



BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT UPON FISHERIES IN ANGOLA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) is one of the world's richest marine ecosystems and supports an abundance of life, sustaining both small and large-scale fishery activities that contribute to local food security and employment for hundreds of thousands of people in areas of limited alternatives, and serve as important drivers of economic development.

The fisheries sectors in the three countries of the BCC – Angola, Namibia and South Africa – face a number of serious challenges to ensuring sustainable use of the productive but vulnerable marine resources that support them. The decreased productivity of fishery resources impacts upon livelihoods and, in some small-scale communities, the food security of those dependent upon fisheries, leading to a reduction in the economic returns from commercial fisheries at national and regional levels. In addition, climate variability and change represent an additional challenge that could potentially push the natural ecosystem beyond its limits. In this context, the project was designed to build resilience and reduce the vulnerability to climate change of the marine fisheries and mariculture sectors within the BCLME.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was structured into four interlinked components, namely (i) increased stakeholder understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities and enhanced capacity to mainstream/execute climate change adaptation (CCA) in fisheries, (ii) reduced vulnerability to climate change, (iii) promotion of a proactive and forward-looking approach to climate change risks by stakeholders and (iv) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and adaptation learning.

Specifically, the project contributed to ensuring that climate change and variability were recognized as drivers of change in fisheries' social-ecological systems and that their effects were included in strategic and tactical governance and management. In addition, the profile of fisheries and mariculture was raised in local, national and regional policies and programmes addressing development and climate change.

Through a structured vulnerability assessment (VA), the most vulnerable small-scale fisheries, communities and national fisheries were identified and their climate resilience improved.

National and regional services for early warnings of extreme weather events and other climate-induced risks to fisheries were strengthened, as was the capacity throughout the region and among all stakeholder groups to assess the risks to their livelihoods and security imposed by climate change and to ensure adaptation.



KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 4 725 000

Duration
December 2015-January 2023

Resource Partners
Special Climate Change Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund of the Global Environment Facility

Partners
Benguela Current Commission (BCC), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Angola), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Namibia), Department of Forestry, Environment and Fisheries (South Africa)

Beneficiaries
Local communities dependent upon fisheries and aquaculture, research institutions, civil society and community-based organizations, local government

IMPACT

The expected impact of the project was for Benguela Current marine fisheries livelihoods become more resilient to climate change through the implementation of adaptation strategies for food and livelihood security.

ACTIVITIES

- Awareness raised of environmental vulnerabilities and climate change risks in fisheries among more than 65 government institutions and NGOs through dissemination of information over a platforms including social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp), the BCC webpage, radio broadcasts and newspapers. Newsletters were produced, distributed to stakeholders and posted on the BCC webpage, while the BCC also held a Zoom webinar on the topic.
- Policy briefs, training material, technical papers and workshop reports produced for each country and at regional level.
- Alternative sustainable coastal livelihood strategy enhanced, ensuring the inclusion of climate change considerations in the creation of alternative livelihoods.
- Rapid vulnerability assessments conducted in 13 communities (seven in Angola, four in South Africa and two in Namibia) by the University of Cape Town.
- Adaptation action plans developed and piloted in vulnerable SSF and fishing communities.
- Four plans/guidelines on early warning systems were produced by the South African Weather Services – one for each participating country, as well as a regional edition.
- A total of 1 132 individuals from the participating communities and other institutions received training in RVA/CCA, with focus on areas such as radio telecommunication, microfinance, repair of vessel engines, the importance of creating artisanal fisheries cooperatives, business creation/business plan structure, small-scale fishing gear construction, fishery resources and fishery management measures, global climate change and small-scale fishing sustainability.
- Five-day regional exchange visit to N'zeto (Angola) for small-scale fishers, government officials and mariculture farmers from all three participating countries.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Project Title

Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System

Project Code

FAO: GCP/SFS/480/LDF and GCP/SFS/480/SCF
Donor: 5113

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