with small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making and development processes.

Small-scale fisheries in Equatorial Guinea and their contribution to economic diversification and food security

Mr Ricardo Dominguez, FAO Equatorial Guinea

Mr Dominguez reported on a number of activities conducted in the framework of the FAO project “Evaluation of marine fishery resources in Equatorial Guinea” financed by the Government of Equatorial Guinea, whose objective is to scientifically assess the situation of the country’s fishery resources.

This should contribute towards maximizing the use of fishery resources in a sustainable manner, promoting the development of fishing activities and guaranteeing the supply of the country’s markets with quality local products, so as to improve food security and diminish the need for food imports. Activities include the production of a “Pocket Guide of the main marine fishery species of Equatorial Guinea”; the first national census of the small-scale fishing fleet in 2016; and the first oceanographic campaign of the country’s exclusive economic zone, carried out by the vessel ITAF DEME together with the Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye, the Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches, the Spanish Institute of Oceanography, and officers from the Ministry of Fisheries (including national technical staff), among others.

Biological sampling in small-scale and industrial fisheries has been carried out at different points (about 110) since 2016. The results are included in a database specially designed for Equatorial Guinea for the period from November 2016 to February 2018. Based on this, FAO has submitted a preliminary report of the review of the data collected in Equatorial Guinea to the national authorities.

In relation to value chain improvements, transformation units with FAO-Thiaroye ovens for drying and smoking fish have been built in the inland region and in Annobon Island. Furthermore, a total of four women cooperatives (totalling more than 386 women) have been given support and training in the following areas: economic inclusion; cooperatives; fish handling; food security; appropriate technologies for smoking, salting and drying fish; and marketing and distribution of processed fish.

Selected FAO activities in the region

Ms Shirin Wertime, FAO

The Coastal Fishery Initiative (CFI), a programme funded by the Global Environment Facility, is designed to improve collaboration and knowledge sharing to achieve a more integrated approach to sustainable management of coastal fisheries. CFI West Africa is being implemented by FAO in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, and is set to launch in the fall of 2018 and run through 2022. There is a Challenge Fund component which will provide technical assistance for developing investment-ready projects that support sustainable fisheries management. This global partnership project will be responsible for sharing knowledge between the projects and beyond the CFI programme, so the countries can learn from each other’s experiences and draw lessons across common elements. There will also be monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes and development of a fisheries performance assessment tool.

The objective of the CFI West Africa regional project is to build upon ongoing national and regional initiatives to improve fisheries governance and management and strengthen the seafood value chain in Cabo Verde, Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire. These three countries were selected because of the importance of their coastal fisheries and the significant presence of small-scale fishers and processors. Overall, the project aims

to strengthen stakeholder representation and engagement through an emphasis on co-management and capacity development of small-scale fishers' organizations, and will work extensively with women in post-harvest.

FAO will provide technical assistance to the Government of Cabo Verde over a period of 12 months through the FAO Blue Growth Initiative, with financing from the African Development Bank. The project will assist the Government in consolidating its national strategy for the blue economy, strengthening its institutional framework for intersectoral coordination, and developing a national investment plan for the blue economy focused on expanding market access, reducing vulnerabilities and inserting the country into global value chains. This work will be guided by various international instruments including the SSF Guidelines.

Plenary discussion and session summary

Discussion followed the thematic presentations on Day 2; key points are summarized below.

- There is a need to develop small-scale fisheries action plans that cover at least 2–3 years in order to achieve the desired changes.
- There is an apparent disparity in the level of organizational structures between countries in the region with some francophone countries being better organized. Small-scale fisheries organizations in different countries could learn from each other and from regional small-scale fisheries organizations, such as CAOPA. FAO and ECOWAS were encouraged to make more efforts to address this disparity.
- Effective measures to include women in CSOs and in sustainable management of resources need to be identified, documented and replicated.
- The increasing conflict between small-scale fisheries and oil and gas production was highlighted. There have however been some successful resolutions, for example in Nigeria where fishers have been compensated for the negative impacts of oil spills.
- The risks of climate change for small-scale fisheries should be spelled out better, while also recognizing the adaptive capacity and potential climate resilience of small-scale fisheries.
- Data on small-scale fisheries is scarce but when there is information, communicating it is an issue. There is a need for regional platforms or mechanism, such as TBTI, for disseminating and sharing information with small-scale fisheries actors.
- Women are key players in small-scale fisheries, but they and their contributions tend to remain invisible. There is a general lack of gender-disaggregated data, frameworks and registries to identify and recognize women and their role in small-scale fisheries. Similarities in the issues women face in the region were noted, as well as the importance of celebrations and exchanges (such as CAOPA's celebration of International Women's Day) where women can come together to share their experiences. Based on the SSF Guidelines, there are several other lines of action (which were highlighted also in the presentations) that should be pursued to promote the role of women and move towards gender equality in small-scale fisheries.
- Women are often not involved in decision-making at the same level as men in mixed small-scale fisheries organizations, not even when they are members of executive bureaus. More thought is needed with regard to how to involve women on more equal terms in relevant processes, including in sustainable resource management.

WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

Three working group sessions were held to discuss a series of topics contributing towards the development of a regional plan of action for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The groups considered all thematic areas included in the SSF Guidelines generally, but focused their discussions on the specific themes detailed below. The composition of the working groups remained the same throughout the three sessions in order to ensure continuity of the group discussions.

Participants were divided into three groups, each of which focused on one or more of the chapters in Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines (see Annex 5).

1. Group 1: Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines). Facilitator: Sidibé Aboubacar, in French.
2. Group 2: Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines). Facilitator: Nicole Franz, in English.
3. Group 3: Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines). Facilitator: Lena Westlund, in French.

It was emphasized that climate change and disaster risks (Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) should be considered as cross-cutting issues throughout the discussions.

Each group had two facilitators and a rapporteur to record the discussions. Each group also designated a presenter from within the group who reported the results of the working group to the plenary.

The specific tasks for each of the three working group sessions are outlined below.

Session 1: Agreeing on priorities

The objective of the first working group session was to familiarize working group participants with the relevant chapters of the SSF Guidelines, to create a common understanding, and to discuss priority issues and objectives for the region. The working group facilitators summarized the content of the respective relevant chapter(s) of the SSF Guidelines before proposing the following guiding question to the group:

- *Which of the issues included in the relevant chapters of the SSF Guidelines are particularly relevant to the region? Identify a maximum of five.*

Session 2: Sharing good practices

The objective of this working group session was to review existing good practices and ongoing initiatives in order to identify common experiences and opportunities for future action. The working group was tasked to reply to the following guiding question:

- *What good practices/ongoing initiatives exist in relation to the issues/objectives identified in Session 1?*

Session 3: Providing elements for national and regional implementation planning

The objective of the last working group session was to provide elements for a regional action plan, considering also the elements contained in Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines, “Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation”. The content of the chapters in Part 3 was briefly summarized for the participants by each group facilitator.

The working group was then tasked to:

- Identify key actions at regional and national levels, including responsibilities, based on the outcomes of the previous working group sessions;
- Formulate recommendations for follow-up to the regional consultation.

The results of the working group sessions are presented in the next section.

Reporting back from working groups

The detailed outputs of the working groups are available in Annex 5 and are summarized below:

Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

Priority issues and objectives:

1. There is weak collaboration between states and fishing communities to ensure sustainability of small-scale fisheries.
 - Strengthen collaboration and coordination among states and fishing communities for equitable access to resources.
2. Fishing communities have weak capacity, and there is a lack of availability of indicators for data collection. Stakeholders are not involved in data collection.
 - Make information available for management of resources.
3. There is weak implementation of land tenure in the regulatory and legislative context, leading to displacement of fishers.
 - Identify displacement of fishers as an issue; make sure that legislative and regulatory instruments are updated with respect to land tenure, and build capacity for their operationalization.
4. Fishing communities are often not consulted; when they are, these “consultations” are often geared towards informing communities of decisions that have actually already been made.
 - Fishing communities need to be involved in decision-making processes.
5. Fisheries management is slow to adapt and lacks the capacity to change resource availability, leading to overuse.
 - Establish a balance of fishing activities in line with better data on resource conditions.
6. There is a lack of alignment between financial measures supporting fisheries and resource management objectives.
 - Financial measures need to be reviewed in light of sustainability.

Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)

Priority issues and objectives:

1. There is competition over space (coastal and marine), including from tourism and from oil and gas development activities. The human rights of small-scale fishing communities are ignored; moreover, these fisheries currently lack status in issues of spatial management and access.
 - Small-scale fisheries actors need to be partners in decisions over the allocation and use of marine space.
2. Climate change affects the resilience of small-scale fishing communities and their social development. Coastal erosion and sea level rise affect the status and investment mentality (i.e. away from long-term investments) of small-scale fishing communities.
 - Maintain healthy and productive environments to promote economic benefits and food security.
3. Issues related to migrant fishers are multifaceted, and require support such as alternative livelihoods, social protection and improved landing sites.
 - Decrease pressure on resources and improve livelihoods; seek support from regional bodies to protect migrant workers.
4. Small-scale fisheries actors need access to information (e.g. on safety at sea and trade rules).

- Provide information on rules and regulations in languages spoken by small-scale fishing communities, and using non-technical language.
- 5. Access to financial services, saving schemes and social protection, in particular for women and youth, is often lacking. In particular, these groups' lack of visibility and status make it difficult for them to attract financial support from institutions responsible for providing social services.
 - Enable small business development; promote better handling practices and improved products; provide access to regional and global value chains and to innovation and technology.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

Priority issues and objectives:

1. There is insufficient investment in technology and infrastructure as well as organizational capacity building for small-scale fisheries actors.
 - Improve technologies and infrastructure.
 - Strengthen organizational capacity and women's leadership.
2. Post-harvest losses are a common problem in small-scale fisheries value chains, and likewise the lack of improved value addition.
 - Improve income in small-scale fisheries value chains.
 - Reduce environmental impacts through the reduction of post-harvest losses.
3. There is a general lack of involvement of stakeholders from the post-harvest sector and of marginalized groups in relevant processes.
 - Increase the level of participation of vulnerable and marginal groups in decision-making processes.
 - Focus capacity building efforts on these groups (e.g. women).

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE WAY FORWARD

In the plenary, participants discussed the outcomes of the working group sessions and agreed on proposed priority areas to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes, which are provided here below. The full text of the summary conclusions and recommendations is available in Annex 6.

Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

- There is a need to *strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between states as well as fishing communities* in order to guarantee equitable access to fishery resources. Ways of doing this include having consultative councils or committees and fisheries management plans, which should be developed in close consultation with small-scale fisheries actors. CECAF has an important role to play at the regional level and the implementation of its recommendations should be monitored.
- *Fishers and fishing communities are often not involved in the collection and use of data.* The capacity of fishers and their organizations to collect data should be strengthened, for example with guides and manuals adapted specifically for small-scale fishers.
- *Tenure legislation relevant to small-scale fisheries is often missing or not applied.* Regulations generally need to be updated and harmonized across the region, and the capacity of governments to operationalize tenure legislation should be strengthened. Likewise, fishing communities and small-scale fisheries organizations need support to strengthen their access to and understanding of legislation.
- *Development projects affecting the small-scale fisheries sector are often carried out without the involvement of fishers and their communities.* These groups should be

consulted and their priorities should be taken into consideration. Commissions or committees in charge of small-scale fisheries issues, where they exist, should be strengthened.

- *There is a mismatch between existing fishing capacity and the productivity of the fishery resources* available to small-scale fisheries. Fishing production needs to be reduced in order to ensure a sustainable use of resources. Management measures currently used in countries in the region include quotas, closure of fisheries to allow stocks to recover, and closed seasons. Stock assessments of shared resources should be carried out and management plans developed and implemented accordingly.

Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)

- *Small-scale fisheries face competition in the spaces where they operate* due to tourism development, oil/gas exploration, MPAs and industrial fisheries. This arises from the lack of socio-economic considerations in marine spatial planning and impact assessments, as well as the lack of status of the small-scale fisheries sector. A human rights-based approach is therefore needed to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries. Participatory mapping of small-scale fisheries sites should be conducted and should inform policies and regulatory frameworks.
- *The adaptive capacity of small-scale fisheries to the impacts of climate change* needs to be strengthened. The erosion of coastal areas is recurrent in the region; small-scale fisheries have a high level of adaptive capacity compared to industrial fisheries, and this should be further developed. Climate change impact assessments on small-scale fisheries should be conducted to inform the development of specific adaptation plans.
- *Better access to alternative livelihoods, social amenities and improved landing sites* should be provided to stabilize local communities and reduce incentives to migrate. There is currently no regional mechanism that facilitates migration and protects migrating workers. At the regional level, migrant activities, including cross-border trade, should be documented, and specific protocols for intraregional trade of fish products should be developed or implemented. Explorative surveys on alternative livelihoods should be conducted, and good practices should be document and shared, with related training provided as well.
- *Access to information for small-scale fisheries* (e.g. in relation to safety-at-sea issues, trade rules, regulations and rights) is of fundamental importance to support sustainable small-scale fisheries. Information should be provided in local languages, using simplified versions, videos, etc. targeted at different audiences and disseminated through related advocacy campaigns. Governments should partner with TBTI, join FiTI and sign Memorandums of Understanding to share information about small-scale fisheries in the region.
- *Access to financial services, savings and social protection*, in particular for women and youth, is often a challenge for small-scale communities in the region. A reason for this is the lack of awareness of the contribution of the sector. There is hence a need to provide these services as well as innovation and technology to enable small business development, better handling practices, improved products and access to markets. Good practices should be shared across the region and small-scale fisheries organizations' capacities in providing/accessing financial services need to be strengthened.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

- In the post-harvest sector, there is a need for *investments in appropriate infrastructures and technologies*. Good practices exist in several countries in

the region with regard to integrated centres for fish processing and marketing, which include both technical and social infrastructure (e.g. child care facilities). When planning such infrastructure investments, it is crucial to consult with the future users and those who will manage the centre to ensure that the facilities are appropriate and that there are already plans for management and maintenance from the outset. However, first it is recommended that a baseline study be carried out at the national level to get a better understanding of the needs and to establish what already exists.

- *Value chain actor organizations require capacity development* to allow for their enhanced participation in decision-making processes as well as in the management of infrastructure and facilities mentioned above. Initiatives should have a special focus on women – as they are the main actors in the post-harvest sector – and should include, among other things, leadership training and sharing of good practices, both through guides and exchange visits. Some training material already exists in some countries and with some organizations; building on this, training modules that are adapted to local needs should be developed and implemented.
- *Post-harvest losses and waste need to be addressed* and efforts made to increase value added. This will lead to both increased earnings of post-harvest workers and reduced negative impacts on the environment. There is also a need to improve and facilitate regional trade and promote the use of post-harvest practices that comply with existing relevant sanitary and quality standards.
- *Post-harvest actors, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as women and youth, are rarely part of fisheries decision-making processes.* This requires capacity development for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Small-scale fisheries organizations – at local, national, regional and international levels – should ensure that their decision-making processes are gender-balanced and that men and women have equal opportunities to make their voices heard.

Climate change and disaster risks (Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) were considered throughout the discussions as cross-cutting issues.

NEXT STEPS

Concrete mechanisms, including tools, are needed to implement the SSF Guidelines in the context of existing relevant regional frameworks, policies and initiatives. This also requires collaboration, funding and support from governments, regional organizations, small-scale fisheries organizations and other technical and financial partners. Accordingly, the consultation identified the following next steps:

- *Consultation participants* should report on the outcomes and recommended actions of the meeting to governments, colleagues and partners. They should also identify other opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the SSF Guidelines and related good practices in the context of the PFRS and act as champions for the SSF Guidelines at relevant meetings and events. Moreover, in general they should advocate for small-scale fisheries at the highest levels and encourage the upscaling of good practices.
- *Governments* should consider the outcomes of the consultation in their relevant policies and strategies, and ensure the inclusion of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making processes. They should present requests for support to small-scale fisheries to development partners. Moreover, governments should prioritize increased support to small-scale fisheries, including in regular budget provisions, in line with their commitment to implementing the SSF Guidelines and the pan-African reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. In addition, they should ensure that access agreements do not harm small-scale fisheries. Finally, governments should better recognize the role of women in small-scale fisheries

and overall development.

- *Regional Economic Communities* should support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in their food security and poverty reduction strategies.
- The consultation results should be presented at the forthcoming 5th session of the *CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group* on 26–27 July 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. Using a transdisciplinary approach, the Working Group should compile, collect and analyse socio-economic and environmental data on small-scale fisheries to improve the sector's visibility. CECAF should also establish a Web site for information sharing.
- The *AU* should continue to advance the implementation of the policy objectives of the PFRS in relation to small-scale fisheries, and allocate specific funding to small-scale fisheries development.
- Regional organizations (e.g. FCWC, SRFC, COREP) should advocate in support of small-scale fisheries in the subregions, and collaborate with development partners to develop small-scale fisheries projects and management plans. In addition, they should develop the research capacity of national members in relation to environmental and governance aspects of small-scale fisheries, and also provide capacity development on relevant SDGs, in particular SDG 14.b, to support sustainable ocean/coastal management and inland fisheries. In general, these organizations should further improve their coordination at the regional and subregional level.
- *CAOPA/WANSAGA/WADAF/PRCM* should share the outcomes of the consultation with their members and organize advocacy/capacity development in support of SSF Guidelines implementation (e.g. during World Fisheries Day celebrations) in partnership with regional organizations and others.
- *Development partners* should consider the outcomes of the regional consultation and provide specific funding lines in support of small-scale fisheries. They should also ensure that all projects relevant for small-scale fisheries take into account the SSF Guidelines as criteria for approval of funding (including for non-fisheries projects).
- *FAO* should continue to provide support to efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional level, in the context of the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. FAO has been invited to organize a similar event on inland fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the continental level.

Mr Ndiaga Gueye of FAO then delivered the closing remarks. He thanked all participants for their active and constructive participation and explained that the summary conclusions and recommendations will be shared with the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group and other relevant partners. Those who contributed to the logistics and planning of the regional consultation were thanked and the interpreters and financial partners were gratefully acknowledged.

ANNEX 1

Opening statements

Babacar Banda Diop, Principal Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of Senegal

I would first of all like to tell you, on behalf of Mr Oumar Gueye, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, that it is a great pleasure for me to be among you to preside over the opening ceremony of this important consultation on the SSF Guidelines taking place on Senegalese soil, “The Téranga Country”, which has been jointly organized by FAO and the African Union’s Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission and FIRST programme.

I acknowledge with great delight that the event is in line with strengthening cooperation between the actors of small-scale fisheries, which constitute a vital link in the fisheries sector in Africa.

May I therefore, on behalf of His Excellency, Mr Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, his Prime Minister and the entire government, welcome our guests from our sister countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty reduction and improvement of food security and nutrition is increasingly recognized, especially in the final document of Rio+20 (*The future we want*), but also in the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. These initiatives aim to assure fishers and their communities of the full enjoyment of fishing zones and access to markets and to safeguard their fundamental rights as human beings (i.e. their Human Rights).

Also, it should be stressed that small-scale fisheries constitute an asset for African countries facing sustainable development challenges, and are by far the main provider of employment in the sector in Africa.

Thus, in most African regions, the catches and trade undertaken by small-scale fisheries provide a food safety net for the most deprived people.

In this respect, Africa’s population is characterized by a heavy dependence on small-scale fisheries. Millions of people including many women derive most of their livelihoods from this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The event that has brought us together this morning, aimed at the development of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa through the development of a regional plan of action for implementing the guidelines, is of major concern for His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic, who has rightly placed fisheries and aquaculture in the forefront of the Emergent Senegal Plan, a unique reference framework.

The impact of fisheries on the economy of our country is significant. That is why the sector is accorded a significant allocation in the GDP as it constitutes an important tool of economic growth.

Likewise, for many African countries, if not the majority, the fisheries sectors, especially small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, are important factors in national economies where they make a substantial contribution to macroeconomic equilibrium.

The fisheries sector contributes in diverse ways to national economies.

In addition to providing food, the production of capture fisheries and aquaculture contributes to GDP, ensures the livelihood of fishers and those engaged in fish processing, is a source of hard currency (through export of fishery products), and increases public revenues through fisheries agreements and taxes.

Thus, for this growth to be enhanced it is necessary to support the small-scale fisheries sector for it to contribute to poverty reduction, as well as food and nutritional security.

In this context, it is reassuring to note that the international community has shown its increasing recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Invited Guests,

This recognition is evidenced by the adoption by the FAO Members, during the Committee on Fisheries meeting in June 2014, of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

There is also every reason to be pleased about the commitment of the African Union to reform fisheries and aquaculture in Africa and the recent adoption of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

For all these reasons, the initiative of FAO and the Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources to organize this important event, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission and the FIRST programme, has come at the right moment to offer the Member States of the African Union and development partners the opportunity to set out the challenges and actions needed to unleash the potential of small-scale fisheries which, in my opinion, among other challenges to be addressed, are able to deal with the non-exhaustive constraints previously identified.

For Senegal, the ambitions of the State concerning small-scale fisheries are great and require the commitment of all. To that end, the Government of Senegal will pay keen attention to your conclusions.

To conclude, dear participants, I urge you to accord the necessary attention to the work to be done over the next three days and participate actively in the deliberations the outcome of which, I've no doubt, will be of great benefit to the actors of the fisheries sector in general, and in particular to African small-scale fisheries communities.

While wishing you a successful consultation, I declare open the regional consultation for the development of a regional small-scale fisheries action plan for the implementation of the guidelines for sustainable small-scale fisheries.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Ndiaga Gueye, Senior Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa

It is a great pleasure to address you all today and welcome you on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) here in Senegal to the “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework”. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our partners ECOWAS and CECAF for joining forces in the organization of this event.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, also known as the SSF Guidelines, were endorsed by COFI in 2014. They provide the first dedicated international instrument that deals specifically with small-scale fisheries. Furthermore, the SSF Guidelines are also the first negotiated instrument that fully explores the social and economic aspects of fisheries governance.

We now have these SSF Guidelines thanks to the efforts and collaboration of more than 4 000 stakeholders, from fishers to ministers, including from this region. The SSF Guidelines were developed following the same principles that they advocate – participation, collaboration and empowerment. Some of you in the room here likely participated in that process!

It is now high time to use these SSF Guidelines to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and poverty eradication.

Dear colleagues,

If the ultimate responsibility to implement the SSF Guidelines lies with states and governments at all levels, the support and collaboration of fishers’ and fishworkers’ organizations along with civil society organizations, NGOs, academics and researchers, regional organizations, international organizations and other fisheries actors remain of critical importance.

A successful and effective level of implementation will be only achieved when governments and non-state actors constructively collaborate at all levels. FAO remains committed to supporting efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional level, in the context of the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

This consultation will also be valuable in providing recommendations for the 5th Session of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group taking place later this week.

I am looking forward to fruitful discussions over the coming three days.

Thank you all for your attention – I wish you a successful consultation!

ANNEX 2

Consultation agenda

DAY 1: 23 JULY 2018

AGENDA ITEM	
Registration	
Introductory session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address Overview of consultation objectives, expected outputs and <i>modus operandi</i> (FAO) 	FAO, Senegal FAO
Introduction of participants	
<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>	
Video: Introduction to the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)	
Towards implementation of the SSF Guidelines: summary of key initiatives	FAO
A regional perspective on small-scale fisheries: African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, the small-scale fisheries action plan, and the Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group of the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)	IBAR
Contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food and nutrition security in West Africa: the place and role of artisanal fisheries	Sidibé Aboubacar, FAO/ ECOWAS
Introduction to the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Ndiaga Gueye, FAO
Questions and answers	
<i>Lunch</i>	
Small-scale fisheries in the region	Djiga Thiao, Consultant
Questions and answers	
Introduction to working groups	FAO
Working groups Session 1: Agreeing on priorities	
<i>Coffee break</i>	
Working groups – Session 1 (cont.)	
<i>Closure of the day</i>	

DAY 2: 24 JULY 2018

AGENDA ITEM	
Summary of Day 1 and introduction to Day 2	FAO
Reporting back from working group Session 1 and discussion	
<i>Coffee break</i>	
Women in African small-scale fisheries: importance and challenges	Nedwa Nech, Mauritania 2000; Micheline Dion, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, Côte d'Ivoire
Relevance of the VGGT and the SSF Guidelines for improving equity and sustainability in Ghana's fisheries sector	Peter Kuusaana, Environmental Justice Foundation
Overview of CAOPA-led initiatives in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines	Gaoussou Gueye, African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organizations (CAOPA)
The national process to implement the SSF Guidelines in Senegal	El hadji Abdoulaye Coume, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Senegal
Strengthening the voice of small-scale fisheries: West African Non-State Actor Platform	Moussa Mbengue, General Secretary, West African Non-State Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSFAFA)
Working groups Session 2: Sharing good practices	
<i>Lunch</i>	
Working groups – Session 2 (cont.)	
<i>Coffee break</i>	
Reporting back from working group Session 2 and discussion	
<i>Closure of the day</i>	

DAY 3: 25 JULY 2018

AGENDA ITEM	
Brief summary of Day 2 and introduction to Day 3	FAO
Selected FAO activities in the region	Shirin Wertime, FAO
Small-scale fisheries in Morocco	Mustapha Oumarous, INRH
Small-scale fisheries in Equatorial Guinea and their contribution to economic diversification and food security	Ricardo Dominguez, FAO
Working groups Session 3: Providing elements for national and regional implementation planning	
<i>Coffee break</i>	
Working groups – Session 3 (cont.)	
Reporting back from working group Session 3 and discussion	
<i>Lunch</i>	
Summary conclusions and recommendations, and the way forward	
Closing session	

ANNEX 3

Working group composition

<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Facilitator: Sidibé Aboubakar/ Shirin Wertime</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Facilitator: Nicole Franz/Hillary Smith</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Room #312 ENGLISH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Value chains, post-harvest and trade</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Facilitator: Ndiaga Gueye/ Lena Westlund</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Room #314</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gaoussou GUEYE 2. Djibi Moussa GUEYE 3. Inulta INCOM 4. Jean Edgard MIKOLLO 5. Jean Pierre KAPALAY MABWE 6. Judit NFONO 7. Karifa CAMARA 8. Khady Sané DIOUF 9. Kossi AHOEDO 10. Mady DIAGNE 11. Malam DABO 12. Papa Gora NDIAYE 13. Paulin KASEMBE KAD-SWAM 14. Samba GUEYE 15. Sid'Ahmed ABEID 16. Sidiya DIOUF 17. Silvie SOMBIYA 18. Virginia GODINHO DE CARVALHO 19. Joseph Achille YEPKA 20. Emile ESSEMA 21. Aboubacar BANGOURA 22. Irani Maia PEREIRA 23. Mustapha OUMAROUS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abdul Mamoud KOROMA 2. Carlos MONTERO 3. Dawda Foday SAINE 4. Fatou CAMARA 5. Jean Auguste Barthélémy BATIENO 6. Jerry BLAMO 7. Kofi AGBOGAH 8. Nedwa Mochtar NECH 9. Nina Kristin SNYDER 10. Peter Carnicius KUUSAANA 11. Séraphin DEDI NADJE 12. Aliou SALL 13. J. Nicholas NIEPY 14. Joseph YOUNBI 15. Momodou SIDIBEH 16. Nana Jojo SOLOMON 17. Shehu Latunji AKINTOLA 18. Vida Samantha ODEI 19. John O. BABATUNDE 20. Lukman Adegoke AGBABIAKA 21. Jesus Angel ROPO 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abdoulaye KONTAO 2. Ablaye NDIAYE 3. Alassane SAMBA 4. Alhaji Lamin DABOH 5. Ali BOUALI 6. Arnaud-Pierre APPRIOU 7. Augustin Yao AMOUSSOUGBO 8. Bakayoko MAMADOU 9. Fofana BINA 10. Christian A.H. ADJE 11. Diaba DIOP 12. El Hadji Daouda Wane GUEYE 13. Emilio SANCHEZ 14. Moussa MBENGUE 15. Ricardo DOMINGUES LLOSA 16. Micheline Sompléhi DION 17. Kaba ABOUBACAR 18. Kadiatou BANGOURA 19. Djiga THIAM

ANNEX 4

Working group results

GROUP 1: GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sessions 1 and 2

Issue	Objective	Ongoing initiatives/good practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor collaboration between states and fishing communities to guarantee equitable access to fishery resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen collaboration and coordination between states and fishing communities to ensure equitable access to fishery resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Consultative Council to ensure equitable access to resources Fisheries Resources Development Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak involvement of fishers and their communities in the management of fisheries resources relevant to data collection and exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement capacity-strengthening measures for data collection by small-scale fishers and their organizations 	No practical experience in data collection on the part of small-scale fisheries communities (auction room in Morocco)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak/absent implementation of land tenure system applicable to small-scale fisheries in regulatory and legislative instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update regulatory and legislative instruments of the country relevant to the tenure system of the small-scale fisheries sector and strengthen government capacities to operationalize its implementation 	No experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of consultation with fishing communities in the formulation of development projects having an impact on the fisheries sector; lack of adequate support measures (compensation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with fishing communities in the formulation of projects having an impact on small-scale fisheries and take into account their priorities 	No experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor adjustment of fishing capacity to match productivity of fishery resources in order to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish equilibrium between fishing capacity and productivity of fishery resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-transferable quota management system in relation to the productivity of the resource (Morocco, Mauritania) Stoppage of the exploitation of the resource to regenerate the stock of “capitaine” freshwater fish (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Biological rest period to help regenerate the resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of conformity between the application of financial measures and fishery resources management objectives indicated in legislative instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the application of financial measures for optimization of their use to meet sustainability objectives 	Existence of financial measures for the optimization of their use to meet fishery resource sustainability objectives in favour of small-scale fisheries (fishing agreements)

GROUP 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK AND GENDER EQUALITY

Sessions 1 and 2

Issue 1: Competition over space

- Insufficient recognition of the status of small-scale fisheries
- Human rights-based approach; protection of user rights

Objective: Partner with small-scale fisheries in decision-making concerning the use of marine space

Good practices:

- Participatory mapping through open source software à objective to get sites recognized formally (national and regional level)
- Local dispute resolution mechanism to resolve conflict between small-scale fisheries and other users (e.g. Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia)
- Maritime prefectures as institutions that represent all relevant government entities
- Ecosystem approach to fisheries – stakeholder analysis as a tool for inclusive processes, including co-management
- Inclusion of women in decision-making/fisheries management processes
- Celebration of World Fisheries Day

Issue 2: Small-scale fisheries communities **not climate-resilient**

Objective: Maintain healthy and productive marine environment and ecosystem; also, promote economic benefits and food security

Good practices:

- Mangrove forest restoration (e.g. oyster string culture to avoid cutting mangroves – the Gambia)
- Weather information for small-scale fisheries (Monitoring for Environmental Security in Africa – MESA) region-wide programme
- Improved technology for smoking fish (e.g. use of kilns to improve efficiency)
- Impact studies of climate change on fisheries and resilience of local communities
- Improving waste management to reduce pollution
- Equipping landing sites to assist emergency response team in case of accidents at sea
- Equipping boats with transponders to facilitate tracking in case of emergency

Issue 3: Enhancing the lives of **migrating fishers**

- Alternative livelihoods
- Social amenities
- Improved landing sites
- No regional mechanism that facilitates migration and protects migrating workers
- Need to educate and raise awareness about access rights

Objective: Decrease pressure on the fish resource

- Support from regional bodies

Good practices:

- Seasonal diversification into other sectors to stabilize incomes
 - Tourism and aquaculture
 - Skills development (e.g. soap making, mat weaving)

- Public investment in landing sites in some countries
- Existing studies on root causes of migration
- Migration to stimulate intraregional trade and fish consumption

Issue 4: Need for access to information (e.g. in relation to **safety at sea**, trade rules, etc.); small-scale fisheries need to be informed about regulations and rules

Objective: Provide information available in local languages, and in simplified versions

Good practices:

- Fisheries Transparency Initiative: multistakeholder groups to ensure transparency in fisheries (e.g. Gambia, Mauritania, Guinea)
- Too Big To Ignore: information system about small-scale fisheries for researchers and other partners
- Law for freedom of access to information (e.g. Liberia), with information available online
- Translation of laws and regulations into local languages (e.g. Ghana)
- Training of network of journalists in fisheries (national and regional level)

Issue 5: Access to financial services, savings and social protection, in particular for women and youth, is a challenge; lack of awareness of the contribution of the sector in order to attract support

Objective: Enable small-business development, in particular for women, with better handling practices and improved products also for global value chains; provide access to innovation and technology

Good practices:

- Access to low-interest commercial/public bank loans (e.g. Nigeria, Liberia, Gambia)
- Community/cooperative credit and insurance schemes (e.g. Senegal, Gambia)
- Landing beach committees selling fuel and investing profits in community services (e.g. toilets) (Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana) contributes to status of small-scale fisheries communities
- Mobile phone money transfers have improved security, as less cash is carried around
- Fisher pension plan and insurance through mobile wallets, also for use during closed seasons (e.g. Ghana); also, free fisher-to-fisher communication and weather information

Group 3: Value chains, post-harvest and trade

1. Lack of adequate investments

1.1

- Improving technologies and infrastructures
- Planning and development of landing and processing sites
- Participatory feasibility study including a development plan
- Establishment of improved stoves
- Plastic fermentation trays
- Solar drying racks
- Integrated processing sites (technical and social infrastructure)
- Co-management of infrastructure based on diverse models
- Formalization of management conditions (contract, agreement, etc.)
- Payment of user fees for infrastructure whose amounts are negotiated with professionals

- 1.2 Disseminate and share good practices
 - Dissemination of good practices in local languages
 - Exchange visits to share experiences
 - Communication through aids and channels adapted to targets
- 1.3 Strengthen organizational capacities
 - Training in community life, including holding meetings
 - Development of a capacity-strengthening strategy
 - Training in financial management for women's cooperatives with illustrated aids
 - Co-production and restoration of training modules with women processors and traders
 - Establishment of processing sites by management committees
- 1.4 Strengthening the leadership of women
 - Training of women trainers
 - Organization of meetings of women leaders during International Women's Day
 - Training of women leaders in communication and advocacy
2. Too many post-harvest losses and low added value
 - 2.1
 - Improving incomes
 - Training in handling techniques for fishery products to respect standards
 - Training of women processors in making new products
 - 2.2
 - Reducing environmental impact
 - Use of improved ovens or stoves
 - Use of solar dryers
3. Low participation in decision-making by actors engaged in post-harvest activities, especially vulnerable or marginalized groups
 - 3.1
 - Increasing the participation of vulnerable or marginalized groups in the decision-making process
 - Application of gender parity in decision-making bodies
 - 3.2 Strengthening the capacities of vulnerable or marginalized groups

Session 3

Group 1

Issue/objective	Proposed action (including by whom)		
	Regional	National	Funding
Strengthening collaboration and coordination between states and fishing communities to guarantee equitable access to fishery resources	Monitor the implementation of recommendations and decisions of the CECAF working group at level of subregional fisheries organizations	Monitor the implementation of recommendations and decisions of the CECAF working group at level of subregional fisheries organizations Strengthen capacities for implementation of development plans Create/operationalize joint consultative councils	State, socioprofessional organizations Technical and financial partners, donors
Implementation of measures to strengthen data collection capacities with small-scale fisheries communities and their organizations		Strengthen the capacities of small-scale fisheries communities in data collection	State, fishing communities Technical partners
Updating of regulatory and legislative instruments of the country concerning the tenure system of the small-scale fisheries sector and strengthening government capacities for its operationalization	Harmonize regulatory and legislative instruments	Strengthen the capacities of government and fishing communities Update existing regulatory and legislative instruments	State Technical and financial partners
Create dialogue with fishing communities in the formulation of projects having an effect on small-scale fisheries, and take their priorities into account	Consult regional socioprofessional organizations	Organize workshops for consultation and sharing of information with fishing communities and socioprofessional organizations during the formulation of development projects Strengthen the commission which addresses the concerns of fishing communities	State Technical and financial partners
Balancing fishing capacity in relation to productivity of fishery resources	Formulate development plans on shared stocks Evaluate shared stocks and apply quota system by country	Formulate development plans	State Technical and financial partners
Reviewing the application of financial measures to optimize their use in order to achieve sustainability objectives			

Group 2

Issue/objective	Proposed action at regional level (by whom)	Proposed action at national level (by whom)
Competition over space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct participatory mapping of small-scale fishing sites (land and water) – spatial planning (government, small-scale fisheries communities, regional organizations), inland and marine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct participatory mapping of small-scale fishing sites (land and water) – spatial planning (government at all levels, small-scale fisheries communities, CSOs, NGOs), inland and marine • Share participatory mapping reports with governments at appropriate level (e.g. district administration, development planning commission, Parliamentarians) to adapt regulatory framework to support small-scale
Climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sector-specific regional climate change adaptation plans (governments, regional organizations, communities) • Conduct FAO training on emergency response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct national review of climate change impacts on small-scale fisheries (government, partners) • Develop sector-specific national climate change adaptation plans (government, communities) • Raise awareness on climate change • Provide FAO training
Provision of alternative livelihoods, social amenities and improved landing sites, in order to reduce fisher migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and share good practices on alternative livelihoods (regional organizations, NGOs) • Organize exchange visits • Document migrant activities and cross-border activities, such as fish trade (regional organizations) • Develop/implement specific protocols to facilitate intraregional trade for fisheries (goods, people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct explorative survey of alternative livelihood options (CSOs, research institutes) • Provide information and training on accessing alternative/diversified livelihood options (CSOs, NGOs, governments) • Develop aquaculture as an alternative livelihood
Need for access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have regional organizations partner with TBTI for better information sharing • Have governments engage with CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group on data collection and analysis • Sign Memorandums of Understanding between governments to share information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate SSF Guidelines into local languages (CSOs, NGOs, FAO offices) • Prepare simplified versions of the SSF Guidelines (e.g. video, illustrations) and conduct related advocacy campaign for different target audiences (state actors, NGOs, small-scale fisheries organizations/CSOs) • Have national governments partner with TBTI • Promote free access to information (governments) • Governments should join FiTi and share related information

Group 2 (Continued)

Issue/objective	Proposed action at regional level (by whom)	Proposed action at national level (by whom)
Access to financial services, savings and social protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share good practices about different available systems that provide access to financial services (WANSAFA, regional organizations) • Strengthen/train cooperatives / small-scale fisheries organizations in relation to financial services (WANSAFA, regional organizations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage cooperatives as collateral to facilitate access to loans / financial services (e.g. anchor borrower programme)
Who	What	
All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back on outcomes of the meeting to governments, including on recommended actions • Disseminate information about the SSF Guidelines as well as related good practices • Each participant to act as champion for the SSF Guidelines, identifying opportunities for implementation in the context of the PFRS • Upscale good practices in the region • Advocate for small-scale fisheries at the highest level 	
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare requests for support to small-scale fisheries for development partners • Ensure that access agreements do not harm small-scale fisheries; provide protection mechanisms 	
CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and collect socio-economic data on small-scale fisheries to improve sector's visibility • Compile and collect environmental data relevant to small-scale fisheries • Follow a transdisciplinary approach 	
AU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement PFRS in relation to small-scale fisheries • Allocate specific funding to small-scale fisheries development 	
Regional organizations like FCWC/SRFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate in support of small-scale fisheries in the subregion • Collaborate with development partners to develop small-scale fisheries projects and management plans • Develop research capacity of national members in relation to environmental, governance aspects • Develop capacity on SDG 14.b/relevant SDGs – ocean/coastal management and inland fisheries 	
WANSAFA/CAOPA/WADAF/PRCM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize advocacy/capacity development activities (e.g. World Fisheries Day celebrations), also with regional organizations 	
African Development Bank / development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specific funding lines in support of small-scale fisheries in development agencies • Ensure that all projects take into account the SSF Guidelines as criteria for funding approval (including for non-fisheries projects) 	

Group 3

Objective	Action at national level	Responsible parties	Action at regional level	Responsible parties	Funding
Improve technologies and infrastructure	1- Make an inventory of small-scale fisheries actors and infrastructure (processing and conservation sites), fish marketing centre 2- Construct integrated centres for fish processing and marketing	<u>Government</u> , local authorities, NGOs, professional organizations	Coordination of: - inventories in each member country - construction of integrated centres	CECAF	Government, Development partners (Project Task Force – PTF), Regional Economic Organizations (REOs)
Disseminate and share good practices	1- Develop national support systems 2- Disseminate good practices	Government, local authorities, <u>NGOs</u> , professional organizations	Document good practices	FAO/CECAF, regional and subregional organizations	Government, PTF, REOs
Strengthen organizational capacities	Develop and implement training modules for organizations	<u>NGOs</u> , experts, SSF organizations	Coordination	CECAF	Government, PTF, REOs
Improve incomes	Master and apply quality standards for products	<u>Government</u> , NGOs, experts, SSF organizations	Improve the free movement of fishery products at the regional level	Subregional organizations	Government, PTF
Strengthen the capacities of vulnerable or marginalized groups					REOs
Strengthen women's leadership					

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants

Report back on outcomes of the workshop to colleagues

Governments

Take into account the outcomes of the workshop in policies and strategies

Better recognition of the role and place of women in small-scale fisheries and of their contribution to development

Better involvement of professional organizations and NGOs in decision-making

OPPA

Report back on workshop outcomes to colleagues

NGOs

Report back on workshop outcomes to colleagues

Regional and subregional organizations

Improve the coordination of actions at regional and subregional levels

FAO

Continue and strengthen efforts to implement the SSF guidelines

ANNEX 5

Conclusions and recommendations

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE

“WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR DEVELOPING A REGIONAL SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION (SSF GUIDELINES) WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION POLICY FRAMEWORK”

Dakar, Senegal
23–25 July 2018

INTRODUCTION

The “West and Central Africa Regional Consultation for developing a regional small-scale fisheries action plan to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) within the African Union policy framework” was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 23–25 July 2018. It was convened by FAO for the West and Central African coastal member countries of CECAF, in collaboration with ECOWAS, the FIRST programme, and IBAR of the African Union.

The consultation was attended by 70 participants including representatives of 19 governments and the EU, regional and international organizations, fisherfolk organizations, NGOs, academia and other relevant actors.

The objectives of the consultation were to raise awareness of the important role of the small-scale fisheries sector and how this is addressed in the AU PFRS, the ECOWAS regional fisheries and aquaculture policy (under development with support from the FIRST programme), and the SSF Guidelines. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences and identify actions needed to support and promote small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region.

Accordingly, the expected outputs of the consultation were as follows:

- Increased understanding among participants of the status and importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and of the relevant policy frameworks: the SSF Guidelines, the AU PFRS and the ECOWAS regional policy formulation in the context of the FIRST programme;
- Identification of priorities and actions, including potential resources and modalities, for the implementation of a regional action plan for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries within the framework of the regional policy and the SSF Guidelines;
- Sharing of lessons learned and experiences from past and ongoing initiatives relevant to small-scale fisheries governance and development;
- Recommendations developed for the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group and the Small-Scale Fisheries Working Group of the AFRM.

During the three-day consultation, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through thematic presentations, and discussed elements of a regional plan of action to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, in support of existing regional frameworks.

The consultation noted that small-scale fisheries are of major socio-economic importance in the region, with some variations from one country to another. Small-scale fisheries constitute a dynamic and diverse sector, one that uses different gear types and targets different species. In this case small pelagic species are particularly important in most countries in terms of food security and nutrition. The consultation stressed the need for accessible and affordable fish products in order to ensure food security in coastal areas and in the interior, as well as in landlocked countries. There is also growing competition over marine and coastal space by other sectors (e.g. oil and gas extraction) and actors (e.g. fishmeal industry).

Co-management, and hence more participatory decision-making, is becoming more common in the region. Women play an important role, but they are not always involved in decision-making. The consultation noted the need to include socio-economic aspects in fisheries management. The lack of data on small-scale fisheries, in particular on socio-economic dimensions, is a challenge that needs to be addressed in this context, including through the involvement of small-scale fisheries actors. It was also noted that despite existing supportive frameworks, regional fish trade is often hampered in practice. Existing regional frameworks and initiatives were recognized such as the PFRS (which specifically includes the implementation of the SSF Guidelines) and the ECOWAS FIRST programme. At the same time, the consultation called for better communication and coordination of regional policies and strategies among different regional organizations and actors.

OUTCOMES OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Key priority areas to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes proposed by the consultation included:

Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

- There is a need to *strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between states as well as fishing communities* in order to guarantee equitable access to fishery resources. Ways of doing this include having consultative councils or committees and fisheries management plans, which should be developed in close consultation with small-scale fisheries actors. CEEAC has an important role to play at the regional level and the implementation of CEEAC recommendations should be monitored.
- *Fishers and fishing communities are often not involved in the collection and use of data.* The capacity of fishers and their organizations to collect data should be strengthened, for example with guides and manuals adapted specifically for small-scale fishers.
- *Tenure legislation relevant to small-scale fisheries is often missing or not applied.* Regulations generally need to be updated and harmonized across the region; moreover, the capacity of governments to operationalize tenure legislation should be strengthened. Likewise, fishing communities and small-scale fisheries organizations need support to strengthen their access to and understanding of legislation.
- *Development projects affecting the small-scale fisheries sector are often carried out without the involvement of fishers and their communities.* These groups should be consulted and their priorities should be taken into consideration. Commissions or committees in charge of small-scale fisheries issues, where they exist, should be strengthened.
- There is a *mismatch between existing fishing capacity and the productivity of the fishery resources* available to small-scale fisheries. Fishing production needs to be reduced in order to ensure a sustainable use of resources. Management measures

currently used in countries in the region include quotas, closure of fisheries to allow stocks to recover, and closed seasons. Stock assessments of shared resources should be carried out and management plans developed and implemented accordingly.

Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)

- *Small-scale fisheries face competition in the spaces where they operate* due to tourism development, oil/gas exploration, MPAs and industrial fisheries. This arises from the lack of socio-economic considerations in marine spatial planning and impact assessments, as well as the lack of status of the small-scale fisheries sector. A human rights-based approach is therefore needed to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries. Participatory mapping of small-scale fisheries sites should be conducted and should inform policies and regulatory frameworks.
- *The adaptive capacity of small-scale fisheries in relation to climate change* needs to be strengthened. The erosion of coastal areas is recurrent in the region; fisheries have a high level of adaptive capacity compared to industrial fisheries, and this should be further developed. Climate change impact assessments on small-scale fisheries should be conducted to inform the development of specific adaptation plans.
- *Better access to alternative livelihoods, social amenities and improved landing sites* should be provided to stabilize local communities and reduce incentives to migrate. There is currently no regional mechanism that facilitates migration and protects migrating workers. At the regional level, migrant activities, including cross-border trade, should be documented, and specific protocols for intraregional trade of fish products should be developed or implemented. Explorative surveys on alternative livelihoods should be conducted, and good practices should be documented and shared, with related training provided as well.
- *Access to information for small-scale fisheries* (e.g. in relation to safety-at-sea issues, trade rules, regulations and rights) is of fundamental importance to support sustainable small-scale fisheries. Information should be provided in local languages, using simplified versions, videos, etc. targeted at different audiences and disseminated through related advocacy campaigns. Governments should partner with TBTI, join FiTI and sign Memorandums of Understanding to share information about small-scale fisheries in the region.
- *Access to financial services, savings and social protection*, in particular for women and youth, is often a challenge for small-scale fishing communities in the region. A reason for this is the lack of awareness of the contribution of the sector. There is hence a need to provide these services as well as innovation and technology to enable small business development, better handling practices, improved products and access to markets. Good practices should be shared across the region and small-scale fisheries organizations' capacities in providing/accessing financial services need to be strengthened.

Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

- In the post-harvest sector, there is a need for *investments in appropriate infrastructures and technologies*. Good practices exist in several countries in the region with regard to integrated centres for fish processing and marketing, which include both technical and social infrastructure (e.g. child care facilities). When planning such infrastructure investments, it is crucial to consult with the future users and those who will manage the centre to ensure that the facilities are appropriate and that there are already plans for management and maintenance from the outset. However, first it is recommended that a baseline study be carried

out at the national level to get a better understanding of the needs and to establish what already exists.

- *Value chain actor organizations require capacity development* to allow for their enhanced participation in decision-making processes as well as in the management of infrastructure and facilities mentioned above. Initiatives should have a special focus on women – as they are the main actors in the post-harvest sector – and include, among other things, leadership training and sharing of good practices, both through guides and exchange visits. Some training material already exists in some countries and with some organizations; building on this, training modules that are adapted to local needs should be developed and implemented.
- *Post-harvest losses and waste need to be addressed* and efforts made to increase value added. This will lead to both increased earnings of post-harvest workers and reduced negative impacts on the environment. There is also a need to improve and facilitate regional trade and promote the use of post-harvest practices that comply with existing relevant sanitary and quality standards.
- *Post-harvest actors, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as women and youth, are rarely part of fisheries decision-making processes.* This requires capacity development for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Small-scale fisheries organizations – at local, national, regional and international levels – should ensure that their decision-making processes are gender-balanced and that men and women have equal opportunities to make their voices heard.

Climate change and disaster risks (Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) were considered throughout the discussions as cross-cutting issues.

NEXT STEPS

Concrete mechanisms, including tools, are needed to implement the SSF Guidelines in the context of existing relevant regional frameworks, policies and initiatives. This also requires collaboration, funding and support from governments, regional organizations, small-scale fisheries organizations and other technical and financial partners. Accordingly, the consultation identified the following next steps:

- *Consultation participants* should report on the outcomes and recommended actions of the meeting to governments, colleagues and partners. They should also identify other opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the SSF Guidelines and related good practices in the context of the PFRS and act as champions for the SSF Guidelines at relevant meetings and events. Moreover, in general they should advocate for small-scale fisheries at the highest levels and encourage the upscaling of good practices.
- *Governments* should consider the outcomes of the consultation in their relevant policies and strategies, and ensure the inclusion of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making processes. They should present requests for support to small-scale fisheries to development partners. Moreover, governments should prioritize increased support to small-scale fisheries, including in regular budget provisions, in line with their commitment to implementing the SSF Guidelines and the pan-African reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. In addition, they should ensure that access agreements do not harm small-scale fisheries. Finally, governments should better recognize the role of women in small-scale fisheries and overall development.
- *Regional Economic Communities* should support the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in their food security and poverty reduction strategies.
- The consultation results should be presented at the forthcoming 5th session of the *CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group* on 26–27 July 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. Using a transdisciplinary approach, the Working Group should compile, collect

and analyse socio-economic and environmental data on small-scale fisheries to improve the sector's visibility. CEECAF should also establish a Web site for information sharing.

- The *AU* should continue to advance the implementation of the policy objective of the PFRS in relation to small-scale fisheries, and allocate specific funding to small-scale fisheries development.
- *Regional organizations (e.g. FCWC, SRFC, COREP)* should advocate in support of small-scale fisheries in the subregions, and collaborate with development partners to develop small-scale fisheries projects and management plans. In addition, they should develop the research capacity of national members in relation to environmental and governance aspects of small-scale fisheries, and also provide capacity development on relevant SDGs, in particular SDG14.b, to support sustainable ocean/coastal management and inland fisheries. In general, these organizations should further improve their coordination at the regional and subregional level.
- *CAOPA/WANSAF/WADAF/PRCM* should share the outcomes of the consultation with their members and organize advocacy/capacity development in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation (e.g. during World Fisheries Day celebrations) in partnership with regional organizations and others.
- *Development partners* should consider the outcomes of the regional consultation and provide specific funding lines in support of small-scale fisheries. They should also ensure that all projects relevant for small-scale fisheries take into account the SSF Guidelines as criteria for approval of funding (including for non-fisheries projects).
- *FAO* should continue to provide support to efforts to implement the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional level, in the context of the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. FAO has been invited to organize a similar event on inland fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the continental level.

Dakar, Senegal, 25 July 2018

ANNEX 6

Background paper

ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ELEMENTS FOR THE ACTION PLAN OF THE CECAF ARTISANAL FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

Summary document

Prepared by

Djiga Thiao

July 2018

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Executive summary

In the CECAF region, small-scale fisheries have a significant socio-economic importance whose impact varies from one country to another. However, the lack of detailed and reliable data makes it very difficult to make a complete assessment of all aspects of this sector within the region.

Small-scale fisheries, which form part of the culture of certain coastal communities, are the main (and sometimes only) source of food for the people of the region. These fisheries also create employment, from a few thousand jobs in some countries (Benin, Togo, Democratic Republic of the Congo) to over one million jobs in Nigeria. Beyond fisheries, the post-harvest sectors (processing and marketing), where women are predominant, are also crucial for the reduction of unemployment and poverty. The contribution to GDP is not known. A study by FAO¹ shows that small-scale fisheries contribute significantly to the GDP of some countries (Ghana, Mauritania and Sierra Leone), but this contribution is difficult to estimate. For certain countries (Gambia, Senegal and Togo), this contribution is mainly supported by the post-harvest sectors. The income generated is substantial with a commercial value of several hundreds of millions of euros.

Fishing activities are quite heterogeneous from one country to another. While in Nigeria and Senegal the size of the fishing fleet exceeds 10 000 canoes, for countries like Togo it hardly amounts to 500 units. There is a wide variety of fishing gear, but the most used are hooks and line, gillnet, fixed gillnet and purse seine. Catches vary, from the low tens of thousands of tonnes in most countries to around 400 000 tonnes in Ghana, Senegal and Mauritania, and up to 800 000 tonnes in Nigeria. With a predominance of small pelagics, the artisanal catches often constitute more than 80 percent of total production for most countries. However, the recent trend is one of stable production, and even reduced production in certain countries.

The usage of fishery resources is mainly regulated by fisheries acts and their implementing texts. These legal-regulatory instruments govern the activities of artisanal and industrial fisheries. Almost all countries also have documents which define their fisheries strategy and policy. There are also specific documents on land tenure which cover coastal and maritime areas. Access to resources is often subject to the payment of fees for fishing licenses or permits, but in practice the application of these is problematic. There are also mechanisms for regulating access to fishing resources, such as development plans and MPAs.

The institutional responsibility for the sector rests with the ministry or national authority in charge of fisheries in each country. However, with the general orientation favouring co-management, fishers and other workers participate in decision-making through their associations, although the level of participation is highly varied depending on the country. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo it is non-existent; in Equatorial Guinea, it is limited to the delivery of information; in Senegal, it is limited to concessions for the management of fisheries infrastructure; and for most countries, it is limited to consultation in the formulation of policies and laws. Women are involved through the associations as well, but their role varies from one country to another depending on the level of promotion of gender equality.

In the CECAF region, small-scale fisheries are faced with numerous risks linked to climate change. Among the most worrying are coastal erosion and rising temperatures.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3917e.pdf>

These phenomena could lead to the destruction of ecological habitats, homes and infrastructure, as well as scarcity of resources and impoverishment of fishers.

In general, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines has been rather limited, due mainly to the slow pace of operationalization. The implementation process is still in its early stages, and is only now being incorporated into legal and regulatory instruments and into strategic fisheries management and development documents. Several regional and subregional organizations could play a major role in this respect. These include *inter alia* the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), the Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), the Subregional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Professional Organizations (CAOPA), and the West African Association for Development of Small-Scale Fisheries (WADAF). The AU has already incorporated the SSF Guidelines into its policy framework and has developed an action plan. CAOPA has also developed initiatives in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal in accordance with its commitment made during the Our Ocean Conference in 2017.

The main success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are political will on the part of states and the involvement of professional organizations in the CECAF region. The international context is also highly favourable, with regard for example to the SDO 14.b relating to small-scale fisheries² and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, declared by the United Nations in 2016.³ The main limiting factors are the poor dissemination of the SSF Guidelines, the lack of action plans and the inadequate financial resources. There are very few ongoing or planned initiatives specifically devoted to the implementation of the Guidelines.

In almost all countries of the region, the development prospects for small-scale fisheries are in line with the desire to maintain or enhance their socio-economic importance. Thus states, in collaboration with their partners, intend to make small-scale fisheries one of the pillars of food security, employment and economic growth. Future efforts will focus on regulation, organization and modernization of the sector in order to improve its performance while ensuring its sustainability.

Considering the current situation in the region, there are still major challenges to be addressed for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the improvement of relevant data and knowledge. Thus a series of key options and elements are proposed in this document in order to develop the future work plan of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group. What remains is to discuss and define the appropriate mechanisms for arriving at a final, complete and structured work plan.

² <http://www.fao.org/3/b-i7298f.pdf>

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr951f.pdf>

Introduction

Small-scale fisheries play a major role in food security and poverty reduction in developing countries, and particularly in African countries. In Africa, it is estimated that over 7.5 million men and 2.3 million women are actively involved in small-scale fisheries, in turn providing income to millions of families.⁴ In addition, small-scale fisheries account for more than half of the total contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to the GDP of all African countries. Small-scale fisheries also constitute a major source of animal protein, fatty acids, vitamins and cheap minerals, and thus contribute substantially to food security.

The importance of small-scale fisheries in terms of employment, food security and economic growth is increasingly being recognized by decision-makers in Africa. There is a general awareness of the need to implement specific policies for the sustainable development of this sector while fostering the promotion of social well-being. This is notably the case for West and Central Africa where small-scale fisheries play a vital role for millions of people. Thus, the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries is an integral part of the AU PFRS of 2014. To that end, a ten-year action plan for the development of small-scale fisheries in Africa was formulated in 2017. At the subregional level, ECOWAS pays particular attention to fisheries as part of the FIRST programme.

The recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries has been strengthened through the adoption, in June 2014, of the SSF Guidelines to ensure the sustainability of this sector in the context of food security and eradication of poverty. As a sustainable fisheries management instrument, the Guidelines complement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. They are designed to raise awareness and promote small-scale fisheries as well as to contribute to international initiatives to eliminate hunger and poverty. However, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines constitutes a major challenge. This is why FAO, which since 2015 has already supported consultation workshops for awareness raising and planning of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in other parts of the world (Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, Near East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean), has decided to provide support for West and Central Africa. For this reason a regional consultation workshop is proposed for coastal countries in the region and members of CECAF to decide the necessary actions to be taken to establish sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of regional and international policy frameworks. This consultation will be followed by a meeting of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group.

This document is intended to facilitate discussions during these two events. It focuses on two major aspects. First, it gives an overview of small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region based on existing information and data. Then it enumerates the key options/elements to be included in the future work plan of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group.

4 <http://www.caopa-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Voix-de-la-Pêche-Artisanale-Africaine.pdf>

1. Methodological approach

1.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review constitutes a major component of this study. It consists in collecting and using documentation on small-scale fisheries and the state of implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the CECAF region. Various references have been examined. These mainly comprise technical documents, study reports, administrative and regulatory texts, institutional documents, project documents and technical reports. Most of the documents used were obtained through research online, although some essential documents were provided by FAO.

1.2 COLLECTION OF BASIC DATA

1.2.1 Collection of quantitative data

The collection of quantitative data on the state of small-scale fisheries in CECAF member countries was done by using an Excel form sent by electronic mail to the agents of the different countries who were to participate in the consultation and the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group. This form helped to collect data on the fishing fleet, fishing gear, production (catches and processing), marketing, employment and economic importance. The data is presented in the form of a time series covering the period 2005–2017. In view of the constraints linked to the availability and access to data, the agents were requested to provide as much data as possible. Of the 22 countries or states contacted, including the Canary Islands, 15 filled in and returned the Excel form. The availability and quality of data vary considerably from one country to another, depending on the theme, but are generally inadequate.

1.2.2 Collection of qualitative data

Qualitative data was collected by means of a questionnaire on aspects relating to the importance of small-scale fisheries, gender, regulations, decision-making processes, and implementation of the SSF Guidelines as well as development prospects for the sector. The questionnaire helped to provide detailed information on major issues that could be discussed during the consultation and the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group. To facilitate completing the questionnaire, it was sent by electronic mail to the agents who were to participate in the two events. Of the 22 countries or states contacted, including the Canary Islands, 14 filled in and returned the questionnaire. However, depending on the theme, the level of precision and detail vary greatly from one country to another.

1.3 ANALYSIS OF BASIC DATA

1.3.1 Analysis of quantitative data

The data from each country was first compiled and arranged in the form of a time series. Then, according to the period covered, the analysis focused on the evolution of the state of small-scale fisheries over the last few years. Moreover, to better appreciate the relative importance of certain aspects of small-scale fisheries, indicators relevant to proportions and ratios were also calculated, such as the relative weight of certain species in the total catches and the relative importance of women *vis-à-vis* the number of workers in the sector or the proportion of quantities exported.

1.3.2 Analysis of qualitative data

For qualitative data, a content analysis was carried out using procedures for verification of the quality and coherence of the answers provided. The relevant answers are

developed in the different thematic areas addressed in the document. Where the answers are too detailed, a synthesis is made focusing on the essential elements that deal adequately with the objectives of the study.

2 Small-scale fisheries in CECAF countries

2.1 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN BENIN

2.1.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Benin is endowed with a coastline rich in fishery resources that is used by Benin nationals as well as foreign fishers, mainly from Ghana and Togo. The artisanal fisheries and related sectors (fish trade and processing, construction of canoes, repair of engines, etc.) generate thousands of jobs. According to a framework study conducted by ECOWAS in 2014, the number of fishers was 4 305. Women, often married to fishers, are active in fish processing and marketing.

According to the ECOWAS survey, the artisanal fishing fleet in Benin is estimated at 728 canoes; of these, 70 percent are improved dugout canoes and 30 percent planked canoes. Gillnet is the predominant type of fishing gear (73 percent), followed by the purse seine (15 percent). The fish production realized by the artisanal fisheries is estimated at around 40 000 tonnes a year, representing 80 percent of the country's total fish production.

In Benin, the most important instrument for regulating the use of fishery resources is the Framework Law on fisheries and aquaculture of 7 August 2014. This law governs all the fishing activities in waters under Benin's jurisdiction. Benin also has many related strategic documents, such as the land tenure and estate code (Law n° 2013-01 of 14 August 2013) which governs access to land and to other natural resources in the country.

Concerning the decision-making process, fisheries are placed under the direction of a large ministry comprising agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries. Within this ministry, the Department of Fisheries is in charge of all maritime fisheries activity. There are also other specific technical departments responsible for the control and inspection of fishery products as well as fisheries development and management. The scientific aspects are mainly handled by the Institute of Fisheries and Oceanographic Research of Benin, under the supervision of the Ministry for Higher Education and Scientific Research. The fishers and other workers of the sector participate in decision-making through socioprofessional associations and cooperatives, which represent their interests *vis-à-vis* the Government and other partners. With regard to gender issues, it is noteworthy that women are also grouped in associations whose leaders take part in discussions and decision-making sessions in the fisheries sector.

The small-scale fisheries sector in Benin is highly vulnerable to climate change, and the associated risks are numerous. Coastal erosion destroys landing sites, and the increasingly frequent and violent deterioration in marine conditions threatens the lives of small-scale fishers. The proliferation of invasive species also threatens aquatic life and results in reduced productivity. Furthermore, rising temperatures may cause the migration of certain species.

2.1.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Several legal-regulatory instruments have been prepared for the responsible and sustainable management of fisheries in Benin. Some of these are in line with the SSF Guidelines. However, due to the non-application of these instruments for socio-economic reasons, little progress has been made in the implementation of the Guidelines.

The regional and subregional organizations which could be involved in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are, for instance, EMUWA, ECOWAS and FCWC. With regard to collaboration, the Government of Benin works mainly with the National Union of Marine and Small-Scale and Allied Fishers of Benin and the National Association of Fish Traders of Benin.

The success factors for implementing the SSF Guidelines in Benin are mainly cross-border collaboration. The limiting factors concern the low involvement of fishers and other professional actors in the country as well as the inadequate financial and technical resources devoted to the dissemination of the SSF Guidelines.

2.1.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The main development prospects for the small-scale fisheries sector in Benin relate to the creation of MPAs, the aquaculture of species that are of commercial interest, and the improved safety of fishers at sea through the forecast and communication of meteorological and oceanographic conditions.

2.2 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN CABO VERDE

2.2.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Cabo Verde being an island country, its fisheries are well-rooted in the culture of its population. The contribution of small-scale fisheries is also significant in terms of food security, job creation and reducing poverty. Based on the two most recent surveys, the number of small-scale fishers rose from 3 108 in 2005 to 3 717 in 2011. Over the same period, the number of fish traders went up from 893 to 987. Small-scale fish processing is mainly done by women. On the economic front, small-scale fisheries in Cabo Verde generate substantial revenues. Over the decade 2005–2016, the commercial value of catches greatly varied between four and five million euros a year. The contribution in terms of GDP often fluctuates around 0.8 percent a year.

From only 991 canoes in 2005, the fishing fleet has increased by 60 percent in ten years. The types of fishing gear used are quite limited: line, purse seine, gillnet and beach seine. However, the hand line is largely predominant in 91 percent of the fleet. The production of artisanal fisheries has been on the decline since 2005. While catches were around 5 000 tonnes in 2005, they amounted to only 3 512 tonnes in 2017. The most common species produced are tuna, small pelagics and demersal fish. Small-scale processing in Cabo Verde is insignificant; nearly all the catches are consumed fresh. With regard to marketing, there are no statistics on the production exported.

Small-scale fisheries are managed by legal-regulatory instruments which govern in general the entire fisheries sector. The usage and management of fishery resources is carried out on the basis of different laws and regulations, including Decree Law n° 55/2015, which governs small-scale fisheries as well as the Fisheries Resources Management Plan. The fishers and other workers in the sector participate in decision-making through the National Consultative Committee for the Maritime Economy. In addition, through direct consultation with fishers' and women fish traders' associations, the actors take part in the development of fisheries management plans, laws and regulations. However, due to the difficulty in organizing these actors, there are times when the Government takes decisions without consulting them. The participation of women is relatively low due to their very small representation in decision-making and management bodies.

In Cabo Verde, the risks linked to climate change are many. Rising temperatures are likely to modify the physiology of certain species. Other environmental changes (salinity, upwelling, oxygen, acidification, etc.) can have a negative effect on their reproduction and growth processes as well as their distribution areas and migratory routes. There is also the risk of destruction of coral reefs which are very important for marine biodiversity.

2.2.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

There has been little progress in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Cabo Verde. There are presently many gaps in terms of dissemination but also in the promotion of actions related to the Guidelines. The regional and subregional organizations which could help in this regard are mainly the SRFC, WADAF and CAOPA. Working with the government, the Association of Small-Scale Fishers of the Cabo Verde Islands and the Network of Professional Organizations of Small-scale Fisheries do however provide a framework for collaboration.

The main success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are the existence of an updated and strengthened institutional and regulatory framework, the presence of human capital, and the many programmes and partners as well as the effective organization of stakeholders. With regard to limiting factors, most notable are the low level of education of fishers, poor fishing practices, poor application of rules and inadequate consultation on the SSF Guidelines. There are initiatives underway or planned in this respect to update the regulations and management plan, provide encouragement to fishers' organizations, create co-management bodies and improve dialogue or consultations.

2.2.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

Cabo Verde has defined several development prospects for small-scale fisheries. These mainly concern the modernization and security of small-scale fisheries through the use of new technologies and suitable fishing gear. It is also envisaged to improve research and dissemination and to strengthen marketing channels. In addition to the modernization of infrastructure and equipment, a credit line will also be established at moderate rates to enhance the competitiveness of small-scale fisheries. Also noteworthy is the future adoption of more effective coordination mechanisms between the administration and the other stakeholders in the sector. Finally, just as in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, a new Coastal Fishery Initiative of FAO and the Global Environment Facility will soon commence in Cabo Verde. The project is entitled "Providing sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits in West Africa through good governance, appropriate incentives and innovation".

2.3 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN CAMEROON

2.3.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries are of capital socio-economic importance in Cameroon. They foster cultural bonds for certain communities and thus constitute a factor of social cohesion. Being a major source of animal protein, they are also fundamental for food security. Local consumption of fishery products mainly depends on small-scale fisheries whose production is still not sufficient to meet the country's needs. Small-scale fisheries also provide many jobs. In addition to Cameroonians who own only about 30 percent of fishing boats, 80 percent of the workforce is made up of Nigerians, Beninese, Togolese and Ghanaians. Women are the most actively involved in post-harvest activities (fish trading and processing). The contribution of small-scale fisheries to GDP is not known, but appears to be relatively low; according to available data, it was estimated at 1.01 percent for 2014.

Data on the artisanal fishing fleet is scarce. Based on the framework survey carried out in 2009, there are about 13 489 canoes along the maritime coast. The types of fishing gear used are highly varied, the most important being shrimp net, bottom set gillnet and surface gillnet. From the most recent data, total catches in maritime small-scale fisheries were estimated at 205 097 tonnes in 2013, representing over 90 percent of the country's total fish production. The percentage of catches intended for small-scale processing is not known. The entire catch of small-scale fisheries is sold within the country.

Since its independence, Cameroon has developed several laws and regulations to manage access to and usage of fishery resources, but most of these are general in nature. Among those specifically relating to small-scale fisheries are Decree n° 2001/546/PM of 30 July 2001 fixing the modalities for application of the fisheries act, and Order n° 0002/MINEPIA of 1 August 2001 fixing the modalities for protection of fishery resources.

In Cameroon, fishers and other actors are involved in taking decisions as part of co-management encouraged by the state. In fact, through the co-management committees and management boards of fisheries management institutions (Mission for Fisheries Development in Cameroon and the Maritime Fisheries Development Fund), consultations are held as part of preliminary project studies or environmental impact studies relating to fisheries. Women also participate in decision-making within the framework of the above-mentioned structures.

Climate change poses significant risks to small-scale fisheries in Cameroon. One of the biggest is the disruption of seasons, which affects the occurrence of rainfall. This could lead to changes in coastal hydrologic patterns and aquatic population dynamics.

2.3.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Many actions have been undertaken in Cameroon in relation to the SSF Guidelines. Among the most important are the promotion of alternative income-generating activities, measures to reduce post-harvest losses, and the promotion of improved ovens (stoves) to reduce the environmental impact of processing and improve the working conditions of women. In addition, there is an ongoing review of the legal-regulatory fisheries framework to take into account land-related aspects, among others. As part of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the regional and subregional organizations as well as the collaborative forum fall mainly under COREP and the Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources (CEBEVIRHA).

Chief among the success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines is the presence of strong political will owing to the relative importance of small-scale fisheries in Cameroon. Furthermore, the structuring of the principal fishing communities also constitutes a major asset. The limiting factors mainly include uncontrolled fishing activity, the inaccessibility of numerous fishing sites, and the preponderance of foreign fishers. Ongoing or planned initiatives include determining limits on fishing activities, making assessments of fish stocks, and organizing fishers and other fisheries actors.

2.3.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

Among the general prospects for the sector are the modernization of the production system, professional organization of the rural population, vocational training of fishers, protection of the environment, and control of the effects of climate change. Furthermore, the Government intends to strengthen its partnership with the national and foreign private sector, civil society, and technical and financial institutions. It also plans to give due consideration to frameworks for consultation and protection of rights of women, children and minorities in rural areas.

2.4 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2.4.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries play an important socio-economic role in Côte d'Ivoire. In providing fishery products for consumption, they are crucial for the country's food security. They also directly and indirectly create jobs, which however are not quantified. Women are mainly active in the processing and marketing of fishery products. The contribution of small-scale fisheries to the GDP of Côte d'Ivoire varies between 0.10 and 0.30 percent. The income generated increased greatly over the last decade and amounted to USD 123 million dollars in 2016, triple the amount realized in 2005.

According to available data, the artisanal fishing fleet has 13 000 canoes of which only 1 608 operate in maritime waters. Over the last decade, catches have increased considerably, from 25 653 tonnes in 2005 to 81 757 tonnes in 2016. In recent years, small-scale fisheries have provided slightly over three-quarters of the country's total fishery production.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the management of fishery resources is mainly governed by Act n° 2016-554 of 26 July 2016 relating to fisheries and aquaculture. This regulates fishing activities in the maritime waters under the country's jurisdiction. The state's fisheries policy is also defined in strategic documents, such as the Policy Letter concerning the fisheries and aquaculture sector prepared in 2006.

Although the Ministry of Animal and Fishery Resources is the institution responsible for fisheries management, the fishers and other workers of the sector participate in the decision-making process through their organizations. Most of the fishers' organizations are cooperatives, while those of the fish traders and processors are traditional groups and organizations. The main organizations include COOPAMA, CAPAMCI, SCOPEMA and COOPETAB.

Small-scale fisheries in Côte d'Ivoire face numerous risks linked to climate change. The most worrying is coastal erosion which destroys coastal infrastructure and fishers' homes.

2.4.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

The practical implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Côte d'Ivoire is still rather limited. However, there are some concrete initiatives of note, such as a workshop organized in Abidjan on 25 April 2018 under the auspices of the National Federation of Cooperatives and Stakeholders of the Fisheries Sector of Côte d'Ivoire (FENASCOOP-CI).⁵ This workshop dealt with awareness raising and the role of professionals in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It also took into account the development of small-scale fisheries in activities funded under fisheries agreements between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union.

2.4.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

In order to reduce the strong dependence on fishery product imports, the public authorities have focused attention on the development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. The objective is also to generate income in rural communities by attracting youth through the considerable fishing potential offered by over a hundred fish families of several species.

2.5 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE GAMBIA

2.5.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries provide 90 percent of the fish consumed by the population and constitute the principal source of raw materials for processing factories. They create a significant number of jobs; however, the number of fishers and women involved in processing activities has declined since 2005. In fact, the number of fishers was only 5 514 in 2017, after reaching a peak of 8 734 people in 2008. Fish processing is largely undertaken by women, who represent over 70 percent of the fish trade business. On the economic front, the income generated by small-scale fisheries has greatly increased over the last few years. The commercial value of catches, less than USD 50 million in 2013, has risen to about USD 60 million over the last three years.

The fishing fleet has remained relatively stable since 2005 with around 1 700 canoes. The main fishing gear types used are surrounding gillnet and fixed gillnet and, to a

⁵ <https://www.faapa.info/blog/cote-divoire-un-atelier-sur-le-developpement-de-la-peche-artisanale-ouvert-a-abidjan>

lesser extent, drift gillnet, hand line and longline. Since 2006, catches have remained stable, around 45 000 tonnes up until 2011. But from 2013 they began increasing sharply to a peak of 58 262 tonnes in 2016. The main species caught are bonga, sole and catfish. The bulk of catches is intended for the local market; the share destined for export never reaches 10 percent. The quantities processed come to about 60 percent of the total catch of the artisanal fisheries.

The legal-regulatory framework for the usage and management of fishery resources in the Gambia includes the Fisheries Act of 2007 and Fisheries Regulations of 2008. The Fisheries Department is responsible for their application in collaboration with the navy and community fishing centres. The other instruments include fisheries management plans for sole, oyster and cockle as well as the fisheries and aquaculture strategy of 2017–2021. On land rights, a 1991 act authorizes the acquisition of land by the government for public use, subject to the payment of financial compensation.

The Gambia recognizes the importance of co-management of fisheries to ensure their sustainability. Thus the Government has embarked on a process of granting autonomy to local fishing communities and their full involvement in decision-making. Organizations like the National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators support the Government in better organizing fishers while seeking to strengthen their capacities. The NGO GAMFIDA represents fishers through advocacy, training and communication for the sustainable management of fishery resources. Most landing sites have associations of fishers, traders and processors. Women play a central role in co-management activities as well. The Gambian Government promotes and protects the rights of women against all forms of abuse or violence from any person, enterprise, organization or institution in the fisheries sector.

Small-scale fisheries in the Gambia face numerous risks linked to climate change, among which are the destruction of fisheries infrastructure which leads to increases in post-harvest losses. The dwellings of coastal communities and most ecological habitats are also likely to be damaged due, *inter alia*, to coastal erosion. Moreover, with the decline in agricultural harvests due to drought, the retraining of farmers as fishers is likely to increase pressure on fisheries.

2.5.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

There has been very slow progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines in the Gambia due to the lack of capacity. The principal regional and subregional organizations capable of playing a major role in implementation are the SRFC, CAOPA and WADAF. With regard to collaboration, the Fisheries Department involves other stakeholders like the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the National Environmental Agency, the Authority for Quality and Food Security and the above-mentioned fishers' organizations.

The main success factors for implementing the SSF Guidelines are ongoing fisheries regulatory reforms, the strong political will of the government, and the involvement of community organizations through co-management activities. Noteworthy among the limiting factors are the absence of a methodology and an appropriate statistical system for the gathering of basic data on small-scale fisheries. The ongoing or planned initiatives as well as activities associated with the implementation of the SSF Guidelines concern the increased participation of communities in surveillance activities with the support of the "Project on governance and policies for management of marine resources and poverty reduction in the WAMER ecoregion" (GoWAMER). The Gambia also organized the celebration of International Women's Day⁶ from 6 to 8 March 2018, under the theme "Transforming Action: the role of women in the promotion of sustainable ecological and social fishing practices in fisheries".

⁶ http://www.caopa-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Déclaration-de-la-JIF-2018-Banjul_FR.pdf

2.5.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

As regards development prospects, the Gambian Government aims to review its fisheries policy and regulations. It also plans to raise fish production to 75 000 tonnes a year, contribution to GDP to 15 percent, and the export of fishery resources to 43 percent. For this, the Government plans to increase the budgetary allocation from 2 to 10 million dalasis. Moreover, through the ongoing fisheries development plan, it seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of relevant institutions and improve the value chain of products.

2.6 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN GHANA

2.6.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Fishery products constitute an important part of the diet of the Ghanaian population. A large portion of these products come from small-scale fisheries, which thus play a major role in the country's food security. They also create a considerable number of direct and indirect jobs. The number of fishers was estimated at 107 518 in 2016, down from 139 155 fishers in 2013. Women are mainly active in post-harvest operations, with 14 700 of them involved in processing activities as of 2017.

The fishing fleet has remained relatively stable since 2005 with 11 583 canoes as of 2016. There is a variety of fishing gear in operation, predominantly purse seines which are used by 29 percent of the fleet. Since 2008, artisanal fishery catches have declined sharply, from 254 183 to 179 620 tonnes in 2016. However, the contribution of artisanal fisheries to total catches has been generally higher than 80 percent over the last decade. In terms of weight, the principal species produced by artisanal fisheries are round sardinella and anchovy.

The legal-regulatory framework for the usage and management of fishery resources in Ghana includes the Fisheries Amendment Act of 2014 and Fisheries Amendment Regulations of 2015. Other fisheries regulatory instruments include the Medium-Term Sectoral Development Plan 2014–2017 and the Fisheries Management Plan 2015–2019.

Fisheries management falls under the supervision of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. However, the fishers and other workers participate in the decision-making process through their socioprofessional organizations such as the National Fisheries Association of Ghana. Women are involved in these organizations as well, but they are poorly represented.

Small-scale fisheries in Ghana face numerous risks linked to climate change, including coastal erosion which leads to the destruction of fisheries infrastructure and homes in coastal communities. In addition, changes in the ecosystem lead to increased scarcity of the main artisanal fisheries resources.

2.6.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Ghana has begun implementing the SSF Guidelines, but its progress has been rather limited. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning some encouraging initiatives. For instance, an important workshop was organized on 5 April 2018,⁷ in collaboration with the EJF, to discuss land issues in relation to the need to reverse the decline in fisheries and safeguard national food security. For Ghana, this workshop was to mark the start of a process to review fisheries legislation in order to better address the SSF Guidelines.

2.6.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The Ghanaian Government is committed to supporting the fisheries sector in general, and small-scale fisheries in particular, in order to significantly increase its contribution to the country's development. Bold strategies and interventions have been developed

⁷ <https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2018/04/12/fao-ejf-hold-ghana-meeting-on-food-security-via-fisheries/>

within the Medium-Term Sectoral Development Plan 2014–2017 and the Fisheries Management Plan 2015–2019. These two plans provide frameworks in which the objectives and priorities regarding the growth of the fisheries sector have been defined.

2.7 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN GUINEA

2.7.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

In Guinea, small-scale fisheries play a major role in achieving food security by helping to meet animal protein needs. Fishery products are greatly valued, not only in the daily diet but also during festive events. Small-scale fisheries also create many direct and indirect jobs. The number of fishers in the small-scale sector was estimated at 28 114 during the 2016 survey, representing an increase of 64 percent compared with 2009. Women play an important role, especially in fish processing and trading activities where they numbered 12 807 and 21 261 respectively in 2016. On the economic front, it is noted that, apart from the exceptional values attained in 2012–2013, the commercial value of artisanal fishery catches generally amounts to about EUR 60 000 a year. There are no reliable data available on their contribution to GDP.

The maritime artisanal fleet surveyed in 2016 is composed of around 7 538 canoes compared with 6 025 in 2009, an increase of 25 percent in seven years. Four major types of fishing gear are used, namely gillnet, hand line, longline and purse seine. Between 2005 and 2011, the artisanal fishery catches rarely exceeded 60 000 tonnes a year, and accounted for around 60 percent of total production. An upward trend began in 2012, with catches increasing to 143 325 tonnes in 2016. Quantities processed fluctuate greatly but were estimated at 74 859 tonnes in 2016, or 52 percent of the artisanal fishery production. The contribution of exports is not known, but a large part of the production is sold on the local and subregional markets.

In terms of regulation, the law establishing the maritime fisheries code promulgated in September 2015 governs the management of fishing activities in Guinea. Further, the right of access to fisheries resources is governed by an annual decree relating to the fisheries development and management plan. To improve the performance of the sector, Guinea has adopted a framework document whose objective is to ensure sustainable use of fishery resources. Concerning land tenure, the main legal-regulatory instrument is Act n° 92019 of 30 March 1992 establishing the land and estate code, which defines the general principles of the right to land ownership.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy is responsible for the management of fishery resources. The operational institution under its supervision is the National Department of Maritime Fisheries. The fishers and other workers in the sector participate in the decision-making process through several socioprofessional associations whose representatives take part in debates on the preparation of strategic documents and the annual fisheries plan. These are notably the National Union of Small-Scale Fishers of Guinea, the Guinean Federation of Small-Scale Fishers, and the National Confederation of Small-Scale Fishers of Guinea. There are also important decision-making bodies called Landing Development Committees in each fishing harbour. The role of women is reduced mainly to raising awareness on social problems and the health and safety of landing sites.

The risks associated with climate change in small-scale fisheries in Guinea are numerous. Principal among them are the degradation of ecological habitats due to coastal erosion and the choking of estuaries with sand. This phenomenon, which leads to scarcity of fishery resources, also threatens fisheries infrastructure and dwellings of coastal communities.

2.7.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

The progress of implementing the SSF Guidelines in Guinea has been rather slow. There is still little interest and a lack of understanding of actions relevant to the Guidelines.

A process has however been initiated by CAOPA, which organized a workshop at the beginning of 2018 to launch the development of a national plan for sustainable fisheries in Guinea.⁸ The regional and subregional organizations which could play a major role are CAOPA, SRFC, PRCM and WADAF. As regards the collaborative framework, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should involve various state institutions as well as stakeholder associations.

The success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are many, primarily the presence of political will on the part of the government, the involvement of professional actors, the availability of an updated legal-regulatory framework, and the existence of a fisheries and aquaculture policy document clearly defining the orientation of the sector. The limiting factors are the lack of political commitment, non-respect of regulations, inadequate infrastructure and insufficient human and financial resources. The ongoing or planned initiatives mainly relate to the registration of the artisanal fishing fleet, strengthening of institutional and professional capacities, and enhancement of the value of fishery products.

2.7.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The development prospects for small-scale fisheries involve above all improving the knowledge of fishery resources, developing landing sites and fighting against IUU fishing. In addition, bold actions are envisaged for the provision of fisheries equipment and inputs as well as the valorization of fishery products.

2.8 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN GUINEA-BISSAU

2.8.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries are of paramount importance for meeting the socio-economic needs of the people of Guinea-Bissau. They are crucial for food security and combating unemployment and poverty. According to available data, the number of fishers was estimated at 6 475 in 2015, an increase of 56 percent compared with 2011. Women are mainly active in processing operations, numbering 1 024 as of 2013. There are no statistics on employment in the fish trade. Although its contribution to GDP is unknown, it is noted that small-scale fisheries generate significant income, with a commercial value of catches estimated at a little less than EUR 20 million in 2011, almost double the figure of 2006.

The fishing fleet in 2011 was composed of 1 503 canoes, with a predominance of fixed gillnets. The total production of the small-scale fisheries sector was 21 509 tonnes in 2015, a decline of 2 percent compared with 2011. This level of production in 2015 accounts for only 14 percent of total catch of the fisheries sector. The demersal fish constitute the largest share of catches. Statistics on quantities processed and exported are not consistent. However, small-scale fisheries production is the main source of supply to the local market.

Several legal-regulatory instruments govern the usage and management of fisheries in Guinea-Bissau. Principal among these are the General Fisheries Act (Decree n° 10/2011) of 7 June 2011 which defines the general access regulations. There is also a specific instrument for small-scale fisheries, Decree n° 24/2011 of 7 June 2011 regulating small-scale fisheries, which fixes the types and conditions for obtaining licenses for artisanal boats belonging to nationals or foreigners. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau has adopted a five-year Fisheries Action Plan 2015–2019 and a Strategic Fisheries Development Plan 2015–2020.

The management of fishery resources falls under the responsibility of the State Secretariat in charge of fisheries and maritime economy, comprising three general

⁸ <http://www.caopa-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Rapport-Atelier-Conakry-du-11-au-12-Janv-18-sur-les-Directives.pdf>

departments and three autonomous institutions for research, administration of fishing ports and maritime surveillance. The fishers and other actors of the sector also participate in decision-making through associations like the National Association of Small-Scale Fisheries Ship Owners. The actors are involved in the process of defining access rules and concerted and participatory management of the resources. They also take part in monitoring through the co-management of fisheries. Women are involved as well through the professional associations within the sector.

The risks associated with climate change include the major problem of coastal erosion which threatens fishing infrastructure and the dwellings of coastal populations. The destruction of coastal ecosystems could lead to the disappearance of certain local species that are important for the fisheries.

2.8.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Guinea-Bissau has not made any major progress in terms of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. However, the Government is seeking to incorporate the Guidelines into the legal corpus. Regional and subregional organizations like ECOWAS, EMUWA and SRFC could play an important role in this implementation.

The principal success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines concern the harmonization of subregional legislations, the optimization of profitability of the sector, and political will to ensure sustainable use of fishery resources. The involvement of actors through co-management also constitutes a significant advantage. The main limiting factors include institutional instability as well as the very dire financial situation of the country. For now, there are no specific initiatives underway for SSF Guidelines implementation. Guinea-Bissau is above all devoted to the process of endorsement of new technical documents relating to its fisheries policy.

2.8.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

Development prospects for small-scale fisheries in Guinea-Bissau involve the implementation of new technical measures. The endorsement and implementation of the Strategic Fisheries Development Plan as well as the five-year Action Plan 2015–2019 are presently the main priorities.

2.9 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

2.9.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Presently, small-scale fisheries in Equatorial Guinea remain a subsistence activity. Their socio-economic importance is thus quite limited. They mainly provide food and income to various coastal communities. According to available statistics, the number of small-scale fishers was 1 045 in 2016. The exact number of workers in the processing and trading business is not known, but these are rather few. These two post-harvest activities employ mainly women. Their role is crucial in the marketing of fishery products from landing sites to urban centres. With their contribution to GDP undetermined, small-scale fisheries generate highly variable income. In 2017, the commercial value of catches amounted to only EUR 20 388 compared to EUR 610 372 in 2014.

As regards the legal-regulatory framework, Act n° 11/2017 of 20 November 2017 and its implementation decree govern the usage and management of fisheries in Equatorial Guinea. Article 42 defines, for example, the conditions for granting small-scale fisheries licenses.

Fisheries management falls under the direction of the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources which is responsible for ensuring effective management of fishery resources. Fishers participate indirectly in the decision-making process. Their role is limited to providing the Government with information for taking appropriate management measures. In the absence of functional socioprofessional associations,

decisions are taken by government based on the perceptions of fishers. In this context, the role of women in the decision-making process is also negligible.

The risks associated with climate change are numerous. Most worrying are rising ocean temperatures which could harm the biodiversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems. The frequency of extreme events such as storms represents a real threat to fisheries infrastructure and the dwellings of fishers.

2.9.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

There is no real progress to speak of in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Equatorial Guinea. However, it is important to mention the efforts made so far by the Government. A survey was conducted recently to gather data on artisanal fishing activities. Moreover, the recent assessment of fishery resources allows for better knowledge of the status of stocks in order to better plan fish production. Also noteworthy are initiatives being undertaken for the organization of fishers. The regional and subregional institutions which could be involved in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are COREP, the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), and CEBEVIRHA.

The success factors which could favour the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are mainly political will, effective usage of fish stocks, legislation geared towards the protection of small-scale fisheries, and strong subregional and international demand for fishery products. The limiting factors are essentially the poor development of small-scale fisheries which remain a subsistence activity, the lack of appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and the inadequate organization and training of fishers. Also worth mentioning are the economic crisis facing the country and the high imports of frozen fish, to the detriment of local production. In addition, there is widespread insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea due to acts of piracy.

There are no major ongoing or planned initiatives for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. However, the Government is committed to improving the performance of small-scale fisheries through better knowledge of fisheries potential and organization of fishers.

2.9.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The development prospects for the sector are set out in a strategic document defining the objectives up to the year 2020, with the priority being the need for diversification of sources of growth in which fisheries should play a major role. In this respect, the Government plans to modernize the small-scale fisheries and equip the fishers in order to ensure sustainable supply to the market and to fishing industries. Small-scale processing units will be set up for the production of various salted, dried, fermented and smoked products.

2.10 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN LIBERIA

2.10.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries are of significant socio-economic importance in Liberia. They provide essential fishery products to feed the population. The employment opportunities they provide are far more numerous than those of industrial fisheries. The number of fishers has remained stable at around 12 000 since 2011, after reaching 14 309 in 2010. For the processing and trading business, however, the jobs created are not known. Women play a central role in these two activities. They participate actively in fish processing through both the fermentation method and especially fish smoking. They also serve as intermediaries between the fishers and other buyers.

The artisanal fishing fleet in Liberia has been increasing since 2010. The number of canoes has risen steadily from 2 610 in 2010 to 3 789 canoes in 2017, an increase of 45 percent in seven years. The main fishing gear types used are line, fixed gillnet

and purse seine. There has been an almost steady increase in catches since 2010 from 10 153 to 13 915 tonnes in 2016, sometimes exceeding 90 percent of the total fishery production of the country. Small pelagics account for the bulk of the artisanal fishery catches, with 63 percent of the catches in 2017.

Small-scale fisheries are regulated by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2010 and its implementing regulations, as well as by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy. With regard to the right of access, the principle of payment for a fishing license is a regulatory requirement. But access is almost totally open, as over 75 percent of small-scale fishers do not pay for a license.

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority is the institution responsible for managing the fisheries sector. However, the fishers also participate in the decision-making process through a co-management arrangement being developed within the country. This is notably the case for Grand Cape Mount in the southwest of the country, where a co-management committee has been put in place. In general, the fisheries policy and strategy provides for the involvement of all stakeholders in the decision-making process. But in reality, the few existing associations are only contacted where necessary.

Numerous risks associated with climate change threaten small-scale fisheries in Liberia. The main risks are storms and exceptionally heavy rains as well as coastal erosion due to the rising sea levels. These phenomena often cause considerable damage in many coastal communities, sometimes resulting in loss of life and livelihoods and the destruction of houses.

2.10.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

No information is available on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Liberia.

2.10.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

No information is available on the development prospects for small-scale fisheries in Liberia.

2.11 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN MAURITANIA

2.11.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries in Mauritania are well-anchored in the culture of two coastal communities: the *gandiolais*, based in the south on the Senegalese border, and the *imraguens*, established in the north in the Banc d'Arguin National Park. The fisheries constitute a major source of protein accessible to all social classes in the country and also play an important role in combating poverty and creating employment. The number of small-scale fishers doubled over seven years, from only 15 088 in 2007 to 30 668 in 2014. In the processing sector, there were 253 women and 114 men as of 2013. The fish trade however is fully handled by men (1 198 in 2013), while women engage in retail trade along the beaches and in the various markets of Nouakchott. The contribution to GDP is not known, but the commercial value of catches amounted to USD 466 504 006 in 2017, having doubled over the last five years.

From 4 022 canoes in 2007, the fishing fleet increased rapidly to 7 227 canoes in 2013, a rise of 80 percent in six years. The fishing gear types most often used are fixed or drift gillnet, hand line and traps (lobster pots and hoop nets). Over the last decade production has risen steadily. It rose six-fold between 2005 and 2016, from 78 447 to 485 717 tonnes, with two-thirds consisting of small pelagics (sardinella and sardine). The share of small-scale fisheries in total production, which was 44 percent in 2016, varies considerably depending on fluctuations in the industrial fisheries. Quantities processed oscillate between 10 and 25 percent depending on the year. A large part of the catch is exported (up to 40 percent in 2015), mainly fishmeal (74 percent in 2014).

The fisheries code and its implementing texts constitute the principal relevant legal-regulatory instruments. There are also development plans for certain species (lobster, bluefish and mullet). Mauritania has a national management strategy document responsible for the sustainable development of fisheries and maritime economy for 2015–2019. Access to the fisheries is dependent on the purchase of a license indicating the category of species authorized. As regards land tenure, it is to be noted that the maritime sector is under the responsibility of the Government. Small-scale fishers temporarily occupy the coastal sites by setting up makeshift camps, often managed by fish traders.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, which oversees the Department of Planning and Control, is responsible for fisheries management. The fishers and other actors of the sector participate in the decision-making process through their socioprofessional organizations, which represent them during meetings with administrative authorities and their partners. The main organizations are the FNP, FLPA, FNPA and FMM. Since women are not represented, they do not take part in decision-making.

In Mauritania, the risks associated with climate change are many. Rising ocean temperatures and other marine environment changes (salinity, upwelling, oxygen, acidification, etc.) can have a negative effect on reproduction, growth and migration of certain important species such as small pelagics.

2.11.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

There has been little progress made in implementing the SSF Guidelines in Mauritania. Notably, however, there was an awareness-raising workshop on the SSF Guidelines held on 17 March 2015 in Nouakchott.⁹ There are also certain initiatives that advocate for better development of small-scale fisheries. Hence the prohibition of pair trawling at depths below 20 m and the ongoing or planned construction of three fishing ports (Tanit, PK144 and Ndiago). The regional and subregional organizations which could be involved in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are the SRFC, WADAF and CAOPA. As regards the collaborative framework, the government institutions work with and sometimes consult the fishers' organizations.

The main success factors for implementing the SSF Guidelines are the existence of effective regulations, political will and a poverty eradication plan. The associated limiting factors are the non-respect of regulations and institutional overdiversification of initiatives to combat poverty within the different ministries.

Ongoing or planned initiatives for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines involve controlling the development of artisanal fisheries to maintain sustainability, application of regulatory instruments through the monitoring, construction of infrastructure, and modernization of basic equipment along the entire coast.

2.11.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The development prospects mainly concern controlling the pressure on small-scale fisheries in order to preserve resources. The Government is also committed to modernizing small-scale fisheries by providing appropriate infrastructure and equipment.

2.12 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN NIGERIA

2.12.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Nigeria has a vast coastal zone which provides favourable conditions for fisheries activities. Small-scale fisheries, which are an important source of animal protein, create millions of jobs. Nigeria is the only country in the CECAF region with close to two

⁹ <http://fr.ami.mr/Depeche-30593.html>

million small-scale fishers. From 1 519 627 in 2010, the number of small-scale fishers rose to 1 921 65 in 2014. However, there was a sharp decline in this number in 2015. Small-scale fisheries contribute over 90 percent of the total production of Nigeria. Since 2008, the artisanal fishery catches have steadily increased, from 511 382 to 759 828 tonnes in 2014. A decline of 9 percent was however recorded in 2015.

Post-harvest operations are also very important in Nigeria, particularly the marketing and processing of fishery products where women are heavily involved. These operations also serve as a link between fishers and consumers. Most of the products are sold fresh or smoked, but some of them are salted and then dried. No data are available on the exact quantities exported, but a large part of the production of small-scale fisheries is sold within the country.

The sector is governed by laws (Sea Fisheries Acts) and regulations (Sea Fisheries Regulations) concerning the marine fisheries. These contain provisions for the management of fisheries in territorial waters under federal jurisdiction.

In principle, the federal and local governments regulate fishing activities in inland and coastal waters. But, in general, access to the resources is controlled by the communities and bodies set up by the fishers. Thus, during consultations, fishers and other workers in the sector participate in the decision-making process through their associations, including the National Fisheries Development Committee, as well as associations which specifically represent women. The ministry has also set up an office to deal with gender parity issues.

There are a number of risks associated with climate change facing small-scale fisheries in Nigeria. The most worrying are the unpredictable cycles of extreme drought and rainfall. Drought weakens the water systems that enrich coastal waters, while heavy rains give rise to floods which destroy dwellings and fishing infrastructure.

2.12.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Concerning the progress of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, there are presently no particular measures in place besides the provisions in current legal-regulatory instruments. There has however been a study conducted on the status and strategies of the Badagry coastal fisheries in relation to the implementation of the Guidelines.¹⁰ The regional and subregional organizations which could be involved include ECOWAS, among others. The framework for collaboration is based mainly on interactions between the federal and local authorities and the fishers' organizations.

The main success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are linked to the existence of regulations at federal and local levels and the organization of fishers into associations/cooperatives. The main limiting factors are the dispersal and inaccessibility of several landing sites, insufficient and/or inadequate fishing infrastructure, and the lack of qualified human resources.

Ongoing or planned initiatives to implement the SSF Guidelines are the endorsement of the implementation process, the establishment and operationalization of the implementation committee, and the dissemination of the Guidelines to local governments.

2.12.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The objectives and vision of Nigeria regarding the development of small-scale fisheries aim to significantly improve the socio-economic contribution of the sector. Thus, specific measures and efforts are envisaged to enable it to better meet the needs of the population. These prospects should help to increase the income of fishers as well as the adoption of responsible and sustainable fishing practices.

¹⁰ <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319550732>

2.13 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2.13.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo constitute an important socio-economic activity, one that generates employment and income and thus provides livelihood opportunities for coastal populations. Women play an important role in small-scale fisheries, particularly in the processing and marketing of fishery products.

In terms of regulations, a draft law has been enacted dealing with the fundamental principles of fisheries and aquaculture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are also a number of strategic documents relating to the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, the Fisheries Master Plan and the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development. The documents governing land law and right of access to fishery resources have already been adopted by the Council of Ministers of the central government and will soon be promulgated.

The management of fishery resources falls under the responsibility of the National Fisheries Directorate. Fishers and other workers of the fisheries sector, including women, do not participate in decision-making however. Nor is there any institutional structure or mechanism by which the fishers and other workers of the sector can be involved in the decision-making process.

There are many risks associated with climate change which threaten small-scale fisheries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The main risk has to do with warming ocean temperatures. This phenomenon can cause the degradation of ecological habitats and the loss of biodiversity essential for fisheries activities in the country.

2.13.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

There have been considerable delays in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and hence no real progress has been made. The regional and subregional organizations which could play a major role are COREP, the Southern African Development Community and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The main success factor for implementing the SSF Guidelines is the recognition of the vital socio-economic role played by the small-scale fisheries sector. This allows it to be given due consideration by the Government. The principal limiting factors include the lack of organization of the actors into associations.

The ongoing or planned initiatives for implementing the SSF Guidelines include updating the Act and Fisheries Master Plan, disseminating regulations, and establishing a fisheries co-management process.

2.13.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

There are major plans to better develop small-scale fisheries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government aims to modernize the fishing equipment in order to improve production. It has also set the objective of establishing more appropriate infrastructure to provide healthy fishery products to consumers. Furthermore, there are plans to train small-scale fishers to respect fishing regulations.

2.14 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN SENEGAL

2.14.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

In Senegal, small-scale fisheries play an important socio-economic role. They date back to ancient times, with knowledge transmitted from one generation to another. Small-scale fisheries supply almost all the fishery products consumed in the country and therefore play a crucial role in food security. They also create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. The number of fishers in small-scale fisheries varies between 50 000 and 60 000 a year. However, this number has increased significantly over the last few years to 71 531 in 2017. Data on processing activities are not available but this business

generates many jobs, mainly for women who are also active in the fish trade business, where they constitute one-third of the 1 000 traders identified in 2017. Fisheries generate considerable revenue with a commercial value of EUR 213 565 000 in 2017, an increase of 32 percent compared with 2010.

The artisanal fishing fleet was estimated at about 12 000 canoes in 2017, an increase from 2007 when it hardly amounted to more than 8 000. The most prevalent fishing gear types are line, fixed gillnet, gillnet and purse seine. Over the last decade, catches have been relatively stable at around 380 000 tonnes, with a large predominance of small pelagics (over 75 percent). Small-scale fisheries provide nearly 90 percent of total fishery production, but they have declined in recent years to 78 percent in 2017. Quantities processed hardly exceed 40 000 tonnes, or between 10 and 15 percent of production. The proportion of exports rarely amounts to 10 percent of total production of small-scale fisheries. The bulk of the catch is thus consumed within the country in the form of fresh products.

In Senegal, the management of fishery resources is mainly governed by Act n° 2015-18 of 13 July 2018 establishing the Maritime Fisheries Code and its implementing Decree n° 2016-1804 of 22 November 2016. These documents govern fishing activities in maritime waters under Senegalese jurisdiction. The country's fisheries policy is also defined in strategic documents. This is notably the case of the sectoral policy letter for the development of fisheries and aquaculture for 2016–2023 and the fisheries and aquaculture sectoral investment framework. Land issues are regulated by Act n° 64-46 of 17 June 1964 relevant to state-administered property. For small-scale fisheries, the fishing license constitutes the principal right of access but its full implementation poses some problems. Access is also regulated through other initiatives such as protected or regulated marine areas and fishing areas. This also applies to development plans for certain fisheries like coastal shrimp and volutes which foresee the introduction of concessions for artisanal fisheries.

Although the institution responsible for management of fisheries is the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, the fishers and other workers of the sector participate in the decision-making process through their associations. To better foster co-management, the Government has promoted the establishment of representative bodies like professional organizations, local councils for small-scale fisheries, and local fisher committees. Stakeholders generally participate through the councils and through consultations held during the development of fisheries policies and laws. The Government also grants management rights for certain maritime zones and concessions for the management of certain fisheries structures. Women participate in the process through the above-mentioned bodies.

Small-scale fisheries in Senegal faces numerous risks associated with climate change, the most worrying being warming ocean waters and coastal erosion. These phenomena cause the degradation of ecological habitats and have an adverse effect on the distribution and migration of resources. They also cause destruction of dwellings and coastal infrastructure, impoverishment of fishers and loss of employment.

2.14.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

Concerning the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, considerable efforts still need to be made, especially at the operational level. It should however be noted that certain components of the SSF Guidelines are taken into account in the present Maritime Fisheries Code and its implementing decree. CAOPA, in accordance with its commitment made at the Our Ocean Conference in 2017, organized a brainstorming and awareness-raising workshop on the SSF Guidelines in April 2018,¹¹ in collaboration with the Department of Maritime Fisheries. A national implementation committee has

¹¹ <http://www.caopa-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/RAPPORT-DE-LA-RENCONTRE.pdf>

also been set up. Further, FAO has this year financed a participatory study on the contribution of the “Management of crayfish and related species in the Ngaparou coastal zone” initiative to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The regional and subregional organizations which could play a major role include the AU, SRFC, CAOPA and WADAF.

The main success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Senegal are political will on the part of the Government, involvement of professional organizations and recently adopted management initiatives. The main limiting factors are the under-representation of women and insufficient funding available for the various fisheries activities.

The ongoing or planned initiatives for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines deal mainly with the dissemination of the Guidelines and improvement of the data collection and analysis system. Moreover, plans are envisaged to ensure greater respect for implementation of regulations and to strengthen the capacities of the organizations.

2.14.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

In terms of prospects, the Government, together with its partners, intends to make small-scale fisheries a driver of sustainable growth and social integration. Actions to organize, modernize and support small-scale fisheries are being pursued to enable this sector to continue playing its vital socio-economic role. It should also be noted that like Cabo Verde and Côte d’Ivoire, a new IPC (International NGO/CSO Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty) project of FAO and the Global Environment Facility will soon begin in Senegal.

2.15 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN SIERRA LEONE

2.15.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries are of significant importance in Sierra Leone. They contribute to food security and also provide employment opportunities. According to the different statistics available, around 30 000 fishers were operating in Sierra Leone in 2012. Women play a crucial role in the processing and marketing of fishery products.

The fishing fleet had close to 10 000 canoes as of 2012. Production was estimated at 42 337 tonnes in 2017 (an increase of 39 percent compared with the previous year), comprising 41 percent of total catches for the whole fisheries sector. Compared with the available data at the start of the 2000s, the status of small-scale fisheries in Sierra Leone has considerably worsened in recent years. In 2005 for instance, artisanal fishery catches amounted to 116 614 tonnes and constituted 88 percent of total production. The distribution of catches per species in 2006 shows a predominance of bonga.

The overall regulation of the fisheries sector is governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act of 2017 and Fisheries Regulations of 2017. In addition to these two legal-regulatory instruments, there are other documents concerning fisheries management, especially those relating to fisheries policy, management of small-scale fisheries and regulation of community fisheries. There are no restrictions on the fishing resources available to small-scale fisheries. However, four MPAs have been established in breeding areas where access is limited to selective fisheries.

In terms of the decision-making process, the fisheries sector is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, which deals with the management of fisheries activities in waters under Sierra Leonean jurisdiction. However, fishers and other actors also participate in decision-making through their associations, mainly through co-management at the community level. Women who only played a minimal role in the past are now better integrated in decision-making bodies.

Small-scale fisheries in Sierra Leone are highly vulnerable to climate change. The greatest threats are linked to coastal erosion and floods which can cause the degradation

of sensitive ecological habitats and destroy fisheries infrastructure and dwellings of fishing communities.

2.15.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

For the moment, Sierra Leone remains at the preliminary stage of implementing the SSF Guidelines. In this respect, two reports analysing the conditions for implementation were produced under the auspices of FAO in 2015.¹² The regional and subregional organizations which could be involved in the implementation process are the SRFC and CAOPA. With regard to the framework for collaboration, it is indispensable to rely on a greater involvement of other state institutions and fishers' organizations.

The main success factors for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are political will on the part of the Government and the existence of associations and fishing communities, which also include women. This helps in developing fisheries policies that are better adapted to the challenges of the sector. The main limiting factors include insufficient infrastructure and basic services and the high level of poverty.

The ongoing or planned initiatives for implementing the SSF Guidelines in Sierra Leone concern the approval of laws, dissemination of regulations and strengthening of co-management, especially for surveillance operations.

2.15.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

The development prospects for small-scale fisheries in Sierra Leone are many. The Government plans to adopt measures to increase fishery production while minimizing post-harvest losses, enhance employment opportunities, and improve the standard of living of fishers and other workers in the sector. It also aims to develop the capacities and skills of fishers and strengthen regional collaboration and sustainable use of resources, particularly shared fish stocks.

2.16 SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN TOGO

2.16.1 Usage and management of fishery resources

Small-scale fisheries play an important socio-economic role in Togo. While providing essential products for consumption, they also contribute to reducing unemployment. In 2017, artisanal maritime fisheries directly employed 8 550 people including 3 000 fishers. Despite some fluctuations, there has been very little development in terms of the number of active fishers during this decade. Post-harvest activities also contribute significantly to employment, especially for women, who numbered 4 500 working in fish processing in 2017. The number of women fish traders doubled over the last decade to 1 000 in 2017, compared with only 50 male fish traders. On the economic front, small-scale fisheries presently contribute 4.5 percent of primary sector GDP.

The fishing fleet is relatively stable at a little over 400 canoes. The fishing gear types that are most widely used are bottom set gillnet (28 percent), purse seine (24 percent) and line (19 percent). The production of the artisanal fisheries is characterized by high interannual variability. During the last decade it varied between 15 000 and 25 000 tonnes a year. Artisanal fisheries account for almost all total fishery production in the country. Eighty percent of the artisanal catch is processed, and the entire catch is sold within the country.

The management of fishery resources is governed by Act 2016-026 of 11 October 2016 establishing the country's fisheries and aquaculture regulations. This legal-regulatory instrument complements the other strategic documents which define the country's fisheries policy. This is notably the case for the agricultural policy document containing the strategic plan for the transformation of agriculture in Togo by the year 2030, as well as the sectoral policy documents for fisheries and aquaculture. There is

¹² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5194e.pdf> et <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5193e.pdf>

also a national strategy for the sea and coast for 2016–2020 and a strategic framework for the development of the maritime and coastal economy. Regarding access to fishing resources, the law provides for the acquisition of a fishing permit or license after payment of an annual fee. There is also a new land tenure code which regulates the coastal zone.

The institution responsible for fisheries management is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries under which is the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. However, the fishers and women engaged in post-harvest activities also participate in the decision-making process. Through their associations or cooperatives, they are involved in the development and implementation of management plans. Local fisheries management committees have been set up to ensure the implementation of regulations.

In Togo, there are many risks associated with climate change which can jeopardize the development of small-scale fisheries. The main risks are changes in temperature and quality of water which could lead to the degradation of ecologically productive habitats. Moreover, the damage caused by coastal erosion to fisheries infrastructure and dwellings of fishers is becoming more frequent and destructive.

2.16.2 Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

So far, there has not been significant progress in implementing the SSF Guidelines in Togo. However, some initiatives have been conceived for the sustainable development of fisheries. The regional and subregional organizations which could play a crucial role in implementing the Guidelines are mainly the AU, ECOWAS, EMUWA, FCWC and ATLAFCO. At the national level, the ministry and other state institutions in collaboration with socioprofessional associations constitute the key element of the collaborative framework. Also of note are the national working group for the MESA project and the MCS national working group for fisheries.

The main success factors for implementing the SSF Guidelines in Togo are linked to the existence of a strengthened legal framework and policy and strategy documents on fisheries as well as strong governmental commitment to develop the sector. Further, the Government has embarked upon a modernization programme for small-scale fisheries, including the construction of a new fishing harbour. The major limiting factors include the non-respect of regulations and the use of destructive fishing gear and methods. Also worthy of note is the non-acceptance by professionals of new techniques in fishing and fish processing.

The ongoing or planned initiatives for implementing the SSF Guidelines involve improved monitoring of catches, development of an action plan for 2018–2020, and adoption of a regional plan to combat IUU fishing in the FCWC region.

2.16.3 Development prospects for small-scale fisheries

Regarding development prospects, it is worth noting the vision of the Togolese Government which is to make small-scale fisheries a modern sector, one with high added value and capable of providing decent and stable jobs by the year 2030. To this end, the capacity development of actors through the provision of incentives constitutes a major priority.

Towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in West and Central Africa

Regional consultation for developing an action plan to implement the SSF Guidelines within the African Union policy framework

23–25 July 2018
Dakar, Senegal

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014, and in line with Paragraph 13.6 of the SSF Guidelines promoting the development of regional plans of action for their implementation, a regional consultation was held to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in West and Central Africa in Dakar, Senegal on 23–25 July 2018.

The objective of the consultation was to raise awareness of the important role of the small-scale fisheries sector and how this is addressed in the African Union's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS), the ECOWAS regional fisheries and aquaculture policy (under development with support from the FIRST programme), and the SSF Guidelines. It also provided an opportunity to share experiences and identify actions needed to support and promote small-scale fisheries in the CECAF region.

During the three-day consultation, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through topical presentations, and discussed priorities and actions for implementing the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels, in support of existing regional frameworks. Key priority areas to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes were proposed by the consultation, as well as next steps for different actors.

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