



CFFA-CAPE

BANJUL CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION On Sustainable Livelihoods in African Fisheries

Artisanal/small scale fishers and associated civil society representatives from seventeen African countries met in Banjul, The Gambia on 21 September, 2010, in advance of the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers on Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) to be held on 23 September 2010. The meeting was organised by the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishery Professional Organisations and the Commonwealth Foundation. This meeting formed part of an ongoing process.

Context

1. **Noting** previous statements on small scale and sustainable fisheries made in the:
 - Kilifi Declaration of Intent (2007);
 - Civil Society Statements to the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (2007, 2009)
 - Bangkok Statement of Civil Society Organisations on Small Scale Fisheries (2008);
 - Windhoek Commonwealth Civil Society Statement on Sustainable Fisheries Management for Coastal Communities in Southern Africa (2008);
 - Port of Spain Communiqué [paragraph 80] (2009)
2. **Endorsing** the NEPAD Action Plan for Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture adopted in 2005 by Ministers at the Fish for All Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, in 2005; as well as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular section 6.18 pertaining to artisanal and small scale fisheries.
3. **Recognising** the ongoing process set up by artisanal fishing organisations which led to the creation of a pan African artisanal and small scale fishing organisation body.
4. **We concur** with observations made during the meeting of experts on fisheries and aquaculture held in Banjul, the Gambia from 20 – 21 September 2010 that there is a need for political, institutional and economic reform when addressing issues of fisheries in Africa.
5. In light of this, **artisanal/small scale fishers and associated civil society organisations** call for urgent action by African governments to support development and decision-making processes related to the artisanal Fisheries sector through the direct engagement of fishworkers, their professional associations and other civil society organisations in educational and research institutions.

Issues

Following detailed work by the working groups and a plenary discussion, the following statements were agreed by civil society and community based artisanal and small scale fishing organisations.

Civil society and community based artisanal and small scale fishing organisations are currently suffering from the effects of climate change, industrial fishing and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) through dwindling catches, displacement of communities and the destruction of fishing grounds, which in turn affects the social stability of entire regions.

The current purely economic approach which seems to be used by some African governments represents a threat to the sustainable development of fisheries resources and livelihoods of poor marginalised artisanal and small scale fishing communities.

Participants highlighted the large number of positive sustainable benefits derived from artisanal/small scale fishing activities including food security, creation of jobs, social stability. Artisanal/ small scale fisheries need to be given a much higher developmental priority compared to industrial fishing.

The contribution of the artisanal and small scale fisheries sector to national economies has been highlighted in the article *Small but Mighty*, Pauly (2007). For example, the small scale and artisanal fisheries sector creates employment for over 12 million compared to the approximately half a million employed in the industrial fishing sector. In addition, the capital cost of a job on fishing vessels in the small scale sector amount to approximately US\$250-2500 compared to US\$30,000 to 300,000 for industrial fishing; each million dollars invested in fishing vessels creates around 500-4000 jobs in the artisanal fishing sector compared to 5-30 in the industrial fishery. Furthermore, annual catch figures for human consumption from artisanal/small scale fisheries total approximately 24 million tonnes compared to 29 million tonnes for industrial fishing. Even though the examples presented are global figures, we believe they are also applicable, pro rata, to African economies.

The NEPAD Action Plan for Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture confirms the vital contributions of the fisheries sector to food security for 200 million Africans while also providing income for over 10 million people engaged in fish production, processing and trade. The Plan also notes that these benefits come at some risk as the exploitation of natural fish stocks is reaching its limit.

Recommendations

Civil society and community based artisanal and small scale fishing organisations are mindful of the action points in the 2005 NEPAD Action Plan for Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture and we *reiterate* our commitment to working in partnership with African governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the plan.

We encourage African governments and other stakeholders to work with fishing communities to develop a global strategy to protect and promote the interests of all artisanal and small scale fishing communities and to support our actions at the level of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

We also *recognise* and support the role of the media in helping to raise awareness, promote transparency and convey the voice of the artisanal and small scale fisheries sector.

Acknowledging the contribution of artisanal/small scale fishing organisations to national development, we call for:

- a. *Greater integration* of artisanal/small scale fishing and civil society organisations in the decision making process and monitoring, control and surveillance as members of governmental, regional and international fishing related bodies and projects;
- b. *More transparency* and free public access by the artisanal/ small scale fishing communities to information and funds pertaining to fisheries and marine resources management (including *inter alia* scientific data, licensing and fisheries agreements);
- c. The support of governments for the *development* of an international instrument to protect the rights of the artisanal and small scale fishing communities throughout the world;
- d. *Concerted efforts* from African governments and the international community in securing access rights to fish resources, post-harvest rights, fair market prices, and human rights, in particular gender equity;
- e. *Greater recognition* of the contribution of fishing communities to the food security, economic, political, social and cultural fabric of African countries;
- f. *Support* from governments and the international community in capacity building, education, health, communications and infrastructure for artisanal/ small scale fishing communities;

We undertake to engage various actors in the pursuit of the aforementioned goals and actions, in particular through the organisation of an international conference, to ensure that future generations of artisanal/small scale fishing communities continue to benefit from inland and marine fisheries resources which are our common heritage.

This statement is endorsed by all the civil society and community based artisanal and small scale fishing organisations listed below:

ADEPEG-CPA

Mamayawa Sandouno
Republic of Guinea

Agence de Presse Sénégalaise (APS)

Assane Dème
Sénégal

Alvaro Eresfache

Togo

CAOPA / FNP

Sidahmed Ould Abeid
Mauritanie

CAOPA

El Hadji Abdoulay Coume/Chérif Younous Ndiaye
Senegal

CAOPA

Gaoussou Gueye
Sénégal

CAOPA/FENACOPECI

Gnaba Egni Léon
Côte d'Ivoire

CERAD International

Yovo Komla

CITA

Alfu El Haji Sene Cisse
Guinee Bissau

CITA

Osman Balde/Ibrahim Kebe
Senegal

CITA

Pape Sacko
Mali

Coastal Links

Christian Adams
South Africa

Daily Newspaper

Saikou Jammeh
The Gambia

Dawda F. Saine

The Gambia

Eco-Ethics

O Keyo Benards

Kenya

El-Molo Forum

Christiana Saiti Louwa

Kenya

Fenapeche

Eustache Allaro

Benin

FPT/CAOPA

Paul Amouye

Togo

GAMFIDA

Baboucar Boyang

The Gambia

Gunjur Environment Group (GEPADG)/Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC)

Badara N Bajo/ Pa Ebrima Kunta/ Amie Seka Touray

The Gambia

ICSF

Mamadou Niasse

Sénégal

Jade/SYFIA

Etienne Tasse

Cameroon

Journalist

Wudie Bakie Konwa

Sierra Leone

Kalipso/Oceanyka

Vassen Kauppymuthoo

Mauritius

LAFA

Annette Johnson/ Alfred Ni Kawreh/ Theresa Gaway

Liberia

Liberia Artisanal Fisheries Association (LAFA)

Fojama Joe Brown

Liberia

Masifundise

Naseegh Jafeer

South Africa

Pechecops

Ahmed Mahmoud Cherif

Mauritanie

REJOPRAO

Adama Mane

Guinea Bissau

REJOPRAO

Emeka Umejei

Nigeria

REJOPRAO

Inoussa Maiga

Burkina Faso

REJOPRAO

Jedna Deida

Mauritanie

REJOPRAO

Lamissa Sangare

Mali

REJOPRAO

Mama-Adama Keïta

Republic of Guinea

REJOPRAO

Naby Zakaria Bamgoura

Republic of Guinea

REJOPRAO

Papa Adama Mbodji

Sénégal

ROPA-GVB

Malam Dabo

Guinee Bissau

SLAFU

Thomas Spencer /Thomas O Turay
Sierra Leone

Tedak Fisheries Cooperative of Nigeria

Ahmed A Muhammed
Nigeria

The Voice Newspaper

Amadou Bali
The Gambia

TVM+

Soya Watt
Mauritanie

UNPAG / CAOPA

El hadj Issiaga Daffe
Republic of Guinea