

REPORT

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRANSPARENCY IN MARITIME FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

CONAKRY FROM JULY 2nd to 3rd 2018



INTRODUCTION

It was held in Conakry, the Republic of Guinea from 2nd to 3rd July 2018 in the meeting room of the Hotel Onomo, the regional workshop on Transparency and stakeholder participation in marine fisheries management. The workshop brought together around forty participants from fisheries administrations, fisheries professionals and civil society actors. At the workshop, participants from Gambia, Mauritania, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Sierra Leone adopted the Conakry Declaration and made recommendations to improve participatory transparency practices in the fisheries sector. The meeting was opened by the Minister of Fisheries of Guinea's Aquaculture and Maritime Economy, in the presence of the Minister of Livestock and witnessed the remarkable contributions of Gambia's General Secretary for Fisheries and the Executive Secretary of the Gambia. CPCO. Following the workshop, a press conference was organized to share its conclusions with the press and raise public awareness on the importance of transparency in fisheries, a leading sector from a social and economic point of view, and for its contribution to food security.

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was facilitated by Mr Nabi Souleymane Bangoura, Technical Advisor at MPAEM, was punctuated by the successive speeches of the officials.



Mr Ahmed Senhoury, Director of the PRCM, in his address thanked the Guinean authorities for hosting the organization of the regional meeting. He emphasized the importance of the fishery for economies and food security in PRCM intervention countries. He then congratulated the Republic of Guinea for the efforts undertaken to improve fisheries governance since 2013. Finally, he called for the adoption of appropriate instruments for the establishment

of a national multi-stakeholder group, an essential step in the process of improving fisheries governance. The accession of Guinea to FiTI decided by His Excellency PR Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea.

Mrs. Marie Madeleine Gomez, Fisheries and Environment Manager of the MAVA Foundation, a partner of the PRCM who funded the activity, for her part, noted the importance of the regional workshop in terms of sharing and pooling the efforts of stakeholders to improve the transparency and participation of non-state actors in the sustainable management of fisheries and small pelagics in particular.

The inaugural speech was delivered by Mr Frédéric LOUA, Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy - MPAEM of Guinea, in the presence of the Minister of Livestock. He recalled

the government's commitment, on the instructions of His Excellency PR Alpha Condé, President of the Republic, to make fishing a well-managed sector that contributes significantly to the economy of Guinea. Many efforts have been made in this direction since the EU's "red card" in 2013. It also noted that *"to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries resources, the result of good governance of the sector based on principles of transparency and participation become our priority today, the Republic of Guinea has committed since 2016 in the implementation of FiTI. Our wish is for Guinea to be a pioneer in terms of transparency in the sector."* In this spirit, Guinea is investing with the support of partners like the PRCM and the FiTI Secretariat to consider the various steps. To this date, a draft decree on the institution, composition and functioning of the national multi-stakeholder group on fisheries transparency has been drafted and follows the process of re-reading and signing. He then wished the participants good work and declared the workshop open.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Session 1 : General state of transparency and participation in the subregion

This session was introduced by a communication of Mr Barthélémy Jean Auguste BATIENO, in charge of partnership and operations of the PRCM. The aim was to provide an overview of the issue of transparency, governance and stakeholder participation in the fisheries sector. To illustrate the importance of fisheries in West Africa, he recalled key statistics: catch of 2,600,000 tons of a commercial value of \$ 2 billion; 9 million direct jobs.

The main problems that hinder the sustainability of fisheries in general and small pelagic in particular have been listed: governance deficit, stock mismanagement, unreliable fishery statistics, increased INN fishing estimated at 37% of catch for 1.5 billion Euros only in the Gulf of Guinea, the deficit of Monitoring-Control-Surveillance. The sharing of the datas deemed sensitive by the states remains a significant problem for transparency. The place of transparency in the regional fisheries policy instruments (FAO, AU, ECOWAS and UEMOA in particular), as well as the efforts of the States to strengthen these instruments, were reviewed.

After this introduction, participants exchanged and contributed. From these, some firm ideas below are drawn:

- The need to place the issue of transparency in a perspective of social change (behavioural change) and to make use of sociological sciences;
- The issues of transparency in the management of small pelagic should be promoted in relation to their importance in food security, the creation of jobs and the very strong social demand for good governance.
- Information is a human right. In this respect, transparency in the fisheries sector could be included as a right to information for every citizen.

Some causes of low transparency in the fisheries sector were noted by participants during the interventions:

- a serious lack of information and dissemination of legislative and regulatory texts, policies, and results of scientific research aimed at artisanal fishermen and parliamentarians.

- still significant margins for progress in the participation of artisanal fishermen;
- discretion of the authorities and the duty of discretion of the staff member;
- development of alternative strategies to circumvent the constraints of fisheries agreements and transparency (mixed companies, nominees, lending flags to foreign vessels and the proliferation of fishmeal factories).

Recommendations

- Ask States to carry out an annual assessment of the status of their initiatives in accordance with the Minimum Access Conditions (MCC) in their respective countries.
- Strengthen the skills of artisanal fisheries professionals to enable them to acquire skills to better participate in public fisheries policies. Extend training at the grassroots level by rendering sessions in local languages (training, information, communication, restitution)

Session 2 : FiTI Presentation

Mrs Andréa Durighello, FiTI West Africa Program Officer, made a presentation of the FiTI. The objective is to inform participants about the Fisheries Sector Transparency Initiative (FiTI). FiTI is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to make fishing more responsible and sustainable through transparency and participation. The presentation focused on the 12 transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard, the FiTI mechanism, FiTI Opportunities in West Africa, membership requirements, status and prospects. The goal is to have more than 20 countries engaged in the FiTI within the next 3 years.

Session 3 : Challenges of transparency and stakeholder participation in small pelagic management: Example from Senegal

This communication was presented by Mr Sidya DIOUF, Assistant to the Director of Maritime Fisheries of Senegal. After highlighting the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in Senegal, he recalled the fishing sector is included in Axis 1 of the Emerging Senegal Plan with the aim of contributing more to strengthening food security, economic growth and local development. He emphasized the participation of stakeholders in the management of small pelagics through the creation of management bodies and initiatives in the co-management of Marine and Coastal Resources in general and small pelagics in particular.

The main concerns that emerged from the participants' interventions are:

- i) the advisory nature of the National Fishing Licensing Commission is likely to limit transparency in the management of licenses, ii) the effectiveness and quality of participation artisanal fisheries professionals through CONIPAS, iii) the level of involvement of artisanal fishermen in the process of producing fisheries laws and regulations then negotiating fishing agreements.

The non-harmonization of the ban on night fishing taken by Senegal on the initiative of local Artisanal Fishing Councils was questioned.

Two recommendations were made;

- Advocate for the National Commission of Fisheries Licenses to be more than consultative and have a deliberative voice.
- Encourage the harmonization of the ban on night fishing.

Session 4 : Implementing Transparency: Sharing Experiences Across Countries

This session was devoted to sharing experiences of the implementation of FiTI in Mauritania and Guinea in order to observe the progress in the processes and learn from it.

Presentation of the status of the FiTI in Mauritania by Mrs. Nedwa Moctar NECH, Director of the NGO, Mauritania 2000.

The issues are relevant to the importance of the contribution of fisheries resources to the national economy, the strengthening of good governance and the environmental, technological, economic, social and political challenges of fishing;

Mauritania's commitment to the process of transparency was expressed by the President of the Republic at the international conference on transparency, held in Nouakchott on 19 January 2015, which was followed by the International Conference for the launch of the FiTI on 03 February 2016 in Nouakchott.

Mauritania has gone through most of the six (06) steps of the FiTI membership process and is in the process of submitting nomination documents. A Joint Order No. 115/MEF / MPEM creates the National Multipartite Group with Terms of Reference and a manual of procedures is being prepared. The appointment of the High Representative in charge of the implementation of the FiTI is effective and the National Secretariat is provided by the Director of the Development of Resources and Studies (DARE).

Experience of the Republic of Guinea as part of the implementation of the process of joining the FiTI, Kolie Yanssané, MPAEM

For the Republic of Guinea, its commitment to the FiTI process is linked to the need to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources, to respect the requirement of transparency of professionals, civil society and the administration, the need to involve different interest groups in decision-making and to promote participatory monitoring. The political will be expressed in May 2016 by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Professor Alpha CONDE. In June 2016, Guinea established a Partnership Agreement with Humboldt-Viadrina, which serves as the International Secretariat of FiTI and has been declared a Pilot State. With the support of the PRCM, an exchange mission to Mauritania was organized for the representative of FiTI Guinea, a roadmap was adopted on December 16, 2016, following a national information and training workshop. awareness raising on transparency in the fisheries sector in Guinea. Finally, the preliminary draft decree establishing the FiTI in Guinea is still pending signature.

recommendations

- Encourage the authorities of the Republic of Guinea to continue efforts to achieve a decree establishing the institution and the composition of the national multi-stakeholder group on fisheries transparency in the Republic of Guinea.

- Encourage technical and financial partners to support the efforts of the States in the implementation of the FiTI standards.

The second day was facilitated by Dr Bamba Banja, Secretary General of the Gambia Ministry of Fisheries.

Session 5 : The impacts of transparency: Understanding the issues of FiTI for the sub-region

The objective of this session is to link the transparency requirements of the FiTI with the realities on the field in the countries of the sub-region. In an introductory message through a video, Professor Peter Eigen, President of the International Board of FiTI conveyed his sincere thanks to the Guinean government for hosting this meeting. He also thanked the PRCM and MAVA for arranging the workshop, the first of its kind in West Africa. He recalled the objective of the FiTI to help improve the availability of reliable information and the participation of all stakeholders in fisheries management.

The group work allowed the participants to discuss the real issues of transparency and the benefits that the States could derive from the implementation of the FiTI. On some of the standards, discussed, certain benefits of FiTI for fisheries management were noted:

- The implementation of national strategies through concrete and regular activities aimed at ensuring compliance of fishing vessels and the sector with national legislation;
- The publication of data and information including the list of owners will pierce the veil on the conditions for the allocation of fisheries licenses and improve the fight against corruption and INN fishing at national and regional level ;
- Ensure the dissemination of laws and regulations for all stakeholders in accessible language formats;

Session 6: The challenges of participatory management in fisheries management

Panelists: Daouda Saine, S.G of CAOPA; Mamayawa Sandouno, Federation of Guinea Fisheries, and Mr. Kalifa Camara, SG. CONAPEG.

Modérateur : Barthelemy Batiemo

The objective of the session is to address the issues of inclusive management for the various actors of the sector, to identify the challenges to such participation and to propose solutions/good practices for a more inclusive management of fisheries. The three panellists shared their analyzes with the participants.

In the opinion of all panellists, it should be noted the level of participation of civil society and professionals in the management of the fisheries sector has increased. However, efforts need to be made for real participation in decision-making to improve the level of effectiveness and also broadening in the decision-making process.

According to Mr Camara, there is a distinct improvement in the participation of stakeholders in the fishery: the development of management plans, the new fisheries code, the communication of

the list of vessels and the amounts generated by the sector, the participatory monitoring. Several projects and programs are in the direction of strengthening participation.

When Mr Saine, Secretary General of CAOPA, he especially noted that the biggest challenge confronting stakeholders to ensure better participation lies in the weak capacity and ageing of leaders. It is important to build the capacity of the actors and promote the emergence of young leaders to ensure succession.

Finally, Mamayawa Sandouno remarked that "while it is true that the actors are represented in the various existing structures, the inclusion of politics within the organizations and associations of fishermen diverts the objective of this participation from the fact that actors are not always able to differentiate between the political sphere and the sphere of civil society. The role of women in the sector must be recognized and supported by all. To conclude, she suggested setting up a national consultation framework to eliminate distrust and promote an environment for constructive discussion.

Mr Banja from the Gambian Ministry of Fisheries, for his part, shared with the audience, the Gambian Government's strategy of building the capacity of the actors. According to him, a good planning is essential, but the challenges of information based on reliable data are very important for the States.

Among the outstanding initiatives of the stakeholder, participation is the involvement of fisheries professionals in the negotiation of fisheries agreements between Mauritania and the EU, which led to the withdrawal of octopus from agreements; the publication of the Voluntary Guidelines on Artisanal Fisheries to which CAOPA has contributed a great deal.

Session 7: Implementation Strategy for Transparency at the National and Regional Levels: Challenges and Recommendations for Stakeholders.

The session was moderated by Mr Batiemo Barthelmy, from the PRCM coordination unit. Participants discussed and adopted recommendations for promoting transparency at the national and regional levels. These recommendations are given in Annex 1. The participants also adopted the Conakry Declaration in Annex 2.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony was chaired by Mr Bamba Banja, the Secretary-General of the Gambia Ministry of Fisheries.

In her closing address, Marie Madeleine de la Mava welcomed the good organization of the workshop which is part of the support of the Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Small Pelagics in West Africa. MAVA. She will finish her speech on a wish to see the fruits of this meeting presented to the different governments of the region.

As for Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadie, Executive Secretary of the CPCO, he will indicate that his participation in this meeting reflects the interest of the CPCO in the FiTI process. The CPCO has been identified as an actor in the sensitization of the member states of the CPCO on the FiTI. In this regard, he recalled the CPCO/CSRP declaration aimed at encouraging states to join the FiTI.

He emphasized that CPCO countries are counting on the cooperation of the SRFC to benefit from their experience with the progress made in the FiTI process.

Master Bangoura, MPAEM's technical advisor and FiTI focal point for his part, sent the apologies to the Minister who, due to other commitments could be unreleased to come to preside over the closing ceremony. He considered the meeting to be a workshop by giving and receiving.

Mr Senhoury will thank the Permanent Secretary of The Gambia and the Executive Secretary of the CPCO for participating in the work and sharing their vision. He will come back to the existing partnership between CPCO and PRCM. A partnership that will strengthen with the wish of the CPCO to see PRCM interventions reach

Mr Banja, Secretary General of the Gambia Ministry of Fisheries, will have the final word. It was a great opportunity to meet the actors of the region. He returned to the two concepts which, in his opinion, particularly marked him during this workshop of transparency and participation.

He also recalled the crucial role of fisheries in economic development, food security and job creation for all segments of society in our respective countries. It is an obligation and a necessity for everyone to manage it rationally. Governments certainly bear a great responsibility in this management, but they can not do it alone.

He promised to make every effort to encourage his government to join countries like Mauritania, Guinea and Senegal in the FiTI. At these words, he declared closed the regional workshop on transparency in the management of maritime fisheries in West Africa.

Annex 1 : recommendations for implementation of transparency and participation of actors in fisheries management in west Africa

Recommandations /Actions		Niveau national ou régional ?	A qui s'adresse la recommandation	Eléments nécessaires à la réalisation de la recommandation (ex : obstacles à surmonter, partenaires nécessaires)
Recommandation FR	Recommandation EN	National or Regional level ?	Who is targeted by the recommendation	Necessary elements to implement the recommendation (e.g., obstacles to overcome, necessary partnerships)
Evaluer tous les 3 ans la mise en œuvre des conditions minimales d'accès (Convention CSRP)	Evaluate every 3 years the implementation of the minimum conditions of access (SRFC Convention)	Sous-régional/Sub-regional	CSRP/SRFC	-
Faire un plaidoyer pour encourager les pays de la sous-région à accélérer le processus de mise en œuvre de la FiTI	Advocate and encourage the countries of the sub-region to accelerate the FiTI implementation process	Sous-régional/Sub-regional	Pays de la sous-région/Countries of the sub-region	Faire référence à la conférence CPCO/CSRP de Nouakchott (2017) et à la déclaration signée par tous les ministres des pêches de la zone recommandant aux Etats de mettre en œuvre de la FiTI // Refer to the SRFC/CPCO Conference that took place in Nouakchott and to the joint declaration signed by all Fisheries Ministers recommending States to implement the FiTI
Faire un plaidoyer pour encourager les pays de la sous-région pas encore engagés dans la FiTI à entamer les processus d'adhésion à la FiTI	Advocate and encourage the countries of the sub-region that have not yet engaged in the FiTI to start the FiTI sign-up process	Sous-régional/Sub-regional	Pays de la sous-région pas encore engagés dans la FiTI/Countries of the sub-region that have not yet engaged in the FiTI	

Recommandations /Actions		Niveau national ou régional ?	A qui s'adresse la recommandation	Éléments nécessaires à la réalisation de la recommandation (ex : obstacles à surmonter, partenaires nécessaires)
Recommandation FR	Recommendation EN	National or Regional level ?	Who is targeted by the recommendation	Necessary elements to implement the recommendation (e.g., obstacles to overcome, necessary partnerships)
Construire des alliances avec des partenaires pour la mise en œuvre de la FiTI dans les pays de la sous-région (ordre des avocats, journalistes, ordre des experts comptables, etc.)	Establish partnerships to start the implementation process of the FiTI in the sub-region (lawyers, journalists, accountants, etc.)	National / Sub-Régional	Acteurs-non étatiques sous-région/ Non-State actors of the sub-region	Transparence est une question transversale – nécessaire d'apprendre des expériences des autres pays (ex : Processus FiTI Mauritanie)//Transparency is a cross-sectoral question – necessary to learn from other countries (ex : FiTI process in Mauritania)
Demander à la CSRP d'appuyer les Etats Membres à la mise en œuvre du processus d'adhésion à la FiTI	Request SRFC to support Member States in implementing the FiTI sign-up step process	Sous-régional/Sub-regional	Etats membres/Member States	Faire référence à la conférence CPCO/CSRP de Nouakchott (2017) et à la déclaration signée par tous les ministres des pêches de la zone recommandant aux Etats de mettre en œuvre de la FiTI // Refer to the SRFC/CPCO Conference that took place in Nouakchott and to the joint declaration signed by all Fisheries Ministers recommending States to implement the FiTI Faire référence au MoU entre Secrétariat International FiTI et CSRP // Refer to MoU between FiTI International Secretariat and SRFC
Renforcer les réseaux et organisations aux niveaux régional et	Consolidate existing networks and organisations at the regional and national level for the	National et Sous-régional/National and Sub-regional	Organisations/réseaux existants // Existing	Organiser des sessions de renforcement des capacités (aussi pour jeunes) des acteurs/sessions d'information //

Recommandations /Actions		Niveau national ou régional ?	A qui s'adresse la recommandation	Éléments nécessaires à la réalisation de la recommandation (ex : obstacles à surmonter, partenaires nécessaires)
Recommandation FR	Recommandation EN	National or Regional level ?	Who is targeted by the recommendation	Necessary elements to implement the recommendation (e.g., obstacles to overcome, necessary partnerships)
national pour la mise en œuvre de la transparence dans la pêche	implementation of transparency in fisheries		Organisations/networks	organise capacity-building and information sessions and of actors (including for the youth)

CONAKRY DECLARATION FOR TRANSPARENCY IN WEST AFRICA

03 July 2018

Conakry, Guinea

Declaration adopted by the participants of the sub-regional workshop on transparency in fisheries management in West Africa

WE, representatives of governments, regional fisheries organisations, professional organisations and civil society of the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Sierra Leone, met in Conakry, on 2-3 July 2018 on the invitation of the PRCM for the first sub-regional meeting on transparency in fisheries management and sustainable development of small pelagic in West Africa:

1. **REITERATE** the fundamental role that fisheries play in West Africa, given their important contribution to the economy of the countries in the sub-region, to food and nutrition security and to the economic and social development of our populations; and thereby the importance of good governance to guarantee the sustainable development of these renewable, yet fragile, resources;
2. **EXPRESS** our gratitude to the government of the Republic of Guinea for agreeing to host and chair this important meeting;

3. **CONSIDER** the numerous issues caused by the lack of transparency throughout the value chain of the fisheries sector, a deficit of credible information that is a major obstacle to responsible decision-making;
4. **RECOGNISE** that transparency can only achieve its goal to lead to sustainable and responsible management of fisheries resources and ecosystems if all concerned actors, notably governments, fisheries professionals, civil society, research and parliamentarians are associated to the process and are provided with the same level of information, a prerequisite to give all concerned stakeholders greater responsibility to manage resources in a perspective of sustainability that benefits all and to introduce a climate of trust for collective action;
5. **EMPHASISE** that more transparency and participation at the national and sub-regional level will support efficient cooperation amongst our States to fight collectively against challenges that concerns us all, such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and to manage together our shared stocks, in particular our pelagic stocks, which are essential to the food and nutrition security of our populations;
6. **RECOGNISE** the efforts undertaken at the institutional and political level to promote transparency, participation and good governance of fisheries resources, such as:
 - The 2012 Convention on the Minimal Conditions for Access and Exploitation of Marine Resources within the Maritime Areas under Jurisdiction of the Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission;
 - The 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and its implementation guide;
 - The 2012 Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations);
 - The 2015 Voluntary Guidelines for Security Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations);
 - The future integrated and coordinated regional strategy on fisheries and aquaculture within the ECOWAS region, currently being developed.
7. **RECOGNISE**, therefore, the opportunities of implementing the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI), which aims at making fisheries more sustainable and more responsible

through the two principles of transparency and participation, an initiative which is voluntary but that will generate numerous direct and indirect benefits for our States;

8. **RECALL** the date of February 2nd 2016, which marked the public commitment of the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania His Excellency Mohamed OULD ABDEL AZIZ and the President of the Republic of Senegal His Excellency Macky SALL to implement transparency in their fisheries sector based on an inclusive process by starting the FiTI process in their respective countries; as well as the commitment made in June 2016 by the Republic of Guinea;
9. **URGE** the governments of the States in the sub-region that have already engaged in the FiTI initiative to fulfil their commitments and pursue their efforts in implementing the initiative, in a frank and inclusive collaboration with all actors of the sector;
10. **CALL UPON** the governments of the sub-region to implement the FiTI in their respective countries, as are doing Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal; and call upon non-state actors of these States to accompany this process;
11. **ENCOURAGE** further States to join the voluntary Fisheries Transparency Initiative, in particular fishing nations whose vessels come to fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the West African States;
12. **WELCOME** the availability of technical and financial partners in the sub-region such as the PRCM, the GIZ and the MAVA foundation to support further countries that show willingness to implement the FiTI;

Done in Conakry, this 3rd of July 2018

The meeting participants