



Views from the African artisanal fisheries sector

Advocacy event ahead of the EU-AU Summit

Sustainable fish for food security and nutrition in Africa

9 September 2020

The Confederation of African Artisanal Fisheries Organisations – CAOPA- brings together professional organisations of women and men from the maritime and continental artisanal fisheries of Africa. Since its creation in 2010 in Banjul, following annual meetings since 2000, the CAOPA is focused on the promotion of sustainable artisanal fisheries in Africa.

The CAOPA members are organisations from 26 African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Madagascar, Seychelles, Uganda, Comoros, Mauritius.

Importance of artisanal fisheries in Africa: some figures ...

The artisanal fisheries sector is essential for the food security and nutrition of the local populations and provides, according to the FAO, nearly 12 million jobs for men and women in African coastal communities, 90% of which are in maritime and continental artisanal fisheries. To cite one example, a pirogue fishing small pelagics in Senegal can employ around 100 people from the catch to the plate of the African consumer.

More than 70% of the fish caught in Africa is artisanally processed - salting, drying, smoking, etc. - mainly by women fish processors, for local and regional markets. This processed fish, mainly composed of pelagic species, constitutes a real food safety net for our populations.

Examples of Cooperation with the EU for the benefit of African artisanal fisheries

There are two aspects of the fisheries relations between the EU and African countries in which we have seen positive experiences of cooperation for the benefit of African artisanal fisheries:

- The **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)** currently signed between the EU and 11 African countries.
- **Development Cooperation** of the EU, but also of some EU Member States that are very committed to support African artisanal fisheries, such as Germany, which currently holds the Presidency of the EU Council.

At the level of the SFPAs, the artisanal fisheries sector appreciates that they are transparent, and also that the EU committed itself, during the last reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2013, not to fish for resources for which a surplus has not been demonstrated.

There have also been positive actions in the use of SFPA sectoral support, such as the recent purchase of a refrigerated container for the San Pedro Cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire. With this container, post-harvest losses will be greatly reduced, and the additional quantities of frozen fish will also supply Abidjan's women's processors cooperatives during off-peak periods. Together with other improvements, such as the FAO's FTT ovens¹, which allow Ivorian women to have better working conditions and a better processed product, the EU initiative is part of a dynamic of sustainable development of Ivorian artisanal fisheries.

In the framework of the SFPA with Senegal, a hundred geo-localisation tool (*'balises'*) were purchased with SFPA sectoral support funds for artisanal fishing, which greatly improves the safety of pirogues at sea.

For **Development Cooperation**, we can cite two examples:

- The **Pescado Project** in West Africa, where we have seen positive results in the fight against IUU fishing. Several surveillance operations at sea have led to the arrest of many vessels that do not comply with the regulations in force in the countries of the region. The training of fisheries inspectors, which has also been carried out in collaboration with the European Fisheries Control Agency, is also to be welcomed.
- EU support for the establishment of AU-initiated **consultative platforms of non-state fisheries actors in Africa**. These platforms, in which CAOPA members are involved, are essential tools for the implementation of a future Europe-Africa partnership that promotes sustainable artisanal fisheries that can continue to feed our populations.

¹ See Ndiaye O., Sodoke Komivi B., and Diei-Ouadi Y. 2014. The FAO-Thiaroye technique of transformation (FTT-Thiaroye). Rome, FAO. 67 p. <https://caopa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/FAO-thiaroye-MTP.pdf>

Objective 2022: the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

The year 2022 has been declared the **International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture**².

This year's objective is to draw the world's attention to the role that artisanal fisheries and aquaculture play in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources. It will also raise awareness of the importance of implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries³ in order to ensure a future for artisanal fishing communities.

This year will also be an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between stakeholders, and with decision-makers, at local or international level. In the dialogue between the EU and the AU, this year 2022 will take place in the context of the reform process of fisheries policies in Africa, initiated by the AU and supported by the EU, but also of the review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in Europe, including the international dimension of this policy.

In light of these elements, CAOPA advocates that the EU, AU and their citizens work together, from now on, to implement, through **transparent, participatory and gender-sensitive national action plans**, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries, adopted in 2014.

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² <http://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/fr/>

³ <http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/guidelines/fr/>