

Background information on participating organisations

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) - Seychelles

The Apostleship of the Sea is an international catholic organisation for seafarers (fishermen/seamen), founded in 1920 in Scotland, currently operating in more than 100 countries and in more than 416 ports.

AOS objectives include:

- To promote the spiritual, social and practical well being of seafarers on merchants ships, fishing vessels or cruise ships, and their families without any distinction of culture, nationality or religion and to support catholic seafarers in their Christian living on board.
- To work in partnership with different persons, institutions and relevant bodies responsible for maritime and fishery activities at economic, social and political level so as to assist fishermen and seamen at becoming meaningful contributors to the national, regional and international development.
- To sensitise and educate the general public on the plight of seafarers, by creating and improving fishery and maritime legislation and to work in solidarity with other organization and trade union, and to do advocacy work by promoting seafarers rights and provide justice for seafarers.

Work areas include fisheries policies and regulations, fishery agreements made with other nations, overfishing, habitat degradation, pollution and the impact of climate change on fisheries and local communities, overfishing and dumping of fish by foreign fishing vessels. AOS seeks to empower and build the capacity of small-scale fishers' organisations and strengthen the dialogue between local organisations and national and foreign governments in relation to fisheries agreements. AOS is moreover involved in issues relating to IUU and piracy, e.g. the impact of piracy on the fisheries industry as well as local communities.

CAOPA (African Confederation of Small-scale Fisheries Professional Organisations) - West Africa

CAOPA is a confederation consisting of different professional organisations in West Africa working on small-scale fisheries issues.

A workshop in 2006 in Mauritania on the relationships between the media and small-scale fisheries professionals initiated co-operation between small-scale fisheries professionals leading to the creation of a West African network of journalists for sustainable fisheries. During a workshop in December 2008 in Conakry, where professionals from Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo met, it was strongly recommended that a Confederation of African Small-scale Fishery Professionals should be established. Finally, in June 2009 the Monitoring Committee composed of the following countries - Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Senegal - met in Dakar to draw up a charter, bylaws and rules of procedure for the planned African Confederation of Small-scale Fisheries Organisations.

CAOPA adheres to a vision where small-scale fisheries are recognised as a powerhouse of economic development in Africa and a priority investment sector, which contributes to food security and job creation for the most vulnerable groups (women and young people). CAOPA works with governments as well as national and international institutions in defining and implementing sustainable fisheries policies, which contribute to poverty alleviation. CAOPA works to promote and sustain efforts to mainstream gender into decision-making processes, improving women's involvement in decision-making and their working conditions. CAOPA seeks to support small-scale fishing communities by furthering sustainable fishing practices and strengthening their capacities to effectively utilise and benefit from the value of fisheries resources, and enabling fishing communities to get involved in implementing and taking advantage of fisheries policies, a.o through empowering grassroots organisations. CAOPA works together with communities to resolve conflicts locally as well as addressing and working to prevent trans-border conflicts. CAOPA is committed to combating illegal fishing and bad fishing practices, and protecting the marine environment and coastal ecosystems against pollution or degradation.

CAOPA complies with non-governmental, apolitical as well as non-religious and non-profit ethics and works resolutely at establishing good governance in all of the member organisations. While it recognises the state in its official functions as the leading partner of organisations of small-scale fisheries professionals in Africa, as a principle CAOPA remains independent in thinking and in action. CAOPA mobilises both the financial and intellectual resources needed to support the development of CAOPA, and works together with the research sector to use its findings and integrate technical and technological innovations into efforts which may assist to ensure the best future of the fisheries resource for future generations.

Coastal Links - South Africa

Coastal Links is a community based organisation established in 2004. Coastal Links was established following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, attended by Masifundise and a few fishers from the Western Cape, where the need for a community based fisher organisation, which could address the severe poverty and oppression characterising local fishing communities, was identified. Since the inception of Coastal Links in 2004, most of Masifundise's activities have been directed at supporting Coastal Links in achieving their mission and vision of ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the previously disadvantaged fishers in the Western and Northern Cape.

Currently Coastal Links has presence in 21 coastal fishing communities in the Western Cape and Northern Cape. Coastal Links comprises fisher associations; women's groups; youth groups; sports and cultural groups; general community based organisations and individual community members. With a total membership of 1 858, Coastal Links consists of four regions; each of the four regions has established branches and each branch has a committee with elected officials who represent them on the regional committee. Each region elects a regional secretary, chairperson and co-ordinator, and the regional chairpersons and co-ordinators collectively form the Coastal Links Executive Committee. The executive committee meets every quarter and its meetings coincide with the joint Masifundise board meetings. As a consequence of its effective local branches, Coastal Links functions as an established mass based organisation in the majority of the rural fishing communities in the Western and Northern Cape.

Coastal Links leaders have attended a range of workshops strengthening their lobbying and advocacy power in order for coastal fishing communities to be able to retain their right to legally access marine resources. Over the years Coastal Links has grown in strength and stature, and developed into a powerful body which attends and is represented at governmental meetings and committees on fishing policies. Coastal Links has a.o managed to secure interim fishing rights for about 1500 small-scale fisher people. A clear sign of its increased political power came in 2008, when an association of the biggest commercial fishing companies took the small-scale fishers to court on the grounds that the newly acquired interim fishing rights were threatening the commercial interests of the industry. Coastal Links and its partners won the court case, and today we still have to see if the commercial association will make use of their right to appeal the court's decision. Furthermore, Coastal Links together with Masifundise has actively pushed for and been involved in the development of a national small-scale fishery policy, which is currently being finalised. The results that Coastal Links have achieved has triggered enormous popularity and a demand for the movement to widen its geographical scope to include communities in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal Provinces (a new project in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces was launched in June 2011 by Masifundise).

There has been a continued, vigorous drive to organise Coastal Links so that it is better equipped and able to make informed decisions that will affect it's constituency effectively. While Coastal Links has succeeded in building a powerful organisation representing people from fishing communities, it is however acknowledged that there is still a long way to go; Coastal Links rhus currently remains dependent on Masifundise's continued support in order to consolidate its organisational capacity.

El Molo Forum - Kenya

The El Molo Forum was established in 2003 and registered as a trust in 2005. The organisation was established to confront issues of marginalisation and discrimination of indigenous people in Northern Kenya, specifically the El Molo people - a small minority group living on the eastern shores of Lake Turkana.

The El Molo live off fishing and are considered to be one of the smallest and most underprivileged communities in Kenya; their language is almost extinct, illiteracy levels in the community are very high, and access to services such as healthcare etc is severely limited.

The El Molo Forum engages in advocacy work for the attainment and enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of women in Northern Kenya and beyond, and is actively involved in advocacy work for climate and environmental justice. The El Molo Forum has participated and made interventions at a.o the UNPFII, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nation Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the local level El Molo Forum supports indigenous cultures and promotes peaceful co-existence through songs and dance, games and sports and exchange visits. Promoting sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods, notably livelihoods based on local cultures, traditional knowledge and natural resources (livestock, fisheries, eco-tourism), are key objectives. Activities include environmental awareness raising, tree planting, promotion of energy saving stoves, training on causes and impacts of climate change and community based adaptation, responses and mitigation, as well as championing alternative livelihoods in order to reduce drought risk, e.g through supporting enterprise projects such as crafts.

The El Molo Forum is actively involved in the empowerment of women, furthering women's involvement and leadership in decision making processes, a.o through specific projects and activities targeting women such as the Gurapa Women and Nomadic Women Empowerment Group. The El Molo Forum moreover seeks to build capacity and leadership amongst youths, through workshops and training on e.g environmental issues and matters affecting them and their communities.

Kambindingu Fisheries Association - Malawi

Kambindingu Fisheries Association is a community based organisation formed in 2002 and registered with the Malawi Government in 2009. Kambindingu Fisheries Association is a member based organisation which currently has 1625 registered members. The association is comprised of 12 Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and it is in northern part of Nkhotakota District in the Central Region of Malawi. Each Beach village committee has ten members who represent their communities at the association level.

The organisation aims at conserving the fisheries resources in Lake Malawi and its rivers and improve local livelihoods in the fishing communities. Kambindingu Fisheries Association works hand in hand with the Department of Fisheries on the part of Malawi Government, traditional leaders (chiefs) and fishermen, here the association acts as a two way channel of communication between the fishing communities and the fisheries department at the governmental level.

The organisation a.o helps with the formulation and review of fisheries regulation. It is also involved in the enforcement of fisheries regulations in the area; Kambindingu Fisheries Association for instance patrols the area during the closing season in November and December. Together with the Icelandic International Development Agency the organisation works to protect members from accident, which occur during fishing trips. The organisation is furthermore involved in the protection of trees along the river banks, and is engaged in a referral network for the less privileged such as the people suffering from HIV/AIDS, and involved in campaigns raising awareness of HIV/AIDS.

A number of positive achievements have been realised by both the association and the government in the management of fisheries resources. There has been an improved relationship between local fishing communities and the government. The livelihoods of the families involved have noticeably improved, and a.o the number of children attending private primary and secondary schools is increasing. There has been an increase in fish catches in the area, and increased diversity in certain places.

The organization is planning to collaborate with other organisations to learn and build its own capacity. The continuation of a cage culture programme is an immediate objective, if donor support can be found.

Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) - Lake Victoria, Uganda

KWDT seeks to empower women in local fishing communities. KWDT started out as the 'Katosi Women Fishing and Development Association' in 1996 counting 23 women, working with the objective of supporting women who were engaged in fishing - a male dominated sector. The increased demand for fish on the international market however resulted in increased pressure on the fish stocks in Lake Victoria, leading to overfishing and a subsequent fish ban on Lake Victoria, raising food insecurity in the communities and leaving many women unemployed. Local fishing communities are moreover poorly serviced in terms of infrastructure provision, sanitation, schools etc., creating a big gap between people in terms of living standards in the fishing communities as compared to the people elsewhere. After the fish ban on Lake Victoria in 2000, KWDT has mainly focussed on supporting women to enter alternative income generating activities. KWDT has a.o established a capacity building program, sustainable agriculture programme, micro credit program and a water hygiene and sanitation programme targeting women.

KWDT objectives include:

- KWDT seeks to join other organisations, networks and alliances that work on improving livelihoods in fishing communities, and expand their geographical outreach to other disadvantaged women in fishing communities especially in the islands.
- Mobilise people in fishing communities to organize themselves, with women as the main target group; and work with already existing associations at the national level and engage in lobbying and advocacy activities.
- KWDT aims at venturing into fish farming in order to reduce dependency on resources in Lake Victoria. Fish farming would enable the production of own fish fingerlings and fish feeds on top of increasing the number of fish ponds, which would reduce the high costs currently incurred by KWDT in the purchase of fish feeds and fingerlings.

Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (LAFA) Inc. - Liberia

Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (LAFA) Inc., was established in December 2009 as a national umbrella fishing association representing all fishing communities in the nine coastal counties of Liberia, which are home to over 33,000 fishers in 120 fishing communities. LAFA is a non-political, non-religious professional membership-based organisation, open to individuals, fisher folks, fisheries technicians, associations and corporate bodies registered in Liberia, with a number of branches in different fishing communities. LAFA Inc. seeks to facilitate the mobilization and organisation of fishing communities at the grassroots level in order to form a common-front and for communities to become empowered and capable of taking part in political, social and economic decision making processes. As an advocate of fishing communities, LAFA Inc.'s works towards sustainable management of marine resources and the development of sustainable livelihood for its members as well as the full enforcement of fisheries regulations to ensure a better future for our posterity.

LAFA Inc. objectives include a.o:

- To support the government's efforts in enhancing a productive national fisheries base and to ensure the enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations by relevant agencies and adopt responsible fishing methods in all areas of operations.
- To provide opportunities for self-employment and create micro-credit opportunities for fishing communities and individual members.
- To encourage grassroots fishing communities to organise themselves as cooperatives.
- To promote fishers' capacity building and ensure the reduction of fishers vulnerability.
- To combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) activities in the artisanal fisheries sector - a.o through random coastal patrol in the Inshore Exclusive Zone (IEZ) waters to combat IUU fishing activities.

LAFA Inc collaborates with a range of national, regional and international actors, and is also tied to CAOPA (the African Confederation of Small-scale Fisheries Professional Organisations).

LAFA Inc. is committed to supporting capacity building of local branches and fishing communities through skill training, seminars and workshops. LAFA Inc for instance held a workshop on capacity building for

Artisanal Sector Training of Trainers (TOT), focussing on improved fish handling, hygiene and sanitation practices, benefitting a total of 300 fisher folks. Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshops were conducted by LAFA in 7 fishing communities in Montserrado County, aiming at identifying major problems in the fishing communities and uncovering solutions.

LAFA Inc is engaged in lobbying and advocating for coherent governmental policies that builds on the principle of social, economic and environmental justice. As an example, a petition statement was issued to the Minister of Agriculture on illegal fishing vessels in violation of the new fisheries regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) with over 300 fisher folks of LAFA participating. Moreover, LAFA Inc resolved 10 cases where industrial fishing vessels harmed and destroyed the fishing gears of local fishermen. The local fishermen were compensated through investigations conducted at the Bureau of National Fisheries/Ministry of Agriculture (BNF/MOA) with other relevant stakeholders serving on the investigation panel. LAFA Inc also negotiates insurance schemes for its members, and promotes sports activities and annual fishing festivals, as well as campaigns on control of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in fishing communities.

Challenges and constraints that LAFA Inc currently is facing include lack of office equipments, lack of logistics for the operations of LAFA activities, lack of research capacity, and insufficient support from both local and international partners.

Malindi Marine Association (MaMa) - Kenya

MaMa is a registered CBO, founded in 2003 upon request from community members in Malindi. MaMa works for fishermen's rights, advocating for the sustainable use of marine resources. MaMa seeks to foster unity amongst local fishing communities and promote collective responsibility towards marine and coastal conservation, working for improved governance and dialogue between stakeholders and users of marine resources. To this end MaMa engages both with community members, the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), the Fisheries Department and other stakeholders.

MaMA objectives include:

- Networking with relevant Government departments and other stakeholders to promote marine and coastal conservation; fostering unity amongst affiliated CBOs that are engaged in conservation and utilization of marine resources and together with KWS soliciting funds for a patrol boat and field staff to strengthen collective monitoring capacity and enforcement of regulations.
- Raising awareness on environmental conservation amongst community members; providing support and raising awareness on legal rights and advise fishing communities on appropriate action to address environmental abuse.
- Establishing suitable community structures for fund raising and providing a link for channeling donor funds from local and international donors.
- Lobbying against environmental degradation and advocating for the rights of marginalized small scale fishers against economically strong commercial fishers.

MaMa has actively been engaged in the fight against corruption amongst leaders in fisheries co-operatives and managed to lobby for an audit, which revealed incriminating evidence against corrupt leaders. In collaboration with KWS MaMa has organised a series of meetings between the Marine Park officials (KWS) and local communities, which has increased community goodwill and improved working relationships between community members and KWS. MaMa has gained recognition amongst many fishing communities along the coast and assisted local fishing communities in revising fishing guidelines for sustainable exploitation of marine resources. Together with 'Turtle Watch' and Watamu Marine Association MaMa successfully petitioned against the construction of hotel structures in the area, which would have destroyed the marine environment in the Watamu Marine Park and Reserve. MaMa moreover organised a big community demonstration against shallow water prawn trawlers, which lead to the current Ministerial ban imposed on shallow water prawn trawling in Malindi-Ungwana Bay.

Mauritania 2000 (M2000) - Mauritania

Mauritania 2000 was established 15 years ago with the aim of improving women's living conditions, along side objectives of strengthening food security, supporting environmental protection, the valorisation of local products and supporting income-generating activities and micro-credit schemes. Since 2000 Mauritania 2000 has specifically targeted women in fishing in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Banc d'Arguin, with the aim of furthering the recognition of women working in the fishing sector, which is dominated by men, and supporting the organisation of women in fishing.

M2000 co-operates with a variety of NGOs and institutions at the national and international level. M2000 has established a literacy programme for its 1600 female beneficiaries (who at the beginning of the programme all were illiterate) and conducts training in fish processing techniques, hygiene, marketing and management methods. M2000 aims at improving the quality of production, a.o through the development and promotion of new techniques based on traditional methods, and by supporting marketing within the country and the sub-region. Also, thanks to the support of an Italian NGO, steps have been taken to commence the export of 'bottarga', mullet's eggs, a local product. M2000 has also supported the creation of a separate network organisation, called GIE (Economic Interest Group).

An external evaluation has shown that the beneficiaries supported by M2000 have managed to reach income levels well above national poverty levels, allowing them to improve their living standards - being able to better equip their houses, send children to school, increase food security - and to further invest in activities strengthening their production activities and livelihoods - e.g by setting up shops, investing in sanitary equipment, transport vehicles, purchasing boats for young fishermen etc. Under the 'Women and Fishing' project, supported by Intermón Oxfam, M2000 is establishing two centres for fish processing with attached nurseries for children in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, which offer hygienic working conditions and facilities, which can facilitate the production, marketing and export of products.

In the future M2000 intends to broaden its focus to include all actors in the fishing sector. Here the decline of fisheries resources in Mauritania, affecting food security and income generation amongst local fishers, represents a crucial issue which needs immediate attention and calls for a restructuring of the fishing sector within Mauritania.

Tambuyog Development Centre

Tambuyog¹ Development Centre was founded in 1984 as a result of research and organizing in Lingayen, Pangasinan, by the University of the Philippines College of Social Work and Community Development. It is a Philippine NGO working in the Fisheries sector and calling attention to the declining fishery resources and unabated poverty in coastal communities. It works with small-scale fishers and fisheries' industry development through interdisciplinary research, information and education campaigns, community organizing, policy advocacy, constituency building and community enterprise development.

The activities of Tambuyog are articulated around three main pillars. First, there is "Community-Based Coastal Resource Management" (CBCRM). It is an approach that centres on the role of communities in the management of their resources — often overlooked by government programs — and their rights to enjoy the benefits resulting from their collective action. This is so because ultimately communities are the best resource managers because they have the greatest stake in the preservation of resources which they depend on for survival. Second, there is "Community Property Rights"(CPR). Community Property Rights apply to communities that have ownership, control and management of their coastal resources. That is the essence of CPR. It intends to empower coastal communities and marginalized sectors of the fishing industry for the

¹ Pangasinense word for carabao's horn - blown to call people in coastal communities to assemble for collective action.

assertion of rights to ownership, claim and entitlement over coastal resources through strengthening representative community institutions, an institutionalisation of resource management arrangements, building collective capital, bridging the gender gap, and enhancing quality of life. Third, there is “Fisheries Governance, Sustainable Fisheries and Trade (at community and national levels), Fisher folk School and Selfish”. The third pillar is multi-purpose with a wide range of visions, goals and objectives for each component. In fact, this pillar intends to develop a network of fisher folk schools in Tanoan Strait, Teabags Bay and Lanus Bay as a major fishing ground towards sustainable development of its coastal resources. It also intends to position the selfish sub-programme as a regional network with a clear mandate from artisanal fisher folk, coastal communities and their advocates to engage governments and multilateral institutions towards recognition of their rights and perspectives in fisheries management and fisheries’ trade. These goals will be measured through improvement of the role of artisanal fisher folk in policy formulation and decision making, core competencies fisher folk leaders in CBCRM, conduct local campaigns both as learning exercises and as concrete means to advance CBCRM in coastal communities and forge stakeholder unity in developing local fisher folk schools.

Tambuyog emerged in the context of gender inequality (in which women fisher folk remain invisible), unequal distribution of property rights, underdeveloped fishing industry, and poverty and resource degradation. As diverse as the women’s role in fishing activities and their multiple task in ensuring the survival of their fishing households, almost always their participation is not counted in the final production outputs, because they are considered only as extensions of their male counterpart.

Presentation summaries

Theme 1:

How do we limit the overexploitation of marine resources in the context of foreign access agreements and IUU fishing?

By Alfred N. Kawreh, President, Liberia Artisanal Fishermen Association (LAFA), Inc.

Introduction:

Overexploitation of marine resources which runs parallel with Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities is a global issue. There are many factors contributing to overexploitation of marine resources but most important of these is the urge to maximize and even acquire excessive profit.

Overexploitation can be minimized using the appropriate management systems and control measures that may fit the specific country under discussion. Some of these measures include but are not limited to spatial (area) restrictions and closures, temporal restrictions, gear restrictions, size/age restrictions, participatory restrictions, catch restrictions, rights incentive adjusting, and fisheries management plan. Efficient implementation of these measures will assist the country in limiting overexploitation.

In Liberia, the management systems and control measures that are in use include: fisheries management plan, licensing system, mesh size regulation and territorial users' right to fisheries (TURF) as enshrined in the new fisheries regulation of 2010. Liberia has an open registry system in her maritime industry and access to fish in Liberian waters is granted to both local and foreign vessels registered under its flag through the issuance of a fishing license.

Prior to the introduction of the new fisheries regulations, Liberia lost the ability to protect her territorial waters and fisheries resource as a result of the civil crisis which left the country without a functional coast guard and a platform for conducting surveillance patrols, coupled with a weak fisheries regulation and almost non-existent enforcement capability of fisheries regulations. Consequently the country's marine resources has been overexploited by foreign industrial vessels for the past two decades causing huge economic loses to the nation. Even though, there are less than fifty (50) industrial fishing vessels fishing in our waters at a point in time (1999-2007), and have reduced drastically to six (6) as at present due to the new management measures. All fishing vessels plying Liberian waters target the rich shrimp, demersal and pelagic resources. At present, the Liberian Coast Guard (LCG), the United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Air wing in collaboration with the Bureau of Nation Fisheries (BNF) and the West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP) carry out random sea and air patrol in search of poachers. LAFA conducts random community coastal patrol in the IEZ.

Overexploitation and IUU:

According to the Marine Resource Assessment Group, Ltd (MRAG 2005) official report, global pirate fishing accounts for US\$10-23.5 billion a year, representing between 11 million tons and 26 million tons of fish. It is driven by the enormous global demand for seafood, and threatens the future of the world fisheries. Liberia is desperately vulnerable to pirate fishing as a result of decade long civil war, struggling economy and dependency on fish. Eighty percent (80%) of the population depends on fish as a source of animal protein and livelihood. A study conducted in 2005 by (MRAG) on the impact of IUU fishing in developing countries indicated that foreign illegal fishing vessels were stealing around US\$15 million of fish from Liberia each year. In sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, the total value of illegal fish is approximately US1 billion, and about US30 billion is lost to IUU fishing activity globally.

The impacts of IUU fishing are social, economic and environmental, and in many cases IUU operators specifically target poor developing countries. IUU fishing usually contributes to unsustainable impacts on both target species and the ecosystem. Regulation of legitimate fisheries aims to mitigate such impacts, but IUU fishers seldom comply with such requirements. This is likely to reduce productivity, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. This has lead to an increase in overexploitation of marine resource subsequently leading to a reduction in food security for artisanal fishers in Liberia. It also leads to a reduction of future

catching opportunities for the small-scale fishers who now have to travel longer distances into sea, often under risky conditions to get a minimum catch which is eminent in most fishing communities.

There are increasing conflicts between industrial vessels and artisanal fishers particularly in shrimp fishing grounds along the coast from Rivercess to Robertsport, often resulting in the destruction of fishing gears and canoes of the small scale fishers. Conflicts may be direct or indirect which often results in accidents, death and injury amongst artisanal and other local inshore fishers which in itself will have economic and social consequences. The fishing authority in Liberia, BNF, LAFA, along with other stakeholders have investigated several cases involving artisanal fishermen (Sando Momo, Isaac Nmah and others) and industrial fishing fleets. Of such is the case between F/V Seta-70, a notorious IUU vessel, and local fishermen where the latter was injured and dumped at sea while pursuing the fishing vessel for damaging his fishing gears. A similar case occurred between F/V Liao Da Gan Yu 15011 and F/V Liao Da Gan Yu 15012 (pair trawler) against a local fisherman whereby the local fisherman's (John Mensah) fishing gears were destroyed at sea. To date, these vessels and other pair trawlers have been banned from fishing in Liberian waters.

In most cases of such nature at sea, industrial vessels treat local fishermen with no remorse and the poor fishermen are left at the mercy of God. Contrary, LAFA intervened on behalf of the victims on the scenario mentioned above. This advocacy by LAFA yielded fruitful result as the local fishermen were compensated for claims made against these unscrupulous industrial fishing vessels through their respective local representative/agent. Against this background, LAFA on March 3, 2011 petitioned the Government of Liberia (GOL) on the safety of life at sea (SOLAS) of local fishermen and the full enforcement of the new fisheries regulations.

Conclusion:

In order to avert overexploitation of marine resource and at the same time stop IUU, one addresses these issues from different perspectives which may lead to intriguing questions such as:

- Is regional or global networking an appropriate tool in combating IUU and discouraging overexploitation?
- Which management system and control measure is/are most appropriate in the development and sustainable management of marine resources in the developing countries?
- What role can small-scale fishers play in combating IUU and foreign fishing in their waters?

Recommendation/Way Forward:

Reducing overexploitation and the fight to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU is a global campaign which calls for all stakeholders, regional bodies, national and international NGOs, UN and other related government institutions and agencies to fully participate. On issues of overexploitation, IUU, SOLAS, amongst other issues, Africa as a continent needs to build a network of advocacy, information sharing and regional cooperation. Punitive measures need to be taken against vessels blacklisted as IUU vessel or non compliant of global treaties, conventions and agreements.

Theme 2:

How do we address resource conflicts between small scale and large scale fishermen?

By Athman Seif, Director Malindi Marine Association (MaMa)

Introduction

Large scale fishers are usually well organized, financially strong and politically connected individuals or organizations that operate medium to large semi industrial fishing vessels and wield a lot of power in the fishing industry where they operate. Small scale fishers are quite the opposite, being poorly organized in most instances, financially weak, poorly connected and operate smaller vessels. However, small scale fishermen form the majority and the numerical strength needs to be harnessed if they need to fight for their rights. Commercial fishers are driven by large profiteering, while small scale fishers practice fishing as a way of life and means of livelihood. In most cases, activities of commercial fishers antagonize (impact

negatively) on the livelihood of small fishers through depletion of fish stocks, habitat damage, and destruction of fishing gears / equipments and over supply of fish that cause a drop in fish prices in local markets. Resource use conflicts are particularly pronounced when large and small scale fishers share common fishing grounds.

How do we address resource use conflicts between small scale and large scale fishers.

The Government has the overall mandate in controlling the use of marine resources within her boundaries and plays a decisive role in arbitrating resource use conflicts. Ideally the Government should play a neutral role in resolving resource use conflicts with the participation of relevant stake holders and the aggrieved parties in order to arrive at a just and fair decision.

- Small scale fishing communities should organize themselves into area based groups of common interests (at tertiary level or community level) and register their groups with the local government authority to get accreditation (recognition). The groups must come up with a constitution, by-laws and election schedule for electing official representatives.
- Several registered groups at tertiary level should form for a cluster or consortium of groups over a larger geographic area (secondary level or province level) and register at the province level. The leaders at the province level should be elected from the already elected office bearers at the tertiary level falling within the same province. Regular meetings should be held as per the constitution.
- Several secondary/provincial groups should form a (primary or national body) and register with the national Government so as to represent small scale fishers nationally. The national body can act like a small scale fishers union. The national leaders should be elected from the already elected officials of the provincial / secondary groups. A suitable hierarchy structure should be established linking the community level representatives with the province level representatives all through to the national level. The national small scale fishers association should have a constitution, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Spokesperson and other relevant officials.
- Organize half yearly meetings to document and review critical interests and draw an advocacy and lobbying strategy.
- Consult with relevant government ministries and convene meetings with stakeholders, draw MOU and publicize in the local media.
- The established small scale fishers association should represent the interests of small scale fishers and participate in major decision making arenas that touch on the interests of SSF.
- Establish a watch dog network from community level through to provincial and national levels.
- Use the extensive small scale fishers network to name and expose wrong doers and raise red flags when necessary (take care not to be branded a radical organization by embracing dialogue).
- Respond to emerging resource use conflicts starting from community level to the highest level as dictated by the magnitude of the conflict. Collective approach gives better bargaining power while registration with the government provides recognition and authority.

A local story on how Malindi Marine Association (MaMa) dealt with resource use conflicts between semi industrial shrimp trawlers and small scale fishermen:

Malindi Marine Association was registered as a Community based Organization (CBO) with the Ministry of Social Services. Semi industrial prawn trawlers operating in Malindi Ungwana Bay (120 km stretch) have been known to damage fishing nets belonging to artisanal fishermen and evading compensation. The same trawlers have been largely responsible for habitat destruction resulting to reduced fin fish population through killing and dumping of juvenile fish due to high by-catch ratio (1:8). The well connected and financially strong trawler operators enjoyed unswerving support of the Ministry of Fisheries at the expense of artisanal fishermen.

The negative impacts of the semi industrial prawn trawlers compelled MaMa to take up the issue with the Ministry of Fisheries at various levels but in vain culminating in a massive demonstration that resulted in a

Ministerial ban of prawn trawling activities. MaMa successfully mobilized artisanal fishermen from several affected areas to demonstrate peacefully and publicize their plight. The issue was highlighted in both local and international media including newspapers and television broadcasts. MaMa was instrumental in gathering the evidence and exposing the damage caused by prawn trawlers prompting Government intervention.

The Ministerial ban that lasted for three years forced trawler operators to come to the negotiating table and address the concerns of small scale fishermen. Trawlers were banned from fishing below 3 nautical miles where most artisanal fishers operate. Trawling was banned between 6pm and 6am to prevent damage of artisanal fishing nets. Prompt compensation mechanisms were agreed upon and MOUs developed to safeguard the interests of SSF.

Another serious resource use conflict has been between commercial mini purseine nets (ring nets) and artisanal fishermen. The two compete for the same fishing ground and the large quantity of fish landed by ring nets cause a glut in the market (over supply) disrupting market prices of fish. The ring net operators are mostly migrant fishermen from Pemba Tanzania who have been linked to sexually exploiting other fishermen's wives causing tension. MaMa lobbied for a ban of ring net fishing in Malindi. The provincial administration imposed a ban on ring net fishery until a management plan is worked out in agreement with the local communities. The resource use conflict at times took a violent turn and demonstrators became violent resulting in destruction of property at the Fisheries office. I was charged in court for inciting SSF to violence.

- (a) Do SSF in your region experience resource use conflicts?
- (b) List the three most common resource use conflicts
- (c) Suggest ways of solving and reducing recurrence of such conflicts

Thank you.

Theme 3:

How do we ensure that the infrastructure and marketing needs of small scale fisheries are better met?

By Vaal B. Namugga – KWDT Uganda

Introduction:

According to FAO reports, marine and inland small scale fisheries provide income, nutritional security and employment opportunities especially to the poor, feeding over 200 million people. Despite their contribution, small scale fisheries and fisher communities often face precarious living and working conditions due to various reason including insecure rights to land and fisheries resources, inadequate return to their labour , poor access to markets and basic services.

In Uganda, small scale fisher communities are no exception, as they are characterized by multicultural impoverished population, poor hygiene and sanitation, inaccessibility to social amenities like education, infrastructure, health among others. Fisher communities, like their counterparts in the agricultural sector face similar challenges of inadequate infrastructural development and access to market. The extent and cross cutting nature of the problem in fisher communities thus need multi sectoral approach to improve their livelihoods.

Effect of poor infrastructural and market development on fisher communities:

With the liberalization of the markets, small-scale fisheries were introduced to the international market. Although there is infrastructural development in the processing of fish much of this is not happening at the harvesting level in the fisher communities. Lack of infrastructure and inadequate access to market has further contributed to the impoverishment of the fisher communities due to failure to benefit from the trade. Market and infrastructure are interlinked and their development should be concurrent to achieve the desired effect.

Access to Market and infrastructure:

In small scale fisher communities, markets are increasingly being controlled by the exporters to the detriment of small scale fisher communities. Lack of capacity by small scale fishers to organise themselves has reduced their bargaining power and their control of market as they are controlled by highly organised processing associations. It is because of this that small scale fishers have turned out to be price takers than price makers which greatly impacts on livelihoods and the fisheries resources.

Coupled with poor infrastructure development in small scale fisher communities, lack of electricity, water, cold storage facilities, poor road networks to enable accessibility to markets, the only option left is selling at a give-away prices to avoid losses subjecting small scale fishers to low returns.

Lack of infrastructure and market control by small scale fisher has even greater negative impact on fisheries resources, in a bid to gain returns on the investment, small scale fishers intensify their harvesting efforts leading to overfishing.

The absence of infrastructural development and control of markets has had far negative effects on women in the fisher communities than men. Inadequate access to fish has destroyed traditional employment of women in processing, incomes and access to food, worsening the situation of women in fisher communities. Women population is higher in the fisher communities because the fishing activity is the last form of employment for those who cannot be employed in the formal sector many of whom are women. Traditionally women in Uganda were engaged in the processing of fish which was sold in the rural, national and regional markets. With the exportation of fresh fish, the traditional employment of women to process fish disappeared as fresh fish was processed and packaged for export. Thousands of jobs were destroyed in fisher communities and hundreds of jobs created in the towns where women were employed in the processing of fish in the factories.

A secondary activity of processing fish by-products was created by women in the sub-urban areas who processed fish head and skin and traded in the products in national and regional markets. As the factories operate below capacity there is increased demand for these by-products at the factories and factories wanting to sell in bulk, the men have entered this market again and have pushed women further away from being self-employed to being employed, working under very poor conditions and lesser payments.

Measures to secure infrastructure development and markets for small scale fisheries:

- To ensure fulfilment of national and international goals for human development and environmental sustainability it is necessary to treat fisheries more comprehensively, and to redress the situation of small-scale fisheries globally.
- Because of the poverty associated with small scale fisheries, they have tended to receive project support from international development donors, systematic support and funding will address small scale fisher challenges.
- Women need explicit attention in the small scale fisheries context to secure their livelihoods.

How do we ensure that the infrastructure and marketing needs of small-scale fisher people are better met at the Pan African level?

- Lobby for regional policies that will strengthen the capacity of small scale fisher to manage fisheries resources as primary beneficiaries from the resources.
- Improve access to relevant national and international instruments such as the Voluntary guidelines for responsible tenure of land, fisheries and forests, the voluntary guidelines for securing small scale fisheries under development by the fisher folk, and facilitate their understanding of such instruments, popularize them among small scale fisher and lobby our governments to meet commitments.

- Support and strengthen the organization of small scale fisher at pan African level, and intensify their representation at regional forums, activities and events.

KWDT's interventions to ensure that the infrastructure and marketing needs of small scale fisheries are better met

In 2007, KWDT engaged women into fish farming to ensure increased access to fish in the community, food security and to increase incomes by targeting various local markets. Despite the challenges encountered, KWDT has devised means of sustaining the aquaculture project. A lot of capacity building has been done to equip women with skills in fish stocking, sampling, feeding, harvesting, monitoring and management of fish ponds. KWDT envisages engaging into cage fish farming to further meet the demand of fish at community level.

KWDT has adopted and introduced a local technology of fish smoking by use of energy saving stoves to add shelf life to the fish catch both from the lake and the ponds. The technology is as a result of shared learning between the women fish processors from the West and East-Africa, which took place in Benin early 2011. This will reduce on the loss of fish as well as protect the environment.

KWDT is now in the process of establishing a communal market place for all KWDT fish farmers at the BMU in Mukono district.

The above discussion thus brings us to the following question.

How better can we organize to bring a common voice of small scale fisher to decision making and influencing of decision at all levels, and how further can we reclaim the deteriorating shifting local markets?

Theme 5:

How do we increase political representation in countries where it is limited or non-existent?

By Felix Saitoti - El Molo Forum

The right for political representation is a human right and so crucial to every society in the modern world. It is an important tool for decision making, articulating and addressing problems that befall any society. Therefore every member, however small he or she may be, can not delegate this right to someone else. We can increase political representation in many ways. First and foremost is lobbying. This is a tool that has been known to work wonders. We can lobby the sitting government, increase political position and create new ones where they don't exist. This will eventually help solve problems that have otherwise been caused by the absence of political representation such as civil unrest, feeling neglected and unwanted by the government, under-development etc.

We can also lobby the international community to persuade the country in question to increase political representation. This is possible because most countries need each other in one way or another but some need others more. This is where tools like sanctions come into play. A concerned country denies the country in question help till they agree to increase political representation.

Lobbying the civil societies helps too. Civil societies fight for human rights and so political representation being a very important right will be agitated for. Last but not least it's important to make people understand the importance of political representation. This can be done by creating awareness through capacity building seminars and workshops.

Theme 6:

How do we organise and mobilise fishing communities more effectively?

By Christian Adams - Coastal Links

Introduction:

Small scale fishers (Ssf) have been around for millions of years and it's just striking for me that somehow we've got the notion in our head that small scale fisheries do not contribute towards the economy, food security, poverty alleviation and all the fancy words being used nowadays.

The Egyptians have been smoking, drying and eating fish 40 000 years ago, our very own Khoi-san have built tidal traps to harvest even whales without any technological implements.

During the Apartheid era in South Africa small scale fisheries was put on the back burner and the regime of that time solely focused on industrial fishing and that brought about the exclusion of small scale fishers from policy.

Sadly this was also evident in the formulation of policy during the post-apartheid era and fishers had to organize in order for them to be able to go to sea and feed their families.

Mobilizing communities:

In order for us to mobilize communities we must identify the common cause that that brought about the need to mobilize in the first place.

In the instance of the South African context Masifundise (an organization that was formed during the Apartheid to work amongst learners that was forced to leave school early, but is now focusing on the development of fishing communities) was contacted to work amongst fishers.

This was due to the fact that Small scale fishers was excluded from the law and policy that governs fisheries in South Africa in the year 2000, when a new law was being written and passed.

This brought about an increase in voluntary breaking of an unjust law, because with this law one family could fish legally and the other had to steal in order for them to survive.

Masifundise then embarked on an information gathering mission in order to listen to what the fishing communities had to say and what they wanted.

Masifundise then contacted a local legal resource center and took the then Minister to court because the law that they passed excluded small scale fishers and infringed on their human rights.

In the year 2005 the Equality Court of South Africa ruled in favor of the fishers and also passed a judgment to say that small scale fishers should be given something to get them fishing legally again. This was done through a package that is called the Interim Relief; sadly we are in the sixth year of this dispensation. But it's not all doom and gloom. We are a stone's throw away from the implementation of the new Small Scale Fisheries policy in South Africa. This was the most broadly public participatory policy ever written in South Africa and we as fishers have a say into the policy right up to the last moment.

Building Community Based Organizations:

As explained above a common cause is what binds people. In a community you will find smaller communities, by association or by employment, for example in a bigger community you will find a fishing community.

Therefore it is important to let people know exactly why they are joining a particular organization, because it doesn't make any sense to have fishers and carpenters in the same organization.

During the early stages of the court case, the need for a fisher's organization was identified by the fishers themselves. Due to the common because other communities that weren't there at the beginning had the chance to join at a later stage.

This brings us to another aspect of building organizations, which is networking and networking is one the most important aspects, if not the most important. Networking is best done through word of mouth and in the instance of fishers in South Africa, who travels around this is probably the best method.

The method best suited for the organizations need will be determined by the constituency it represents.

Most Important:

Building must start from the very bottom of the ground, so to speak, the people for whose benefit the organization is being established. Only the persons who will partake in the activities of the organization will be able to identify the best vehicle for them to achieve their objectives.