

CFFA narrative report - activities 2018

During 2018, CFFA employed two persons part time: André Standing (as Associate Researcher), and Béatrice Gorez (as Coordinator/spokesperson).

Ms Hindetou Namoano also provided regular translation services.

Important voluntary contributions were provided by CFFA board members, for both administration work and research/lobby work.

CFFA Activities included

1. Lobbying EU institutions

For each Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA), the EU undertakes ex ante ex post evaluations which then serve as guidance during SFPA negotiations. Since 2017, CFFA is amongst the groups consulted through these evaluations. Beginning of 2018, CFFA provided written contribution to Madagascar <https://publications.europa.eu/fr/publication-detail/-/publication/a48fa492-387b-11e8-b5fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-fr> and the Gambia <https://publications.europa.eu/fr/publication-detail/-/publication/2a9ee054-2216-11e8-ac73-01aa75ed71a1/language-fr/format-PDF/source-search> evaluations. CAOPA members in these countries were contacted to make sure their views were included in CFFA contributions.

In May, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation of measures for establishing the conformity of fisheries products with access criteria to the EU market <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2018-0156&language=EN> It underlined the necessity for all fish imports to comply with international social and environmental standards. CFFA provided input to both the report and the amendments proposed, broadly supporting the rapporteur, Linnea Engstrom's approach, but also insisting these measures should not become unfair barriers for small scale fishers wanting to export to Europe (Senegal, Mauritania, etc).

CFFA co-signed a joint position with other NGOs, developed by Client Earth, on the EU control regulation revision, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better->

regulation/feedback/7437/attachment/090166e5b618bc45_en insisting on the role of the European Control Fisheries Agency (EFCA) in supporting African coastal countries to develop their MCS capacities for controlling distant water fleets.

Another topic we raised is the inaction of the EU towards EU member states, like Italy, Greece, Portugal or the Baltic states, which do not monitor their distant water fleets. Particularly appalling cases of unsustainable, and sometimes illegal, fishing by Sicilian trawlers in West Africa were reported. This is against the EU control rules, and against the new regulation on the sustainable management of external fleets, adopted last year. The European Commission opened up an infraction procedure against Italy two years ago, but didn't follow up on it. CFFA contacted several units of DG Mare (IUU, Control) to question this inaction, but without any reply. Italian organisations (environmental groups, trade unions) were also contacted, but confirmed that Italy is not willing to act against these trawlers. After discussions with partners, CFFA decided to submit a formal complaint to the European Commission against Italy (finally sent beginning of 2019. <https://cape-cffa.squarespace.com/new-blog/2019/2/6/african-artisanal-fishers-and-ngos-jointly-complain-to-the-eu-against-italy-turning-a-blind-eye-to-its-trawlers-illegal-activities-in-west-africa>)

CFFA also attended various meetings with the European Commission, as part of the LDAC delegation, to prepare the EU position for international meetings (UN general Assembly, COFI, the G7 follow up meeting on Oceans). It needs to be noted that for the first time, the LDAC was part of the formal EU delegation to COFI. This opens up more possibilities for the future to use the LDAC to influence EU positions in this international forum.

After attending, in 2017, preparatory meetings with the EU for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission meeting on tuna access allocation, CFFA attended the IOTC meeting in the Seychelles. Our partners from FPAOI also attended. A joint CAOPA CFFA position was provided to the IOTC on this topic <http://www.iotc.org/documents/caopa-cffa-paper-challenge-setting-access-allocation-system-iotc> The paper builds up on CFFA position, promoted by the NGO platform Ocean 2012¹ during the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, that those fishing most sustainably (from an environmental and social point of view), and, in case of developing countries providing most benefits to coastal countries

¹ Ocean 2012 gathered more than 120 NGOs and SSF groups, including CAOPA, ICSF, BFW, SSNC, Oceana, WWF, etc <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/archived-projects/ocean2012>

fishing communities and populations, should get priority access. Although the view that sustainability criteria should be applied when allocating resources was endorsed in the new CFP (Art 17), this has not translated yet in the external dimension of the CFP.

CFFA intervened in July in a seminar organised by European trade unions (ETF and EFFAT), to highlight social issues of distant water fishing activities <https://safety4sea.com/eu-seminar-addresses-fishery-sector-problems/> This was CFFA first organised meeting with trade unions, and contacts have been taken to continue discussions, and develop common positions on social aspects related to distant water fishing, like the social clause in SFPAs, the impacts of distant water fishing on small scale fisheries, and the social production conditions for fish imports. For the latter, it needs to be noted that CFFA is member of the Markets Advisory Council working group 'level playing field', which looks at environmental and social production conditions of fish imports.

CFFA is actively involved in the work of the LDAC, which provides formal advices to the EC (to which the EC has the obligation to reply). Early 2018, an advice on the role of fishing agents, proposed by CFFA was adopted <http://ldac.eu/download-doc/213868> . Another advice, proposed by CFFA and EJF, promoted the creation of a IOTC working group on socio economic aspects <http://ldac.eu/download-doc/213868> which would highlight the contribution of small scale fisheries in the Indian Ocean tuna fisheries.

The LDAC General Assembly was held in Rome, and a thematic discussion on Blue growth took place at that occasion, with the participation of LDAC members and the FAO. The consensus emerging from the discussions was that the EU approach on Blue growth, which doesn't include fisheries, is not appropriate, something CFFA has been also questioning. Further work on this topic will take place within the LDAC.

CFFA, as vice chair of the LDAC, also attended regular meetings (+- once every two months) to organise the work of the LDAC and represent the LDAC in meetings with third countries partners. In particular, CFFA attended the annual coordination meeting between the LDAC and the COMHAFAT (regional fisheries body gathering all the African Atlantic coastal countries). The current chair of COMHAFAT being Ivory Coast, this meeting gave the opportunity to discuss informally with Ivory Coast Ministry about the importance for Ivory Coast women

fish processors to get access to EU tuna, without obstacles put by local intermediaries (who currently get access to the EU fish and see women as competitors).

CFFA also engaged actively in the work of the EU Market Advisory Committee, but without much success. An advice on imports conditions, promoting sustainable production conditions (social and environmental) for imports (in line with the Engstrom report) was discussed. CFA suggested an exchange of views between MAC members and the rapporteur to provide food for thought <https://marketac.eu/en/25-abr-2018-exchange-of-views-with-mep-linnea-engstrom/> However, the advice was rejected by importers/processors and nothing came out of it.

CFFA participated as expert to the FAO consultation on trade in fisheries services <http://www.fao.org/3/i9849en/I9849EN.pdf> The meeting looked at issues of interest for CFFA advocacy work, including services under fishing access arrangements and developing countries considerations. Interestingly, the experts proposed an approach to solve the difficult question of whether access arrangements constitute a service (that has implications on whether monies paid under access arrangements are to be considered a subsidy or not). CFFA will continue to monitor the work on this topic.

2. Consolidating CAOPA initiatives towards the implementation of the FAO Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

CFFA supported (through channeling funding, helping prepare notes and powerpoint presentations) CAOPA efforts to meet the commitment they took in 2017, in Malta, to promote the development of national actions plans to implement the FAO Guidelines:

- In January, a meeting was held by CAOPA in Guinea to validate the methodology for developing such national actions plans.
- In February, a national meeting was held in Senegal, to develop a national action plan - the government has, since then put in place a national committee for developing the plan.
- similarly, a meeting was organised in April in Ivory coast, with the same objective

At the COFI Plenary, CAOPA president made a speech presenting these efforts <https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/Speech%20by%20%20Gaoussou%20COFI%202018.pdf> . COFI was also the occasion for CAOPA to participate to a FAO side event on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/COFI/COFI33Documents/9Jul_Mo_ImportanceofSSF.pdf CAOPA delegation (including FPAOI) also used the opportunity of COFI to engage a dialogue with their national delegation, FAO team and other institutions and organisations (Nepad, Comhafat, ICSF, IPC, etc).

With CFFA support, CAOPA has also developed some work on the issues of Blue Growth. CFFA organised a session at the Seaweb Seafood Summit in Barcelona where CAOPA and FPAOI presented their views on issues of Blue Growth for artisanal fishing communities <https://www.seafoodsummit.org/session/blue-growth-issues-for-african-fisheries-dependent-coastal-communities/> The MSC felt that CAOPA was not placing enough emphasis on international trade aspects that, they felt, were affect their prospects in the context of Blue Growth (like ecolabels). These aspects may be something that need further discussion with our colleagues from CAOPA.

Some interesting developments are also taking place at African Union level. In the last 18 months, the African Union has been organising regional meetings of fisheries stakeholders, that should give birth to a Panafrican Fisheries Non State Actors platform, that will become a formal consultative body to the AU for fisheries.

CAOPA actively participated to several of these regional meetings, and was elected chair of the West African Fisheries Non state actors platform in April.<http://aps.sn/actualites/economie/peche/article/le-senegalais-gaoussou-gueye-porte-a-la-tete-de-la-panepao-wansafa>

CAOPA intends to use this platform as a vehicle to promote the implementation of the FAO SSF guidelines in Africa. The World Fisheries Day, organized in Banjul in November 2018, was an occasion to define an panafrikan agenda for the implementation of the SSF guidelines.

CFFA continues to interact with the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. With CAOPA being on the governing board of the FiTI, CFFA played the role of an observer at the last international board meeting (held via video conference).

3. Research and publications

CFFA's research and publications in the first half of 2018 have focussed on the theme of the blue economy, given the prominence this concept has received in the past few years. Our work is guided by the two voluntary international guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, and on the responsible governance of land, forest and fisheries. CFFA's research and writing on blue growth is intended as a contribution to the Global Advocacy Project, involving SSNC, Bread for the World and CAOPA.

A longer paper was published in February considering the European Commission's blue growth strategy, and argued that if this was used as the basis for EU engagement with Africa's blue growth, then it had important limitations for small-scale fisheries.² A key message for CFFA and partners in the publication was the lack of emphasis given to investments in the small-scale sector, as well as the narrow use of national economic metrics for measuring success of blue growth.

Following our previous work on debt for nature swaps, CFFA undertook more in-depth research on the theme of blue bonds. This was promoted by the announcement in late 2017 by the government of the Seychelles that they were launching of the world's first blue bond, supported by the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy and international banks, such as Credit Suisse. Early indications suggest this method of financing blue growth strategies could become more popular,

² <https://cape-cffa.squarespace.com/new-blog/2018/2/12/is-the-eus-blue-growth-strategy-a-model-for-africa>

following on from significant growth already in green bonds. CFFA's longer report and blog article provides analysis of what these financial instruments area, and what are the risks posed to coastal communities and small-scale fisheries.³ The report also provides an update on the calamitous tuna bond in Mozambique, with news that Chinese investors are working to buy the bankrupted fishing company. Based on this study, SSNC are working with an investigative journalist for a shorter magazine article.

The blue bond report provided a critical view on innovative debt instruments for funding blue growth, yet it left alternative policies under-explored. This became the inspiration for the next CFFA report on blue growth, which considers the role of sovereign wealth funds in general, and the concept of blue commons fund specifically (to be published end of August 2018). The research has looked at how governments manage natural resource rents, given well established concerns regarding the economic, social and ecological implications of dependency on these rents by governments (referred to as the 'resource curse'). In this work, CFFA draws on the lessons from sovereign wealth funds, such as the Norway Pension Fund and the Alaska Permanent Fund, to propose a mechanism by which fees are paid to a semi-autonomous fund, and the revenues generated from investing this fund are disbursed as a universal cash transfer. A key concept in this work that of inter-generational-equity, which is largely missing from mainstream accounts of blue growth. The idea of a commons fund, and details of which blue economy sectors would pay into this fund, is presented by CFFA as a proposal for further reflection by partners of the Global Advocacy Project.

To mark the United Nations International Day for the Fight Against IUU fishing (June 5th), and to put anti-corruption ore firmly on the EU's agenda for fisheries, CFFA prepared a longer article that considered the shortfalls of existing approaches to conceptualising and responding to IUU fishing.⁴ This builds on arguments from other CFFA papers and blogs, and argues that the threats caused by industrial fisheries needs to be understood in wider context of systemic corruption and poor governance. CFFA believes that the international fight against IUU has simplified threats, and ignores the full range of problems, both legal and illegal, facing small-scale fisheries. On the IUU fishing day, CFFA also participated to the French radio

³ <https://cape-cffa.squarespace.com/new-blog/2018/4/14/blue-bond-saving-your-fish-or-bankrupting-the-oceans>

⁴ <https://cape-cffa.squarespace.com/new-blog/2018/6/5/the-international-fight-against-iuu-fishing-moving-from-criminal-to-social-justice>

programme ‘Cultures du monde’ which focussed on the various aspects of the fight against IUU fishing in Africa⁵

Following the CFFA meeting in Rome, it was agreed that CFFA would take the lead on preparing a substantial report—to be ready in draft by the end of 2018—which looks at the emerging debates on blue growth and the implications for the small-scale sector in Africa. The report will include sector specific case studies, including off-shore oil and gas, coastal mining, fishmeal production, coastal tourism, the development of new ports etc., and it will consider whether small-scale fisheries can put forward a practical ‘manifesto’ for blue growth that achieves the principles of the two voluntary guidelines. A list of case studies and key policies will be finalised at the next CFFA/CAOPA meeting scheduled for October in Côte d’Ivoire.

As part of the ongoing work on blue growth, CFFA has established contact with the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology, Barcelona, who have developed an online ‘Environmental Justice Atlas’.⁶ This documents case studies where state-corporate led injustices against people and their natural environments. Past work by CFFA, including for example fishmeal production in West Africa, has been used to develop this map in coastal areas of Africa. CFFA has discussed using this map to present case studies documented by us and our partners. CFFA has also been invited to write an article in a journal series in 2018 led by the IEST on the theme of ‘blue de-growth’.

In 2018, CFFA was also contacted by the Slow Fish movement (Italy) to explore potential collaboration on research and publications on the theme of ‘blue grabbing’. Slow Fish were invited to the meeting in Rome where the work of CFFA and partners on the theme of blue growth was discussed. CFFA has agreed to facilitate a panel session at the Slow Food’s biannual meeting in Turin on this topic, and co-author a conference report.

4. CFFA annual meeting - Steering Committee

CFFA didn’t organise its annual meeting in Berlin, as planned, because partners from REJOPRAO were not available at these dates. It was finally organised just after the REJOPRAO General Assembly, in Banjul. The main discussion was about the

⁵ <https://www.franceculture.fr/emissions/cultures-monde/culturesmonde-du-mardi-05-juin-2018-les-ravages-de-la-peche>

⁶ <https://ejatlas.org>

results of CFFA external strategic evaluation, and the following decisions were taken:

- A. The lack of capacity of CFFA Secretariat in Brussels, and the overly dependence on one person raised in the evaluation will be addressed by recruiting a new person for Brussels Secretariat, and getting an office space in Brussels in the course of 2019. The tasks of the new person (who will be employed three days a week as a starter) will primarily be to interact with European institutions (in particular the newly elected Parliament and Commission), organise meetings, events with our partners in Brussels.
- B. Regarding the scope of CFFA activities, it has been decided to focus on advocacy and lobbying (which can include organising advocacy training for partners) regarding EU/Africa fisheries relations, at EU level (partners insisted CFFA should continue not to intervene directly at African level). It was also decided to develop wider (ie not focused on EU) research and advocacy on the topic of blue economy/blue growth, in support of our partners efforts towards the implementation of VGSSF in Africa. Whenever appropriate and efficient, CFFA should also lobby for a progressive EU position in international fora (UN, FAO, WTO, etc). Given the abundance of such fora, conferences, etc, choosing which fora we should target in this way is something that should be carefully discussed, including with ICSF who has a better understanding of international processes, in order to avoid spreading our resources too thinly.
- C. One of CFFA objectives for the period 2017-2020 was to help our partners CAOPA and REJOPRAO to become autonomous financially. In the case of CAOPA, this has been achieved in 2018, in particular with the increased capacity of CAOPA secretariat, the signing of a contract with SSNC, and the continuation of a 2017 contract with Bread for the World. CAOPA also receives funding from FAO and other NGOs like PRCM for specific activities.

5. Support to the organization of the World Fisheries Day and International Women's Day/Women in Fisheries Day

CAOPA organized the International Women in Fisheries Day in the Gambia (6/7/8 March), preceded by a meeting of CAOPA Bureau. The IWD was on the theme: *'Transformative action: The Role of Women in promoting environmentally and socially sustainable*

fishing practices in fisheries'. The celebration was preceded by two days (6th -7th March) interaction and exchange of experiences between the participants. Presentations were made by the African Union, NEPAD, Department of Fisheries of the Gambia and FAO about their policies and plans on women's active involvement and participation in decision making processes. A declaration was adopted in which women also took commitments for their own sector, including the fact that women shouldn't buy undersized fish, or fish coming from illegal activities, for processing <http://www.caopa-africa.org/declaration-journee-internationale-de-la-femme-2018-banjul/>

CFFA's role is to channel financial assistance, support for writing/translating background papers, and further assistance with logistics.

The World Fisheries Day 2018 is planned in Guinea.

6. Support and collaboration with to REJOPRAO

CFFA provided support to REJOPRAO for writing articles published on <http://sipanews.org/>

Articles published in 2018 include:

- Liberia: Local fishery communities frustrated over big money post-harvest facilities
- CAOPA Calls for National Action Plans for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries
- Small-Scale Fisheries critical to Realisation of SDG Goals
- Nigeria: Depleting fishery resources make chemical fishing attractive
- CSOs Advocate Mobile Solution To Empower Small-Scale Fishers
- African women lament rising incidences of illegal fishing
- etc

2. Regarding REJOPRAO, their General Assembly was held in November 2018, prior to the World Fisheries Day celebration in Banjul. They took the decision to change their name into REJOPRA (ie, drop the 'O' of 'Afrique de l'Ouest', so that their network becomes panafrican), and to register formally in South Africa (a previous attempt to register in Senegal failed, as registration of an international network was too complex). In their expectations towards CFFA, they would like to expand our partnership, and have CFFA contribute/help find other sources of funds for two things:

1) paying for original material (funding articles and reportages, which topics/authors are chosen independently by REJOPRA),

2) enable REJOPRA to organise African journalists training, to bring up to date journalists about international developments in fisheries, as well as build their capacity to investigate. They also decided to make a special effort to recruit new members from TV and radio media, that are more accessible to fishing communities than newspapers.