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Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Trends and Impact in the Gulf of Guinea: Stakeholder Responses

REPORT

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*Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Trends and Impact in the Gulf of Guinea:
Stakeholder Responses*

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About the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre is an ECOWAS Centre of Excellence that provides globally-recognised capacity for international actors on African peace and security through training, education, and research to foster peace and stability in Africa.

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Acronyms

BE	Blue Economy
BG	Blue Growth
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoG	Gulf of Guinea
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
MAE	Maritime Economy
ME	Marine Economy
MIRAH	Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OE	Ocean Economy
UNCTAD	United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Executive Summary

Illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing is a global issue, especially in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). IUU fishing involves breaking national and international rules. IUU fishing has had major economic, environmental, and social effects on GoG's coastal seas. The GoG supports millions of people's livelihoods. As coastal populations' major protein source, fish are essential to GoG's food security. This resource is endangered by pollution, climate change, population increase, and illegal and excessive fishing. IUU fishing is prohibited and data is scarce, although estimates show that 40–65% of fish captured in the region are unlawful. Many fish species are fully exploited or depleted, increasing the risk of fisheries conflicts in the region as fisherfolk travel to neighbouring countries to fish, competing with locals. Many sub-regional governments lack law enforcement and logistics to manage fisheries issues. Thus, GoG fisheries require marine fisheries protection and a commitment to fighting fishing and fishing-related crimes.

The symposium on “*Trends and Impact of Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing in the Gulf of Guinea*” is part of the Danish government-KAIPTC relationship under the project ‘*Integrated Responses to Threats to Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Domain in West and Central Africa (2022-2026)*’. This symposium is the first in the dialogue series and the first in Cote d'Ivoire. It aimed to bring together stakeholders from various sectors, including government, academia, civil society, regional and international organisations, and the private sector, to discuss the nature, scope, and impact of IUU fishing in the region. The symposium sought to provide a platform for stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and strategies toward sustainable fishing in the Gulf of Guinea. It provided participants with a valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue, share experiences, and explore innovative solutions to the challenges posed by IUU fishing in the Gulf of Guinea. It contributes to ongoing efforts to promote sustainable fishing practices and ensure the long-term viability of this critical resource. The three-day symposium brought together participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Senegal, Togo, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire. The involvement of participants with diverse backgrounds created a platform for a broad national and transitional understanding of the IUU phenomena. The overall objectives of the workshop were to:

Increase awareness of the trends and magnitude of

IUU fishing in the GoG;
Highlight the economic, environmental, and social impacts of IUU fishing in the GoG;
Discuss measures such as recommended policies and approaches in addressing IUU fishing in the GoG;
Identify opportunities for sustainable fisheries management and development in GoG; and
Improve understanding of the legal and institutional framework for addressing IUU fishing in the GoG.

Key Recommendations

The following are some recommendations to ensure the coastlines remain safe:

To bring a better fit in ocean governance, four interrelated activities must occur: (a) better coordination in a cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional and transboundary manner; (b) an understanding and appreciation of maritime domain awareness and information-sharing which builds trust and confidence; (c) joint interagency and inter-state law enforcement; and (d) capacity building, seen as a dialogue and collective learning process on how challenges can be handled.

Patrols along the coastline- to ensure no country bears the full cost of maintaining the Gulf safe, joint patrols can be undertaken among nations to always ensure there is a presence at sea of the security agents.

Engagement by political leaders- the political will of state leaders is needed if the menace of piracy is to be curbed fully. Stakeholders need to ensure leaders do not lose sight of the maritime domain.

Cooperative exercises and trainings- pirates of the Gulf are sophisticated and most often use equipment that the security agencies are not in possession of. There is the need to train security officers.

Increase research- due to the lack of interest at times of governments towards the maritime domain, there is the need to ensure that cutting-edge research and findings are shared and available for leaders to appreciate the challenges of the maritime domain.

Include data on women, analyses of the impacts of policies and initiatives and better documentation of women's issues in the fisheries sector.

Finally, what is missing in the debates relates to the nexus between governance and security: safety and security; rule of law and transparency, respect for human rights; sustainable economic opportunity, and

human development.

Official Remarks

Opening Remarks: Major General Richard Addo-Gyane, Commandant, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

KAIPTC Commandant, Major General Richard Addo-Gyane welcomed all and opened the three-day conference. He stated that the GoG, with its abundance of fish and marine resources, has become a significant target for IUU fishing activities. This illicit practice poses a severe threat to the sustainability of fisheries resources and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on them. For instance, a report by the Environmental Justice Foundation, indicates, that the region is losing up to \$2.3 billion annually due to IUU fishing. This staggering quantity could be invested in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to improve the livelihoods of the people in the region. The impact of IUU fishing in the GoG is critical to the marine ecosystem. The unregulated and clandestine fishing activities results in overfishing, which in turn leads to the depletion of fish stocks and the devastation of marine habitats. This can also have far-reaching consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, the decline in fisheries productivity, and the loss of income for small-scale fishers. He further stated that stakeholders have a vital role to play in confronting the issue of IUU fishing in the GoG. He expressed his belief that it is the collective responsibility of stakeholders to work towards a sustainable and responsible fishing industry that guarantees the preservation of the marine environment and the livelihoods of millions of people. He expressed profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the SEPCIM for graciously accepting to host the symposium and also to the Government of Denmark for their continuous support and wished all fruitful deliberations.

Welcome Remarks (Commandant Kouassi Yao Jean Pierre) Technical Secretary in Charge of Maritime and Ports Affairs SEPCIM-AEM

On behalf of His Excellency the Prime Minister and the Senior officials of State Action at Sea (SEPCIM), Commandant Kouassi Yao Jean Pierre welcomed everyone to the Hotel le Vaisseau and Abidjan. He stated that the KAIPTC's to hold the symposium in Côte d'Ivoire underlines the Centre's interest in peacekeeping and peacebuilding training missions across Africa and more specifically between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. According to him, the decision is

in line with the friendship, fraternity and cooperation between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, promoted by their two Heads of State, HE Alassane Ouattara and HE Nana Akufo-Addo. He touched on the importance of the oceans to the economic well-being of the GoG countries. He implied that approximately 70% of our earth is oceans and seas, not including terrestrial rivers, lakes, and rivers. Hydrocarbons and fisheries abound in the sea. Port, coastal, transit, and agriculture operations provide money in these places. Nearly 90% of Côte d'Ivoire's trade is oceanic. The sea generates around 80% of the national budget of Cote D'Ivoire. Thus, the Ivorian economy and progress depend on the capacity of all stakeholders to utilise and safeguard maritime traffic routes. However, maritime crimes, especially IUU fishing, threaten this potential.

According to him, the strategy for securing our maritime domain must necessarily be transversal, inter-administration, bi- and multilateral, and even international. In response to dealing with the threat of IUU fishing, Côte d'Ivoire, in the application of the decisions of the Yaoundé Summit and the spirit of Security Sector Reform, has decided to coordinate the fight against threats and risks in its maritime domain, through creating the concept of State Action at Sea and adopting a dedicated strategy, "National Strategy for State Action at Sea", adopted by the Council of Ministers on 5 November 2014. The complex and multifaceted nature of maritime security issues has led the Ivorian Government entrusting the implementation of this strategy to an inter-ministerial authority, namely the Prime Minister, under the supervision of the National Security Council, and with the assistance of the Permanent Secretariat for State Action at Sea. Côte d'Ivoire hosts several international centres and structures, including ISMI (Interregional Maritime Security Institute) at the Regional Academy of Marine Science and Technology and CRESMAO, the Regional Maritime Security Centre for West Africa, in Abidjan. This attempt is to reaffirm its commitment to regional and international maritime security and safety. On behalf of SPECIM, Commandant Kouassi Yao Jean Pierre expressed his infinite gratitude to the KAIPTC its supporting partners, particularly Denmark, for providing capacity building for the Ivorian participants present at this workshop.

Keynote Speaker Mr. Assoumany Gouromenan, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (Cote D'Ivoire)

Mr. Gouromenan welcomed the participants to Cote

D'Ivoire and expressed his sincere appreciation to the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-ministerial committee for the action of the State at Sea (SEPCIM AEM) for creating the environment for participants from all over the region to meet and discuss a major issue which is IUU fishing. He stated that IUU Fishing has expanded throughout the GoG, especially in Ivory Coast. IUU fishing in our subregion threatens fishing communities, food security, unsafe and inhumane working conditions, and criminality. Côte d'Ivoire, like all GoG nations, is vulnerable to IUU fishing and has insufficient regulatory measures. In addition, logistical and operational resources are pooled at the national and sub-regional levels to coordinate State actions at sea, within the framework of cooperation between the Member States of the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (CPCO).

He argued that the organisation of this symposium is an initiative to be welcomed because it is important to look at the trends and consequences of this heinous practice of IUU fishing. Highlighting the response of the Ivorian government in dealing with IUU fishing he stated that the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH), on behalf of the Ivorian Government, has implemented a sectoral policy (PONADEPA) that integrates five strategies, including the sustainable management of fisheries resources. The policy aims, among other things, to improve the monitoring, control and surveillance (SCS) of fisheries. Mr. Assoumany Gouromenan stated that Côte d'Ivoire has always acted to improve and strengthen its capacity to combat IUU fishing. Some of the actions include updating the national plan to combat IUU fishing; the adoption of a decree on the modalities of monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries and the resulting orders, Under Act No. 2016-554 of 26 July 2016 on fisheries and aquaculture; the ratification and implementation process of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Port State Measures Agreement; Strengthening collaboration between national administrations and sub-regional cooperation in fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; the creation of a Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) specialized in satellite monitoring of fishing units; and the implementation of a project to improve the monitoring, control and surveillance system of fisheries in support of the Directorate of Fisheries in the fight against IUU fishing.

Mr. Gouromenan concluded by saying that the fight against IUU fishing requires the participation of all, cooperation and collaboration at several levels, and therefore a collective approach. He invited all participants at the symposium to work in a spirit of solidarity to proffer rich recommendations for

addressing IUU fishing within the GoG. He thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark for financial support through its Maritime Security Project, and the KAIPTC for bringing the symposium to Côte d'Ivoire.

Plenary session one

Harnessing the Potential of the Blue Economy in the Gulf of Guinea

Prof. Kwesi Aning, Director for the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research of KAIPTC in his presentation stated that the 21st century is a maritime century. Better national processes, international collaboration, and ocean governance are needed to exploit marine domain potential. Two maritime security discourses overlap, he stated. First, it reflects the sea's hazards and perils; second, it has geopolitical implications since it projects public authority beyond one's external boundary into the "global" marine realm. He suggested that these two narratives—maritime security and the blue economy—show the need to rethink ocean governance's goals and policies. However, the connections and linkages between the two discourses are poorly understood. Several illustrations depict the misconceptions that sometimes portray the GoG as an area characterized by 'contagious resource exploitation', 'tragedy of the commodities', and 'profit-driven-roving banditry'. In his attempt to break down his topic, two questions arise. First, what are we, as stakeholders harnessing? Secondly, what are the potentials that we are talking about today?

He stated that before one engages, it may be necessary to acknowledge the conceptual muddle we find ourselves in relating to: Blue Economy (BE), Maritime Economy (MAE), Ocean Economy (OE), Marine Economy (ME), and Blue Growth (BG). Analysis of BE, BG, ME and OE provides interesting relationships divided into:

sustainability and governance;
economics and ecosystem protection;
industrial development and localization; and
the growth of the ocean economy, with development as the central axis that encompasses them.

What are we Harnessing?

According to the African Union, the Blue Economy is the "New Frontier of African Renaissance"¹. GoG maritime domain comprises the adjacent Atlantic Ocean, islands, estuaries, lagoons, archipelagos, deltas,

wetlands, creeks, coral reefs, mangrove forests, sandy beaches and dunes, as well as inland waterways such as lakes, rivers, falls, dams and streams, which are the lifeblood of communities. However, GoG countries, either individually or collectively, are confronted with growing and multifaceted challenges to their maritime domain. The main concerns relate to overexploitation of marine resources, rapid degradation of the marine environment through pollution, coastal erosion, and rise in sea level criminal acts at sea. Piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling, drug and human trafficking, IUU fishing and illegal migration also has links to transnational criminal groups. He opined that the African Union estimates that the Blue Economy currently generates nearly US\$300 billion for the continent, creating 49 million jobs in the process. These and other crucial benefits—most notably food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity—are entirely dependent on the ocean’s health.

Trends and Consequences of IUU Fishing in the GoG

Mr. Barthelemy Blede, General Administrator of Maritime and Port Affairs and a Maritime Expert gave an overview of IUU fishing in the GoG. He defined the following concepts:

Illicit: fishing that is carried out without authorization or in violation of the laws and regulations established in a state or a fisheries management organization

Unreported: fishing whose product has not been reported to the competent authorities or has been declared partially or falsely

Unregulated: fishing carried out with a vessel without nationality, claiming to be of several nationalities or with a false nationality.

In identifying the actors involved in IUU fishing he stated that practitioners of industrial fishing and those of artisanal fishing as well as sellers of prohibited fishing equipment, and processors of IUU fishing products are all connected to the practice of IUU fishing. However, the main concern remains industrial fishing carried out by large vessels, including factory vessels.

Trends: The Modus Operandi of IUU Fishing Actors

The activities undertaken to escape surveillance in the GoG includes: disruption of electronic monitoring systems; false identification marks, change of name at sea, or concealment of the identity of the ships by

tarpaulins; absence of observers on board fishing vessels; fishing without a fishing license from local vessels; and the incursion of foreign vessels into the waters of coastal states without a fishing license. Some other trends include the fraudulent naturalisation and registration of vessels by actors of IUU fishing. Failure to verify the previous registration, the inability to identify the previous owner or operator of the vessel, no verification of the history of the ship’s activities, lack of cooperation with other states in the region and the use of flags of convenience are some actions that the actors engage in IUU fishing uses.

Links Between IUU Fishing and Other Forms of Crime

IUU fishing, with its harmful effects on the economy, food security, employment, and the marine environment, and its links with transnational organised crime, remains one of the most feared maritime threats in the GoG. The actions devoted to it are thwarted by many challenges, including weak cooperation, lack of transparency and corruption. Since responsibilities are shared, only a convergence of actions between national, regional and international actors can make it possible to eradicate it. Figure 1 shows transshipment in progress in the waters of West Africa between two trawlers at rear fishing and a refrigerated vessel.

Figure 1: Use of Transshipments without authorisation



Source: INTERPOL

Challenges and Resolution of IUU Fishing

The challenges can be found at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, some of the challenges identified included:

- Improvement of inter-agency cooperation, coordination and communication;
- Transparency in the issuance of fishing licenses;

¹United Nations. Economic Commission for Africa (2016-03). Africa’s blue economy: a policy handbook. Addis Ababa. © UN.ECA. <https://hdl.handle.net/10855/23014>

Adoption of more restrictive legislation;
 Fight against corruption;
 Strengthening of personnel and monitoring, control and monitoring equipment; and
 Involvement of civil society organisations.

Likewise, at the regional level, some of the identified challenges included:

Strengthening the architecture of Yaoundé and information sharing

Strengthening of cooperation between the states of the region

Finalization or implementation of regional instruments (Yaoundé Code of Conduct, Lomé Charter, Directives on artisanal fishing and sustainable development goals

Support to sub-regional fisheries management organizations (CSRP, CPCO, COREP)

At the international level, the challenges identified included:

Cessation of arms subsidies coming to fish in the waters of the region (China, EU, USA, Korea, Japan - top 5)

Sanctions against lax countries (by the EU)

Projects and programmes to support fisheries and aquaculture and

Support for the architecture of Yaoundé (G7++FoGG).

Overview of Regulatory Frameworks for IUU Fishing (Mr. Seraphin Dedi (former Secretary General of CPCO/FWCO)

Mr. Seraphin Dedi presented an overview of the regulatory framework that guides IUU fishing. He stated that fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, leisure, trade and economic well-being for people around the world, both for present and future generations and must therefore be conducted responsibly. International and regional standards have been published and adopted to ensure the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources while respecting the ecosystem and biodiversity. States and all fishing stakeholders are encouraged to apply these measures and give them effect. All of these measures, codes, or principles constitute the legal framework applicable to fishing. They are particular responses to IUU fishing. He identified the regulatory framework to include:

1982: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) or Montego Bay.

1993: FAO Agreement on the Responsibility of the Flag State (FAOEP);

1995: United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNSPA);

2000: United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCTAD);

2007: International Labour Organization Convention on Work in Fisheries (C188); and

2009: Agreement on Measures under the Jurisdiction of the Port State (AMREP).

Table 1. Ratification of relevant international agreements by countries

	BENIN	COTE D'IVOIRE	GHANA	LIBERIA	NIGERIA	TOGO	SENEGAL	S. LEONE
1982 UNCLOS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1993 FAOEP	X		X					X
1995 ANUSP	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2000 UNCTAD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2007 C188		X						
2009 AMREP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

States see international law-national law interplay differently. Monistic and dualist states exist. Ratifying an international treaty makes it instantly effective at the national level in monistic states. Transposing international law into national law requires no legislation. However, dualistic states do not apply international law at the national level.

Generally, there has been a positive evolution in the transposition of legal texts at the state level over the past ten years. One of the indicators is the adoption of a new law on fisheries integrating the new international and regional provisions. Thus, the obligations expected of States are increasingly translated into regulatory texts, namely:

Harmonization and enhanced cooperation

VMS, data collection and exchange

Regulation of access to fisheries resources for artisanal fishing

Registers of fishing vessels authorized to carry out fishing activities in the waters under its jurisdiction, including collecting and support vessels; and communication of this information which will be recorded in a Regional Register of vessels authorized to fish in the area

Responsibility of the coastal State (issuance of licenses)

Declaration of catches.

Challenges and Constraints

Some of the challenges and constraints associated with the regulatory framework includes:

Low level of political commitment to the adoption of

legal texts;
Absence of legal advisers in the fisheries services;
Poor knowledge of the ratification process;
Limited collaboration with the Ministry in charge of foreign affairs;
Inadequate legal frameworks for fishing and/or lack of implementing regulations; and
Limited number of trained fisheries inspectors.

Recognition of IUU fishing as a maritime threat and the support of international institutions and aid agencies constitute real opportunities for strengthening the regulatory frameworks for the fight against IUU fishing. However, when ratifying or adopting a new instrument, States should anticipate its effective implementation by preparing strategies and action plans detailing the activities and actions to be undertaken. The international community, international organisations and international aid agencies must facilitate the implementation of existing instruments.

Gender Dimensions in IUU Fishing (Dr. Fiifi Edu-Afful – Research Fellow/KAIPTC)

Dr. Fiifi Edu-Afful highlighted the important role of gender in the discourse of IUU fishing. He argued that women are crucial to the fisheries industry, especially in post-harvest processing, and marketing of fish. Their contribution is often neglected, unappreciated, and unquantified. IUU fishing's gender elements are also unclear. He investigated four questions.

How does IUU fishing impact women and gender relations?

What role do women play in fisheries, and how can their position be strengthened?

How does – or doesn't – international law address the gender dimensions of IUU fishing? How can the potential gaps be filled?

How might combatting IUU fishing affect women and gender relations? What does a gender-sensitive response to IUU fishing look like?

Dr. Edu-Afful further argued that responsible and sustainable fishing can also lead to better conditions for women in supporting the stabilisation or even the growth of fish stocks near the coast, areas that are more easily accessed by women.

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Capacity Building and Stakeholder Responses on IUU Fishing in the GoG (Capt. Rtd. Dame Mboup (Global Fishing Watch, Senegal)

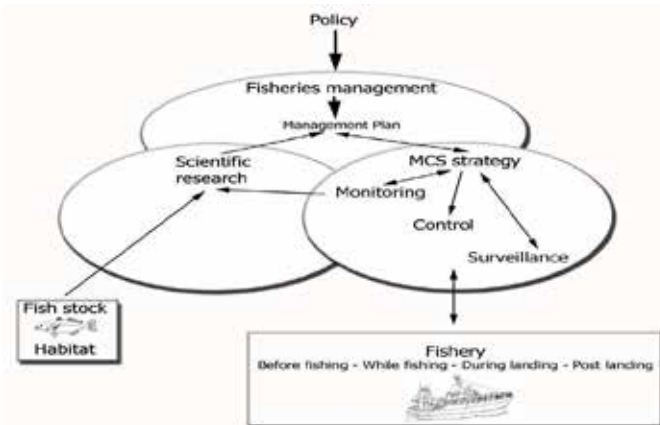
Capt. Rtd. Dame Mboup highlighted that illegal,

unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the greatest dangers to GoG marine ecosystems because it hinders national and regional efforts for sustainable fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation. IUU fishing exploits administrative inadequacies and poor management regimes without adequate monitoring, control, and surveillance (SCS) capacities. He mentioned that IUU fishing is ubiquitous in all sorts of fishing and occurs on many forms on the high seas and in national jurisdictions. It involves all areas of fishing and can be linked to organised crime. The fish resources that could be exploited by authorized fishermen disappear due to illegal fishing practices, which can lead to the collapse of local fisheries, and weakens small-scale artisanal fishing in the countries of the sub-region. It thus threatens livelihoods, exacerbates poverty and increases food insecurity. The coastal state's losses in catch value due to IUU fishing are the most apparent. The coastal state loses landing taxes, licensing taxes, taxes, and other charges from lawful operators. Indirect and induced macroeconomic consequences exist. The supply chain is affected by the loss of money and jobs in upstream and downstream sectors and activities compared to the fishing activity. Fish shortage severely impacts communities that rely on fish for protein. IUU fishermen can often come into conflict with other legal users. The state is entrusted with the management of the fisheries resource that belongs to the people, hence its duty to ensure its sustainable exploitation. That is why stakeholders must ensure the monitoring of fishing activities and the implementation of development plans, as well as find out what is happening at sea. To adopt the measures of the International Action Plan coherently, countries were encouraged to develop their national action plans, aimed at preventing, discouraging and eliminating illegal, IUU, by selecting measures from the "toolbox" represented by the International Action Plan, and adapting them to their respective situations.

Fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (Mr. Godfrey Baidoo Tsibu (Consultant, Ghana)

Mr. Godfrey Baidoo Tsibu stated that the GoG area is described as a hotspot for Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU). This is attributed to weak Fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance. He further stated that about 57% of Africa's IUU occurs in the GoG. Nearly 2.7 metric tonnes of fish, valued at over US\$3 billion are lost annually by way of IUU. This invariably decreased revenue from fisheries (licenses, taxes, repatriation of incomes, increased MCS costs, reduced productivity of local fishers, create conflicts among fishers, and contributes to the depletion of fish stocks and ineffectiveness of stock rebuilding

measures. The need to facilitate sustainable fisheries resource use is the fundamental principle upon which Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programmes are based. MCS relates to routine fisheries operations: before fishing, during fishing, landing the fish and post-landing. The purpose of MCS is to ensure that fisheries management measures, once agreed upon and adopted by a competent authority, are implemented fully and expeditiously. The objective of MCS is to contribute towards good fisheries management by ensuring that appropriate controls are set, monitored and complied with. MCS should not be equated to enforcement. Instead, MCS must encourage compliance rather than demanding enforcement. For MCS effectiveness, states must be willing and capable of exercising control over their own fishing vessels, and vessels in their waters and ports to ensure that the fishers comply fully with the relevant provisions of both domestic and international laws and the management arrangements. Modern fisheries management requires that MCS strategy, planning and activities are placed at a far more central and integrated place around the table of fisheries management.



MCS systems should be developed for either specific fisheries or a group of interacting fisheries (in terms of ecological, fleet or management interactions). An MCS strategy must consider the following simple questions.

- What is required in terms of the fisheries you are managing?
- What is feasible in terms of the legal framework?
- What is realistic in terms of available resources?
- What is practically possible to implement taking into consideration the political situation and the interested parties involved in the fisheries?

Regional Collaboration and Cooperation (Mr. Gautier Amoussou (EcoBenin/Benin))

Mr. Gautier Amoussou spoke about the roles of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their collaboration with coastal municipalities in Benin. In 2014, the state

provided support to the municipalities of Grand-Popo and Comé for the creation of the Bouche du Roy Reserve – a site of MAB UNESCO Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. An area of 10,000 hectares of preserved coastal ecosystems including 17 villages with 25,000 people’s livelihoods were secured. Through the elaboration and execution of a management plan, more than 3000 juvenile sea turtles were saved per year from 3 community hatcheries. He argued that a blue carbon project is ongoing in partnership with municipalities. Through this project, four different studies are conducted to contribute to the expansion of activities such as the “Mangrove Carbon “ (PDD) in the Bouche du Roy site. More than 10 years of advocacy has pushed the government to create Marine Protected Areas. The promulgation of decree N°2022-003 of January 5, 2022, presented the opportunity for creating the Bouche du Roy and Donaten MPAs. The Bouche du Roy MPA covers an area of 184 km². Apart from the blue carbon project, the government also created a training centre in entrepreneurship, hotel management, sustainable tourism and catering for the integration of underprivileged youth in partnership with the coastal communities. There has also been capacity building and support for 140 fishmongers and salt-processing women in response to COVID 19 pandemic.

Mr. Gautier Amoussou stated that as part of the CSO platforms on Maritime and Coastal Surveillance in the Gulf of Benin, the Gulf of Benin Deltas Network was created in February 2018 with 12 members including Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. The network is a voluntary platform of field actors, anchored in territories and contact with local communities in estuaries, mangrove areas, and river and marine systems in West Africa. Members of the Gulf of Benin deltas network aim to share, improve and disseminate their tools, methodologies and good management practices in their respective territories of intervention to support local communities to live better in coastal areas. Together the network intends to work collectively for the conservation of marine and coastal resources in the delta areas of the Gulf of Benin.

In a joint operation in partnership with the government of Benin to tackle IUU fishing in the GoG, the Sea Shepherd crew and local nongovernmental organization (NGO) Eco-Benin worked together with law enforcement agents representing the State Action on the Sea, the Navy of Benin and the Ministry of Fisheries on board the Sea Shepherd vessel Bob Barker on a 20-day patrol to stop poaching activity in the waters of Benin. The first patrol of a one-year partnership, titled ‘Operation Guegou’ (local Wxla

language for “Big Tuna”), resulted in the boarding and inspection of 8 fishing vessels, one of which was arrested and brought to the Beninese Port of Cotonou for not having the proper paperwork on board. The patrol - under the direction of the Beninese government - covered the entirety of Benin’s waters and included a particular focus on Benin’s borders with neighboring Togo and Nigeria where incursions by foreign industrial fishing vessels fishing without a license have occurred in the past. The campaign resulted in the arrest of 15 fishing vessels for engaging in IUU fishing.

Practitioners Experience: How to ensure the participation of women and support their role in innovation (Oulu Monique Debora GNENE)

Ms. Oulu Monique Debora GNENE, Vice-President of the FENASCOOP-CI spoke about the role of women in the fishing industry. She recalled, artisanal fishing in particular is the largest sector of the blue economy in Africa. She argued that women are active throughout this sector: they pre-finance fishing trips, receive, sort the fish during landings, and process and market it. She argued that thanks to their activities, women make fish available at affordable prices for more than 200 million people in Africa. This is a central role that women play when we know that fish represents on average 22% of the protein intake in sub-Saharan Africa, and, in the poorest African countries. Women demonstrate innovation daily to improve their working conditions and the living conditions of their families. The first thing women need is to have fresh fish and to be processed in sufficient quantities, of good quality, at affordable prices. She concluded by asking all those who want to invest effectively in innovative women’s activities in the fishing industry to include data on women, analyses of the impacts of policies and initiatives and better documentation of women’s issues in the fisheries sector.

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Presentations on Country-Specific Trends and Impacts of IUU Fishing:

Cote D’Ivoire

Following a recent civil war, Côte d’Ivoire has found it challenging to implement strong legal structures and strategies on fisheries, resources management and surveillance. Fish is a vital source of food and protein for the population, where each person consumes approximately 14 kg of fish each year. The majority of fishing activities are concentrated on a very narrow continental shelf which requires proper management

to prevent the destruction of the marine environment, depletion of fish stocks and potential collapse of the fishing ground. At present, Côte d’Ivoire relies heavily on imports to feed its population and this dependence on expensive fish from abroad will be exacerbated if marine resources are not urgently protected. In terms of the legal framework, Côte d’Ivoire has a strong legal framework to deal with the phenomenon. The laws include:

Law n°2016- 554 of July 26, 2016, relating to fisheries and aquaculture, with title IV dedicated to the fisheries police and aquaculture (articles 63 to 113);

Law n°2017- 442 of June 30, 2017, bearing the maritime code, (articles 973 to 986);

Decree on the modalities of monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, adopted on December 08, 2021;

Ratification of the Agreement on Measures of the Responsibility of the Port State (AMREP)

At the Institutional level, several bodies have been created to help deal with IUU fishing. Key among them is SEPCIM AEM, in charge of coordinating all the actions of the State at Sea by promoting inter-administrative collaboration and the pooling of operational resources. There is also the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH); the Directorate of Fisheries one component of which is the Fisheries Surveillance Sub-Directorate, in charge of port inspections and fisheries police operations (patrols and observations); the Fisheries Monitoring Center, attached to the Firm and specialized in satellite monitoring of fishing units; the Pro-Fisheries Monitoring Project, responsible for improving the system of monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries; the National Fisheries management strategy (SNGP), a component of the PONADEPA (2022 – 2026).

Actions Taken in the Fight Against IUU Fishing

Several actions have been taken at the strategic, operational and regional levels to tackle IUU fishing. At the strategic level, the process of updating the National Action Plan to combat IUU fishing, initiated in October 2022, with the support of FAO is still ongoing. However, government continues to strengthen the operational capacities of fisheries inspectors, as part of the implementation of the AMREP. At the level of Satellite Monitoring, there is coverage of the industrial fishing fleet; strategic support for patrols at sea and exchange of information with the competent services responsible for ensuring coastal state missions, Port state, and Flag state. At the level of maritime patrols, the navy in conjunction with the Directorate of Fisheries has carried out many patrols to curb the increasing spate of illegal activities at Sea.

At the level of port inspections, the authorities have conducted inspections of fishing and fishing support vessels, monitored the landing of industrial fishing catches; observed landings and transshipments of tuna seiners among others. At the level of regional cooperation, the signing of a memorandum of understanding on November 02, 2022, between Ivory Coast and Liberia has strengthened their cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing.

Nigeria

Nigeria practices an open-access fishery; catches are not restricted but exploitation is regulated through the use of National instruments and measures. To ensure sustainability and rational exploitation of the fisheries resources, the Federal Government of Nigeria promulgated/legislated Acts and regulations (Nwosu et al., 2011).

Regulatory Instrument in Fisheries

- Inland Fisheries (Act) No. 108 of 1992
- Sea Fisheries Act (Decree) No. 71 of 1992 (SFA)
- Sea Fisheries (Licensing) Regulations 1992 (SFA-Licenses)
- Sea Fisheries (Fishing) Regulations 1992
- Sea Fisheries (Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance) Regulations 1995
- Inland Fisheries (Fish Quality Assurance) Regulation 1993
- Exclusive Economic Zone Regulation No. 38 of 1978
- Turtle Excluder Device Regulations (1996)

Nigeria also needs to satisfy the obligations under a range of other International Fisheries and Marine Resource management instruments. These include:

- The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)
- The UN Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA)
- The FAO Compliance Agreement (CA)
- The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
- International Plan Action on Fishing Capacity, IUU Fishing, Sea Birds and Sharks
- The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)

Management Measures in Fisheries

- Delineation of the territorial waters
- Mesh sizes
- Turtle Excluding Device (TED)
- Licensing
- VMS

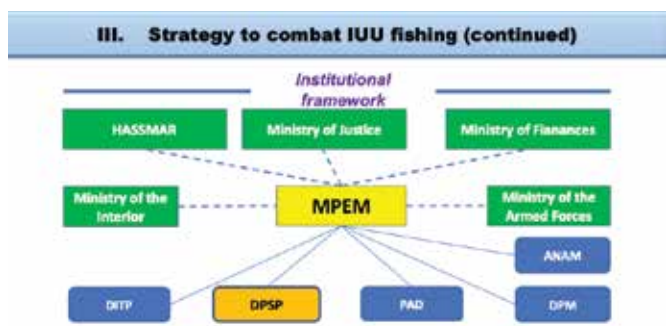
- Close Season (new)
- Collaboration (National, Regional and International)

- Policy Steps in Tackling IUU Fishing - The Way Forward
- Registration of Vessels to exercise jurisdiction and control over them (Flag States).
- Catch Certification Scheme
- Ratifying international regulatory instruments.
- Port State Measure Agreement
- Capacity building for Fisheries Inspectors
- A better Monitoring, Control and Surveillance system:
- On-board electronic monitoring through the use of VMS and AIS, deployment of observers on board fishing vessels and physical inspection of catch, gear and documentation.
- The review of Legislation and policy frameworks with stringent penalties to deter IUU-fishing.
- Inter-agency cooperation/ intelligence sharing.

Senegal

At the accession to international sovereignty, fisheries surveillance was organized around the Maritime Fisheries Directorate with the National Navy as its armed arm. From 1982 onwards, the Senegalese government has received support from Canadians with the Fisheries Monitoring Project in Senegal (PSPS). The project has contributed to the revision of the legislation, the acquisition of naval and air assets, the installation of coastal stations along the coastline and the establishment of an observer program. In the year 2000, the state created the Directorate of Fisheries Protection and Surveillance (DPSP). In terms of the legal framework, Senegal has a strong legal framework to deal with IUU fishing. These include:

- The Law 2015-18 of July 13, 2015, on the Maritime Fishing Code in Senegal;
- Decree 2016-1804 on the application of the Fisheries Code;
- National action plan to Combat IUU Fishing (2014);
- Other regulatory texts (ministerial orders, prefectural orders, etc.).



Besides the legal framework, there are decentralized structures such as:

Regional Fisheries and Surveillance Services (SRPS)
Coastal fisheries monitoring stations
Checkpoints and surveillance

Senegal also undertakes active boat patrols, air patrols, participatory monitoring, Inspection of ports and the active use of sensors. Other response activities include a boarding program for observers on board foreign ships, certification of the lawful origin of catches and Joint operations within the CSR area

Ongoing initiatives

There are many ongoing activities including:

Strengthening of cooperation with certain reference bodies in the fight against IUU fishing;

Set up a “ONE-STOP SHOP” system

Transposition of certain provisions relating to IUU fishing;

Elaboration of a national action plan to combat IUU fishing;

Generalization of the boarding of observers on board ships;

Strengthening the capacities of fishery surveillance officers in investigative techniques and search for clues;

Updating of the national action plan to combat IUU fishing (adoption in progress);

AMREP support project (ongoing implementation)

Elaboration of a decree relating to the DPEP;

Updating of legal and regulatory texts

Ghana

Ghana has access to significant and valuable stocks of fish. Total domestic production, including aquaculture, is roughly 440,000 tons each year. This fish production is worth over US\$ 1 billion in income annually. In terms of the overall economy, the fisheries sector accounts for at least 4.5% of GDP. These figures underscore the prominent role that fisheries play in the Ghanaian economy as they have done for many generations past. Fisheries resources are key to 60% of the national animal protein. Capture fisheries in Ghana for the past decades have taken a declining trend. The current annual requirement = 1,268,800.00 mt, and the annual production = 628,617.53 mt representing 49.5% (MoFAD, 2021).

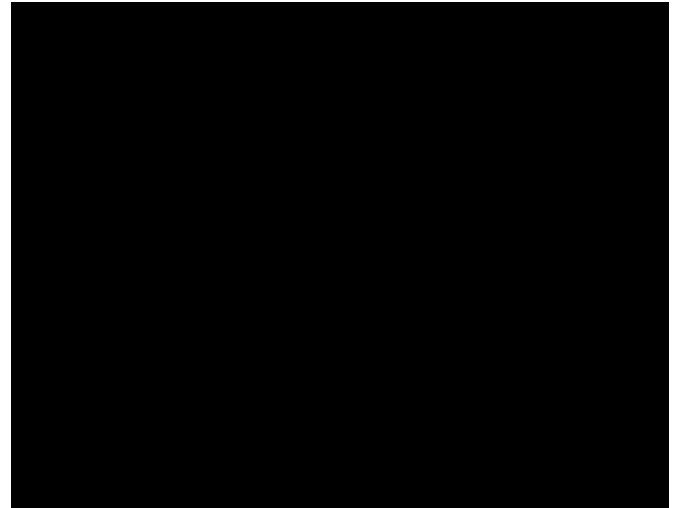
Some Causes of the Decline

The causes of the decline include overcapitalization, open access system, government subsidies and IUU fishing.

Efforts to Control the Decline

There is a need for continuous stakeholder engagement,

empowerment of traditional fishing authorities and the use of electronic monitoring systems (VMS, AIS, CAMARAS ONBOARD-pilot). Also, arrests and prosecutions, collaboration and exchange of information, increase surveillance at sea (patrols, beach combing) and port states measures agreement (PSMA) are critical efforts to control the decline.



The legal framework of fishing in Ghana is governed by the following:

Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625)

Fisheries Regulations 2010 (L.I. 1968)

Fisheries (Amended) Act 2014, (Act 880)

Fisheries (Amended) Regulations 2015 (L.I. 2217)

Co-management Policy for the Fisheries Sector (2020)

Marine Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana (2022 – 2026)

Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan (2023-2027)

Togo

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUU fishing would be responsible for an annual catch of 11 to 26 million tons of fish, thus depriving the world economy of 10 to 23 billion US dollars. In West Africa, the economic losses related to IUU fishing are estimated at 1.3 billion US dollars and the 6 countries of the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (CPCO), which form the West Africa Working Group, lose 300 million US dollars per year. IUU fishing concerns in particular fishing without authorization, fishing carried out in prohibited areas, fishing with prohibited gear, fishing with prohibited methods; fishing exceeding quotas, fishing for prohibited species, and fishing during the biological rest period. In Togo, artisanal fishing has two components: maritime artisanal fishing and continental fishing.

Concerning artisanal fishing, between 600 and 700 canoes for all gear combined, are involved in fishing maritime artisanal in Togo. Seven types of gear are used in artisanal maritime fishing in Togo, namely (i) the beach seine (Yovodo*), (ii) the revolving seine (Watsa*), (iii) the gillnet of the bottom (Tonga*), (iv) the surface gillnet (Awli*), (v) the floating net (Gbéla*), (vi) the shark net (Anifa*) and (vii) the line (Akpom*)

However, for Industrial fishing, four trawlers flying the Togolese flag, practice industrial fishing in Togo. The length of these ships varies between 7 and 23 meters. Togo does not have a fleet operating on the high seas.

The legal and institutional framework on fishing is governed by the following texts:

The law n ° 2016-026 of 11/10/2016 regulating fishing and aquaculture in Togo

The law n ° 2016-028 of 11/10/2016 on the merchant marine code in Togo

The decree n ° 68/10/MAEP/Cab/SG/DPA of 04/08/2010 fixing the modalities of exploitation of fisheries resources in the waters under Togolese jurisdiction
Decree n ° 336/MEF/SG/DGTCP/DELFI/2019 of 26/11/2019 fixing the costs of issuing fishing authorizations, post-catch activities and the establishment of professional cards

Togo has acceded to the agreement on measures under the jurisdiction of the Port State (AMREP) of the FAO

the creation of the high council for the Sea (HCM);

the creation of the maritime prefecture (PREMAR) ;

the adoption of the law n ° 2016-004 of March 11, 2016, relating to the fight against piracy, and other illegal acts and the exercise by the State of its police powers at sea;

the adoption of the law n ° 2016-027 of October 11, 2016, on the new criminal code.

At the operational level, Togo has taken initiatives and is carrying out the following actions:

set up a Mixed Container Control Unit (UMCC);

set up a national working group to combat IUU fishing;

elaborated a national action plan to combat IUU fishing;

set up a satellite control device for ships (VMS);

organized a fair for the registration of artisanal fishing boats.

quarterly organization of mixed patrols by the maritime prefecture;

organization of periodic exercises of patrols at sea in collaboration with foreign cooperants (African Nemo and Obangame-express);

inspection of fishing vessels and refrigerated cargo ships.

Efforts and Actions to Combat IUU Fishing in Togo

The establishment of a special court to judge, and amend all acts of piracy as well as illegal acts including IUU fishing. The establishment of the Action of the State at Sea made it possible to put in cooperation and coordinate the agencies and structure involved. The quarterly mixed patrols and the implementation of the AIS and VMS surveillance system at the Directorate of Fisheries, the Maritime Prefecture and the Directorate of Maritime Affairs are some of the actions undertaken to combat IUU fishing. Also, periodic training of fishermen and fishmongers on alternative sources of income to allow them to support the periods of the closed season. The construction of a large new fishing port in partnership with JICA has allowed Togo to bring together a large part of the fishermen on the site. This made it possible to periodically have a statistic of the catches and the types of fish caught.

Benin

IUU fishing has been a persistent problem in Benin and other West African nations for decades. IUU fishing accounts for about 40% of all fish caught in the region and threatens the livelihoods of about 7 million people, according to GFW. The potential of fisheries resources: more than 257 species of fish, 10 species of crustaceans and 4 species of cephalopods. The actors within the artisanal fishing: 5,722 fishermen including 54% Beninese, 43% Ghanaians and 3% Togolese with a fleet of about 900 boats. The region's fish stocks are in steep decline. Located in West Africa between the Atlantic Ocean, Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger. With a population of 11 million, and a seafront of 125 Km, Benin has a per capita consumption of 9.48 kg/year and the contribution of the fisheries sector to GDP is 3%. For more than half a century, fisheries resources have been exploited in an abusive, fraudulent way damaging the ecosystem and depriving governments of income and livelihoods.

Actions Implemented

Since 2007, there has been the development and adoption of a National Action Plan based on the provisions of the FAO IAP. Benin together with the five other States of the West-Central GoG created a Committee in 2007 for cooperation in efforts to deal with IUU Fishing. At the regulatory and legislative levels, there has been the adoption of the framework law on fisheries and aquaculture. There is also the new code of procedure criminal justice of the

Republic of Benin. Other legal frameworks include:
The law 2010-11 of March 7, 2011, on the maritime code in Benin:

2018, adoption of some implementing decrees:
Decree n ° 2018.335 of July 25, 2018, fixing the conditions and modalities for fishing in the Republic of Benin.

Decree 2018. 334 fixing the procedures for the exercise of aquaculture in the Republic of Benin

These legislative provisions are supplemented by orders:

For example, Inter-ministerial Decree No. 694 / MDR / MTPT / DC / SG / DA / DP / DMM of 11-19-99 establishes the conditions for the exercise of fishing in waters under Beninese jurisdiction: it prohibits industrial fishing within 5 miles.

The year 2022 N°095/APRM/DC/SGM/DPAF/DPH/CJ/SA/071SGG22 Fixing the conditions and modalities for the exercise of industrial maritime fishing in waters under Beninese jurisdiction;

The year 2022 N°092/APRM/DC/SGM/DPAF/DPH/CJ/SA/071SGG22 Fixing the conditions and methods of granting the card professional fishing in the Republic of Benin

At the International and Regional Levels, Benin is a party to several agreements and conventions and directives in the field of fisheries including:

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea signed in Montego Bay on 10/12/82;

Agreement on Measures under the Jurisdiction of the Port State of November 22, 2009, ratified in 2021

The 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement;

The Agreement of the United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 1995;

The International Action Plan (IAP) of 2001

Benin has also ratified several relevant conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) relative to:

the management of the seas and oceans,

to maritime safety and security; and

the protection of the marine environment.

Difficulty in Implementation of Legal Frameworks

There are some difficulties associated with the insufficiency of a substantial budget, delay in the release of the allocated budget and the lack of means of rapid interventions.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a coastal nation in West Africa with a population of over 7 million people, its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers 205,611 km² and encompasses particularly rich and productive fishing grounds. The industrial fishery of Sierra Leone is

conducted within 6 to 200 nautical miles (Nm) of the continental shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Industrial Fisheries - Currently about 80 industrial fishing vessels including tuna vessels. Artisanal and in-land fisheries – over 12,000 canoes.

The legal and institutional framework of fishing is governed by the following:

Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2018

Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulation, 2019

Sierra Leone's Response to IUU Fishing

Installation of VMS transponder on all licensed fishing vessels

Deployment of fisheries observers on all licensed vessels – over 150 fisheries observers including scientific observers

At sea inspection – Using PB SIK and RHIBs to patrol the SL IEZ and EEZ

Port inspection – Implementation of port state measures, local discharge, and spot checks

Arrest and prosecution

National Plan of Action to Deter IUU Fishing, 2018

Fisheries inspection plan

Fisheries Management Plan

Joint Monitoring Center (JOC) – remote monitoring of all licensed fishing vessels

Challenges in the Industrial Fishing Sector

No standing funds to carry fisheries protection patrols.

The incursion of Industrial and semi-industrial fishing vessels in the IEZ

Smuggling of fisheries products to neighbouring countries.

Lack of improved/recent monitoring tools

Insufficient offshore patrol vessels

Training – capacity building for PV SIK Crews and

Enforcement Officers in different fields

Challenges in the Artisanal Fishing Sector

The licenses of artisanal fishing crafts.

The incursion of foreign artisanal vessels in Sierra Leone's EEZ

The use of under-meshed-sized fishing nets in the MPAs

Targeting juvenile fish species for commercial purposes

The use of Monofilament netting materials

Smuggling of fisheries products to neighbouring countries.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Topic 1: Challenges in the Enforcement of Legal

frameworks for Addressing IUU Fishing Activities

The following challenges of enforcement were identified by Group One

- Out-dated laws
- Lack of political will
- Interferences between influential people
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Inadequate operational funds
- Inadequate training & research on maritime domain awareness
- Weak judicial capacity with respect to maritime (in) security issues
- Insufficient capacity in evidence gathering and preservation
- Turf wars and weak inter-agency collaboration
- Fragmentation of laws
- Insufficient sharing of information (trust and confidence building)
- Non-domestication and ratification of the international convention
- Corruption

Group One Suggested the Following Recommendations and Way Forward

Adopt a participatory approach.

Adopt a communication plan that is inclusive in addressing the problem and developing appropriate laws and regulations and procedures.

Review regulations to be deterring enough for offenders, and in effect, increasing the amounts of the fines

Training for the judiciary for prosecuting maritime crimes and especially, for IUU offenses.

Explore in-service and continuous training to keep judges/ magistrates up-to-date capacity to prosecute. Rigorous laws must be synchronised and uniform across the region

Strengthen enforcement

Criminalise offenses in addition to fines.

Topic 2: Gender Dimensions of IUU Fishing Activities

Issues Arising

Women can be both perpetrators and victims.

Give certifications to women who sell fish where cooperatives could agree on which could be labeled as non-IUU fish/products.

Formalising the fishing processing chain to contribute to tracing products.

Awareness creation among women cooperatives to understand IUU to trace fish products.

Involve /build the capacity of women in data collection to trace and contribute to reporting IUU fishing.

Sensitize women to understand the impact on their livelihoods and their importance in reporting IUU to ultimately improve their livelihoods.

Collaborations with CSO/grassroots actors who are more connected to the communities to educate women groups on their role in sustainable fishing.

Integrated approach (demand-driven) – Education must also transcend for consumers to be aware/informed of the consequences of their consumption, as well as the related health implications, so they can also contribute to addressing the menace of IUU fishing.

Provide infrastructure/landing sites in place that regroup artisanal fishing and processors (fish selling centres) where they can formalise the industry and enhance tracing, labelling, certification, and documentation contributing to stopping the menace of IUU fishing.

Topic 3: Stakeholder Responses, Collaborations and Cooperation

Harmonise close-season across the region to regulate the fishermen

Involve the media, research institutions, and CSOs to drive forward the agenda.

Improve surveillance of the waters by acquiring modern technology for surveilling the waters

Regular joint exercises/operations to enhance interactions between the different stakeholders.

Remunerate/incentivise teams for the risk of making arrests.

Creation of databases that are easily accessible to relevant stakeholders

Issues Arising

Just like the Yaoundé architecture is responding to piracy, / strengthening organisations and cooperating with organisations such as FCWC, COREB< the same system can be instituted along the Gulf of Guinea to encourage collaboration and cooperation toward addressing IUU fishing in our waters.

Leverage the Yaoundé architecture to deal with IUU fishing and also countries must consider and support the secondment of fisheries officers to the Inter-Regional Coordination Centre to address the phenomenon.

Improving the mandates of institutions such as the African Court of Justice to be able to prosecute.

Increase ownership and garner political commitments from political actors.

Develop responses that respond to the different contexts and realities of the different aspects of IUU fishing. i.e. specific procedures for artisanal, industrial and coastal fishing actors.

CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. Kwesi Aning, Director (FAAR), in his closing remarks, opined that by 2030, Africa's Blue Economy will produce 57 million employment and US\$405 billion, including US\$100 billion from coastal tourism. Africa has eight global biodiversity spots, 439 marine important biodiversity areas, and 148 marine and coastal Ramsar sites.² But some challenges impede the realisation of the full potential of the GoG states, undermine efforts aimed at accelerating economic development and integration in the region, and thus aggravate poverty and political instability. The transboundary nature of maritime resources makes regional cooperation imperative due to common experiences with violent conflicts over the control, distribution and management of the associated resources. He stated that the maritime domain is critical for economic development and affects both coastal and non-coastal Member States. Thus, the need for coordination and cooperation, in close collaboration with neighbouring states, transatlantic, European and global counterparts. He urged participants to preserve the networks to promote future partnerships and information exchange and thanked the Danish Government for financing the initiative.

APPENDIX 1 SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTER DANISH MARITIME SECURITY PROJECT SYMPOSIUM ON

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Trends and Impact in The Gulf of Guinea:
Stakeholder Responses
15-17 MAY 2023
Venue: Hotel le Vaisseau, Abidjan



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FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**



²<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/213a25f8770328e39b2ef15e7104a136-0320012022/original/Overview.pdf>

PROGRAMME

Date / Time	Activity	Responsibility
DAY 1		
Wed. May 15 2023		
08:30-09:00	Registration	Elsie A. Tachie-Menson
09:00-09:30	Opening Ceremony	KAIPTC
	Welcome Remarks	M Anthony Moulot (SEPCIM)
	Opening Remarks	Maj. Gen, Richard Addo-Gyane (Commandant, KAIPTC)
	Keynote Speaker	Mr. Assoumany GOUROMENAN (Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Animals and Fisheries resources, MIRAH)
9:30-10:00	GROUP PHOTOGRAPH / COFFEE BREAK	
10:00 -11:30	<u>Plenary Session I</u>	Moderator: Mrs Afua Lamptey/ KAIPTC
	Harnessing the potential of the Blue of Economy in the Gulf of Guinea	Prof. Kwesi Aning
	Trends and Impact of IUU fishing in the GoG	Mr. Barthelemy Blede/Cote d'Ivoire
	Overview of Regulatory frameworks for IUU fishing	Mr Seraphin Dedi (former Secretary General of CPCO/ FWCO)
	Gender dimensions in IUU fishing	Dr. Fiifi Edu-Afful – Research Fellow/KAIPTC
11:30-12:30	Discussion and Q&A	Moderator
12:30 -13:30	LUNCH	
13:30 – 14:30	Plenary Session II	Moderator: Capt Isaac Aratuo
	Capacity Building and Stakeholder responses	Capt. Rtd Dame Mboup (Global fishing Watch, Senegal)
	Monitoring, Control and Compliance	Mr. Godfrey Baidoo Tsibu (Consultant, Ghana)
	Regional Collaboration and cooperation	Mr. Gautier Amoussou (Ecobenin/Benin)
15:00-16:00	Discussion/Q&A	Moderator
16:00-16:30	WRAP UP OF DAY I	
16:00-16:30	COFFEE BREAK	
09:00- 9:30am	Plenary Session III Recap of day 1	Rapporteur
09:00 – 10:00am	Presentations on country- specific Trends and Impacts of IUU fishing:	Moderator: Cote d'Ivoire Panelists

	Cote D'Ivoire Nigeria Senegal Liberia	
10:00-10:30	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30-10:50	Ghana	
10:50-11:10	Togo Benin	
11:10-11:30	Sierra Leone	
11:30-12:30	Discussion/ Q&A	
12:30-13:30	LUNCH	
13:30: 16:00	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Topic 1: Challenges in enforcement of Legal frameworks for addressing IUU fishing activities Topic 2: Gender dimensions of IUU fishing activities Topic 3: Stakeholder Responses, Collaborations and Cooperation	
6:00 – 16:15	WRAP UP FOR DAY 2	Moderator
16:15-16:30	COFFEE BREAK	Elsie A. Tachie-Menson
DAY 3 May 17 2023		
09:00 -09:15	Recap of Day 2	Rapporteur
09:15-11:15	Presentation from Breakout sessions	Mrs. Serwaa Allotey-Pappoe
11:15-12:00	Discussion/Q&A	Mrs Serwaa Allotey-Pappoe
	Closing Ceremony	SEPCIM KAIPTC Commandant
12:00	LUNCH	

²<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/213a25f8770328e39b2ef15e7104a136-0320012022/original/Overview.pdf>