



**Report of the workshop for a concerted approach
to the negotiations of the 2019 Fisheries
Agreements between the EU, Senegal and
Mauritania
Priorities for sustainable artisanal fisheries**

African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries



The workshop for a concerted approach to the negotiations of fisheries agreements in 2019 between the EU, Senegal and Mauritania on priorities for sustainable artisanal fisheries was held on 23 and 24 January 2019 at the Abbé David Boilat centre in Mbour.

It brought together nearly thirty participants composed of representatives of the national artisanal fisheries organizations of Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, IMROP, CAPE, EU, PRCM, CSRP, Senegal's fisheries administration, and the CAOPA technical support team (list of participants in annex).

1. Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony, which started at 10:05 am, was marked by the speech of CAOPA Vice-President Antonia Adama DJALO to welcome the participants and to wish them a successful workshop.

She stressed on the importance of the two-day meeting, the objective of which is to encourage consultation between the countries involved in order to harmonize their positions in favour of sustainable fisheries.

She then invited the participants to use this meeting as a forum for exchanging information and experience for mutual enrichment on the environmental, economic and social situation of their artisanal fisheries in the context of the fisheries agreements already signed.

She concluded her speech by wishing that at the end of this workshop, all participants would return home with knowledge and commitment to sustainable fisheries in their respective countries.

Before the the coffee break, the participants introduced themselves and the agenda presented for validation and approval.

2. Summary of the work

After the coffee break, work resumed at 11:05 am with the moderator Dr Alassane Samba, it took place over two days on the basis of the fisheries agreements between the EU and African partner countries. The first day was focused on resource-related issues, and the second day to sectoral support and participation mechanisms.

Beforehand, Mrs Béatrice GOREZ of CAPE made a brief presentation on partnership fisheries agreements: these were first of all commercial form and then became partnership agreements with a view to the sustainability of fishing and its activities.

Seventeen agreements have been concluded by the EU, the largest number of which remained mixed. Currently the trend is to have less mixed agreements with species such as tuna, which presents less risk because it is highly controlled (quota system) by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

In partnership agreements, she stressed on, the vigilance of the actors about both agreements and protocols.

On the financial side, she suggested actions to reduce compensation in favour of increased sectoral support and good negotiation on prices for royalties.

The summary of the work focused on the two workshop themes related to **(2.1) resource-related issues, (2.2) sectoral support and participation mechanisms.**

2.1. Issues related to the resource

2.1.1 Content of the current EU-Senegal and EU-Mauritania protocols on resource access. Progress in the latest agreements to benefit artisanal fisheries: by Mr Sid' Ahmed ABEID (Mission head - CAOPA)

This presentation focuses on the Protocols to the fisheries agreements in progress in the two respective countries Senegal and Mauritania, which are due to end in November 2019.

Senegal, in the content of its protocol, has authorised access to European vessels of two species for five years, tuna for 14 000 tonnes of catches with 28 seiners and 8 baitboats vessels, hake for 2000 tonnes with two hake trawlers.

The financial contribution is fixed at EUR 13,930,000, broken down as follows: 1,058,000 euros/year for compensation for ship access, 1,048,000 euros/year for fees paid by ship-owners and 750,000 euros/year for sectoral support.

The Protocol noted two significant advances for the artisanal fisheries sector: the prohibition of access to European vessels for small pelagic and demersal, with the exception of hake, which remains inaccessible to the large majority of artisanal fisheries actors.

Mauritania, on the other hand, in its protocol, unlike Senegal, has authorized access for four years to several demersal species (14,000 T for trawlers), tuna (20,000 T/year divided into 12,000 T for seiners and 7500 T for bait boats) and small pelagic species (225,000 T/year for super-trawlers).

The financial contribution is fixed at 57,500,000 euros per year for compensation for access by vessels, 40,000,000 euros per year for fees paid by ship owners plus 2% in kind on transhipped pelagic catches and 4,125,000 euros per year for sectoral support.

Mauritania's protocol is characterised by significant progress for the artisanal fishing sector: the prohibition of access by European vessels to octopuses exclusively reserved for the national fleet, the boarding of 67% of Mauritanian seamen on board European vessels, the local landing of 27% of small pelagic for the nutritional needs of local populations and the periodic zoning of fishing sites to benefit artisanal and national fisheries whenever their national interests are threatened.

However, there is a lack of regional management of shared resources, particularly small pelagic, which provide a safety net for local populations and play an important role in food security.

The presentation allowed participants to be informed of main content and progress achieved on the protocols being completed; it was the subject of several discussions, particularly on attitudes and measures to be taken for the renewal of the agreements and can be summarized by the need:

- to make the negotiations more successful, it is first necessary for professional organisations to be united and avoid the hazardous multiplication of the organizations; then consider negotiating together with the EU for countries sharing the same resources;
- have a range of credible partners (CAPE, PRCM) to support and assist in the actions to be undertaken;
- hold awareness workshops with administrations, research institutions and populations to make them more aware of the situation of the resource, the challenges and the common interest for sustainable fisheries;
- Strengthen the skills of professionals in anticipation, negotiation, lobbying and representation techniques;
- have a good capacity for mobilization, patience, dialogue with the administration and convincing arguments;

- develop a regional approach or plans for the negotiations: to this end, strengthen the knowledge of professionals on existing conventions and texts, on the situation of shared stocks (especially small pelagic), create or stimulate joint commissions between professionals from the countries concerned and share available scientific and empirical information;
- Ensure the empowerment of professional organizations involved in the negotiations.

2.1.2 Study of knowledge on the existing global fishing effort on the targeted resources covered by the current EU fisheries agreements with Mauritania (by Mr Abdallahi LIMAM of IMROP) and with **Senegal** (by Mr Alassane Samba for CAOPA);

The presentation was a description of the context and process in which the Mauritanian State regularly assesses and inquiries about the level of awareness of its resources in order to have real-time information on the state of fishing potential.

This requires the development of a five-year research plan with a twofold validation, first internal by a scientific committee, then external by a scientific council and then submitted to the State authorities, which will then translate it into annual programmes to be implemented by the Mauritanian Institute for Oceanographic and Fisheries Research (IMROP).

Since 2006, a joint scientific committee has been set up linking researchers from the EU and Mauritania to produce scientific opinions favourable to the sound management of resources.

Thus, the current agreements allow access to a large number of demersal and other pelagic species to European vessels: IMROP ensures the regular monitoring and evaluation of the state of the resource with well-defined objectives for the sustainable development of Mauritanian fisheries.

Technical measures for the conservation of the resource are frequently taken with regard to the foreign fleet (EU), which is often prohibited from fishing with the zoning of some parts of the ocean whose exploitation is exclusively reserved for domestic artisanal fishing. These measures allow the protection of some sea beds (less than 20 m) from trawling activities.

The stocks that represent the most interest are regularly assessed and monitored with a view to taking relevant measures that will benefit Mauritanian operators. At the level of small pelagic,

the perspectives of a reduction in the quota of fishmeal plants are planned for the coming years, in order to reduce the excessive pressure they currently face with signs of overexploitation.

The fisheries agreement between Senegal and the EU focuses on tuna fishing and deep-sea demersal fishing. The Dakar-Thiaroye Oceanographic Research Centre (CRODT) monitors information on the global effort applied to targeted resources (tuna, hake) and on by-catches and discards of species with observers on board.

The Joint Scientific Committee on the EU/Senegal Agreement assesses the state of implementation of the Protocol Agreement each year: for black hake, catch data from the Cayar artisanal fisheries are estimated by the Departmental Fisheries Service (32 tonnes in 2017). The Scientific Committee shall submit an annual report with recommendations to both Parties and to the Joint Committee.

These presentations are mainly based on reports published by the Joint Scientific Committees between the EU and the two countries (2015, 2016 and 2017). They highlighted the need to develop good collaboration between professional organizations, fisheries administrations and fisheries research centres with a view to achieving synergy in the actions to be undertaken to preserve the interests of artisanal fisheries, which requires:

- to ensure, in a transparent manner, a good knowledge of the overall fishing effort, through a holistic approach, affecting all agreements and measures taken on the resource and which enable a better appreciation of the state of the fishing system as a functional and dynamic socio-economic and environmental unit;
- hold awareness workshops with administrations, research institutions and populations to make them more aware of the situation of the resource, the issues and the general interest for sustainable fishing;
- to set up a permanent watch on trends in the exploitation of the resource in order to proceed, if necessary, to a zoning that takes into account the interests of national actors and the sustainability of artisanal fishing;
- to develop good collaboration between professional organizations and fisheries research centres with a view to achieving synergy in the actions to be undertaken;
- to lobby for better management of research and monitoring activities by the financial resources resulting from fisheries agreements, especially in Senegal;

- to adopt measures for a better assessment of the state of resources and the fishing system as a functional unit;
- To promote consultation between the administration, professionals and research, especially in the taking and follow-up of decisions on biological rest, by-catches, experimental fishing....;
- To enforce the regulations on fishmeal plants with regard to impact studies and the strict processing of fish waste.

2.1.3. Transparency in fisheries partnership agreements. Should partnership agreements keep promoting the setting-up of semi-public companies? Transparency on plant buy-outs: by Mr Gaoussou GUEYE President of CAOPA.

This dual presentation in its objectives first highlighted the unease that the lack of transparency has created in the fisheries sector. Indeed, it is due to the lack of transparency that difficulties of a good appreciation of the real state of economic, social and environmental development of fisheries in many African countries have emerged.

This situation is an obstacle to the normal and sustainable development of fisheries, and is presented as the result of a lack of will on the part of States to provide actors and professionals with concrete and reliable information on fisheries agreements and the state of the resource, the only guarantee of good decision-making in favour of sustainable fisheries.

Then, the haunting question of joint ventures, which are a means used in the agreements to promote cooperation between operators in the north and the south, but which are very misguided in their implementation, was addressed.

Joint companies are a potential source of increased fishing effort (licensing as participation for southern countries), competition with the local artisanal fishing sector in fishing areas and fraud on fishing operations.

As cooperation by joint companies is essential as a source of financing for the fisheries sector through foreign direct investment, it must be organized and supervised according to principles that will ensure that they:

- operate in a transparent manner;
- do not compete with local artisanal fisheries;

- Are in accordance with the objectives of sustainable development of fisheries.

This dual communication led to many contributions that focused on:

- the need for transparency to be observed and applied, as a condition in agreements and protocols, by State authorities guaranteeing the general interest and the well-being of populations;
- that the lack of transparency prevents any possibility of social, environmental, economic and sustainable development for artisanal fisheries;
- that transparency is behavioural, ethical and must concern Africans as well as Europeans, states and citizens: it makes it possible to avoid corruption and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- That joint ventures in their current forms are economically and socially a disguised means of bypassing laws and regulations, and remain highly detrimental to sustainable fisheries; and to benefit national economic operators, they must be the subject of particular attention and be regulated by States, both in their mode of incorporation, their organization and their functioning.

2.1.4. What are the priorities for negotiations with the EU on access to resources (stocks, fishing zones, technical measures)? Interests of the MAC convention of the SRFC by Mrs Khady DIOP (of the CAOPA) and completed by Mr Abdou Khadir DIAKHATE (of the SRFC):

Mrs Khady DIOP highlighted in her presentation the long process which had lasted for 10 years of negotiations, with the support of the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa (PRCM), to reach, with the will of States, the creation of the Convention on Minimum Conditions of Access to Resources (MAC).

The Convention was finally signed in June 2012 by the Fisheries Ministers of the seven countries of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, and has been in application since September 2012. In her presentation, Mrs Diop underlined the importance of the seven member countries that make up the SRFC over an area of 1.6 million km².

She also showed that the current socio-economic data available at the level of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) are all outdated and will need to be updated to help in the decision-making process.

In her view, the reasons for the creation of the MAC can be summarized:

- the consideration of eco-systemic and precautionary approaches to fishing;
- the need to allow access to fisheries resources within the framework of a concerted management plan;
- minimum conservation measures for fish (PMAs, net mesh sizes, protection of juveniles and other threatened species, biological rest periods and areas, etc.);
- concerns about the fight against IUU fishing (destruction of marine habitats, fish looting, introduction of port State measures);
- the increased development of artisanal fishing;
- the concern to make the fishing sector contribute to the increase in the socio-economic benefits of local communities;
- The preparation of the conditions for sub regional integration of fisheries policies.

In terms of benefits, she indicated that the MAC allows:

- ensure the sustainability of fish stocks through harmonized management;
- to avoid that some countries offer overly favourable access conditions for foreign fishing vessels, including in the context of bilateral fisheries agreements;
- promote the harmonization of fisheries legislation of the countries of the sub-region;
- Strengthen sub-regional cooperation through the exchange of information and intelligence, and the organization of joint surveillance operations;
- to improve the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of fishing areas;
- to standardize the nomenclature of infractions in the Member States by establishing the list of infractions considered as serious in the sub-region;
- to facilitate the setting-up and implementation of a common approach to the management and control of the movements of artisanal fishing vessels in the sub-region;
- to increase the negotiating power of coastal States in order to increase the compensation for the access rights granted;
- Harmonize access and reporting rules to help combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

According to Mrs. DIOP, the MAC, unlike the Voluntary Guidelines, remains binding, but what is most generally noted is the lack or/and the weakness of its implementation in all SRFC countries due to the lack of follow-up.

In addition, the SRFC, which carries it, has a mandate more oriented towards cooperation than management, which constitutes an obstacle to the application of penalties.

Mr Abdou Khadir DIAKHATE, the representative of the SRFC, gave his contribution by emphasizing on the common will that led the states of the SRFC area to create the convention for the sustainable management of their fisheries.

He referred to the lack of application of the MAC and stressed that it is binding in the same way as the domestic laws of countries and therefore applicable to third parties.

Noting that since the Convention entered into force, a communication policy has been developed through the holding of several workshops and the preparation of brochures for wider information of stakeholders and the public, thus, it is not always possible to understand the poor results of its application.

The debates highlighted:

- the MAC is not well adopted by its Member States, it lacks application in some countries, despite the SRFC's efforts to raise awareness through workshops and the preparation of several media of communication;
- the need to make an effective advocacy for the provision of sufficient resources and the transformation of the SRFC from a cooperation structure into a management structure more adapted to the context and requirements of the sustainability of artisanal fisheries;
- Greater integration of the social and safety aspects of artisanal fishermen into the MAC guidelines, through the development of social security, life insurance and mechanisms to assist actors in natural disasters in a context of climate change.

2.2. Issues related to sectoral support and participatory mechanisms.

2.2.1. Presentation of the content of the current EU-Senegal and EU-Mauritania protocols in terms of partnership: conditions linked to sectoral support and tuna fleet landings by

Mrs Micheline Somplehi DION of CAOPA

According to Mrs DION, artisanal fishing is considered to be the main beneficiary of sectoral support. However, it is generally deplored the lack of consultation with coastal communities on the choice of priorities for financing the artisanal fisheries sector, from which they are the main beneficiaries and have a better understanding of their real needs.

Sectoral support is used in total opacity for coastal communities that have no information on the relevance and actual expenditures made. The lack of information reporting on the use of sector support makes beneficiaries more sceptical

The latter also ask themselves questions and think about possible ways forward:

- transparency in the use of sectoral support through ongoing consultation with beneficiaries;
- the socio-economic profitability of the benefits of sectoral support to coastal communities;
- the coherence of sectoral support with other development projects in the sector

This presentation was followed by additional information on the areas covered by sectoral support and other EU funding mechanisms, by Mr Arnaud APPRIOU, representing the EU Delegation in Dakar.

Mr APPRIOU in his presentation indicated that sectoral support is an exceptional tool in the EU instruments resulting from the new types of sustainable fisheries partnership agreements; it allows the beneficiary State to have financial resources after having identified in its finance law activities mainly related to fisheries **research, monitoring and development of the sector as a whole**. An amount is always available to follow the visibility of its use.

These presentations helped to retain:

- Despite the hopes and expectations for sectoral support, it is noted that it is most often implemented at the expense of the real beneficiaries. Measures will also have to be taken to involve professionals more closely in decision-making, the results of which can only be beneficial to their well-being (in Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania, it has been an opportunity to improve women's living conditions);

- the request from professionals for further clarification on the definition of the amounts of sectoral support, their use and the relevance of their allocations, through periodic reports;
- Amounts allocated to sectoral support depend on the importance of the fisheries agreement: opportunities for increased spill over effects in other development projects involving the EU should be sought.

2.2.3 What information and participation mechanisms for negotiations, joint commissions and follow-up for professionals and civil society, by Mr Sid' Ahmed ABEID (CAOPA)

The presentation was structured around strategies and attitudes to be undertaken before the renewal of the agreements to better negotiate.

According to Sid' Ahmed, first and foremost, it is necessary to promote relations of good understanding between professional artisanal fishing organizations and the fisheries administration of their country through the permanent instauration of a dialogue of trust and mutual respect.

The professional organizations involved in the negotiations must not go in a piecemeal approach and must therefore harmonize their positions by regularly consulting each other on the fundamental issues of general interest, which determine their existence and the sustainability of their businesses.

The search for technical and financial partners experienced in negotiation techniques should be favoured, to be better equipped, supervised and made aware of the challenges of sustainable fisheries development in order to be more convincing in the proposals during the negotiations.

This presentation enabled us to retain:

- We first need to find partners in support and assistance (networks of parliamentarians, journalists, civil society) and to have the financial means to strengthen themselves and to be equipped with scientific information (environmental, economic and social) and empirical knowledge to better negotiate;
- strengthen the negotiating skills of professional artisanal fisheries organisations;

- create a sub-regional task force with professional organisations and administrations well strengthened in capacity to help countries to better negotiate and use existing practical guides for the negotiation of agreements;
- use the expertise of regional organizations such as the SRFC, CECAF, ICCAT and PRCM in shared stock agreements;
- need for IEC programmes with the objectives and roles of stakeholders;
- evaluate fisheries agreements, make information available for exchanges between professionals from countries and the sub-region;
- promote the setting up and operation of follow-up committees between professionals from the various countries concerned by fisheries agreements (e. g. Mauritania's FNP and Senegal's CONIPAS);

3. Recommendations for action

At the end of the two-day meeting, the following recommendations were made:

1. Communicate and inform professionals and citizens about the knowledge and resource situation of each country;
2. Promote the approach of exclusive access to some valuable resources, only to domestic artisanal fishers, if they have the capacity to exploit them, and deny foreign vessels access to fishing areas and to the exploitation of species exclusively reserved for artisanal fisheries;
3. Create the conditions for national support and permanent dialogue between professional organizations, national fisheries administrations and research centres in the countries;
4. Ensure the possibilities for the development of artisanal tuna fishing by requesting the support of ICCAT's participation;
5. Develop a framework for joint ventures with the introduction of a specifications document that would take into account aspects of transparency and non-competition with artisanal fishing;
6. Promote a concerted approach between Senegal and Mauritania for small pelagic based on the MAC Convention and the revitalization of the Joint Commission of Professional Organizations;

7. Train POs in advocacy and participation techniques in joint commissions and joint scientific committees;
8. Promote a transparent and consultative approach to coastal communities in the choices made for the allocation and use of sectoral support funds.

ANNEXE ANNEX

List of Attendees

First name (s) and Last name	Organisation/Country
Gaoussou GUEYE	CAOPA/Senegal
Antonia Adama DJALO	CAOPA/Bissau Guinea
Dawda Foday SAINÉ	CAOPA/Gambia
Mamadou FAYE	DPM/Senegal
Béatrice GOREZ	CAPE/Belgium
Barthélémy BATIENO	PRCM/Senegal
Abdou Khadir DIAKHTE	CSRP/Senegal
Arnaud APPRIOU	Delegation-EU/Senegal
Abdallahi LIMAM	IMROP/Mauritania
Micheline Somplehi DION	CAOPA/Côte d'ivoire
Sid' Ahmed ABEID	CAOPA/Mauritania
Ahmed Taleb DAH	DGERH/Mauritania
Babacar SARR	CONIPAS/Senegal
Malick FALL	CONIPAS/Senegal
Samba GUEYE	CONIPAS/Senegal

Chérif Younous NDIAYE	APRAPAM/Senegal
Amadou Lamine GUEYE	CAOPA/Senegal
Khady GUEYE	CAOPA/Senegal
Sidy Lamine THIAM	UPAMES/Senegal
EIDA Ahmed El HEIBA	FNP/Senegal
El Hadji Abdoulaye COUME	DMP/Senegal
Abdoulaye Roger DIENG	SYTRAPAS/Senegal
Harouna Ismail LEBAYE	FLPA/Mauritania
Fatimetou BAH	FNP/Mauritania
Mohamed SALECK	FNP/Mauritania
Salif MANDIANG	UPAMES/Senegal
Seydi WELE	CAOPA/Senegal
Assane DEME	REJOPRA/Senegal
Abdoul Razack SAMBE	APRAPAM/Senegal
Alassane SAMBA	CAOPA/Senegal
Khady DIOP	CAOPA/Senegal