
Contract Between

The National Consultative Committee (NCC)

and

Alh. Cherno Omar Joof, Lead Consultant
Alh. Ebou Mass Mbye, Consultant.
Project study “Towards Regional Policies for Sustainable Fisheries for Small Pelagic in Northwest Africa”

Objectives: Supporting processes leading to coordinated policies and management of Small Pelagic Fisheries between countries bordering the Canary Current upwelling system.

Main species: The Small Pelagics: *Sardinella (Aurita & maderensis)*, *Horse mackerel (Trachurus trecae etc)*, *Chub mackerel (Scomber japonicus)*, *bonga (ethmalosa fimbriata)* and *anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus)*.
Study sites.

. Seven Fish Landing Sites along the A/C:
Consultants’ tasks.

1. To briefly describe the fisheries sector of The Gambia.
2. To identify and Assess on the status of Artisanal Organisational levels and their roles in the Co-Management of the fishery.
3. To build the capacities of Artisanal Fisheries Operators in Co-management, Eco-system Approach to Fisheries principles (EAF).
4. To sensitize Small Pelagic Operator on the Fisheries Act, 2007 and Fisheries Regulations, 2008, and interpret them to the understanding of the fishers.
5. To train fishers on simple data collection on fish production, marketing.
6. To identify gaps and make recommendations.
Duration of the study and report.

1. In 30 days.
2. Satisfactory submission of final report to the SRFC Project Coordinator and the NCC President.
3. To critically review, collate and analyze the status of Co-management Groups.
4. Identify critical gaps.
5. Recommend remedial actions.
6. Cultural and local knowledge of the Small Pelagic Stocks.
Identify and Assess the Status of Artisanal Organizational Levels and their roles in the Co-management of the fishery.

• There are many professional organizations in the Artisanal Fisheries Sector.
• Focusing on three because of viability, credibility, scope and type of work. These are:
  ➢ Gambia Artisanal Fisheries Development Agency (GAMFIDA)
  ➢ National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO).
  ➢ TRY Oyster Women Association (TOWA).
• The 3 support The Gambia Government towards sustainable use of the resources.
• Encouraging the establishment of Co-management committees in all the fish landing sites
• The P/O’s are involved in Government meetings relating to their activities.
Relationship between the fisheries authorities and the PO’s.

• Fisheries Department and PO’s relationship in the areas of Co-management and management of MPA’s.
• The National Sole Committee (NASCOM) was set-up by the fisheries operators through BANAAFA with collaboration of MoFWR&NAM & FD and support from other professional organizations.
• Two Artisanal PO’s, one Industrial PO and a Government representative sit in NASCOM.
• Possibility for NASCOM to co-manage the sole fishery.
Relationship between the fisheries authorities and the PO’s.

• TRY / TOWA.
  ➢ Active in the management of the Wetland Areas.
  ➢ Obtain exclusive user right in the harvesting of oysters & cockles.
  ➢ Planted 40,000 mangroves.
  ➢ Support from Government (FD & DoP&WM).
Co-management and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

• Five out of seven sites visited to know how the fisher-folk communities understand the concept of Co-management & EAF principles.
• Primary objective – sustainable use of the resources and ensure stakeholder representatives.
• Interviews with 7 people in each site.
• Most people indicated failures of committees due to improper selection of members / lack of commitments.
• Less fishermen representatives in the committees.
• More members from the villages than the fisherman.
Perception of the fisher-folk communities on Co-management from the Fish Landing Sites visited.

1. **Joeswang**: Organize people with same interest of livelihood into a committee and encourage them to manage a task:
   - Involve stakeholders of the different fisheries trade available at the site.
   - Fishermen should dominate the committee.
   - Make regular meetings and abide by the agreement.
   - Ensure that the committee is empowered by Government to manage the affairs of the fisheries in the community.
   - Ensure responsible fishing.

2. **Bakau**: A committee of the fisher-folk of different occupation should be responsible for fisheries activities at the landing site.
   - Previous committees were dominated by people whose main interest was not fisheries and hardly seen at the fish landing site.
   - Selections were based on whom you know.
   - Know flow of information with regards to meetings / events.
   - Committees were weak and could not enforce the regulations.
Perception of the fisher-folk communities on Co-management from the Fish Landing Sites visited.

1. Tanjeh:
   - The concept of Co-management is to organize people into committees whose livelihood is fisheries related activities and work towards improving the sector and ensure a sustainable fisheries.
   - Introduce the committee members to the landing site and tasked with the responsibilities to prepare a management and workable plan.
   - Committee members should be selected from Government / FD, the security, fishermen and all other stakeholders at the site.
   - The committee must be dominated by fishermen.
   - The committee should ensure a zero tolerance on catches of juvenile fish species as well as fishing with illegal mesh sizes of fishing nets.
   - Unfair selection of the members, lack of commitment and failed.
Recommendations from Tanjeh:

- Co-management committees should be established at all sites and empowered to manage the fisheries.
- Members should be selected based on commitment.
- The committee should be dominated by Gambian fishermen with one representative from all the other fishery, two foreign fishermen recognized at the site, CFC’s, VDC, Alkalo, FD staff and Security Agencies at the fishing site.
- No compromise with anyone found violating agreements, The Fisheries Regulations etc.
Recomm. from Tanjeh cont.

- FD and committees should collaborate and sensitize the fisher-folk communities about the Fisheries Regulations, 2008, especially on mesh size, fishing methods, fish size and restricted grounds.
- No fishing within the two Nautical Miles Limits mainly to preserve the breeding and spawning grounds.
- Identify and marked all the breeding and spawning grounds.
- Report all cases of mal practices to the Committee members and Government Authorities.
- Migratory fishermen must not be members of committees.
Perception of the fisher-folk communities on Co-management at Kartong.

• A group of people selected to focus on the proper management of a resources.
• Have all the stakeholders onboard and select a committee to responsible the sustainable management of the fish resources.
• Critisize previous committees based on whom you know and people who are rarely seen at the fishing site.
Summary of recommendations from Kartong.

- Establish Co-management committee with proper selection.
- Empower the fisher-folk to enforce agreements and support government in the drive towards improving the sector.
- The VDC should be the Supreme Authority.
- The fisher-folk community and fishermen should dominate in the committee.
- Committee members to be selected from committed people.
- Sensitize the fisher-folk communities on all agreements / activities to be enforce.
- Seek Government support.
- Fisheries staff must be a member of the committee.
- Prevent Purse seine boats from fishing at night.
Perception and gaps of the fisher-folk communities on Co-management at Gunjur.

- Involve stakeholders of fisheries to collaborate and manage the resources sustainably.
- Previous committees did not survive due to lack of cooperation and information flow among members and the fisher-folk community.
- Committee members were not known to the fisher-folk community.
Recommendations from Gunjur.

- Fisheries Department in collaboration with the committee to enforce the Fisheries Regulations, 2008.
- Ensure cooperation among Co-management committee members.
- Co-management committee must be dominated by fishermen and include women whose livelihood is fisheries.
- The VDC Chairman, Alkalo, Councillor to be co-opted into the committee.
- No need to include the Chief and Commissioner.
- ID cards available to the committee.
- Government to give authority to the committee to enforce the Fisheries Laws.
Contributions of the PO’s in the Artisanal Fisheries Sector.

• Contributions to the management tool established at Gunjur & Tanjeh to limit the number of outings due to large catches of the small pelagics.
• Sensitize the Fish smokers about the depletion of the forest cover.
• The PO’s are in the position to adapt to changing situation.
• PO’s are usually involved in sensitizing their members on the importance of conservation, management and Co-management.
• Encouraging permanently-based fisher-folk who are more conscious with the future fish resources than the migratory fisher-folk to be members.
Gaps of the PO’s.

• Some PO’s have little knowledge of the Fisheries Act, 2007, and the Fisheries Regulations, 2008, especially on the areas of conservation, mesh size regulations, fish size limitations, prohibited areas, catch limitations among other things.
Types of Co-management.

- There are five different types of Co-management:
  - Government Driven Co-management
  - Cooperative Co-management: all actors including Government, NGO’s, private operators, Artisanal & Industrial
  - Consultative Co-management: Project type.
  - User Group Co-management: Only one group
  - Collaborative Co-management: All sectors and must be democratic.
Feed back from the P. Os.

- Many of the PO’s are unable to establish their own point of contact.
- The establishment of MPA’s should be expanded to provide more breeding and spawning grounds.
- Statistical data collection is non existence in the operation of the PO’s, they should be thought the techniques.
- Enforce the Laws at sea, the estuaries, tributaries and wetland for better conservation of the resources.
- The PO’s participate in Co-management activities. Some of their members have been co-opted in specialized committees.
Institutional and operational capacities of the PO’s.

• Fish harvesters, processors, marketers, exporters and boat builders encourage the youths to participate in the fisheries sector.
• TRY is a PO with 95 % women and 10 % men (500 members).
• TRY conducts skills training for daughters of its members.
  ➢ Training includes literacy classes, sewing and home economics.
• TRY has well established and functioning Board of Directors, with a Chairman and members chosen from different works of life.
• The other PO’s have Executive Committees headed by a President and elected members.
• The PO’s organize General meetings, Executive Committee meetings and an ad hoc meeting.
Train fishers on simple data collection on fish production, marketing.

- To train fishermen from all the seven fish landing sites on simple data collection on fish production, fish marketing and entrepreneurship.
- Train fishermen, fish retailers, fish smokers, fish dryers and possibly consumers.
- To hire a Resource Person to conduct the training at all sites.
- Language (*Wollof & Mandinka*).
- DATA COLLECTION.
  - To design two tables:
    - One for fish production to be used by fishermen.
    - Balance sheet of income and expenditure to be used by Boat owners.
    - Purpose is to keep the operations abreast with data on the daily fishing operations, expenditures and balances.
Identify gaps and make recommendations.

Gaps.

1. People without direct interest dominated certain committees and eventually failed.
2. Lack of information flow to the beneficiaries.
3. Permanently based foreign fishermen have been sidelined at some fishing sites.
4. Migratory fishermen who do not stay for long periods in The Gambia are included in the committees.
Identify gaps and make recommendations.

Gaps.

5. Majority of fishermen cannot read and write English.
6. Members of the fisher-folk communities do not keep records of their operations.
7. The Commissioner and Chief at a particular region have the ultimate authority.
8. Some meetings were held outside the landing sites resulting to poor attendance.
9. Minutes of the meetings were not recorded for circulation to members.
Identify gaps and make recommendations.

Gaps

10. Few people were informed of meetings.
11. Uncertainty for information to reach the other groups.
12. The committees do not have authority from Government to enforce legislation.
13. Fishermen representation is very low.
15. No enough actions against fishermen found violating the Fisheries Regulation, 2008, were taken.
16. Fixed committees are established at certain Fish Landing Sites making it difficult for other members to step-in.
Identify gaps and make recommendations.

Gaps

17. Committees find it difficult to organize meetings if these meetings are not facilitated by Fisheries Department officials.
18. Committee members do not attend meetings on time even though prior noticed was given.
19. No data to indicate number of operators of the small pelagic fish resources.
20. Communication between different P. O’s is very weak. May be non existent.
21. Networking among the P. O’s is very lax.
22. There has been no term limit for committees.
Recommendations.

1. Co-management Committees of target fish species should be established at all sites.
2. Established special committees for the Small Pelagic Fish Resources.
3. No migratory fisher-folk should be included in Co-management committees.
4. Members of the Co-management Committees should be dominated by Gambians whose livelihood is fisheries related activities and include few foreign fisher-folk based in The Gambia.
Recommendations.

5. Fishermen should have at least a 30% representation in the committee (dominated).

6. A two years fix term limit for committees after which elections must be held.

7. Fisheries Department staff and well-known committed members should facilitate all committee meetings.

8. A Secretariat of Co-management groups with the following responsibilities should be established:
Recommendations cont.

- Organized meetings.
- Disseminate information.
- Enforce the Fisheries Regulations with support of the committee and the security.
- Report writing and information dissemination.

8. Translate the Fisheries Act, 2007, Fisheries Regulations, 2008, in the local language and recorded
Recommendations cont.

9. Minimise fishing efforts by limiting the number of purse seine boats as well as no night operations of this fishing methods.

10. Ensure that the nets with correct stretched mesh sizes are used for *ethmalosa fimbriata* and *sardinella maderensis*.

11. Establish committees based on target fish species and categories.

12. Ensure that all meetings are well attended by committee members.

13. Clearly mark all major recommendations and paste them at strategic locations at the fish landing sites.
Recommendations cont.

14. Use posters with web-page designs or drawings to illustrate all illegal activities.
15. Use signals to warn the fishermen about the weather conditions.
16. Sensitize the fisher-folk communities on hygiene of fish especially where they are unloaded and displayed for marketing.