

Sustainable artisanal Fishery in Mauritania



Context

Fishing is an important sector of Mauritania's economy. Every year it generates up to 10 % of the GDP and accounts for up to 50 % of the country's exports. The total catch in Mauritanian waters is estimated to be 900,000 tonnes. About 63 % of this is made up of small pelagic fish species, which live close to the surface of the ocean. For the people of Mauritania and West Africa they offer a cheap source of protein, vitamins and essential micronutrients. Yet, annual per capita fish consumption in Mauritania is less than 6 kg, and about 27 % of the population are classed as food insecure.

Artisanal boats, most of them pirogues, have few technical facilities, which impacts adversely on the quality of the fish landed. For this reason, only a small percentage of the fish landed is suitable for human consumption. In addition, large quantities are processed in factories into fishmeal and fish oil. The sector is also dominated by illegal, unregulated and unregistered fishing activities. In contrast, efficient artisanal fishing offers the potential to enhance food security in the country and to secure incomes, without increasing pressure on fish stocks.

Our objective

The food insecure population in Mauritania has access to more fish products and higher income derived from a sustainable, resource-friendly artisanal fishery.

Activities in Mauritania

- **Developing quality standards for the value chain:**
 Within the scope of the project, which is supported by the EU Trust Fund (EUTF), the local target group receives advice on developing and implementing hygiene standards in fish processing, storage and transport.
- **Improving technical conditions for fish production:**
 Artisanal fishers benefit from training on how to optimise their fishing, storage and fish handling techniques.
- **Improving controls and monitoring of fishing activities:**
 Support for the introduction of registration and licensing systems and effective controls.



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Region

Mauritania, in particular Nouadhibou and Nouakchott

Term

March 2018 to September 2021

Budget

5.5 million euro, 2 million euro of which through EU cofinancing

Implementing partners

Directorates and affiliated authorities of the Ministry of Fisheries (DPC, DDVP, ONISPA, GCM); fisheries associations and research institutions (IMROP, SMCP, FNP, FNPA, FLPA, CSRP); non-governmental and civil society organisations (CCNADP, *Mauritanie 2000*)

Lead executing agency

Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (*Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie Maritime, MPEM*)

Target group

Food- and nutrition-insecure population in Mauritania, artisanal fishers and women working in fish processing

WHERE WE WORK



A real-life example

The artisanal fisheries sector provides work for a large percentage of Mauritania's population, but the production for human consumption is still far from being used to its full potential. Serious quality losses during transport and storage reduce the quantity of fish that can be processed locally. As a result, the supply of fish fit for human consumption for the local population is insufficient.

This is where the project comes in with technical innovations to improve the handling of the catch. For example, the project tries out various options to improve storage of fish in the pirogues and evaluates whether these methods are economically feasible. Hygiene standards and norms are developed for each step in the value chain in cooperation with local fishing authorities and associations. A manual is being produced to highlight best practices for each step from landing the catch to marketing. This will be used for training purposes. The practical application of these innovations is demonstrated and communicated to artisanal fishers during training measures.



Expected results

Existing capacities in the fisheries sector are to be developed and enhanced. New practical knowledge will enable artisanal fishers to run their businesses more efficiently and on a more resource-friendly basis. Lower post-harvest losses create jobs and income in processing. This will benefit women in particular, who account for a large percentage of the workforce at this stage of the value chain. Higher quantities of small pelagic fish are available on the local markets, improving the nutritional status of the local population.

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