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Project: Governance, Policies of Marine Resources Management and Poverty Reduction in the WAMER Eco-Region



National Action plan for the WAMER project 2012-2016 – the Gambia



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List of Abbreviations\Acronyms

ACP	-	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries
AGOA	-	Growth and Opportunities Act
AU	-	African Union
CA	-	Cotonou Agreement
CCLME	-	Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CECAF	-	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CILIP	-	Community-based Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement, Project
CFC	-	Community Fisheries Centers
COFI	-	Committee on Fisheries
COMHAFAT	-	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation - Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean
CRODT	-	Centre for Oceanographic Research of Dakar
CSO	-	Civil Society Organizations
DOA	-	Department of Agriculture
DoFish	-	Department of Fisheries
DOP&W		
DPWM	-	Department of Park and Wildlife
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
EPAs	-	Economic Partnership Agreements
ERP	-	Economic Recovery Programme
ESP	-	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FAC	-	Fishery Advisory Committee
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GAFDP	-	Gambia Artisanal Fisheries Development Project
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GEAP	-	Gambia Environmental Action Plan
GIEPA	-	Gambia Investment and Entrepreneur Promotion Agency
GNAIP	-	Gambia National & Natural Resources Investment Programme
GOTG	-	Government of The Gambia
HACCP	-	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HDI	-	Human Development Index
ICCAT	-	International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICT	-	Information and communication technologies
ICZM	-	Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Project
IMR	-	Institute of Marine Research
LDCs	-	Less Developing Countries
LHDP	-	Livestock and Horticulture Development Project

MCS	-	Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MOTRIE		
MTP	-	Mid Term Plan
NAAFO	-	National association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators
NaNA		
NARI	-	National Agriculture Research Institution
NASCOM	-	National Sole Fishery Co-Management Committee
NEA	-	National Environment Agency
NEMA	-	National Environment Management Act
NEMC	-	National Environment Management Council
NEPAD	-	The New Partnership for Africa's Development
NORAD	-	Norwegian Agency for Development
OMVG	-	Organisation for the Development of the Gambia River Basin
DPWM	-	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management
PPA	-	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PSRICD	-	Public Service Reform and Institutional Capacity Development, Project
RAMPAO	-	Network of Marine Protected Areas
SDF	-	Social Development Fund
SRFC	-	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
TAGFC	-	The Association of Gambian Fishing Companies
TLS	-	Trade Liberalisation Scheme
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
USA	-	United States of America
WAMER	-	West Africa Marine Eco-Region
WAMPO	-	West Africa Marine Programme Office
WTO	-	World trade Organisation
WWF	-	World Wide Fund

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1) Background and Context

1.1 Development Context

The Gambia is one the smallest country in continental Africa, with an area of about 11,000 sq. km, and surrounded on all sides, except on the Atlantic coast, by Senegal. The population of the country was estimated at 1.7 million, and grew a relatively high rate of 2.9 percent per year between 2002 and 2008 (Central Statistics Department). Furthermore, the population is mostly urban (58.2 percent in 2010), and very young, with 63.6 percent of the population being under 25 years of age.



Figure 1. Map of the Republic of The Gambia

The Gambia has a very narrow resource base, a small domestic market, coupled with an undiversified production and export base. Agriculture accounts for 30 percent of the gross domestic product, and employs about 70 percent of the population. Services, mainly tourism and re-export trade, accounted for about 50% of the GDP, although this proportion dropped to 31.7 percent in 2008, on account of an increase in the industrial base. In the same vein, financial services and information and communication technologies (ICT) are becoming increasingly important in the economy.

Per capita GDP in 2008 was estimated at \$489, significantly less than the sub-Saharan Africa average of \$1,233. For this reason, poverty is a major development challenge, and an estimated at 57.9 percent of the population are poor. Other development challenges include inadequate infrastructure (e.g. energy, transport, and telecommunications), institutional constraints, and heavy reliance on external trade and foreign investment.

Despite its many development challenges, the Gambia has made significant strides in its economic development. Thus, its Human Development Index (HDI) consistently increased between 2000 and 2010, and its HDI ranking in increased from 155 out of 177 countries in 2006 to 151 out of 169 in 2010. In the same vein, life expectancy at birth increased 16 years to 57 years between 1970, and 2010. In addition,

the country is on target to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on primary school enrolment, although other MDGs could be missed, unless a major effort is made to meet them.

The Gambia has a very short coastline of about 80 Km (one of the shortest in Africa), it is located in the highly productive up-welling zone of the Atlantic Ocean and the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) region. The productivity of the marine and estuarine waters within the jurisdiction of the country is further enhanced by the huge annual influxes of nutrients from the river, fringed on both sides with mangroves for up to hundred kilometres inland.

The marine waters of the Gambia are considered to be rich in terms of abundance and diversity of fish species (over 500 marine species) according to the first survey of fisheries potentials conducted jointly by FAO and UNDP in 1964 and 1965. The River Gambia has enormous freshwater resources that can sustain huge extraction for various irrigation schemes (rice, aquaculture and horticulture). The freshwater zone of the river overflows its banks twice every month during spring tides with tidal amplitude reaching one metre or more in some places. This characteristic of the river has rendered the adjacent flood plains gravitationally irrigable, particularly in the Central River Division. This is quite a positive attribute for development of aquaculture along its bank.

The coastal and marine zone is also an important breeding, nesting, feeding refuge for endangered and threatened species such as migratory birds, dolphins, sharks, marine turtles, the West African Manatee and other species of regional and national significance. Like any other coastal state, the population density is high and increasing along the coastal zone. This has its implications as human activities along the coastline exert increasing pressure on the coast; in particular, the exploitation of coastal and marine resources for both subsistence and other economic purposes. The scope and extent of pressures exerted on the area is constrained by the lack of baseline data for monitoring systems

A number of economic, social, institutional, physical and technical constraints are impeding the sustainable development, growth and management of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. These constraints identified in the Gambia Medium Term Plan (MTP) developed by the Gambia Government in collaboration with the UNDP for the period 2005-2009 include: poor governance and management, inadequate scientific information for informed decision making, inadequate infrastructure, and limited control over the resources, poor product quality management, and low level of aquaculture development, low level of regional trade in fish and fishery products, inadequate levels of skilled manpower, and low investment in the sector.

The Gambia's Fisheries Policy elaborated and adopted in 2007 seeks to contribute to the realisation of the development goals of the country and outlines the keys areas of intervention to safeguard the economic, social and environmental viability of the fisheries sector and increase the benefits for present and future generations. Furthermore, the GOTG elaborated a 5-year (2009-2013) Fisheries Strategic Action Plan to provide a framework for attaining the objectives of the Fisheries Policy 2007.

1.2 Structure of the Fisheries Sector

Two types of fisheries operate in the Gambia; artisanal and industrial fisheries. These fisheries are distinguished by their mode of operation. The industrial fishery sector is characterised by high capital investment and limited to the marine area while the artisanal fishery is dispersed (marina, estuarine and brackish areas) and characterized by low capital investment and labour intensive activities.

The number of artisanal canoes and fishermen increased 35 percent and 50 percent, respectively, during the past two decades due, among other reasons, to declining agricultural production. More and more rural people are taking up fishing and related activities.

In 2006 frame survey conducted by the Fisheries Department revealed that over 200,000 people are directly or indirectly dependent on artisanal fisheries and its related activities. The sub-sector provides direct employment to 6,104 fishermen (1,410 head fishermen and 4,694 assistant fishermen). Furthermore, an estimated 11,000 people belong to households headed by head fishermen. Fisheries sector also employs ancillary workers such as boat builders, fish processors, and fish exporters/traders including fish retailers. Out of 1,410 head fishermen, 805 were Gambians and 605 foreigners. Over half the fishermen in the coastal area are foreign nationals (mainly Senegalese), and the rest Gambians, while most fishermen in inland areas are Gambians (Frame survey results Fisheries Department, 2006).

The development of industrial fisheries has been relatively limited in the Gambia. It is noteworthy that presently, all fishing vessels operating in Gambian waters are foreign-owned. These vessels land their catches in foreign ports where the fish is processed, packaged and labelled as products originating from those foreign ports. The total catch by industrial fishing vessels in 2006 is estimated at nearly 3,000 tonnes, representing a major economic loss for the country.

The number of vessels licensed to operate in Gambian waters was 24 in 2006, 48 in 2007 and 35 in 2008, approximately 67 percent of which operated under the auspices of the Senegalo-Gambian Agreement on Maritime Fishing. The majority of these vessels spend limited time in Gambian waters because they usually possess licenses of both countries and target certain species where they occur. A reciprocal fishing agreement between the Gambia and Senegal has been in existence 1982 but Gambians have not been able to participate fully and reap the benefits because of the paucity of locally based fishing vessels.

It is also estimated that the industrial sub-sector employs less than 2,000 people, the majority of whom are factory workers (mainly women). Furthermore, it is policy that 20 percent of the crew of fishing vessels licensed to operate in the country must be Gambians. Although there are nine fish processing factories, most of them operate intermittently due to insufficient supplies of raw fish materials, high energy cost and lack of working capital. As a result, the impact of their operations on the economy in terms of employment and foreign exchange earnings has been minimal.

1.3 Constraints and Opportunities

It is observed that the proposed National action plan for WWF WAMER project 2012-2016 of the Gambia will only be realised if fisheries governance, nutritional safety and poverty reduction issues are addressed through the a Co-management approach. In this regard, the following constraints that are impeding the effective implementation of fisheries conservation, management and development which are crucial to the attainment of fisheries development goals. These constraints are attributed to physical, technical, economic institutional and social.

1.3.1 Physical Constraints

Include the absence of a fishing port, lack of sufficient industrial fishing vessels registered and/or based in the country, inadequate infrastructural facilities for proper fish handling, processing and storage in the artisanal sub-sector, and insufficient fish distribution and marketing centres that cater to artisanal operators. Other physical constraints are the lack of adequate refrigerated vehicles and other transportation facilities to cater for distribution and marketing of artisanal fish and fishery products, and weak protection of fisheries resources due to inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance of territorial waters and beyond. There also are other physical constraints such as insufficient feeder roads for easy access to inland fish landing sites, the unwillingness of existing industrial companies to form joint ventures among themselves or sell equity to other entrepreneurs, and the reluctance or inability of industrial companies to improve capacity for effective financial management of their factories.

1.3.2 Social Constraints

Include difficulties in recruiting, training and retaining Gambians in artisanal fisheries, and the fact that the majority of Gambians operating inland are part-time fisherfolks/farmers, and hence, do not realize the full benefits of commercial fishing. In addition, most artisanal fisherfolks operating within the productive coastal zones are foreigners and migratory, thereby hindering fish supplies and causing huge increases in prices of fish and fishery products.

Women operators (fish processors and vendors) are the most vulnerable group in the artisanal sub-sector, and are yet to be adequately empowered to enhance the effectiveness of their operations. Many Gambian youths also have the notion that artisanal fishing is a low grade, unrewarding occupation, thus making it difficult to attract them to the industry. Inadequate community participation in enforcement of regulations to prevent and eliminate harmful fishing practices is also a major social constraint facing the industry

1.3.3 Institutional Constraints

These constraints continue to confront the sector, and they include the absence of an institution dedicated to the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture, weak mechanism for inter-

institutional coordination, and inadequate implementation of policies. Other institutional constraints are inadequate human resources for research, surveillance, fish quality control and hygiene services, management, aquaculture and inland fisheries development, absence of a reliable monitoring and evaluation system, and lack of a policy on continuous training of Fisheries Department personnel. There also are constraints such as inadequate financial resources for research and MCS of artisanal operations.

Also Professional Organizations such as NAAFO, TRY Women Oysters and TAGFC have inadequate organizational and administrative capacities. These organizations thus need strengthening and training in such areas as finance, advocacy, resource mobilization and management, and technology.

1.3.4 Technical Constraints

These constraints include the paucity of nationals with technical competence to man fishing vessels as skippers and engineers, inadequate (and in the case of inland sites, absence of) repair and maintenance services and facilities for machinery, equipment and fishing crafts in the artisanal sub-sector, high cost of fuel and energy. Other difficulties such as packaging materials results from shortcomings in quality control practices and lack of knowledge in quality assurance, particularly HACCP, in both industrial and artisanal sub-sectors. There also is insufficient knowledge of the biology, population dynamics and annual sustainable yield of demersal stocks and riverine resources, thereby seriously hampering quality policy formulation and decision-making.

1.3.5 Financial Constraints

The fisheries sector also faces a number of financial constraints such as the lack of adequate access to micro-finance facilities for artisanal operators, the high interest rates on loans from commercial banks, and lack of access to working capital and long term lending.

1.4 Opportunities

The fisheries sector presents several opportunities that could be mobilised to accelerate the development and management of the resources in order to realise the full potentials for socio-economic development. These opportunities are related to the resource base, the existing and potential production systems, available infrastructure, potential financing mechanisms and trade.

1.4.1 Resource base

The Gambia is endowed with abundant and diverse fish species which offer great potential to make substantial contribution to the socio-economic development of the contry, especially in our quest to alleviate poverty and ensure adequate food security to the population.

There are over 500 marine fish species which are usually classed as demersals and pelagics. Demersals include groupers, sea breams, grunts, croakers, and snappers, etc. The small pelagics group consists of the two sardinellas (*Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella maderensis*), bonga and shad (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*), horse mackerels (*Trachurus trecae*, *Trachurus trachurus* and *Caranx rhoncus*) and mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*). Biomass estimates of the demersal fish resources in 1986 conducted by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography was 43,645 tonnes. The 1986 survey was the most comprehensive survey of demersal fish resources. Estimates provided in 1995 were obtained from a partial survey of demersal stocks conducted during a survey focused on pelagic fish species.

The pelagic fisheries resource base is also rich and its biomass has varied from high of 510,000 tonnes in 1999 to a low of 23,000 tonnes in 1996. However, indications are that the stocks have since recovered to 506,000 tonnes in 2007 (NORAD/FAO/UNDP Nansen Programme).

About 70 fish species were identified within the river system and several of them, especially those belonging to *Carangidae*, *Drepaneidae*, *Clupidae*, *Haemulidae*, *Polynemidae*, *Cichlidae*, *Scianidae*, *Cynoglossidae*, etc, are of commercial significance (2004, Joint study by IRD and Fisheries Department).

There are also huge potentials for oyster harvesting, oyster and cockles aquaculture in the marine and brackish waters of the river and its estuarine areas.

1.4.2 Infrastructural facilities

The establishment of 15 communities fisheries along the Atlantic coast and in the inland sub-sector are very important as they offer enormous opportunities to the various fishing communities. These centres have the potential to impact on the lives of the communities contributing to poverty reduction through increased landings particularly pelagic species and the creation of employment opportunities.

Another opportunities are the construction of the Brikama fish market and the fisheries jetty in Banjul including the rehabilitation of the dock yard facility an impulse for improved performance within the fisheries sector.

1.4.3 Potential financing mechanisms

The rapid growth of the banking system in The Gambia in recent years resulting from the opening of many new banks and financial institutions offer an opportunity for investment in the fisheries sector. Professional groups such as NAAFO, TAGFC, Community Fisheries Centres (CFCs) and individuals engaged in the sector now have greater chances to negotiate and be able to access funds for procurement of fishing equipment, machinery and materials or use these funds as working capital.

1.4.4 Trade Opportunities

The Gambia is the Smiling Coast and the Gateway to West Africa. It is located at the mouth of The Atlantic Ocean. The country has considerable strengths: the closest English-speaking African country to Europe, social harmony, improving political stability, progress in macroeconomic stabilization, and an unusually efficient port.

- The geographical location of The Gambia is within the Eastern Central Atlantic Fishery (CECAF) area puts the country in an advantage position because the area is classified as one of the richest fishing zones in the world.
- Close proximity to major markets in Europe and United States of America (6-7 hours by air) and 14 days maximum by sea to Europe.
- Liberal trade policies (member of the WTO), duty free exports, duty free concession on imports of capital equipment and machinery including packaging materials.
- There is huge potential for the development of aquaculture, Oyster fishery and crab Fishery.
- Pelagic fish production can be doubled without depleting the resources base
- The waters are virtually un-polluted

Appropriate legislation to support for the introduction of eco-labelling schemes on certain Fisheries products.

1.4.5 Investment incentives

The following incentives will be awarded to Special Investments:

- (a) Exemption from customs duties on the following items:
 - (i) the approved capital equipment, machinery, appliances, furniture and fittings to be used in establishing the project;
 - (ii) the approved quantity of semi-finished products, spare part, raw materials and other supplies to be used in the production process.
- (b) Exemption from the sales tax on the above mentioned imported goods.
- (c) Exemption from the turn-over tax.
- (d) Preferential treatment for the allocation of land for the site of the proposed investment and the provision of infra-structural facilities.

2) Perspectives – the Gambia

Governance is defined as "how power and decision-making are shared amongst stakeholders". Analyzing Governance is therefore about identifying those that set the rules/ regulations/policies including the processes followed, the implementation body and those affected by such decisions or policies. Within the context of fisheries governance, this definition has linkage with the two other components of this project namely: policy analysis (the decision-making process) and stakeholder analysis (i.e. interaction between stakeholders).

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has identified governance or good governance as crucial to economic growth, food security and poverty alleviation. Bad or weak governance is a threat to economic growth, food security, poverty alleviation and natural resources development and management. It renders research and investment ineffective.

In general, NEPAD recognizes good governance as a key conditioning factor that allows nations to progress along their chosen economic development path (NEPAD, 2001). In this project, attempt is made to examine three major aspects of governance, namely participation, accountability and governance reforms, sectorally amongst fisheries stakeholders and cross-sectorally with other stakeholders. Within the context of this project, above concepts are defined as follows: Participation: The degree to which different legitimate stakeholders are involved in the decision-making and/or implementation process.

2.1 Accountability

The degree to which decision-makers are accountable to the end users for their decisions (a top - bottom accountability concept).

2.1.1 Governance reforms

Anything that aims at re-modifying the distribution of power and decision-making mechanisms amongst stakeholders.

2.2 Fisheries and Poverty Reduction

From several experiences, both national and local institutions appreciate the need for stock conservation as a means of sustaining the fisheries. However, the attitude of government and local institutions appears to diverge on the priority to be placed on the twin issues of stock conservation on one hand and food security/poverty reduction on the other. National institutions such as the Department of fisheries, place higher priority on conservation issues than local institutions. The importance of conservation usually expressed through the inclusion of the Monitoring, Surveillance and Control (MSC) in existing fisheries laws and edicts, underscore the importance that government places on the matter.

On the other hand, local communities that depend directly on the resource, while recognizing the importance of fisheries conservation, have a different priority. To them fisheries represent their main source of income, food security, poverty alleviation, employment and labor. They therefore see the fisheries, first and foremost, as an economic safety net and a dominant source of livelihood and sustenance. At Kololi, one of the fishing communities in along the coast, there is a massive beach seine activity using under-sized mesh. When reminded of the harmful impact of the gear on the fisheries (destruction of juvenile fish and habitat), they agreed but maintained that it is the most productive gear and consequently would be difficult to abandon just for the sake of catching under-size fish. To reinforce what they consider as the advantage of the gear, they added rather cynically "that no fish caught is rejected or thrown away as every fish is useful to somebody either free or on payment" In general therefore, it could be concluded that national governments or their Agencies are more sensitive to issues of conservation than local institutions.

Furthermore local communities agree on the importance of conservation but not over and above the need for economic gains. Sustainable management and exploitation, they agree, would prevent overexploitation and ensure long-term benefits from the fisheries resources. However, local communities when faced with the two options of resource extraction for poverty alleviation and conservation, always accord the former higher priority in a unanimous manner.

2.2.1 Fisheries and Food Security

Fish contribute a significant amount of animal protein to the diets of people worldwide. It is estimated that between 15 and 20 percent of all animal proteins come from aquatic animals. Fish is highly nutritious and serves as a valuable supplement in diets lacking essential vitamins and minerals.

The world's oceans, lakes and rivers are harvested by artisanal fishers who provide vital nourishment for poor communities, not only in Africa and Asia, but also in many parts of Latin America and islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Not only is fish a vital food, it is also a source of work and money for millions of people around the globe. The developing countries are also taking a growing share of the international trade in fish and fishery products. This may have both benefits and drawbacks. While the exports earn them valuable foreign exchange, the diversion of fish and fish products from local communities and developing regions can deprive needy people, including children, of a traditionally cheap, but highly nutritious food.

2.2.2 Fisheries and Trade

The fisheries sector, which currently accounts for significant foreign exchange and employment, will become more important as the region seeks to diversify its economic base in a sustainable manner.

Highlighting the socio-economic role of the Gambia's marine resources, relating to the fisheries sector's contribution to food security in the region, there is also the need for trade policies that are consistent with the Gambia's long-term development goals.

Also the interaction of fisheries and trade officials taking place is critical for the development of informed policies and negotiating positions related to the fisheries sector. The WTO and EPA negotiations present an opportunity for LDCs to develop new trading relationships, and the need for adequate participation in such negotiations in order to arrive at an agreement that effectively represents their interests.

Major concerns in fisheries and trade includes: trading partners' non-tariff barriers, higher operational costs to fishers resulting from increasingly stringent quality standards, negative impacts of other sectors on the fisheries industry, and improving co-ordination in fisheries trade and management. Also identified needs for targeted legislation and integrated policies, as well as increased capacity to manage fisheries and combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing is paramount.

2.2.3 Fisheries and Climate Change

Oceans and coastal ecosystems play an important role in the global carbon cycle and have removed about 25% of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities between 2000 and 2007 and about half the anthropogenic CO₂ released since the start of the industrial revolution.

Rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification means that the capacity of the ocean carbon sink will gradually get weaker, giving rise to global concerns expressed in the Monaco and Manado Declarations. Healthy ocean ecosystems are essential for the mitigation of climate change.

2.2.4 Impact on fish production

The rising ocean acidity makes it more difficult for marine organisms such as shrimps, oysters, or corals to form their shells – a process known as calcification. Many important animals, such as zooplankton, that forms the base of the marine food chain have calcium shells. Thus the entire marine food web is being altered – there are 'cracks in the food chain'. As a result, the distribution, productivity, and species composition of global fish production is changing, generating complex and inter-related impacts on oceans, estuaries, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds that provide habitats and nursery areas for fish. Changing rainfall patterns and water scarcity is impacting on river fishery and aquaculture production.

2.2.5 Impact on fishing communities

Coastal and fishing populations and countries dependent on fisheries are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Low-lying countries are particularly vulnerable and entire communities may become the first climate refugees. Fishing communities along the coast in the Gambia are subject not only to sea-level rise, but also flooding as well; therefore fishing community's livelihoods' along the Gambia River and fish production will suffer from saltwater intrusion resulting from rising sea level.

Fisheries and aquaculture contribute significantly to food security and livelihoods. Fish provides essential nutrition for 3 billion people and at least 50% of animal protein and minerals to 400 million people from the poorest countries. Over 500 million people in developing countries depend, directly or indirectly, on

fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods - aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production system, growing at 7% annually and fish products are among the most widely traded foods, with more than 37% (by volume) of world production traded internationally. (*FAO 2009 state of the world fisheries and aquaculture*)

2.2.6 Adaptation and mitigation

The impacts of climate change can be addressed through adaptation and mitigation. The costs and benefits of adaptation are essentially local or national, while the costs of mitigation are essentially national whereas the benefits are global. Some activities generate both mitigation and adaptation benefits, for example, the restoration of mangrove forests can protect shorelines from erosion and provide breeding grounds for fish while also sequestering carbon.

2.2.7 Adaptation

Several international agencies, including the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization have programs to help countries and communities adapt to global warming, for example by developing policies to improve the resilience (Allison, E.H., *et al.* (2007). "Enhancing the resilience of inland fisheries and aquaculture systems to climate change". *Journal of Semi-Arid Tropical Agricultural Research* 4 (1)) of natural resources, through assessments of risk and vulnerability, by increasing awareness (Dulvy, N.; Allison, E. (28 May 2009). *Nature Reports Climate Change* (906): 68.) of climate change impacts and strengthening key institutions, such as for weather forecasting and early warning systems. "The World Development Report 2010 - Development and Climate Change", Chapter 3 shows that reducing overcapacity in fishing fleets and rebuilding fish stocks can both improve resilience to climate change and increase economic returns from marine capture fisheries by US\$50 billion per year, while also reducing Green House Gasses emissions by fishing fleets. Consequently removal of subsidies on fuel for fishing can have a double benefit by reducing emissions and promoting overfishing.

2.2.8 Mitigation

The oceans have removed 50% of the anthropogenic CO₂, so the oceans have absorbed much of the impact of climate change. The famous White Cliffs of Dover illustrates how the ocean captures and buries carbon. These limestone cliffs are formed from the skeletons of marine plankton called coccoliths. Similarly, petroleum formation is attributed largely to marine and aquatic plankton further illustrating the key role of the oceans in carbon sequestration.

The establishment of institutions, policies and processes through which management may be realised is fundamental to effective fisheries governance. Institutions are the sets of rules and arrangements (public and private, formal and informal) affecting a fishery, as well as the organisations that develop and implement those rules.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources and Fisheries Department are charged the authority and responsibility for the effective management and development of the sector.

The policy, legal and management framework for fisheries in The Gambia is provided by: Fisheries Policy 2006, Fisheries Act 2007, Fisheries Regulations 2008 and Fisheries Management Plan (2011) for Oyster, cockles and solefish.

The Fisheries Act mandates a Fishery Advisory Committee and Community Fisheries Centers as the institutional structure for inclusive oversight of the sector and decentralized fisheries co-management.

The policy objectives of the fisheries sector as articulated in policy documents include:

- Rational and long-term utilization of the marine and inland fisheries resources
- Improving nutritional standards of the population
- Increasing employment opportunities in the sector
- Increasing foreign exchange earnings
- Increasing and expanding the participation of Gambians in the fisheries sector
- Improving the institutional capacity and legal framework for the management of the fisheries sector

The National Environment Management Act (NEMA), enacted by Government in 1987 whose implementation is being guided by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) established in 1993 and chaired by the Head of State provides the legal and decision-making framework for environmental planning and management.

Environmental degradation has escalated rapidly and it has been recognised that environmental deterioration and depletion of natural resources are causing more poverty with disastrous effects in many parts of The Gambia. The Gambia Government responded to the call for full national commitment to mitigating this trend in environmental degradation by enacting the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP), which was adopted in 1992 before the Rio Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development. The GEAP became the framework for environmental management guiding the national commitment to the judicious use of the environment and natural resources (including coastal and fisheries resources, Environment Report, 1997).

National Trade Policy formulation in specific fields of activities is the responsibility of different Departments of State but the Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment (DOSTIE) has the overall responsibility for the formulation, coordination, and implementation of trade, investment and industrial relations policy, which are determined in conjunction with the Department of State for Foreign Affairs. Tariffs are set by the Department of State for Finance and Economic Affairs (DOSFEA) and administered directly by the Customs and Excise Department (GOTG, 2004).

2.3 Conventions

There are over 18 International, regional and sub-regional conventions, agreements and arrangements to which The Gambia is a party. However, five of them are of particular relevance to fisheries, trade and the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources as well as environmental conventions such as UFCCC, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (The Ramsar Convention) Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (WACAF), etc,

With the framework of the existing and future Conventions, cooperation and implementation of the sub-regional project will be pursued along the following two axes listed below :-

- i) Reinforce the mechanisms for consultation, capacity building, information exchange in terms of governance, policy, marine resource management, surveillance, research and training. Training will be assured through better coordination between stakeholders in natural resources sectors including Fisheries Department and its extension services, civil society groups, non-governmental organizations for better coordination between regional, national and local actors, and the professionals within the framework of the Fishery Advisory Committee (FAC), and the mobilization of financial and material resources to promote the participatory approach in marine and coastal resources management and utilization to address poverty.
- ii) Reinforce participatory management capacities at the local, national and regional levels. Emphasis on strengthening capacity to address the challenges of governance, poverty reduction, enforcement and regulation for effective coordination and planning of activities. In addition, more emphasis will be placed on sustained cooperation within the framework of environmental agreements as well as at the level of the SRFC, COMHAFAT, CECAF (FAO), and at the international level, active participation in COFI, CECAF, OMVG, ICCAT, ECOWAS, AU, WTO, ICO, CBD, RAMSAR Convention etc will be maintained. At the bilateral level, regular monitoring and implementation of our obligations within the framework of the cooperation agreements will be assured. Particular attention will be accorded to the fisheries cooperation agreements with Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania.

2.3.2 Market Supply

Fisheries has become a market driven, dynamically developing sector for the food industry and coastal states have striven to seize their new opportunities by investing in modern fishing fleets and processing plants in response to the growing demand for fish and fisheries products (Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries).

Recognizing the benefits of trade and its potential to contribute to the improvement of living standards of Gambians, the Gambia has been participating in global trading and has thus opened up its fisheries resources to trade. It has since witnessed an intensive exploitation of its fisheries resources by European Union fleets coming through the EC/Gambian Fishing Agreements (1987 – 1996), the Japanese fleets

through bilateral agreements and others through joint ventures with nationals. It should be noted that catches of industrial vessels are exported directly from the fishing grounds and are therefore not reflected as exports and hence the above export figures. This situation is expected to change with the resolution of certain sector specific constraints such as the lack of a fishing port and low capacity for producing value added products. When these are resolved, increased benefits (socio-economic, macroeconomic) will be realized from the catches of the industrial fisheries sub-sector.

2.3.3 Multilateral Trade / Environmental Agreements

The Gambia is a signatory to multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements. It has maintained a liberal trade regime since the introduction of the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) in 1985/86 and more so since the country became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in October 1996. This measure has led to the gradual but progressive reduction in tariffs and the complete elimination of export licences and quotas. Through its liberal trade regime, The Gambia has over the years established and consolidated its trading links with the EU (the main trading partner), USA, Asia countries and the ECOWAS sub-region.

2.3.4 The Lome Convention and Trade Liberalisation

The increasing externalisation of the fisheries sector is also largely linked to the trade mechanisms aimed at boosting exports in an adjustment context. Such is the case, for example, of the Lome Convention linking Europe and ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries. This Convention concluded in 1982 instituted a customs duties exemption regime applicable to most products originating from ACP countries. Being covered by this regime, fisheries products became clearly more competitive. Like other ACP countries, such as the neighbouring Republic of Senegal, The Gambia's fisheries products also benefited from the customs duties exemption regime of the European market. Between 1988 and 1997, exported volumes of fish rose from 1,068 tons to about 2,063 tons (a 100% increase in one decade!).

Thus, while the Lomé Agreement greatly contributed to the general expansion of Gambian fisheries exports, it also created a dependency on the European market. The system of trade preferences reinforced the significance of the European market in the absorption of Gambian fisheries exports. Today, Europe remains by far the main destination of The Gambia's fisheries exports, receiving 1,063 tons out of the 1,330 tons exported in 1999 - that is about 80 per cent of the total. Markets in the sub-region and the rest of Africa received less than 300 tons and the Asian and US markets remain marginal even today. Trade statistical data collected by the Fisheries Department's Statistics Unit for 2003 (five years later) indicates the same trend, for example out of 286.6 tons of fisheries products exported, 245.6 tons (86%) went to European markets. The fisheries products destined for European markets comprise almost exclusively of fresh frozen fish, cephalopods and crustaceans (mainly shrimps) while primarily smoked and dried fish including dried shark meat are sent to African markets.

Now, the new Lomé Convention will erode or eliminate those advantages because it provides for the phasing out of ACP countries' trade advantages. Moreover, the process towards custom tariff reduction initiated under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) could speed up the erosion of these

advantages. Trade liberalisation could also pose a threat to The Gambia's export of fisheries products considering that these exports are destined almost exclusively to the European market.

2.3.5 The Cotonou Agreement

The Gambia is a party to the Cotonou Agreement (CA), a new partnership agreement between ACP States, the European Community and its member States whose objectives are to "integrate the economies of ACP countries into the world economy" through what is known as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). In the Agreement, the Parties agree to conclude new World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible trading arrangements, progressively removing barriers to trade between them and enhancing cooperation in all areas relevant to trade. In order to facilitate the transition to the new trading arrangements, the non-reciprocal trade preferences applied under the Fourth ACP EC Convention shall be maintained during the preparatory period for all ACP countries, under specific conditions defined in the Agreement. At the Doha Ministerial Conference, WTO members were granted a waiver from the obligations under Article I: 1 of GATT 1994 (MFN treatment), requested by the parties to the Agreement, for the period up to 31st December 2007. By then, new WTO-compatible trading arrangements are to be concluded, removing barriers progressively between the parties and enhancing cooperation in all areas relevant to trade, including the formation of free-trade areas within a transitional period. During this period, the EU is to enter into negotiations with ACP countries, aimed at establishing partnership agreements on a bilateral basis, or between the EU and regional groupings (regional economic partnership agreements) commencing by January 2008 at the latest.

Under the existing transitional scenario, in which the non-reciprocal trade preferences granted by EU to ACP countries are maintained, countries such as The Gambia will continue to export fish products to EU countries, with all the implications of incentives that this entails. However, these incentives represent consumption subsidies as they have the tendency to reduce the costs for EU consumers. According to de Moor A.P.G (1997), "*subsidies comprise all measures that keep prices for consumers below the market level or keep prices for producers above the market level or that reduce costs for consumers and producers by giving direct or indirect support*". These subsidies have adverse ecological effects and give rise to economic distortions. The negative ecological effects arise from the fact that the incentives encourage consumption which in turn also encourages production, culminating into increased pressure on the exportable fish stocks.

In future when liberalisation of trade between ACP countries and the EU is fully achieved and the reciprocal trade preferences are applied, drastic changes to this situation are not expected. This is because of the disparities in the purchasing powers of the peoples of ACP and EU countries and in the values of their currencies will for a long time ensures that EU consumers of fish products from ACP countries will continue to enjoy preferential access to these products which they can more easily afford.

2.3.6 The African Growth Opportunity Act

The Gambia in 2003 became eligible to benefit from the U.S.A. African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA). While The Gambia is fully committed to exploring these benefits, for the time being, the priority is to target fisheries and horticultural products for export to the US market in the short to medium term.

In the meantime, efforts are concentrated on ensuring that that products emanating from the sectors meet the standards and quality control requirements of the US market.

However, the prospect of Gambian fish products being able to penetrate the US market remain slim, chiefly due to the competitive advantage they enjoy in EU markets and the less favourable competitive disadvantage from which they suffer in US markets. In the unlikely event that exporting fish to the US becomes a possibility as a result of AGOA, this would be yet another source of increased pressure on the the Gambia's export fish stock base.

2.3.7 ECOWAS

The Gambia has been a member of ECOWAS since its inception on the 28 May 1975. It was initially envisaged that free trade between ECOWAS countries would be achieved by 1996 through the Trade Liberalisation Scheme (TLS) adopted in 1990. However, revisions to the ECOWAS founding treaty, introduced in 1993, postponed the creation of a free-trade area to 2000, and the establishment of economic and monetary union by 2005. The Gambia is committed to implementing ECOWAS protocols, particularly on the free movement of persons and goods. It has ratified almost all the ECOWAS protocols except the one on extradition and value-added. However, like many other ECOWAS Member States, The Gambia's level of implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) is slow and limited. This has significantly affected the volume of intra-ECOWAS trade.

Although this has restrained the freedom of movement of goods between the countries of the region, the slow and limited extent of the implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme has enabled countries like The Gambia to regulate the flow of raw unprocessed fish out of the country. The overall effect of this may be a tendency to reduce the exploitation of export fish species, albeit limited.

2.3.8 Bilateral agreements

The Gambia has signed almost 12 bilateral agreements on trade and investment with different countries, notably with Tunisia, Mauritania, Guinea Buisseau, Cuba and Senegal. Investment agreements were signed with State of Qatar, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Guinea-Conakry, Mauritania and Ukraine.

2.4 *Poverty context in The Gambia*

The fishing communities characterized poverty as: lack of productive marine and coastal living resources; insufficient food for the family, poor diet and malnourish children (food insecurity); low level of fish production; lack of fishing materials and inputs; post-harvest losses; lack of livestock; instability in the household; poor housing conditions; poor economic and social infrastructure; low income levels; poor health; high dependency (too many children), inadequate labour force; and poor sanitary conditions in addition to environmental sanitation. (Source: Strategy for Poverty Alleviation Co-coordinating Office, Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) report, 2007).

This however, is consistent with the general definition, which, state, as “Poverty is a denial of basic human rights in terms of injustices, exclusions, deprivation, and inequalities”. This social evil is today’s concern to all societies in the world, therefore, all its causes must be effectively dealt with, if social justice and cohesion, economic and social progress, democracy and ultimately peace are to be further strengthened (UNESCO Draft Medium Strategy 2002-2007, article 173).

2.4.1 Poverty Profile of Individual fishflok, Households, fishing Communities and Causes

2.4.2.1 Indicators of Poverty at Individual Level includes:-

Working without inadequate fishing materials/inputs, or insufficient labour force, increase price for pre-mixed fuel, poor fish processing facilities, access to credit facilities, malnourished person due to poor diet, poor housing condition and lack education and skill, etc.

2.4.2.2 Indicators of Poverty at Household Level includes:-

Poor housing condition, children crying frequently for food, frequent quarrelling with wife(s), inadequate food / irregular meals / reduced ration, lack of education & skills, household with many dependants (children + old age), socially and physically isolated etc.

2.4.2.3 Indicators of Poverty at Community Level includes:-

Inaccessibility to productive resources (fishing materials, inputs and extension service), lack of credit facilities, few or no livestock and drought animals, poor fish marketing facilities, lack of sufficient fish processing houses, post harvest losses, poor sanitary conditions, disintegrated community, lack of clean drinking water, lack of education and skills, dilapidated houses, inadequate food, lack of sufficient social services and viable social institutions to facilitate development process, poor environmental sanitation etc.

In relation to the above identified issues such as fisheries governance, food security, poverty, market supply and nutritional safety, the proposed national action plan can only be implemented and succeed if the participatory management and pre-cautionary approach to natural resources issues are incorporated and applied in both national, sub-regional and regional polices to facilitate trans-boundary management of marine resources within Member States of the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission.

3) National Action Plan Matrix

3.1 Vision

To sustainably manage and protect fisheries and aquaculture, as well as all natural resources to contribute significantly to the attainment of national and regional socio-economic development goals of food self-sufficiency and security and other livelihood engagement.

3.2 Challenges

The challenges resulting from the present context and future perspectives and outlook are at the same time strategic and technical. They are strategic for they concern human food, economy, social equity and marine environment, all being a matter of choice and political decision at national and regional level; technical as they affect the aspects of compliance with the international trading system and improvement of the operating conditions and enhancement of fisheries resources, aspects that call for expertise, support and monitoring in the long run.

Present the strategic challenges that can be the following:

3.2.1 Food-related

The challenge we face, in sum, is not simply to increase production; it is also to ensure for current increase in food prices can be seized as an opportunity in order to advance the realization of the right to food by the adoption of structural measures, leading to a profound reform of the global food system. Also the overexploitation of natural resources is contribution to food shortages. States should establish mechanisms ensuring the accountability of all branches of government in order to ensure that they comply with the obligations imposed on them for the realization of the right to food. They should also strengthen the rights of land users, fisher folks and particularly of women.

3.2.2 Environmental

To be critically more certain, Climate change and waste, obviously, are major problems. Other issues - localised flooding, the loss of indigenous species, problems of local environmental amenity through littering and fouling, land contamination - may be less dramatic or obvious, but they are no less real and, cumulatively, have the potential to undermine any more general claim that West African's environment is on a positive footing. Gambia may be 'environmentally efficient' because it packs a lot of people into a small area, but its environmental footprint is immense. Gambia's environmental challenges may stretch across the rest of the sub-region and the world as a whole. A responsible country should not be thinking merely of its direct, local impacts, but those on the far side of the world. It is surely part of being a sustainable state to acknowledge the fact that making the things we buy and coping with the stuff we throw away - both of which are managed by people who live in other countries - is our responsibility.

However, there are perhaps two over-arching challenges that need our attention. The first is the issue of environmental justice. There is now substantial evidence, backing up the common sense, which poor people tend to experience more 'environmental bads' and have lesser access to 'environmental goods' than rich people. Poor people tend to live in the dirtiest neighbourhoods, with the worst air quality (the neighbourhoods are often closest to the busiest roads), with the highest risk of flooding. They tend to have less access to green space, and the green space to which they do have access tends to be of poorer quality. The rich, by contrast, generally live furthest from the landfill sites and the energy-from-waste plants, furthest from busy roads and industrial sites, and have houses where there are lots of lovely trees and nice parks.

The idea of 'eco-systems services' is a recent attempt to address some of this problem, by trying to quantify the benefits to society provided by various environmental systems. Clean air, for example, provides the service of preventing respiratory disease; trees provide the service of absorbing carbon dioxide, as well as helping to deal with the urban heat island effect and providing habitat for a wide variety of animal species; many animal species - bees, most obviously - play a role in pollination that is hugely valuable in maintaining the productivity of agriculture. If we can estimate the value played by these things, perhaps they can be accounted for alongside the economic and the social on a more even footing, making it easier to give them the priority that many feel they should.

3.2.3 Economic

Low population is engaged in formal private sector employment, which gives the government a small income tax base, poor tax compliance and enforcement because the national tax office lacks the staff and resources to investigate evaders, absence of improving economic growth and this will require a re-energisation of the microeconomic reform agenda, absence of government to strengthen competition, lower barriers to new business and stimulate growth in all productive sectors.

3.2.4 Social and cultural

As regards social challenges, the following are identified, cultural and tribal diversities, political affiliations causing social diversities, abortion, suicide, illegal immigration, bullying, alcoholic youths, tobacco smoking, gambling, sex for fish or prostitution for fish, maximum school leaving age (school drop outs), corruption, high unemployment rate, riots, child labour as a result of poverty (under age street selling), beggars, etc, and Cultural challenges fall under the following categories, lack of enough understanding of different cultural norms and skill in dealing with people from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds, absence of cultural competency as cultural competency is not about learning what to do and not do in a particular locality or country, the absence of mindfulness in the use of the Golden Rule particularly in cross-cultural situations, etc,

3.3 Technical Challenges

3.3.1 Availability and quality of fisheries products on national market

The differences between the legislation, organization and function of inspection services and "*modus operandi*" of such services are among the most important practical difficulties faced by the Gambia to comply with the requirements imposed by importing countries. Certificate requirements of different countries cause inconvenience to both exporter and responsible government regulatory agency. There are a number of different forms and languages, which often result in confusion.

Application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) concept is an alternative choice to such traditional barriers, which is now embraced everywhere by public and private sectors. The worldwide application of HACCP principles, as recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, is expected to become the vehicle which will stimulate international harmonization of the fish inspection system. Nevertheless, even after the ratification of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) under the World Trade Organization (WTO), differences are expected to continue between various national standards and inspection systems maintaining or creating new non-tariff trade barriers. Moving towards the "equivalence" approach to remove such a burden and liberalize the international seafood trade without sacrificing food quality or safety is essential, absence Equivalence capabilities of different inspection and certification systems to meet the same objectives, according to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, issuance of laws and regulations without appropriate coordination of the work of the different government agencies.

This has sometimes led to overlapping and even contradictory provisions, and to difficulties in their meaningful enforcement. Often, outdated laws and regulations no longer answered the present needs of the country. Changes in the social structure, in food habits and in modern fisheries and food technology were inadequately reflected in these outdated regulations.

3.3.2 Added value of fisheries products

Lack of standard laboratory to test microbial risk in food and benzo (a) pyrene smoked in products, high cost and lack of packaging material in the Gambia, difficulties accessing fuelwood for fish smoking by artisanal fish processors as well as high cost of energy.

3.3.4 Fisheries governance and poverty reduction

The current state of fish stocks by FAO indicate that prevailing systems of fisheries management have been largely ineffective at controlling access to fishery resources to ensure their sustainability; one quarter of fish stocks are fished beyond sustainable levels, and half of all stocks are fully exploited, with no potential for increases in production with increasing fishing effort. Fisheries are inherently difficult to manage; they are complex, dynamic, subject to competing demands on limited resources and vulnerable to external influences such as environmental degradation and climate change. Gambia Fisheries

institution also faces severe human and financial constraints and there is a great need for capacity development and improved governance, particularly in member states of the SRFC.

Therefore improved fisheries management can help tackle these issues: improve productivity of fish stocks, increase the economic benefits to the state, and maintain and enhance the contributions they make to poor people's livelihoods and food security.

The outputs in this cluster provide policy messages and recommendations to support the process of change towards improved fisheries management and governance, and to raise awareness of the issues and the potential of fisheries to contribute to poverty reduction. The FMSP has made an important contribution, in the fields of fisheries management and fisheries development, to international best practice. These outputs are focussed on the management of fisheries and the commodities that flow from them. If managed appropriately, fisheries can provide a range of goods and services which can underpin the livelihoods of people working in the sector, and can also contribute to the livelihoods of people outside the sector.

3.3.5 Strengthening of marine protected areas governance

An accelerated loss of biodiversity and declining fish stocks due mainly to a natural resource overexploitation, a strong demographic pressure in and around MPAs resulting from a high increase in population and a strong mobility of natural resource users, an inefficient controlled access to marine resources leading to inter- and intra-sectoral conflicts and linked to a low enforcement capacity, a pauperization of natural resource users' communities related to the rent dissipation and the overcapacity, and to the lack of economic alternatives, an unequal wealth distribution which hampers the reconversion of residents, inconsistent or fragmented policies and programs for sustainable natural resource uses with continued investments in production-oriented programs while resources decrease, a weak institutional and stakeholder capacity to plan and implement natural resource uses connected with the absence of incentives and inadequate technical and financial support.

3.3.6 Integrated approach and prospective approach to marine management

Weak elaboration and operationalisation of the Ecosystem Approach (EA), restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and promotion of the recovery of threatened species, Support to local populations to develop and, implement remedial action in degraded areas, economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity, protection and encouragement of customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements, development of indicators to enable performance monitoring of the implementation of CBD objectives, etc,

3.3.7 Policy coherence for development at both regional and trans sectoral levels

Despite the various initiatives of the development community, the framework of the development cooperation system remains unbalanced, slagg efforts concerning policy coherence for development

often aim at improving the management and evaluation of the aid agency, programmes and projects. Issues of consistency involving policies, countries and agencies have been neglected. Other challenges are examples of incoherence between aid and non-aid development cooperation is the impact of developed partners' fisheries and agricultural policies on developing countries' food security objectives – which is one of the MDGs. Weak and slow efforts aimed at establishing long-term coherence between trade policy, financial policy, and development, ineffective or weak comprehensive plan needed to look at issues concerning fisheries, agriculture, competition, development partnership and governance, foreign investment, knowledge and innovation, sustainable development, trade and fiscal policy, etc,

4) Strategic Results

Based on the context and perspectives listed above, the strategic results of the National Action plan for the WAMER project 2012-2016 – the Gambia project include the following:

- 1- The contribution of fisheries products to national food security is enhanced;
- 2- Initiatives and tools to promote the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in WAMER are established;
- 3- The capacities of Civil Society organizations (NGOs, Professional Fishers' Organizations, Journalists' networks) and parliamentarians active in fisheries and environment are strengthened;
- 4- Environmentally sound activities to generate income and improve livelihoods

Strategic results are divided into specific objectives and actions. These actions formulated to achieve objectives.

National Action Plan: Detailed Presentation of Objectives, Results, and Activities

GOVERNANCE, POLICIES OF MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE WAMER ECO-REGION				
NATIONAL ACTION PALN OF GAMBIA				
	Logical framework	Indicators	Source and means of verification	Responsibility and partnerships (institutions and/or projects)
General objective				
Specific objective				
Result 1	The contribution of fisheries products to national food security is enhanced			
Activity 1.1.	Compile and analyze available information on food consumption and contribution of fisheries products to national food security	Document available by end of 2013	- Study report - Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : FAO, DoFish, NaNA, DG-Dev., SPS committee,
Activity 1.2.	Develop an action plan that aim to ensure an efficient contribution of fisheries products to the protein intake in the country	Action Plan available by the end of 2013	- Document of action plan	R : WWF/UNDP P : FAO, DoFish, NaNA, DG-Dev.
Activity 1.3.	Implement the priority actions identified within the national action plan for national food security	70 % of identified priority actions are successfully implemented by the end of 2016	- Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : FAO, DoFish, NaNA, DG-Dev, DOA
Activity 1.4.	Identify and implement means to reduce post harvest losses	The percentage of post harvest losses is reduced from 3 % to 2 % of total landings by the end of 2016	- Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, CSO
Activity 1.5.	Promote HACCP standards to improve the quality of fisheries product	Number of EU certified companies increased from 4 to 10 by 2016	- Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, TAGFC, GIEPA, MOTRIE, SPS Committee, etc,
Activity 1.6.	Identify and implement measures to Improve the value chain of targeted fishery products in The Gambia (Bonga, Catfish, Sardinella)	At least 2 value chains improved by the end of 2016	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish. NASCOM, TRY, SPS Committee, Ba Nafaa, CSO, etc
Activity 1.7.	Compile and analyse information on aquaculture experiences and initiatives in the country and the Subregion	At least 2 aquaculture systems appropriate for The Gambia identified and documented by the end of 2013	- Study report - Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, TRY, FAO, CSO, Association of Fish Famers, NEPAD, etc,

Activity 1.8.	Support / develop community based aquaculture projects	3 pilot projects supported / developed by the end of 2016	- Activities reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, NARI, , Association of Fish Famers, decentralised authorities FAO etc
Activity 1.9.	Compile and analyse information on aquaculture experiences and initiatives in the country and the Subregion	At least 2 aquaculture systems appropriate for The Gambia identified and documented by the end of 2013	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, TRY, FAO, CSO, Association of Fish Famers, NEPAD, etc,
Result 2	Initiatives and tools to promote the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in WAMER are established			
Activity 2.1.	Conduct cost-benefit analysis of most profitable fishing practices from a societal perspective	At least 5 best fishing practices are identified and documented by 2014	- Study report	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, Forestry, NEA, NASCOM, TRY, , etc,
Activity 2.2.	Promote Best practices among national decision-makers and coastal communities	At least 3 identified Best Practices are implemented By 2015	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, Commercial Banks, NEA, NASCOM, SDF, Donor agencies, TRY,
Activity 2.3.	Promote compensatory measures to eliminate most destructive practices and implement drastic measures against IUU fishing practices	The 3 most destructive fishing practices are eliminated and IUU reduced by 20 % by the end of 2016	- Progress reports - Data of DoFish	R : WWF/UNDP P : NASCOM, TRY, Ba Nafaa, DoFish, Navy, Sub Regional Fisheries Commission, DPWM, coastal communities, CSO, FAO
Activity 2.4.	Support alternative livelihood for stakeholders involved in abandoned practices	At least 70 % of stakeholders involved in abandoned practices have alternative livelihood activities by 2016	- Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : : Credit Unions, Association of Village Banks, NASCOM, TRY, Ba Nafaa, DoFish, DPWM, FAO etc,
Activity 2.5.	Support the development/implementation of sole, oyster and cockles, catfish, and shrimp co-management plans	At least 3 co-management plans developed / implemented by the end of 2016	- Co-management plan documents - Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, NASCOM, DPWM, Baa Nafaa, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, etc
Activity 2.6.	Ensure the ratification of relevant international agreements/protocols and proceed with the transcription of international objectives into national regulations (FAO plans of actions – sharks, capacity, IUU fishing – CBD, CITES, etc.)	At least 2 international agreements/protocols ratified and transcribed into national regulation by the end of 2016	- Agreements or protocols ratified - Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : , SRFC, DoFish, NASCOM, DPWM, NEA, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities etc
Activity 2.7.	Promote the implementation of transparency check system in the fisheries sector	A transparency check system operational by the end of 2014	- Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, Ba Nafaa, Parliament sub-committee on Environment, Association of Environmental journalists, Association of Gambian sailors etc

Activity 2.8.	Develop and implement management plans for MPAs	At least 2 MPA management plan developed and implementation initiated by the end of 2016	- Management plan	R : DPWM/WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, NEA, Decentralised authorities, CFCs, Fishing communities, DPWM, etc
Activity 2.9.	Support the enforcement of surveillance of MPAs	An operational surveillance system is in place in at least 2 MPAs by 2016	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : DPWM/WWF/UNDP P : : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, Navy, NEA, etc,
Activity 2.10.	Develop business plan for MPAs	Business plan are developed for at least 2 MPAs by the end of 2014	- Business plan document	R : DPWM / WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, DPWM, Forestry, etc,
Activity 2.11.	Develop MPAs sustainable financing mechanisms	MPAs sustainable financing mechanism initiatives developed for at least 2 MPAs by the end of 2016	- Financing mechanism initiatives - Progress reports	R : WWF/UNDP P: PeaceCorps/ PDPWM/DOF/WABSA/
Activity 2.12.	Promote alternative livelihoods that are compatible with MPA objectives	At least 5 alternative livelihoods that are compatible with MPA objectives supported by the end of 2016At least	- Progress reports - Field visits	R: DPWM / WWF / UNDP P: Makasutu Trust, PeaceCorps, DOF, WABSA, RAMPAO, BIOMAC, FIBA, MOFEA
Activity 2.13.	Support the establishment and the functioning MPAs co-management bodies	At least 2 MPAs have functional co-management bodies by the end of 2014	- Progress reports - Field visits	R: DPWM/WWF/UNDP P : National Arts and Culture (NAAC), District authorities, Communities, Site management committees, relevant technical departments
Activity 2.14.	Assess the economic and social contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems to well-being of coastal communities	Document available by 2014	- Study report	R : WWF/UNDP P : DoFish, DPWM, Forestry, NEA, NASCOM, TRY, CSO etc
Activity 2.15.	Promote conservation based on ecosystem services and their link to well-being and poverty reduction of coastal communities	At least 3 conservation initiatives based on ecosystem services and their link to well-being and poverty reduction of coastal communities supported by the end of 2016	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, : DOFish, DPWM, Forestry, NEA, NASCOM, TRY, , etc,
Activity 2.16.	Implement payment for ecosystem services	At least 2 Effective payment for ecosystem services (PES) implemented by 2016	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : Fishing Communities, DOFish, TRY, , Forestry, NEA, DPWM, etc,
Result 3.	The capacities of Civil Society organizations (NGOs, Professional Fishers' Organizations, Journalists' networks) and parliamentarians active in fisheries and environment are strengthened			
Activity 3.1.	Compile a list of NGO in order to	Roster of NGOs and experts available	- Study report	R : WWF/UNDP

	determine domains of intervention, training needs and expertise for each institutions	by the end of 2013		P : : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, Ba Nafaa, NGOs Affairs Agency etc
Activity 3.2.	Support TANGO Platform	5 trainings on identified training needs organized by the end of 2015	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP/TANGO P : : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, Ba Nafaa, etc
Activity 3.3.	Promote participative approach to fisheries management	Fisheries stakeholders participate in at least 3 major fisheries management decisions / initiatives by the end of 2015	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : : DoFish, NASCOM, TRY, CFCs, Fishing communities, Ba Nafaa, etc
Result 4	Environmentally sound activities to generate income and improve livelihoods are supported			
Activity 4.1.	Identify potential alternative livelihoods for fisher folks	At least 6 alternative livelihood activities identified and documented by the end of 2013	- Study report	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, NASCOM, TRY, etc,
Activity 4.2.	Support the implementation of pilot alternative livelihood activities in coastal communities	At least 4 pilot alternative livelihood activities are successfully implemented by the end of 2016	- Progress reports - Field visits	R : WWF/UNDP P : DOFish, Donor organizations, Communities, Credit Unions, Association of village banks, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of trade, DPWM, SDF, etc,

2013 Annual Work Plan

ACTIVITES	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			RESPONSIBLE	AMOUNT €
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
R1. The contribution of fisheries products to national food security is enhanced														
<i>Compile and analyse available information on food consumption and contribution of fisheries products to national food security</i>													FAO, DoFish, NaNA, DG-Dev., SPS committee,	4 100
<i>Develop an action plan that aim to ensure an efficient contribution of fisheries products to the protein intake in the country</i>														3 000
<i>Compile and analyse information on aquaculture experiences and initiatives in the country and the Subregion</i>													DOFish, TRY, FAO, CSO, Association of Fish Famers, NEPAD, etc,	5 800
<i>Support / develop community based aquaculture projects</i>													DoFish. NARI, , Association of Fish Famers, decentralised authorities FAO	17 000
Result 2. Initiatives and tools to promote the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in WAMER are established														
<i>Conduct cost-benefit analysis of most profitable fishing practices from a societal perspective</i>													WWF/UNDP/DoFish	15 300
<i>Promote Best practices among national decision-makers and coastal communities</i>													WWF/UNDP/DoFish	16 800
<i>Support the development/implementation of sole, oyster and cockles, catfish, and shrimp co-management plans</i>													Ba Nafaa Project/DoFish/WWF	80 000
<i>Develop and implement management plans for MPAs</i>													DPWM/WWF/UNDP/Communities	20 400
<i>Support the enforcement of surveillance of MPAs</i>													DPWM/WWF/UNDP	45 900
<i>Develop business plan for MPAs</i>													WWF/ DoFish/ NASCOM/TRY/CF	3 500

Grid of indicators

This grid of indicators is meant to define the baseline situation and afterwards throughout the project, to measure its effects.

Theme	Description (unit)	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Food safety	Average quantity of fish consumed (kg/capita/year)	25kg				
	Nutritional intake from fish consumption (kCal/capita/year)	N/A				
	Meal frequency with fish (by day or by week)	5kg/week				
	Availability of the fish in comparison to the demand (percentage of client satisfaction)	90%				
	Average distance to first fish sales outlet (km)					
	Average expenses of the household to buy fish (GMD per week)	D150/Week				
	Species mainly consumed and dish mainly prepared	Bonga/stew				
	Mode of conservation mainly used for fish (smokes, salted,dried,boiled or fresh)	Smoked/dried				
	Average time of conservation of fish (days)	3-4 months				
	Average frequency supply of sales outlet (number per week)and seasonality	Daily				
	Average seasonality of sales outlet supply (1 no seasonality ; 5 : strong seasonality)	1				
Poverty reduction	Average annual salary of fishermen (GMD/year)	Crew of 10 : 292,900.00 GMD/year				
	Average turnover of artisanal fishing boats (GMD/year)	Crew of 10 : 868,092.74 GMD/year				
	Average population depending on fishing (sector upstream and down and families) (number/fisherman)	140/fishermen refer frame survey				
	Relative price of fish in comparison to other food –chicken, rice etc.) (price ratio)	D25/kg –cheap meat(MB) D110/kg				
	Share of fisherman family income spent for their food (%)	Dad				
Market supply in fishery and aquaculture	Annual volume of catches by sector (t)	Artisanal/47,000mt/year Industrial/3,000mt/year				
	Annual value of catches by sector (GMD)	1.25 billion GMD				
	Volume and value of aquaculture production (t)	16.5mt				
	Value of aquaculture production (GMD)	800,840.00 GMD				
	Added value of the post-capture sector (GMD)	N/A				

	Share of extra national exports of fishery resources (%)	N/A				
	Share of extra national exports of aquaculture products (%)	30%				
	Number of traded fish species in the country and categories (small pelagics, demersals (number))	Small pelagic : <i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i> (bonga), Sardinella, Mackerel etc. Demersals : Cuttle fish, octopus, threadfins sole fish, shrimps, lobsters, baracuda, <i>sacca</i> , sompat, catfish, cephalopods, seabreams, and groupers				
	Average selling price of fish on the national market (GMD)	small pelagic : 25 GMD/kg demersals : 60 GMD/kg				
Fishery and aquaculture governance	Number of fish by sector (artisanal fishing and industrial fishing)	N/A				
	Estimated share of volumes of migrant fishing of nationals outside EEZ in comparison to the total volume of catches (%)	N/A				
	Annual budget for research and national fishery management (GMD)	1.5 million GMD				
	Annual budget for research and national aquaculture management (GMD)	2.5 million GMD				
	Total amount of bilateral and multilateral assistance to the development of fishery and aquaculture sectors (US\$)	US\$ 480,000				
	Number of employment of national research institutes in fishery and aquaculture (number)	8 Personal				
	Share of fisheries jointly managed or appealing to an integrated management with all fisheries stakeholders (%)	N/A				
Conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems	Proportion of fisheries stocks fully exploited or overexploited (%)	FD TO PROVIDE INFO				
	Estimated share of IUU fishing on the total volume of catches; (%)	N/A				
	Number of official Marine Protected Areas having a management plan (number)	4				
	Number of official Marine Protected Areas that do not have a management plan (number)	NONE				
	Total economic value of marine and coastal ecosystems	N/A				

	(GMD)					
	Number of employments in the management of marine and coastal ecosystems (number)	N/A				
	Existence national management policy of marine and coastal ecosystems (yes/no)	YES				
	Number of environmental NGO in the country (number)	8				
	Total management budget of environmental NGO in the country (GMD)	N/A				

Identification card of projects

Project name	Responsible organization(s)	Focal point, role	Recipient country (s /ies)	Funding organization(s) and budget	Dates of beginning and end	Objectives of project	Possible synergies with WAMER governance project	Degree of possible synergy (1 : very weak synergy ; 5 : very strong synergy)
ACP Program FISH II « strengthening fishery management in the ACP countries »	EU	DOFish/NASCOM	Cape-Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Léone	EU on FED budget (3,688 million euros)	2010-2012	Assistance to institutional strengthening of fisheries management and elaboration of fishery policy	Fishery management plan, joint-management migrant fishing ,food safety and poverty reduction	5
Sub regional AP for conservation and sustainable management of shark population (phase II)	SRFC/FIBA	Mika Diop	Ecoregion countries WAMER	MAVA, DIGIS (0,751 million euros)	2008-2012	Elaboration and implementation of a subregional shark action plan	On the management of sharks and ecologically related species ,conservation of critical habitats for shark survival	4
Support to the fishery resources management in West Africa (phase II)	SRFC	DOFish/NCC-samal Pelagics	WAMER ecoregion countries	German cooperation (2,37 million euros)	2008-	Assistance to institutional strengthening of fisheries management and elaboration of fishery policy	Fishery management plan, joint-management, migrant fishing ,food safety and poverty reduction	5
Towards regional policies	SRFC	DOFish &	WAMER ecoregion	Netherlands	2007-	Management of stocks of small	Management plan of small pelagics,	4

for a sustainable management for small pelagic		NASCOM	countries + Morocco	(522570 €)	2011	pelagic and associated fisheries	migrant fishing, food safety	
Building regional capacities of management and governance of fishing (REGARDAO)	IUCN/SRFC	Renaud Bailleux, UICN/SRFC	WAMER ecoregion countries	MAVA/DIGIS (1,9 million euros)	2008-2012	Institutional strengthening of fishery management, sector-based studies on fishing	Migrant fishing, fishery products commercialisation, fishery management NGO, fishery joint-management	5
Support programme to the development of initiatives of joint-management	SRFC	Philippe Tous	Cape-Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	AFD (5 million euros)	2008-2013	Assistance to the institutional strengthening of fishery management and elaboration of process of joint-management of fisheries	Fishery management plan, joint-management, migrant fishing ,food safety and poverty reduction MPA	4
Regional project of fisheries in West Africa	CSRFP	DOFish/NASCOM	WAMER ecoregion countries	French Funds for World Environment, WB, Dutch Bank,, , Japanese Preparation Funds (1,425 million euros)	2008-2013	Assistance to the institutional strengthening of fishery management and elaboration of fishery policies	Fishery management plan, joint-management, migrant fishing ,food safety and poverty reduction MPA	5
APP with EU	EU and national departments of fishery management	DOFish/NASCOM	Cape-Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania (changing amounts according to countries)	EU under bilateral agreement bilatéral	Under way	Assistance to the institutional strengthening of fishery management and elaboration of fishery policies	Fishery management plan, joint-management, migrant fishing ,food safety and poverty reduction MPA	5
Economic evaluation of	University of	Pierre Failler	Senegal, Guinea-	MAVA, DIGIS	2008-	Assess the economic value of	Governance of Marine Protected	4

marine and coastal ecosystems, of Marine Protected Areas(EVA project)	Portsmouth	andThomas Binet	Bissau, Guinea, Cape-Verde	(200,000 euros)	2012	marine ecosystems for a sample of MPA in West Africa	Areas, economic value of ecosystems, financing of the conservation, ecosystem services and poverty reduction	
ECOST	University of Portsmouth	Pierre Failler and national coordinators	Senegal, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau	EU	2007-2011	Assess the societal costs related to the practices and fishery policies	Fishery and poverty reduction, societal assessment, fishery governance	4
Reduce Gambia 's vulnerability to sea level rise and associated impacts of climate change	National Environment Agency (NEA)	NEA/UNDP	The Gambia	GEF (10m Euros)	48 months	To reduce Gambia's vulnerability to sea-level rise and associated impacts of climate change by improving coastal defenses and enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities	Policy, livelihood improvement and strengthening and coastal management	5
ICZM	EU/GOTG	EU	The Gambia	EU (5,148,000)	2012-2015	Establishment of a participatory and self sustainable integrated coastal zone management	Governance, strengthening national institutional capacity, policy on land management	4
PSRICD	UNDP/Spanish DGTTF.	UNDP	The Gambia	UNDP/DGTTF (1,800,000)	2012-2015	Laying foundation for development, financing implementation of long-term strategy for public/civil service reform and institutional capacity	Governance, institutional capacity strengthening	2

						development		
CILIP	GOTG	Dept. Of Community Development	The Gambia	IDB (\$18,020,000)	2011-2015	Support government's strategy to alleviate poverty and its consequences in rural and peri-urban areas by increasing social and economic opportunities for the beneficiaries	Poverty alleviation institutional capacity and food security	4
LHDP		Dept. Of Veterinary Services	The Gambia	IFAD	201-2016	To increase the returns to village-level livestock and horticultural production and build capacity at grassroots level in rural areas	Livelihood improvement, capacity building and food security	5
GAFDP	GoTG	Dept of Fisheries	The Gambia	AfDB	2009-2011	Rehabilitate the Banjul fisheries jetty and three fish landing sites of Albreda, Bintang, and Tendaba including access roads and associated facilities and to construct fish central market in Bakoteh.	Fisheries development to improve livelihood, reduce climate change impacts, and increase economic opportunities for fisher folks	4
Ba-NaFaa	URI/WWF WAMPO	Dept. of Fisheries	The Gambia	USAID \$2,000,000	2009-2014	To ensure that artisanal fisheries and coastal ecosystems in The Gambia (and selected stocks	coastal ecosystem including fisheries management, governance and capacity building of local and state	

						shared with Senegal) are managed more sustainably, incorporating significant participation of fisherfolks in decision making, and attaining improved economic benefits for both men and women involved in the market value chain	actors as well as food security	
GNAIP	ECOWAS/GoTG	MOA	The Gambia	GoTG/ECOWAS \$15,000.000	2010-2015	To increase agricultural sector's contribution to national economy, growth enhancing and poverty reduction	Poverty reduction	3

Risks

The following risks are anticipated during the implementation of the AP:

1. Inability to mobilize sufficient resources to implement the AP
2. Inadequate support from donor agencies and development partners
3. Inadequate human resources to implement the AP
4. Changes in development priorities of the GOTG
5. Fiduciary risks
6. Organizational risks

The above-mentioned risks will be mitigated by:

1. Implementing an effective resource mobilization strategy
2. Developing effective partnerships with donor agencies
3. Ensuring the AP is aligned with government priorities
4. Implementing sound strategies for financial and program management