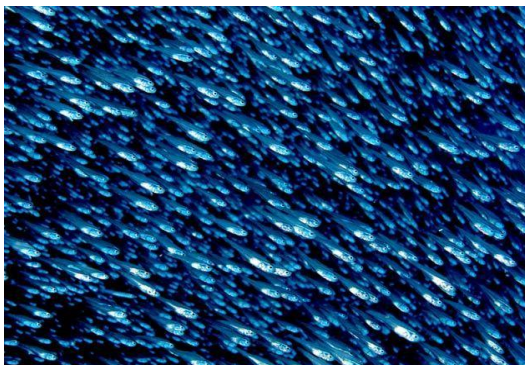


The mission

In conjunction with national federations, CAOPA works with governments as well as national and international institutions at:

- ✓ Defining and implementing sustainable fisheries policies ;
- ✓ Preventing and addressing trans-border conflicts ;
- ✓ Starting an African dynamic of fisheries development, and adding value to the resource to ensure the well being of small-scale fishing communities ;
- ✓ Sustaining efforts ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into decision-making processes and that fisheries policies are implemented ;
- ✓ Supporting small-scale fishing communities to develop by helping them better appreciate and use the resource in a sustainable manner, getting involved in implementing and taking advantage of fisheries policies ;
- ✓ Empowering grassroots organisations so that their interests are defended locally, working together to resolve conflicts ;
- ✓ Enhancing their capacities to effectively draw out the value of the resources ;
- ✓ Pledging to participate in joint management ;
- ✓ Developing proposal capabilities and communication strategies to influence fisheries policies ;
- ✓ Being henceforth and remaining a force of proposal in the face of States and all other national and international development partners.



The founding members of the CAOPA are the small-scale fisheries professional organisations of Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast.

The CAOPA is headquartered in Dakar, Senegal.



Starting an African dynamic of small-scale fisheries development.

Adding value to the resource to ensure the well being of small-scale fishing communities.

Getting involved in implementing and taking advantage of fisheries policies.



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AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CONFÉDÉRATION AFRICAINE DES ORGANISATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES DE LA PÊCHE ARTISANALE

The context

Despite its economic, social and cultural importance in Africa, small-scale fisheries remain the poor relation of development policies.

The looting of resources through illegal uncontrolled unregulated fishing is now jeopardizing the survival of fisheries communities and is one of the greatest threats to future generations.

Organisations grouping professionals are being established in various countries, but alone, they are unable to stop the scourge and influence fisheries policies.

Thus, aware of the problems facing the sector and the urgency of finding solutions, a group was formed and took the initiative to move towards an African Confederation of Small-Scale Fisheries Professional Organisations.



The Plan of Action

Main objective: To make the Confederation, and the national federations which are affiliated to it, functional and operational while enabling them to get involved and to participate effectively with their governments in all that relates to artisanal fishing and which promotes the taking into account of the actors' concerns in the definition of the policies and programs concerning them.

Institutional

- Commit to the grassroots development of small-scale fisheries professional organisations ;

Governance

- Work resolutely at establishing good governance in all the member organisations ;
- Defend the mainstreaming of gender in general and women in particular in fisheries policies ;
- Elaborate monitoring and assessment guidelines ;

Sustainable Development

- Involve effectively with member states governments in defining policy for : responsible and sustainable fisheries ; poverty alleviation ; improvement of working conditions in small-scale fisheries operations, with a special focus on women ; co-management of marine resources ; promotion of responsible and sustainable fisheries under all legal forms (including by protecting the marine environment and coastal ecosystems against all forms of pollution or degradation detrimental to the resource and by committing to

combat illegal fishing and bad fishing practices) ;

- Integrate technical and technological innovations into efforts to ensure rational and sustainable use of resources ;
- Prevent and work at resolving conflicts arising from the cohabitation of fishing communities and/or from different fishing gear and exploitation types, etc ;

Develop a communication strategy

- Provide members and players of the sector with reliable and relevant information allowing them to better understand problems, issues and opportunities of the sector in order to facilitate their involvement and their effective participation in the implementation of policies, programmes and projects concerning them ;
- Elaborate a communication plan ;

The vision

The African small-scale fisheries professional organisations defend the material and moral interests of their members; their legitimacy to fulfill this role is recognized by governments as well as by national and international institutions; they are involved in defining policies for responsible and sustainable fisheries which contribute to fighting poverty, but also to improving women's working conditions and involvement in decision-making.

In this framework, CAOPA's vision is **to start an African dynamic of small-scale fisheries development, to add value to the resource to ensure the well being of small-scale fishing communities, and to get involved in implementing and taking advantage of fisheries policies.**

Mobilize required resources for the running of the Confederation

- Seek, develop and strengthen partnerships ;
- Implement an internal system of financing ;



Empower leadership and organisations

- Promote training ;
- Facilitate the acquirement of equipments.

