

CONCEPTUAL NOTE

SEMINAR

What management for small scale fisheries in the African countries of the Atlantic, or how can sustainability be reconciled with the sub-sector's contribution to the economy and to the eradication of hunger and poverty?

7-9 July 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

Small-scale fisheries accounts for roughly half of the world's catch and two-thirds of its fishery products are intended for direct human consumption.

Worldwide, it employs more than 90% of fishermen and other fishing workers, about half of whom are women. This is a fishing activity typically conducted on the coastal strip. It uses diversified gear in nature and in seasonality to target several pelagic, semi-pelagic and demersal resources. It contributes to economic growth, food security and significant employment opportunities. The small-scale fisheries fleet is multi-species, exploiting a wide range of species and using many different fishing techniques and gear in different depths, due to long fishing traditions

According to the FAO, artisanal fisheries, also known as small-scale fisheries, is defined as *a traditional activity involving households of fishermen, with low capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels, making short fishing trips near the shore, and mainly for local consumption*. However, this definition is not universally accepted, it is constantly adapted to the local realities of each country.

II- CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

A- INTERNATIONAL

1. The United Nations Sustainable Development Program for 2030. Small-scale fisheries sector makes a significant contribution to food security and nutrition and offers development modes that promote poverty eradication and equitable development. Target 14.b of the United Nations Sustainable Development Program

to 2030 calls on countries to "**guarantee small-scale fishers' access to marine resources and markets**," through the implementation of a legal, regulatory, policy or institutional framework that recognizes and protects small-scale fishers' rights of access to marine resources and markets.

Small-scale fisheries also contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, including SDG 14 and target 14.b, SDG 1 (Poverty Reduction), SDG 2 Eradication of Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Measures to Combat Hunger) climate change), 14 (Protection of aquatic life) and 16 (Peace, justice and effective institutions).

2. Voluntary guidelines to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication

The principles set out in the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainability of Small-scale fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries) address policies, strategies and legal frameworks for small-scale fisheries, but also other issues affecting the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities. The Guidelines on small-scale fisheries are global in scope and guide dialog, political processes and actions at the national, regional and international levels.

The key issues raised by the Guidelines on Small-scale fisheries are:

- Resource management and responsible allocation of land tenure;
- Support for social development and decent work;
- Attention is paid to fishing workers throughout the value chain, from catch to processing and trade in fish;
- Promotion of gender equality ;
- Addressing climate change and disaster risk.

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The FAO Framework Program for the Promotion and Implementation of the Guidelines on Small-scale fisheries encourages their implementation through the creation of partnerships and synergies with other actors in the fisheries and development fields.

3. International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

At its seventy-second session, held in December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UN) proclaimed 2022 "**International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture**" (IYAFA). FAO is the lead agency for this event, in collaboration with relevant partners and bodies of the United Nations system.

The expected results of AIPAA 2022 fall into four categories:

- **Awareness:** sharing accessible information and key messages on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture with a wide range of audiences, including through organizing and participating in relevant global, regional and national events. This would also include the implementation of global social media campaigns.

- **Strengthening the science-policy interface:** gathering evidence, including through case studies and interdisciplinary data collection, to generate additional information and knowledge on specific aspects of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Empowering actors:** enable small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fishery workers and their organizations to participate in participatory management programs and other decision-making processes, and to access markets and services. This would also include the formulation of policies, strategies, programs and projects to support artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Partnerships:** create and strengthen new partnerships, both between small-scale organizations and with other partners from government, research, NGOs, the private sector, regional and other organizations at all levels.

B- On the African continent

At the level of the African continent, small-scale fisheries accounts for more than 60% of the production of African fishermen and almost all the catch in the sector is destined for human consumption. The sector provides jobs and significant income for poor rural communities. Ten million Africans rely on small-scale fisheries as their main livelihood, and another 90 million (farmers and resource poor) depend on it as part of a diversified livelihood strategy. Around 200 million Africans depend on fish as an affordable source of protein and important micronutrients, and in most African countries, artisanal fishers provide most of the region's fish supply. Women play a key role in artisanal fishing in Africa, mainly in post-harvest activities.

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1. Policy framework and strategy for the reform of fisheries and aquaculture

In view of the importance of small-scale fisheries in Africa and the need to promote its sustainable development, the African Union has made small-scale fisheries **one of the priority arenas of the Policy Framework and the Strategy for the Reform of Fisheries and Aquaculture**, adopted in June 2014. The main objective of this pan-African policy is to strengthen the contribution of small-scale fisheries to the reduction poverty, food and nutrition security and socio-economic benefits, particularly for fishing communities in Africa.

The AU/IBAR, in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, has developed a **Ten-Year Action Plan for the Development of Small-scale fisheries in Africa 2017-2027**, with the main specific objectives of improving:

- (i) Governance for the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in the African context;
- (ii) - The contribution of small-scale fisheries to food and nutrition security and wealth creation;

(iii)- Resilience and adaptability of small-scale fisheries to reduce vulnerability to internal and external shocks.

C- At the ATLAFCO region level

Small-scale fisheries are a major pillar of ATLAFCO's strategy for the development of sustainable fisheries in the region. In this regard, a number of activities have been organized by ATLAFCO for the benefit of small-scale fishing, the most recent being the exchange of experience and the strengthening of South-South cooperation, through the presentation of Morocco's experience in the development of infrastructure and externalities, through public services, in particular the construction and equipment of managed landing points and fishing villages. In the ATLAFCO region, despite its crucial importance, like other regions in Africa, the small-scale sub-sector continues to face a range of challenges, which hamper the release of its full potential. These challenges are, unfortunately, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, which further weakens the already precarious situation of the communities that depend on it. The organization of this workshop, is part of this evolutionary dynamic of adaptation, and also takes place, in view of the celebration next year of the International Year of Artisanal Fishing.

III. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Overall objective

Despite its socio-economic importance, small-scale fisheries in the countries of the region suffers from many ills, which hinder its full development. The main objective of this workshop is **to contribute concrete and operational** proposals to unlocking the full potential of artisanal fishing in the region.

2. Specific objectives of the workshop

- Identification of the main obstacles to the development of small-scale fisheries;
- Resolving the difficulties associated with cohabitation of small-scale and industrial fisheries;
- Research and identification of appropriate management measures;
- Adoption of sustainability certification standards for better application of good practices;
- Examination of the presence of foreign fleets (SFPAs and fisheries joint ventures) and local small-scale fisheries;
- Small-scale fisheries in the region in the context of recent global initiatives and policies (UN SDGs, Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure the Sustainability of Small-scale Fisheries, Ten-Year Action Plan for the Development of Small-scale fisheries in Africa 2017, etc.);

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V. EXPECTED RESULTS

The workshop will:

- Characterizing small-scale fisheries (its importance in terms of production, species caught, biological impact, employment, food security, value added, trade, etc.);
- Diagnosing the main constraints of the artisanal fishing sector in ATLAFCO;
- Identify best practices in the governance of small-scale fisheries at the level of countries in the region;
- Propose actions :
 - Promote the potential of small-scale fisheries and highlight the benefits that can be derived from strengthening its value chain;
 - Support the implementation of existing relevant normative instruments, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, in particular SDG 14.b. and the promotion of the effective implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainability of Small-scale Fisheries;
 - An effective celebration of the year of artisanal fisheries in 2022, and a better visibility of the achievements and expectations of artisanal fishing of the ATLAFCO member states.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

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- The workshop will be held in plenary session in the form of presentations and discussions;
- Presentations and workshops will be delivered by experts
- Logistics will be provided by ATLAFCO
- Other contacts will be selected by ATLAFCO

VII. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is intended for any person of the 22 MS of ATLAFCO, involved in the activity or management of small-scale fisheries.

VIII. DURATION, DATE AND LOCATION OF WORKSHOP

1. Duration

To efficiently complete all proposed activities, the workshop will be held over **three (03) days**.

2. Date

The workshop will take place from 07 to 09 July 2021

3. Place

The workshop will take place in El-Jadida, Hotel MAZAGAN

IX. AGENDA

Day 1 (Wednesday 07 July)

1- Opening	
2- Presentation of participants	
3- Adoption of the agenda and documents	
4- Introduction of the seminar	
5- The challenges of artisanal fishing in the Atlantic Region of Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The place and role of small-scale fisheries in African development policies. Dr. M. KEBE, consultant • Small-scale fishing, a segment where living conditions for fishermen remain precarious - Mr. Guèye GAOUSSOU (CAOPA) • Women at the center of the African artisanal fishing system - Christiane AMY DAGO (RAFEP) • African artisanal fishing, a difficult cohabitation with local and foreign industrial fishing, - Ms Diénaba Bèye • Limits and threats to artisanal fishing in regional countries - Dr. Med MAYIF, consultant <p>Discussions and conclusions</p>	
6- Small-scale fisheries and international and regional normative instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale fisheries, a major component of SDG 14, and a significant contribution to the achievement of the UN SDGs by 2030 - Mr. A. LAAMRICH (ATLAFCO) • FAO guidelines on small-scale fishing: sustainable development tool, - Mr. Med Sadiki (ATLAFCO) • Ten-year Action Plan for the Development of Small-scale fisheries in Africa 2017-2027, Status and Prospects at the Continental Level – Ms. Malebo Hellen MOEPI AU/IBAR • Safety, safety and decent work on board: What adaptations of international standards to small-scale fisheries? - Mr. A. LAAMRICH (ATLAFCO) <p>Discussions and conclusions</p>	

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Day 2 (Thursday 08 July 2021)

7- Some successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landings (PDA): South-South cooperation for the realization of 	
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<p>infrastructure dedicated to small scale fisheries, Mr. Lahoucine BOUDRARI (ONP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the voice of small-scale fisheries in African and international forums - Mr. Guèye GAOUSSOU (CAOPA) • Capacity building, participatory management of fisheries resources: State of the contribution of non-state actors to the co-management and good governance of small-scale fisheries, - Mr. Moussa MBENGUE (WADAF) <p>Discussions and conclusions</p>	
ORGANIZATION IN THEMATIC GROUPS	
<p>8- Unlocking the full potential of small-scale fisheries in the Region <u>TG1: Sustainability of fishery resources exploited by small-scale fisheries</u> (Mr. MAYIF)</p>	
<p>9- <u>TG2: For a better socio-economic contribution of small-scale fisheries: Proposals for concrete actions</u> (Dr. KEBE)</p>	
<p>10- Drafting of the recommendations of the Workshop</p>	
<p>11- Validation of conclusions and recommendations</p>	

Day 3 (Friday 09 July 2021)

<p>12- Field visit (Fishing harbor, seaweed harvesting site...)</p>	
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