



# Competing Fisheries Stakeholders: User Rights in Nigeria's Coastal and Inland Fishing Communities

by

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# Overview

- Located in West Africa:
  - Continental Shelf – 37,934 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Length of Coastline – 853km
  - EEZ – 210,900km
- Endowed with both inland and marine fisheries
  - Total fish demand – 3.25 m Mt
  - Domestic Production – 1,027 m Mt
  - Per capita consumption – 17.5kg
  - Fish imports - \$1,126,428,414
  - Fish Export - \$56,067,915.00



# Introduction

- Governance of tenure and fishing rights are critical to:
  - Food security
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Livelihoods sustenance
  - Sustainable utilization of small-scale fishery.
- This study highlights gender research and analysis on various role

# Context and relevance

The study highlights on the current situation of artisanal fisheries and links to:

- The discussion on tenure and user rights in fisheries
- Achieving the UN SDGs goals



Sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources

Access to resources and markets

# State of Nigerian Fishery

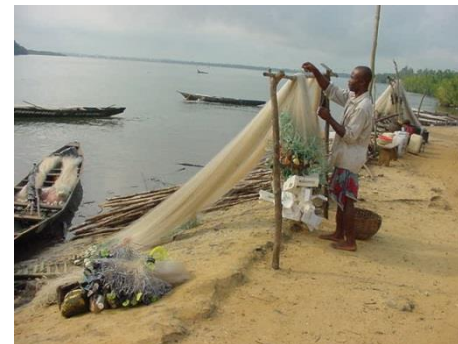
- Based on stock assessment studies
  - Domestic small-scale and artisanal fisheries are fully exploited
  - Stock assessment is regular but with little input from government
- Most of the fish landed are locally processed and consumed
- The contribution of the artisanal and small-scale fishery is considered low economically
- The fishery sub-sector is the least on the Political agenda

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fishing Season
Catfish <sup>a</sup>	<i>Clarias gariepinus</i>	All year
Tilapia <sup>a</sup>	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> <i>Oreochromis aureus</i> <i>Tilapia guineensis</i> <i>Coptodon zilli</i>	All year
Periwinkles, oyster and clams <sup>a</sup>	<i>Littorina littorea</i> , <i>Egeria radiata</i>	All year
Bony Tongue <sup>a</sup>	<i>Heterotis niloticus</i>	All year
Mullet <sup>a</sup>	<i>Mugil spp.</i>	All year
Bonga fish <sup>b</sup>	<i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i>	November to April
Croaker <sup>b</sup>	<i>Pseudotolithus spp.</i>	All year
Blue Swimming Crab <sup>b</sup>	<i>Callinectes amnicola</i>	November to April
Sole <sup>b</sup>	<i>Cynoglossus spp.</i>	All year
Grunter <sup>b</sup>	<i>Pomadasys spp.</i>	All year
Barracuda <sup>b</sup>	<i>Sphyraena spp.</i>	All year

a) Inland waters fish species

b) Coastal marine fish species

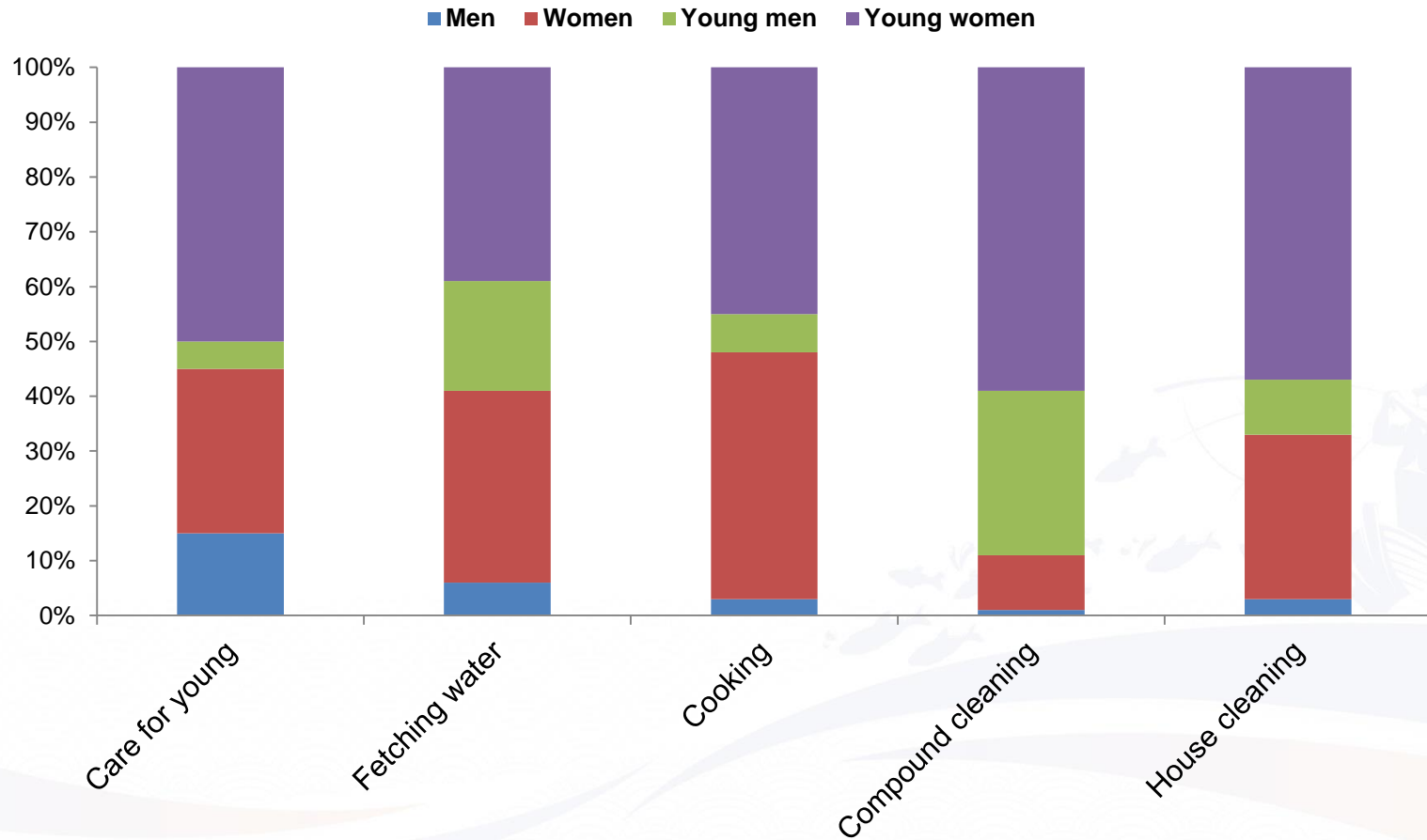
# Access to fishery



Source: Moyib, 2007

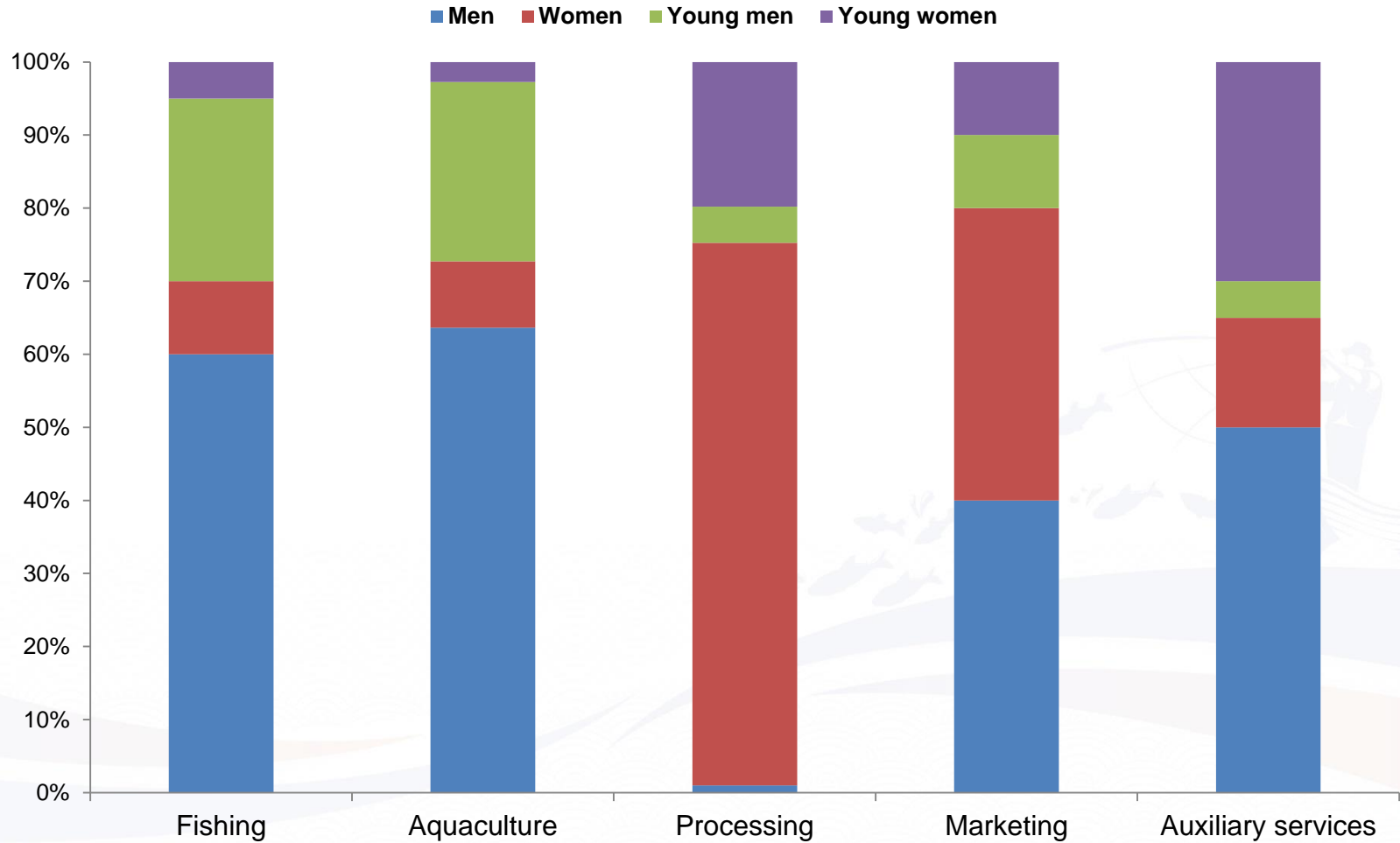
- Equal access to both men and women

# Gender analysis on household roles

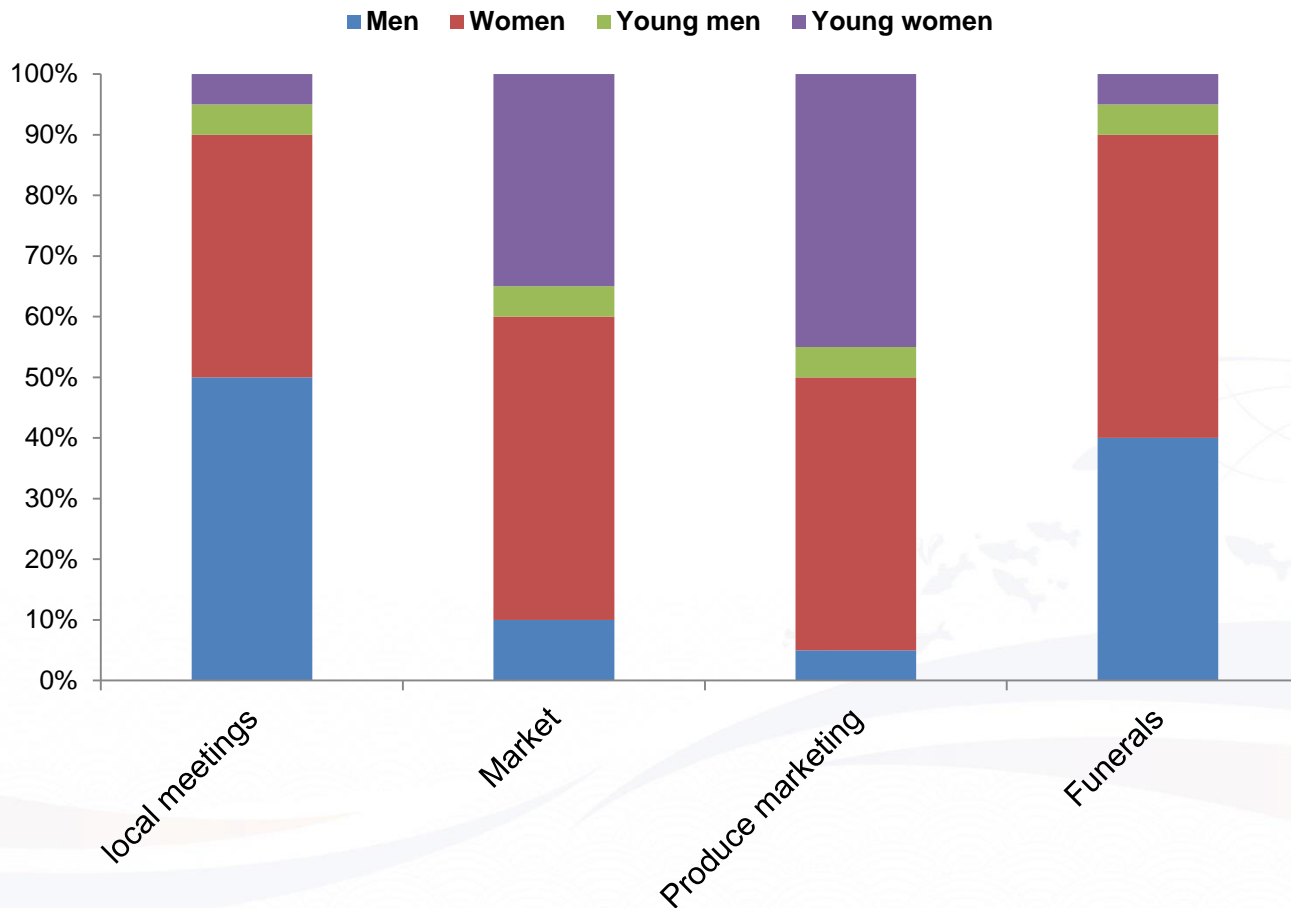




# Gender analysis on productive roles



# Gender analysis on community roles



# Commitment to support SDGs

- Participation of all stakeholders at all levels is key
  - Communities
  - Managers
  - Researchers
  - Academia



# Summary

- Human based exploitation has led to
  - Decline in the state of resources in the oceans and inland waters in Nigeria
  - Realizing of the full potential of both the coastal marine waters and inland waters requires a paradigm shift!
- One that will embrace a new, responsible and sustainable approach.
- SDGs 1, 2, 5, 10, 12 and 14 capture the critical actions.
- Infusing Governance into artisanal fishery cannot be over-emphasized.

# Way Forward and Strategy for achieving the SDG

- There is need for support from <sup>S</sup>FAO, UN Women, UNDP and institutions to empower the fishers to gain from the SDGs – 1, 2, 5, 10, 12 & 14.
  - Fishing communities (SSF) are poor with limited or no infrastructure.
- Unlike the MDGs that targeted Political achievements, the SDGs have focus on Fishing Communities so as to improve their Economic Livelihoods positively
- Each of the listed SDGs if adequately implemented would result in positive results that is empowering to the fishers and other stakeholders residing in their communities

# Way Forward and Strategy for achieving the SDG

- The men, women and youths (Gender inclusion) will be the focus Group to work with and Using the Community and/or Customary/Traditional Tenure and User Rights Concept thereby using what they (fishers) know in order to get what is needed meaningfully by the artisanal and small-sale fishers in their Communities
- We need FAO's help! We pray that we can access financial support to carry out needed actions in the artisanal and small-scale fishing communities where we have already built a good relationship with the fishers who trust;
- Our Youths who are already contributing their share to achieve SDG 14 will continue to feature positively in our plan to institute Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) for schools in Africa!

# Acknowledgement

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2. The various NGOs – Mundus maris asbl ([www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org))  
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF, [www.genderaquafish.org](http://www.genderaquafish.org))  
Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development ([www.niward.org](http://www.niward.org))  
African Women in Agricultural Research and Development ([www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org))

# Thank you for your attention

