

ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED AND UNREPORTED FISHING IN GHANA

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IUU FISHING A GLOBAL ISSUE



- IUU came to prominence in the 1990s, particularly in the context of efforts by RFMOs to manage fisheries in international waters
- IUU fishing global issue and increasing
- The international community efforts culminating in an **IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing**
- **Est. : US\$ 10 - 23.5bn/**11-26 million T, **18%** across all fisheries

IMPACT OF IUU IN AFRICA



- Africa IUU : **US\$ 1 billion**
- West Africa IUU: **US\$ 500 million or 38% of catches**
- IUU endemic in West Africa, particularly the Gulf of Guinea because of the two decades of political and military crisis
- **Consequences:**
 - **Economic losses** (loss of revenues for States)
 - **Resources** (destruction of habitats, overfishing)
 - **Social** (conflicts between artisanal and industrial fisheries)

IUU FISHING IN WEST AFRICA

- West African identified as **endemic** IUU fishing area
- Ghana sanctioned a “**Yellow Card**” under the EC IUU Regulations on 26 November 2013
- Guinea implemented in 2003 and lifted in July 2016 & Togo is still banned with a « **red card** »



IUU FISHING IN GHANA

- IUU fishing in **neighboring** countries
- IUU fishing **within** the Ghanaian EEZ
- **Lack** of effective **enforcement** of fisheries legislation
- Lack of effective monitoring of fishing **vessels/VMS**
- **Non-implementation** of international obligations (especially ICCAT Recommendations)

ROLE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF GHANA



- Generates over US\$ 1 billion in revenue per year
- Accounts for at least **4.5%** of Ghana's GDP
- Employs 2.4 million people or **10%** of the population
- Accounts for **60** per cent of animal protein consumed in Ghana

WHY GHANA FAILED TO CURB DOWN IUU?



- **Policy** Failure
- **Management** failures
- **Weak** law enforcement
- Inadequate **legislation**
- **Under-resourced** fisheries administration
- Investment in fisheries management and administration **not commensurate** with value of the fisheries in Ghana

WHY GHANA FAILED TO CURB DOWN IUU?



- **Unregulated** fishing industry
- Lack of **awareness** of concept of IUU Fishing
- Lack of **efficient** regional cooperation
- **Over-capacity** exacerbated other IUU problems
- Inadequate and ineffective **sanctions** framework

WHY GHANA FAILED TO CURB DOWN IUU?



- Legislative Reform became one of the center-pieces of the post “Yellow Card” **dialogue process with EC**
 - **Obsolete** legislative framework (enacted in 2002)
 - Lack of effective implementation
 - No deterrent sanctions framework

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GHANA GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS ISSUES



- Amendments included in the 2002 Fisheries Act Legislation comprehensively addressing all aspects of IUU fishing including:
 - Comprehensive provision to **control** Ghanaian vessels and operators fishing in Ghanaian waters, foreign countries and **high seas**
 - Provisions to **prevent** registration of vessels with history of IUU fishing
 - Requirement of **VMS** as a condition for license and going to sea
 - Comprehensive requirements on the **landing** of fish and catch certification
 - Comprehensive provisions to implement the FAO **PSM** Agreement

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GHANA GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES



- **Concept** of IUU fishing introduced and linked to concept of serious violation
- **Severe** sanctions for the commission of a serious violation
- Mini fine \$ 1million &max of \$ 2 million for a **serious** violation
- **Repeat** offences within six months carry mini \$2 million & maxi \$ 4 million, plus cancellation of license & deregistration of fishing vessel
- **Non-compliance** by fisheries administrators with IUU verification requirements classified as serious violation under the Public Service Regulations
- **Dismissal**
- **Imprisonment**

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GHANA GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES



- Fisheries Enforcement Unit (**FEU**) in 2013, with staff from **Ghana Navy, Marine Police, officials of MOFAD, Ghana Air Force** and **National Security**
- **FEU Unit strengthened** combat IUU through land, sea and air surveillance
- Training workshops and
- Regional cooperation

REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR WEST AFRICA TO COMBAT IUU FISHING



- Two RFMOs (SRCF & FCWC) creating awareness and capacity building & regional cooperation;/ **SIF**
- WARF Program-World Bank (Governance- **MCS/IUU** and technical assistance to private sector/women)/ **SIF**
- Environmental Justice Foundation (lobbying, provide information to Governments)
- FAO through the CEEAF (stock assessment program)
- ICCAT on tuna (quotas, monitoring)

REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING



- **US-NOAA** West Africa Capacity building Partnership
- **REPAO** (work on governance, training, posters and study tours)
- **ACP** Secretariat (Fisheries mechanism)
- **AU-IBAR-NEPAD** *Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for the fisheries and aquaculture in Africa*, which is consistent with CAADP/AU
- **RECs** (ECOWAS & WAMU)

ACTIVITIES AT REGIONAL LEVELS



- **Assistance** to countries to upgrade national fisheries legislation; governance and efficient MCS
- **Training** (seminars & workshops) of researchers, governments, onboard controllers and private sector (industrial & artisanal)
- **Strengthening** the fishery institutions and SRCF & FCWC
- Promoting **regional cooperation** (networking of fishery institution, Professional Organizations and NGOs)
- **Strengthening** Promoting sustainable aquaculture
- Developing value addition/**value chain**

AU-IBAR/ NEPAD/FCWC PROGRAMS



- Increase fisheries governance (**FishGov** and **fishTrade** two EU funded Programs)
- **Coherent, participatory** and sustainable public policies
- Capacity building fishery management of stakeholders and the fishery institutions
- Supports to **RFBs**
- Increased livelihoods for fishers
- Exports of value added products

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GHANA EXPERIENCE



- The Ghana government responded positively to the yellow card sanction:
 - **high level** political support and commitment for the fisheries sector
 - **inter-ministerial** cooperation (Defense, Police, Fisheries..)
- More **resources** to manage the fisheries
- Gain **industry support and compliance with needed reform**
- **Reinforce** the Regional and international collaboration

END



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

