

Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in Mauretania



Context

The fishing industry is an important economic sector in Mauretania, contributing between 3% to 10% of GDP annually and up to 50% of export volume. The total catch from Mauritanian waters is estimated at 1,8 million tons and consists of about 80% small pelagic (near surface) fish species. They represent an affordable source of proteins, vitamins and essential micronutrients for the Mauritanian and West African population. The annual Mauritanian fish consumption per capita, however, lies beneath 18 kg and around 15% of the population is considered food insecure.

Artisanal fishing boats, so called pirogues, are technically insufficiently equipped, which leads to quality losses in the landed fish. Therefore, only a small proportion of the landed catch is usable for human consumption. In addition, large quantities of fish are being processed to fishmeal and fish oil. Furthermore, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are shaping the sector. An efficient artisanal fishery, however, has the potential to improve the food and income security in the country, without intensifying the pressure on fish populations.

Our Goal

The food-insecure population of Mauretania has access to more fish products and higher income from sustainable and resource-conserving artisanal fisheries.

Activities in Mauretania

- ▶ **Improve technical conditions of fish production:** In training measures, artisanal fishermen are lectured in optimization options in fishing, storage and handling, and context-specific improvements are jointly developed.
- ▶ **Develop quality standards for the value chain:** The project provides advice on the development and implementation of hygiene standards in the areas of fishing, processing, storage and transport of fishery products.
- ▶ **Control and surveillance of fishing activities:** Support for the introduction of registration and licensing systems and effective controls is the third field of action.



Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in Mauritania

Region

Mauritania, particularly Nouakchott

Duration

March 2018 to June 2024

Budget

8.7 million Euro, thereof 2 million Euro EU cofinancing until September 2022

Implementation Partners

Directorate and subordinate authorities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (DPC, DDVP, ONISPA, IMROP, GCM); fisheries associations and research institutions (SMCP, FNP, FNPA, FLPA, CSRP)

Lead executing agency

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

Target Group

Food-insecure population of Mauritania, artisanal fishers and women in processing

WHERE WE WORK



A real-life example

Approximately 3,3% of Mauritania's population is working in the artisanal fisheries sector. However, the possible potential of fish production for human consumption has not yet been exhausted. High quality losses during transportation and storage reduce the quantity of fish in local processing. This leads to an insufficient supply of the local population with high-quality fish, particularly in the country's interior.

The project is addressing this issue with technical innovations for more gentle handling of caught fish. For example, different possibilities for better storage in the small boats are being tested and examined for their economic feasibility. Additionally, different hygiene standards and norms for the individual stages of the value chain are being developed in cooperation with local fishing authorities and associations. Best practices of individual steps, from landing to marketing, are recorded in a manual and used for training purposes. The practical application of such innovations is demonstrated and taught to artisanal fishermen in training sessions.



Intended Effect

The existing capacities within the fishing sector are further developed and expanded. New practical knowledge allows artisanal fishermen to make their operations more efficient and conserve resources. Lower post-catch losses create jobs and income in the processing sector. This benefits women in particular, who are especially active in this stage of the value chain. Larger amounts of small pelagic fish end up in local markets and contribute to the food security of the local population

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH

Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Division G500 – Rural Development and Agriculture

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn
Germany

T +49 (0) 228 44 60-0
F +49 (0) 228 4460-17 66

www.giz.de

Kontakt

Verena.stiebing@giz.de
GVFisch@giz.de

Fotos

© GIZ/Alena Goebel

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

April 2023

