



**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICAN STATE:
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**SEMINAR ON THE THEME:
FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE
BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
ON
FISHING AND BIODIVERSITY
IN THE ATLAFCO ZONE**



**October 31 – November 1st 2024
Casablanca- Morocco**

1. Context of the seminar

The new global biodiversity framework aims to achieve statutory protection of 30% of the global surface area by 2030. This target follows, among others, Aichi Target 11 and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.5, which both called for the protection of 10% of the global marine surface.

As countries strive to develop their ocean economies, diversification and expansion of activities increase pressure on marine biodiversity and competition for space (*Halpern et al., 2015 ; Jouffray et al., 2020*).

Increased human activity in the ocean has caused unprecedented impacts on marine ecosystems, with overfishing being the main threat to marine biodiversity. Fishing and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive: *fishing can contribute to improving marine biodiversity. It just needs to be sustainable* . To achieve this, governments and the fishing industry must work together to reduce the risks of overexploitation and bycatch, and effectively combat IUU fishing practices.

Sustainable fisheries are essential to global food security, but the direct and indirect impacts of fishing pose one of the greatest threats to marine biodiversity (*Halpern et al. 2007, Halpern et al. 2008; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020*).

Although a wide range of solutions to reconcile marine conservation and demand for wild-caught fish have been proposed, two approaches are particularly important. The first is conventional fisheries management, in which managers control fishing effort at the seascape scale using tools such as total allowable catch limits to regulate fishing impacts on target and non-target species (*Hilborn and Ovando, 2014*). The second is the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs), which in their most restrictive form, no-take MPAs, exclude fishing from a portion of the seascape entirely (*Agardy, 1994*).

Although not a fisheries management tool, the benefits that can result from the establishment of an MPA in areas subject to overfishing are undeniable. Dialogue between the different stakeholders is the solution for reconciling fishing and environmental preservation through MPAs.

In addition, fishermen can play a major role in collecting data that can better protect marine biodiversity; from surveying the seabed for fragile habitat to testing innovative devices to avoid bycatch of wildlife.

It is now accepted that MPAs, provided they are well managed, are effective tools for the conservation of biodiversity, the protection of marine and coastal environments and their resources, making it possible to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems.

In this regard and following the recommendations of the Symposium organized in 2023 in Rabat under the theme " *Fisheries in the Global Biodiversity Framework POST-2020* ", which stipulate to integrate environmental protection into fisheries management and vice versa, through an "integrated" approach that allows to develop

a modern approach to protected areas and the organization of an annual event on the theme of fisheries and biodiversity, ATLAFCO organized a seminar which aims to better *understand and predict the benefits of marine protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity and fisheries to reconcile protection and sustainable exploitation* on October 31 and November 1, 2024 in Casablanca-Morocco

2. General objective of the seminar

The objective of this seminar, which is part of the ATLAFCO 2024 action plan, is to better understand the benefits of marine protected areas for fishing purposes, which differ from those relating to ecological benefits in several respects.

3. Specific objectives of the seminar

Specific objectives that could be considered are:

1. Demonstrate the importance of appropriate legal, institutional and policy frameworks for marine protected areas for fisheries purposes.
2. Present the main reasons for the establishment of MPAs
3. Identify situations where MPAs are useful as a fisheries management tool
4. Highlight the socio-economic benefits associated with MPAs and outline the main socio-economic challenges to be addressed when establishing them near coastal communities that depend on fishing, particularly artisanal fishing.

4. Target Audience

- Officials responsible for fisheries and aquaculture management of ATLAFCO
- Member States
- Scientists who are members of RAFISMER

5. Expected Results

- An understanding of the variety of stakeholders and different scales of governance involved in the creation and management of marine protected areas for fisheries purposes;
- A mastery of the controversies and difficulties of applying the implementation of Marine Protected Areas;
- An understanding of the impact of marine protected areas on marine biodiversity.
- A reflection on active governance of MPAs as an essential element of their future effectiveness;
- A consideration of the local and global utility of MPAs as vectors of resilience in the face of global changes;
- Action plans for integrating MPAs into national strategies for fisheries management and preservation of marine ecosystems
- Concrete recommendations for the establishment of MPAs for the sustainable use of living marine resources.

6. Reception and opening :

The representative of the current president of ATLAFCO, **Mr. Bina FOFANA**, Director of Fisheries at the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as **Mr. Toufik ELKTIRI**, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, welcomed the participants (list attached) and declared the working sessions open.

7. Session schedule :

Session I: Marine protected areas: concepts, issues and solutions for sustainable management of maritime resources, Moderator: Dr Rodrigue PELEBE:

Presentation 1: “Marine *Protected Areas as a tool for sustainable development of marine resources*” was presented by **Mr. Naji LAAMRICH** Head of Cooperation Department/ATLAFCO.

In particular, it showed that the widespread and profound degradation of marine ecosystems and the ineffective regulatory frameworks currently in place require the establishment of a set of faster, broader and more effective management and governance mechanisms.

It has also demonstrated that marine protected areas are a highly effective tool to protect and restore nature and ensure social and economic resilience and wealth of societies. However, this objective can only be achieved when they are governed by structured and effective programs following the best available scientific guidelines and standards.

He also noted that the updated standards, compiled and addressed in an MPA Guide, complementing the existing framework of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), constitute an essential tool for managers, practitioners and decision-makers and should be widely used to guide conservation efforts at national, regional and international levels.

Presentation 2 : “ *Threats to marine protected areas in West Africa: from uncontrolled fishing to climate change* ” was presented by **Dr. Moustapha KEBE** , Expert Consultant.

After having outlined the types of threats to the MPA which are either of anthropogenic origin, of natural origin, or due to management measures, **Dr. KEBE** recommends limiting ourselves to monitoring, surveillance and awareness-raising actions because they are easy to implement and are more akin to the basic functioning of MPAs rather than to actions adapted to the current situation which

requires a much more sustained and coordinated effort at the network level to maintain the resilience capacity of ecosystems in the face of climate change.

He also recommended supplementing the range of actions taken by managers with measures more focused on the nature of the threats and ecosystem rehabilitation actions targeted at these identified threats.

Presentation 3: “Marine *protected areas in West Africa: assessment and perspectives with regard to international commitments*” by **Dr. Bara DEME** – Project Manager / Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO).

Mr. Bara DEME first reported on the origins of the first MPAs in Mauritania in the 1970s and their expansion during the 1990s to 2000s to other West African countries. He also described the current monograph of West African MPAs. Finally, the international objectives and the status of implementation of international commitments were detailed.

Presentation 4: “Education *and awareness for a better understanding of the challenges of the blue economy in the ATLAFCO region*” by **Mr. Hamid HALIM** - Media Observatory for Sustainable Fishing in Africa (MOSFA)

He first recalled the challenges facing West Africa in particular, as well as the duty to raise awareness of the dangers facing biodiversity, noting the role of identity and family in this context.

Mr. Halim also stressed the role of education, development and the concept of the blue economy for a better understanding of the benefits of preserving the marine environment for sustainable exploitation of living marine resources.

Finally, an awareness video on the effects of pollution on the marine ecosystem and biotope was broadcast.

Session II: “Ecological and Socio-economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas: Management Opportunities and Constraints”, Moderator, Dr. Moustapha KEBE

Presentation 5: “Roles, *benefits and challenges of MPAs for sustainable fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biodiversity*” by **Dr. Rodriguez PELBE** Researcher at the African Centre of Excellence for Coastal Resilience.

Dr. PELBE first clarified the concept of MPAs, then their role in fisheries management as well as the benefits and finally he highlighted the challenges that their management represents.

Presentation 6: “*The importance of scientific tools in the management and designation of MPAs* by **Mr. Jilali BENSBAI**, researcher at the National Institute of Fisheries Research / Morocco.

Mr. BENSBAI first indicated that the concept of MPAs appeared at the end of the 19th century like reserves, but it was in 1982 in the United States that their proliferation actually began at the same time as the conventions of international law were signed. He also described the Moroccan experience in marine conservation thanks to significant resources, including the 6 research vessels that made it possible to proceed with the classification, filtration and identification of areas.

Presentation 7: *“Assessment and prospects for sustainable implementation of MPAs in the ATLAFCO region”* by **Dr Rodriguez PELBE** Researcher at the African Centre of Excellence for Coastal Resilience/Ghana.

Dr PELBE discussed in particular the perspectives concerning the development of systems such as development plans, as well as socio-economic studies such as costs and benefits and finally the implications of communities (co-management).

Session III: Co-management of MPAs and fishing activities, moderator: Dr Bara DEME:

Presentation 8: *“Consensus or divergence between stakeholders and managers on fishing practices within the Marine Protected Areas of Senegal: Dr Omar SADIO*, Scientific Project Manager, Research Institute for Development / Senegal.

Dr. SADIO listed Senegal's actions regarding MPAs as well as the impact and reactions of the communities, namely:

- The beneficial (positive) effects of MPAs are well perceived by all stakeholders in Senegal;
- the establishment of MPAs increases the diversity, size, abundance and biomass of species ;
- the establishment of MPAs increases the income of fishermen;
- The objectives of creating MPAs in Senegal are diverse and varied but none aim to prohibit fishing there;
- The establishment of MPAs in Senegal takes into account resources, habitats but also and above all populations;
- MPAs in Senegal are well managed by a dedicated administrative structure (MPA Directorate);
- Regardless of the question asked, the answers are contradictory among the stakeholders;
- Fishermen have expressed their desire to exploit resources in MPAs;
- Scientific support is necessary to better achieve conservation objectives;
- There is much more divergence than consensus between stakeholders and managers on fishing practices within Senegal's Marine Protected Areas.

Presentation9: *“The risks of MPAs on the behavior of fishermen, their fishing efforts and their fishing capacity: Mr. Guy GAOUSSO, African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA).*

Mr. GAOUSSO first recalled the importance of marine resources, as well as the importance of MPAs and their role for future generations. He also called for capacity building of local authorities and fishing communities, the mobilization of funding for the monitoring and co-management of MPAs and finally the development of management tools based on science and local knowledge.

Presentation10: *“Measures taken to develop methodologies and indicators to assess the effectiveness of protected areas : Dr Mohammed MALOULI , Director of the regional fisheries research center in Tangier.*

Dr MALOULI reviewed the range of indicators that exist for the effectiveness of MPAs, including socio-economic indicators, exploitation indicators and governance issues. He also stressed the need for a scientific monitoring programme and a baseline in order to be able to periodically evaluate MPAs.

Session IV: Case studies on the development and management of MPAs in ATLAFCO countries, Moderator: Dr Omar SADIO

Presentation 11: Case of Cameroon: **Mr. David MOTOKWAN** presented the case of Cameroon illustrating the immense ecological potential in its coastal waters but whose management of marine protected areas is faced with various challenges, including anthropogenic pressure, lack of financial and human resources.

The creation of the Manyange na Elombo-Campo Marine National Park represents a notable step forward, as it is expected to play a significant role in the conservation of marine biodiversity.

These Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are not only conservation tools, but also a powerful economic lever that can generate significant financial gains for local communities while supporting long-term sustainable development.

However, it is crucial to ensure effective implementation of conservation and protection policies.

Presentation 12: Case of Senegal:

Mr. Coumba Ndoffene DIOUF indicated that Senegal, like most coastal countries, established its first MPAs in 2004, in particular in application of international and national legal instruments. Thus, since their advent in Senegal, 17 MPAs have been created; three ZPPs have been created as well as a certain number of APACs. Development actions relating to reforestation, the immersion of artificial reefs among others, are conducted within these MPAs to strengthen their effectiveness. The management of MPAs is based on a participatory approach involving stakeholders in an innovative drive for co-management.

Presentation 13 : Case of Côte d'Ivoire :

Mr. Bina FOFANA indicated that Côte d'Ivoire has recorded the following achievements:

- The establishment of a National Working Group (GTN) for the creation of Marine Protected Areas by taking decree n°0029/MINESUDD/CAB of April 4, 2013 amended by decree n°00140/MINEDD/CAB of April 24, 2020;
- Identification of 5 Sites: (i) cross-border site of the mouth of the Cavally River, (ii) site of Grand-Béréby, (iii) site of the Dassioko Classified Forest, (iv) site of the Azagny National Park, and (v) site of the cross-border coastal zone Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana;
- The establishment of the Classification Commission of the first Marine Protected Area by taking order No. 00139 / MINEDD / CAB of April 24, 2020 establishing and attributing powers to the Classification Commission of the Marine Protected Area of Grand-Béréby. However, it is necessary to find concerted solutions to better strengthen the effectiveness of these tools. The issue of MPAs certainly has a bright future ahead of it and the agreement on the BBNJ as well as related international instruments are a perfect illustration of this, with in particular the idea of creating MPAs on the high seas which is in gestation.

Presentation 14 : Case of Ghana :

Mr. Fred Kwasi ANTWI-BOADU reports that the Ghana model consists of closing and opening MPAs depending on the situation.

He also mentioned the Abidjan Convention for which Ghana must establish MPAs to protect residents from the impact of climate change. It should also be noted that there are areas identified for their specificities and which sometimes affect the livelihoods of the populations.

There is also a monitoring committee for the operation of MPAs which can also conduct socio-economic surveys. Training workshops are also organized to acquire the skills to carry out MPA evaluations with the help of their designers themselves. Finally all existing MPAs in Ghana are mapped.

Presentation 15: Case of Benin: Mr. Adekoulne Hospice CHRISTIAN Responsible for AMPs

Mr. Christian recalled that in 2018 and in cooperation with fisheries stakeholders, the Government of Benin created in 2022 by decree No. 2022. 003 of January 5,

2022, two (02) marine protected areas (MPA): the Bouche du Roy MPA and the Donaten MPA.

From 2022 to today, management tools such as the development and management plans (PAG) of the MPAs created are being developed.

Presentation 16: Case of Morocco: Mr. Hicham OUYAHIA, Executive in the maritime fisheries department.

Mr. Hicham OUYAHIA presented the national strategy of marine protected areas (MPA) in Morocco with the vision of creating a network of MPA-Fisheries capable of contributing to the preservation of resources, the rehabilitation of marine ecosystems and the sustainability of artisanal fishing.

As part of a partnership with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), three marine protected areas for fishing purposes (MPA-P) have been set up in pilot sites: MPA Alboran, MPA Mogador and MPA Massa. This project is part of the "sustainable development" activity of the Artisanal Fishing Project and the sustainability axis of the Halieutis strategy.

Three other marine protected areas for fishing purposes will be created within the framework of the National Blue Economy Development Program in partnership with the World Bank, namely (Agadir MPA, Larache MPA and Cap des Trois Fourches MPA (City of Nador).

Another MPA will be created in Boujdour following a request from artisanal fishing professionals in this region.

Session V: ROUND TABLES FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON AREAS RELATED TO MPAs:

The discussions around the round tables initially concerned the following themes:

- “Scientific” Round Table: hosted by **Doctor Bara DEME**
Under the theme "Scientific Approaches for the Conservation and Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas: Innovations, Challenges and Opportunities";
- Round Table "Regulation" hosted by **Doctor Moustapha KEBE**
Under the theme "Legal Frameworks and Regulations for the Sustainable Management of Marine Protected Areas: Harmonization and Regional Adaptation"

Then secondly, two other themes were debated, namely:

- Round Table "MPA Management": hosted by **Mrs. Laila BENSMAIL**
Under the theme "Marine Protected Area Management Strategies: Co-management Models and Collaborative Governance Practices";
- Round Table "Financing": hosted by **Ms. Siham FELLAHI**
Under the theme "Financing Mechanisms for the Creation and

The outcome of the discussions resulted in the notification of recommendations relating to each of the themes discussed and are attached in the appendix.

Session VI: Financing marine protected areas in a sustainable manner - moderator: Mr. Guy GAOUSSO:

Presentation 17: The financial needs of MPAs and the different self-financing mechanisms – Doctor Mohammed MALOULI,

Doctor MALOULI looked at the means of financing MPAs, the importance of AGR (income-generating activities), and also the financing of research and surveillance.

Presentation 18 “Maritime Spatial Planning, an essential tool for the creation of MPAs”: Mrs. Laila BENSMAIL

Mrs. BENSMAIL spoke about the importance of spatial planning, the need for good governance and that it be inclusive with the involvement of communities. She also spoke about environmental protection and plastic pollution;

Presentation 19 “Support and development of financing solutions for protected areas -Ms. Siham FELLAHI

Mrs. FELLAHI spoke about the financing of MPAs, emphasizing the need to develop a financing plan (needs, costs, etc.), options and sources of financing (international, partnership, etc.).

The seminar work ended around 17:30 p.m.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday October 31

OPENING AND INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKSHOP	
09:00 - 09:30	Official opening Introduction to the Workshop
SESSION I: MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: CONCEPTS, ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARITIME RESOURCES MODERATOR: DOCTOR RODRIGUE PELEBE	
09:30-10:00 10:00-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- THE Marine protected areas as a tool for sustainable development of marine resources: Naji LAAMRICH Head of Cooperation Department/ATLAFCO- Threats to marine protected areas in West Africa: from uncontrolled fishing to climate change Doctor Moustapha KEBE Expert Consultant
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00- 11:30 11:30-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Marine protected areas in West Africa: assessment and perspectives with regard to international commitments: Doctor Bara DEME – Project Manager / Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO)- Education and awareness raising for a better understanding of the challenges of the blue economy in the ATLAFCO region: Hamid HALIM - Media Observatory for Sustainable Fishing in Africa (MOSFA)
SESSION II: ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS MODERATOR: DOCTOR MOUSTAPHA KEBE	
12:00-12:30 12:30-13:00 13:00- 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Roles, benefits and challenges of MPAs for sustainable fisheries and the conservation of aquatic biodiversity: Doctor Rodriguez PELBE Researcher at the African Center of Excellence for Coastal Resilience- The importance of scientific tools in the management and designation of MPAs: Representative of the National Institute of Fisheries Research / Morocco- Assessment and prospects for sustainable implementation of MPAs in the ATLAFCO region: Doctor Rodriguez PELBE Researcher at the African Centre of Excellence for Coastal Resilience/Ghana
13:30-14:30	Lunch
SESSION III: CO-MANAGEMENT OF MPAs AND FISHING ACTIVITIES MODERATOR: Doctor BARA DEME	

14:30-15:00	- Consensus or divergence between stakeholders and managers on fishing practices within the Marine Protected Areas of Senegal: Doctor Omar SADIO, Scientific Project Manager, Research Institute for Development / Senegal
15:00-15:30	- The risks of MPAs on the behavior of fishermen, their fishing efforts and their fishing capacity: Mr. Guy GAOUSSO, African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA)
15:30-16:00	- Measures taken to develop methodologies and indicators to assess the effectiveness of protected areas: Doctor Mohammed MALOULI, Director of the regional fisheries research center in Tangier
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
SESSION IV: CASE STUDIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO COUNTRIES MODERATOR: Doctor Omar SADIO	
16:30-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case of Benin: Mr. Adekoulne Hospice CHRISTIAN Responsible for AMPs - Case of Senegal: Mr. Coumba Ndoffene DIOUF, Head of the Fisheries Development Office - Case of Ghana: Mr. Fred Kwasi ANTWI-BOADU, Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission - Case of Morocco; Mr. Hicham OUYAHIA , Executive in the Department of Maritime Fisheries - Case of Côte d'Ivoire: Mr. Bina FOFANA

Day 2: Friday, November 1, 2024

SESSION V: ROUND TABLES FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON AREAS RELATED TO MPAs MODERATOR: Doctor Mohamed MALOULI	
09:00 -11:00	<p>1. "Scientific" Round Table : hosted by Doctor Bara DEME</p> <p>"Scientific Approaches for the Conservation and Monitoring of Marine Protected Areas: Innovations, Challenges and Opportunities"</p> <p>2. Round Table "Regulation " hosted by Doctor Moustapha KEBE</p> <p>"Legal Frameworks and Regulations for the Sustainable Management of Marine Protected Areas: Harmonization and Regional Adaptation"</p>
11:00-1:30	Coffee break
Continuation of round tables and preparation of recommendations	
11:30 - 13:00	<p>3. Round Table "MPA Management" : hosted by Mrs. Laila BENSMAIL</p> <p>"Marine Protected Area Management Strategies: Co-management Models and Collaborative Governance Practices"</p> <p>4. Round Table "Financing" : led by Ms. Siham FELLAHI</p>

	"Financing Mechanisms for the Creation and Management of Marine Protected Areas: Towards Sustainable and Resilient Models"
13:00-14:00	Lunch
SESSION VI: FINANCING SUSTAINABLY PROTECTED MARINE AREAS - MODERATOR: Mr. Guy GAOUSSO	
14:00-14:30	- Financial needs of MPAs and the different mechanisms self-financing – Doctor Mohammed MALOULI, Director of the INRH regional center in Tangier
14:30-15:00	- "Maritime Spatial Planning, an essential tool for the creation of MPAs" : Mrs. Laila BENSMAIL, Consultant-Morocco
15:00- 15:30	- Support and development of financing solutions for protected areas - Ms. Siham FELLAHI Inspector of Finance, Head of Mission, Co-coordinator of the blue economy development program in Morocco, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Economy and Finance
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Formulation of recommendations Conclusions and presentation of recommendations / closing

ANNEX 2: RECOMMENDATIONS

ROUND TABLE “Scientific” - “Scientific approaches for the conservation and monitoring of MPAs: Innovation, challenges and opportunities”

Moderator: Mr. Bara DEME

	Innovations	Challenges	Opportunities
Scientific approaches to conservation	<p>-The panel recommends the integration of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a monitoring tool to assess species diversity and the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). By enabling non-invasive detection of species via DNA fragments present in water samples, eDNA offers an accurate and regular assessment of biodiversity, including for rare or difficult-to-observe species, while minimizing disturbances to natural habitats. The panel also recommends developing a training and capacity-building component for MPA managers and researchers, so that they can take ownership of this innovative method. Furthermore, it is crucial to set up a regional network for sharing knowledge and pooling resources, allowing countries in the region to collaborate in terms of data processing.</p> <p>-The panel recommends establishing baselines integrating socioeconomic, bioecological and governance indicators for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in order to facilitate the monitoring of their effectiveness over time. These baselines will provide a complete initial portrait of MPAs, essential for measuring the impact of</p>	<p>-The panel recommends increasing the research funding budget for MPAs, by adopting a multi-year strategy and diversifying sources of funds.</p> <p>-The panel recommends encouraging adaptation of researchers to the environment and realities of fishing communities in order to strengthen collaboration and facilitate inclusive management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Understanding local practices, values and social dynamics is essential to build trust and adapt scientific interventions to the specific context of each community.</p>	<p>-The panel recommends targeting and mobilizing funds from international conventions to support the creation, monitoring and implementation of management plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).</p> <p>-The panel recommends promoting exchange visits between managers and communities of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to share experiences and disseminate good practices. These exchanges will strengthen local skills, inspire innovative approaches and consolidate collaboration networks for more effective and adapted management of MPAs.</p> <p>The panel recommends integrating local ecological knowledge into the monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).</p> <p>The panel recommends leveraging the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the rise of the blue economy to strengthen initiatives for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).</p> <p>-The panel recommends promoting joint monitoring of Marine Protected Areas</p>

	<p>protection measures. It is particularly essential that this baseline be carried out upstream for MPAs in the creation phase, in order to capture the initial conditions and identify intervention priorities. The socioeconomic, bioecological and governance indicators will thus form a solid basis for future evaluations, ensuring comparable data that will facilitate decision-making and the demonstration of the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of MPAs.</p> <p>-It also recommends a harmonization of the reference state indicators within the framework of a procedure manual/guide</p> <p>-The panel recommends promoting the active involvement of fishing communities in the information collection process within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). To achieve this, it is essential to develop strategies to establish and strengthen relationships of trust between researchers and local communities. The implementation of adapted training for local fishermen will familiarize them with data collection tools and methods, thus strengthening their skills and autonomy in this area. In addition, the regular organization of results restitution sessions will help to make communities fully involved and informed, allowing them to better understand the importance of the data collected and to take</p>		<p>(MPAs), particularly within the framework of the 30x30 objectives and the High Seas Treaty, with a view to creating and effectively managing transboundary MPAs.</p> <p>-The panel recommends implementing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) to organize and optimize the use of marine spaces.</p>
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	ownership of the tools and methods used. These initiatives will promote collaborative and sustainable management of marine resources, strengthening the effectiveness of MPAs while consolidating links between researchers and local stakeholders.		
Approaches to monitoring	<p>-The panel recommends adopting new technologies to strengthen the surveillance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in particular by integrating motion detection and geolocation systems. The use of satellite tracking devices, drones and GPS beacons will allow more precise and real-time monitoring of activities in and around MPAs, facilitating the rapid detection of intrusions, illegal fishing, and other non-compliant activities.</p> <p>-The panel recommends better legal and financial supervision of participatory surveillance.</p>	<p>-It is not only fisheries and resources that need to be monitored, but also oceanography as a whole must be integrated, including plastic pollution and the effects of climate change.</p> <p>-Strengthen logistics and human resources in terms of surveillance</p> <p>-Convince decision-makers of the effectiveness of MPAs.</p>	

ROUND TABLE " Regulation " - "Legal Frameworks and Regulations for the Sustainable Management of Marine Protected Areas: Harmonization and Regional Adaptation ", Moderator : Mr. Moustapha KEBE

Recommendations (ATLAFCO through the three ORPs)

1. Status of MPAs in the region and existing regulations
2. Content of the regulations on MPAs
 - a) Definition of AMP
 - b) Authorized activities
 - c) Conditions for carrying out activities
 - d) Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance system
 - Sanctions

- Dispute resolution mechanisms
(establishment of a dispute resolution body;
dispute resolution procedures)
- 3. System for sharing the benefits generated by the MPA between stakeholders

ROUND TABLE “ Management strategy: Co-management and collaborative governance” Moderator: Mrs. Laila BENSMAIL

1. Sufficient involvement of local communities (indigenous and migrants) and fishermen in the decision-making process to develop eco-citizenship for better ownership of management measures
2. Establishment of a legal framework and a policy favorable to co-management: A clear and stable legal framework, supporting co-management and providing a frame of reference for the actors.
3. Establishment and/or strengthening of a clear, well-defined governance structure, with clearly assigned roles and responsibilities for effective decision-making.
4. Establishment of a mapping of all stakeholders and their good representation
5. Democratization of local management institutions
6. Taking into account local rules and traditional knowledge
7. Establishment of the principles of transparency and accountability in governance
8. Implementation of regulations recognizing local realities
9. Establishment of sufficient financial, human and technical resources to implement and maintain co-management
10. Establishment of Conflict Resolution Mechanism
11. Making decisions collegially by setting up decision-making mechanisms that allow all stakeholders to express themselves and participate
12. Institutionalization of the co-management framework across the country
13. Harmonization of financial partners' interventions with national policy
14. Establishment of a sustainable monitoring and evaluation mechanism: Regular monitoring of performance indicators makes it possible to adjust management strategies based on the results obtained.
15. Training of stakeholders in co-management
16. Informed decision-making based on scientific advice and traditional knowledge of local communities
17. Documentation and Communication on the successes of co-management to strengthen the motivation of stakeholders.
18. Organization of experience sharing workshops supported by ATLAFCO
19. Establishment of intra and inter-country exchange visits

ROUND TABLE “ Financing mechanisms for the creation and management of MPAs” Moderator: Mrs. Siham FELLAHI

1. Take stock of funding in MPAs
2. Analysis of existing financing mechanisms and good practices in MPA management

3. Establish a financing and management model within the framework of ATLAFCO
4. Reducing dependence on external funding through the creation of national funds to subsidize MPA management. These funds could be funded by : (i) monthly levies of a small amount on the income of fishing professionals after consensus with representatives of the profession (graduation approach: notify contributors, consensus with representatives, etc.). (ii) levies on fishing licenses;
5. Ensure synergies between the different stakeholders in MPAs .

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS				
SEMINAIRE SUR LE THEME: POUR UNE MEILLEURE COMPHENSION DES BENEFICES DES AIRES MARINES PROTEGEES SUR LA PECHE ET LA BIODIVERSITE DANS LA ZONE COMHAFAT				
31 oct- 01 ^{er} Nov. 2024				
N°	Pays/ Organismes	NOMS & PRENOMS	TITRE	Signature
1	Angola	M. Fredy Ditomene Mbala KONDA	Directeur Général Adjoint de l'Institut pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale et de l'Aquaculture Communale	
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