

Integrating the Human Dimension of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) into fisheries management in the BCC region (BCC/EAF/09/12)

**A country-specific baseline report on
selected sectors of Artisanal Fisheries
and stakeholders**

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Introduction

- * This report is part of a suite of regional reports that describe the fishing activities and socio-economic conditions pertaining to artisanal fishing sectors along the Angolan coast component of the Benguela Commission Current (BCC).
- * It relates particularly to the Angolan artisanal fisheries sector.
- * Angola is the northern most of the BCC countries.
- * The artisanal fishing activities take place along the entire length of 1 650 km coastline.

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- ❖ **After the independence in 1975 pressure on near shore fish resources has steadily increased because there were very few alternative livelihood options (Agostinho et al. 2005).**
- ❖ **Along the coast there are currently 188 organised artisanal fishing communities, which 38 communities are organised in co-operative.**
- ❖ **In these communities men generally go to the sea and catch the fish and women perform most of the activities related to the processing (Anon, 2010).**

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- ❖ Between 130 000 and 140 000 people are engaged in artisanal fishing and related activities (Progress report, 2006).
- ❖ Artisanal fishing activities are defined as those fishing activities carried out within four nautical miles of the shore by boats up to 14 metres in length with little capacity for processing or freezing the catch (Agostinho et al. 2005).
- ❖ Fishing takes place from canoes, *chatas* (planked boats) which may or may not have an engine, and *catrongas* (whale boat types) which have an inboard engine.
- ❖ Fishing methods typically include line fishing method, beach seine, gillnet, trammel and poling for tuna.
- ❖ The most serious constraints on artisanal fishing are mainly a result of the sites, the lack of infrastructure that would allow access to wider markets: and the limited financial capacity of fishers (Agostinho et al. 2005).
- ❖ Three factors directly regulate the activities of artisanal fishers: (1) the length of boat used, (2) the distance from shore where fishing activities can take place, and (3) a mesh size limitation for gill nets, although this is seldom enforced.
- ❖ Artisanal fishing boats require an annual permit, the fishery is open access with few other limitations relating to gear, catch, timing or area.

Project area

- ❖ **Artisanal fisheries activities extend along the entire coastline of Angola.**

Goal

❖ **To gather all informations related to the identified framework of the human dimensions of artisanal fisheries in Angola.**

Project Description

❖ The project identified six framework of human dimensions of EAF:

❖ Institutional;

❖ Social;

❖ Cultural;

❖ Economic;

❖ Political;

❖ **Conflict** (included during a lively discussion held in Luanda).

Human dimensions of EAF framework

1. Institutional

Comprises:

- The fisheries Law from 1992, which has recently been revised in 2004, and several other regulatory documents dealing with fisheries planning and management.
- Law of Aquatic Biological Resources (2004).
- Fishing method.
- Communities.

2. Social

- Women do not go out to sea but perform most of the activities related to processing, preservation and sale of fish;
- Participation of women in the co-operative is still rather weak;
- Very little information on the socio-economic circumstances as well as the roles and responsibilities of women involved in the artisanal fisheries sector;
- In most of the communities, the church is part of the infrastructure meaning that religion is part of the habit and customs of the fishers;

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- **High percentage of illiteracy;**
- **The system and quality of health are very poor or inexistent in the communities;**
- **The food security is not healthy due to the weakness found in system of vessels, gears, conservation, processing and commercialisation;**
- **Prevalence of poverty in the communities;**
- **The right of Fisheries is protected by the government for artisanal;**
- **The consuming of alcohol has opened for the sex abuse which may lead to many cases of persons living with HIV-AIDS.**

3. Economic

- **In most of the coastal provinces employment is mainly confined to small scale local fishing, with artisanal fishing being the main employer;**
- **The export of fish derived from artisanal fishing is mainly oriented towards neighbouring countries to the north of Angola, namely the DRC and the Republic of the Congo;**

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- **Prices vary as a function of supply and demand;**
- **The trade of fish at the artisanal fisheries is not well organised and most of the fish caught are sold at the beach without the sanitary conditions;**
- **The credit is provided through the Executive Decree promulgated by three Ministers namely: Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Fisheries.**

4. Cultural

- **The skills of fishers vary from community to community and the variation can be seen from province to province;**
- **Each province has particularities due to local knowledge linked to their ancestors;**
- **In most of the communities they believe to marine spirits which can offer them fish if they throw some food and drinks in the sea water;**
- **They believe also that the moon has strong influence for the presence or absence of fish during a certain period of the year.**

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5. Political

- In most of the coastal countries the artisanal fisheries is not in the list of the priority of the economic sectors;
- Angola is not an exception for this kind of policy since the independence;
- From 2000 the policy has turned the strategy regarding the artisanal fisheries due to the value of the product caught and the increasing number of people involved in this sector of economy;
- Nowadays, the Angolan Government has set up the national programme called “Programa de Combate à fome e redução da Pobreza” which is based on the artisanal fisheries and agriculture;
- For that many policies are set up in order to improve the conditions of fishers such as the implementation of micro credit and the building of supporting centers to artisanal fisheries.

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6. Conflict

- This dimension is specific for Angola, it was raised up during the country workshop held in Luanda;
- The first conflict was identified between the artisanal fisheries and commercial fisheries;
- The second conflict is very specific and was identified in two provinces namely Cabinda and Zaire. Along this coast there is a big activity of oil production;
- As a consequence the increasing number of oil platforms become an obstacle for artisanal fishers in several ways.

Remarks and Recommendations

- **To organise all fishers in cooperative for better control;**
- **To strengthen the capacity building in the communities;**
- **To strengthen the data collection programme;**
- **To strengthen the fish chain for food security and well-being of the population;**
- **To improve the data collection.**