



Rural development

Coastal Zones, Fisheries and Aquaculture

The challenge

Settlement in coastal regions and their economic significance are both growing steadily. It is therefore vital that oceans, coastal areas and resources are used sustainably. Adapting to climate change represents a major challenge in this context if the growing threat to coastal populations from rising sea levels, frequent storms and flooding, particularly in Asia, is to be counteracted.

In addition, oceans and inland waterbodies must also be protected as a source of food. According to the latest estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO 2014), 71 per cent of all fish stocks are fished within biologically sustainable levels, while 29 per cent are overfished. Important marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests and coral reefs must be better protected in order to guarantee stability for seas as a habitat in general. In inland waters, too, such as the large lakes and river systems of Central Africa and major rivers of South and South-East Asia, the central challenge is to protect and manage aquatic resources sustainably.

Our approach

Creating ideal conditions for responsible fisheries and aquaculture and developing coastal regions sustainably call for appropriate strategies and policies. These include implementing a fisheries policy geared towards sustainability, environmental and social standards for fisheries and aquaculture, establishing conservation areas, and coastal protection measures. We help our partners introduce an integrated approach to managing coastal areas.

The actors involved are integrated and assured that all users, whether on land or at sea, will benefit from this planning process. These actors include business partners, organisations representing the population of coastal regions, non-

governmental organisations and representatives from the private sector.

Our services

Our work mainly focuses on three priority areas:

1. Fisheries policy

We aim to put in place a consistent legal framework and rule-of-law procedures for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. To this end, we advise fisheries ministries as well as regional and municipal government agencies responsible for fisheries, aquaculture and coastal zones. We help them to involve civil society partners in decisions on rights of access, fishing quotas, management plans, consultation procedures and other issues.

2. Advisory services for state and private actors

We identify possible approaches for investment, technology and training measures with a view to boosting value creation from fisheries and aquaculture products. This includes implementing social and quality standards, eco-certification, promoting interest groups and marketing measures.

3. Integrated coastal zone management

Together with our partners, we design multisectoral instruments for maritime regional planning, specially adapted to meet regional and national requirements. In these solutions, issues such as climate change, population growth and intensifying economic activities in coastal regions assume key roles.

The benefits

GIZ considers the specific situation of each of its partner countries. Together, we identify ways of reducing over-exploitation and destruction of aquatic resources and coastal regions.



Our extensive experience shows that the results are many and various. Governments and state institutions adapt to the imperatives of a globally integrated and sustainable economy, and at the same time, the ownership and competitiveness of the fisheries sector is strengthened. Increased value creation and a protection through responsible use of natural resources not only result in additional revenue, but also in supplies of fish products for the population that are better quality and more plentiful. Coastal regions improve their ability to adjust to environmental and climate change.

An example from the field

In Tanzania, GIZ supported the eco-certification of the Nile perch fishery on Lake Victoria as part of a public-private partnership project. In partnership with the local fish processing company, Vicfish Ltd., and the Dutch fish importer, ANOVA Seafood BV, we trained local fishers and Vicfish employees in sustainable fisheries management and EU quality assurance guidelines.

The project improved integration of the local population into international markets, in this instance with eco-certified (and consequently, higher-priced) fish products. This enabled the local population to benefit directly from increased

global demand for these products. The introduction of quality and resource management resulted in improved value creation, greater transparency and more ecologically sustainable use of fish stocks. Around 2,000 fishers and their families, as well as fish processing employees at Lake Victoria, have also seen their income rise along with their long-term prospects of generating a livelihood. The actors in the value chain, from participating fisher associations to processors and traders, engage more strongly than usual in social activities, such as using the extra income to finance municipal facilities. Hence, the level of organisation and cooperation is further strengthened, and in this way, they also contribute to social sustainability.

In addition to providing specialist expertise, GIZ, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), acted as a mediator between the various stakeholders in this advisory process.

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