Fisheries management in West Africa

Dir. M. Henri ZERBO
General Directorate for Fish Resources, Ministry of Animal and Fish Resources
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Dipl. Ing. Dr. Raymond OUEDRAOGO
Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research, Ministry of Research and Innovation
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Contents

- Importance of Capture fisheries and Aquaculture in West Africa
- Typology of fisheries & l’aquaculture
- Institutions in fisheries
- Policies/Legislation/Programmes
Presentation of West Africa

- Economic Community of West African States (15 countries. + Mauritania)
Importance of fisheries and aquaculture (1/2)

- Fisheries = livelihoods of about 10 millions people in Africa, 7 millions in West Africa
- Fisheries = important contribution to economy, food security future development in West Africa
- ECOWAS fish production
  - 300 000 tonnes in 1960,
  - 1 854 000 tonnes in 2000, i.e. 1,4 % of the world fish production.
- Two millions tonnes (marine) if the production of Mauritania is added
Evolution of fish production in the ECOWAS area

![Graph showing the evolution of fish production in the ECOWAS area, from 1960 to 2005. The graph compares the production of coastal fish, marine fish, and other products, with a significant increase in production over the years.](image-url)
Consumption of fish:

- West Africa: 11.8 kg/pers/year
- Africa: 8.2 kg/pers/year
- Least consumers:
  - Mauritania (4.3 kg/pers/year),
  - Burkina Faso (3.5 kg/pers/year)
  - Niger (2.1 kg/pers/year)
- High consumption
  - Senegal (27 kg/pers/year),
  - Cape Verde (26 kg/pers/year),
  - Ghana & Gambie (25 kg/pers/year).
Threats/weaknesses

- Resources threatened for many years because of the high fishing pressures
- But consequences on the stocks and the economy
- Management policies inadequate and incoherent, not sustainable, IUU and overcapacity
Typology of fisheries & aquaculture

- Industrial fishing
- Artisanal fisheries
- Freshwater fisheries
- Aquaculture
Industrial fishing

- Only for sea
- Thousands of boats
- Domination of foreign boats
- Industrial catches: 38% of the total landings of West Africa
- High in Mauritania and Guinée Bissau ... less in Togo, Benin & Ghana.
- Mainly for species of high commercial value
Artisanal fisheries (1/2)

- Use many kinds of boats
- Use traditional fishing gears
- Practiced by local fishermen
- Low productivity per unit of fishing effort but need high intensity of manpower
Artisanal fisheries (2/2)

- Artisanal fisheries (freshwater and sea) is the occupation of most fishermen of wet Africa
- Women: important work in fisheries: fishmongers, fish processors
- Production of artisanal fisheries = 62% of the total landings
Freshwater fisheries (1/2)

- Important rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ....
- Local fishermen from riverside communities
- Important source of revenues and food
- Production from Mali: higher than the ones of Seaside countries such as Gambia, Bénin, Togo.
- Also high in Ghana due to the Volta Lake that produces 74000 tonnes of poissons, i.e 16% of the national production
Freshwater fisheries (2/2)

- Freshwater fisheries are artisanal
- Fishing gears: longlines, gillnets, castnets, traps, ...
- Important losses after landings
- Important sources of livelihoods
Aquaculture

- Demand for fish increases
- Production of capture fisheries decreases
- Alternative = aquaculture
- Potential for aquaculture are important
- Production of aquaculture increased the last years
- Contribution of aquaculture to national fish production: 6% in Nigeria and 1% in Ghana
- Main species: tilapia, catfishes, lates, ...
Institutions working in fisheries (1/3)

- ECOWAS: 15 countries, created in 1975 + Mauritanie
- UEMOA (Bénin, Burkina, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinée Bissau, Mali, Niger, Sénégal et Togo)
- Sub-regional commission for fisheries: inter-governemental
  intergouvernemental created 29 March 1985,
  - Member countries: Cap Vert, Gambie, Guinée, Guinée Bissau,
    Mauritanie, Sénégal and la Sierra Leone.
- Fisheries committee for the Central part of the Guinea Golf : Bénin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Libéria Nigéria, Togo
- The UICN
- Others
Wetlands International est l'une des principales organisations mondiales pour la conservation des zones humides. Ses principaux objectifs sont : maintenir, restaurer et conserver les milieux humides dans le monde entier.

- ENDA DIAPOL/REPAO : Prospectives et dialogues politiques, quelle nécessité pour des changements véritables ?

- Organisations régionales comme le ROPPA

- NEPAD : Fish for all program
ECOWAS: agriculture policy in 2005
- Regional Programme for fisheries and aquaculture in 2010
- Regional Programme for capacities enhancement 2010
- And others
Programme ACP Fish 2 (2009-2013)

- UEMOA currently implements
  - Marime fish stocks assessment
  - Monitoring of fisheries in other countries
  - Harmonisation of legislations of 8 countries

- Other initiatives: from NGOs,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION