

**Status of ongoing/planned activities on domestication, ratification or implementation of global instruments on aquatic biodiversity.**

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# About the FCWC

Intergovernmental Regional Fisheries Advisory Body created by the Cotonou Convention on 7 November 2007 under FAO support. Comprises 6 Member States:

- Benin
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Togo

## Mission

Promote and support cooperation among Member States to build a sustainable fisheries sector and derive high levels of social and economic benefits in harmony with the environment and in line with international standards.

## Vision

To work together to achieve an efficient, very dynamic, inclusive and participative organization for the sustainable development of fishing in the central west Gulf of Guinea.



# Main Bodies

## Conference of Ministers

Comprising the Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Member States.



FCWC Chairperson, Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson, with FCWC Secretary General, Dr. Antoine Gaston Djihinto.

## Advisory & Coordinating Committee

Comprising the Directors of the Ministries for Fisheries/Aquaculture/Maritime.



FCWC ACC Members or reps at the West Africa Task Force 16 Meeting in Monrovia, Liberia.

## Secretariat

Headquartered in Tema, Ghana in the Fisheries Research Institute building.



FCWC ACC Members or reps at the West Africa Task Force 16 Meeting in Monrovia, Liberia.

## Status of ratification of relevant international agreements by FCWC Member States

	<b>Benin</b>	<b>C. d'Ivoire</b>	<b>Ghana</b>	<b>Liberia</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>Togo</b>
1982 UNCLOS	X	X	X	X	X	X
1993 FAOCA	X	-	X	-	-	-
1995 UNFSA	(s)	(s)	X	X	X	(s)
2007 ILO WFC*	-	-	X	-	-	-
2009 PSMA	X	X	X	X	X	X
2023 BBNJ	-	-	-	-	-	-

(X) ratified; (s) Signatory, ratification in process; \*Agreement not yet in force

## Membership by FCWC Member States in key regional and international organisations.

	Benin	C. Ivoire	Ghana	Liberia	Nigeria	Togo
AU	X	X	X	X	X	X
ECOWAS	X	X	X	X	X	X
FAO/CECAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abuja MoU	X	X	X	(S)	X	X
INFOPECHE	-	X	X	X	X	X
ATLAFCO	X	X	X	-	X	(S)
ICCAT	-	X	X	X	X	-

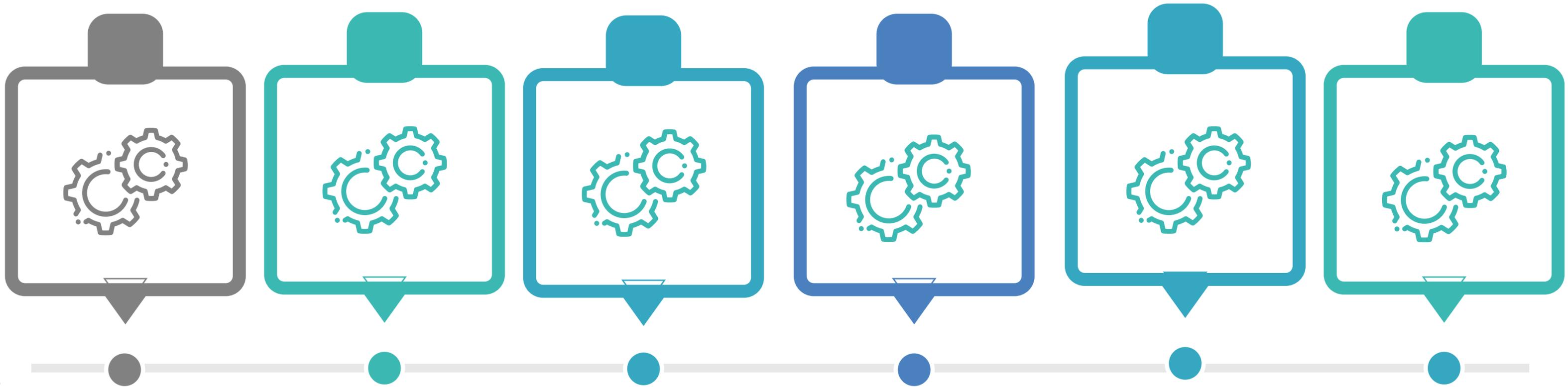


# FCWC **Projects**

## **Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa (PESCAO) (2018 - 2023)**

- Funded by the European Union
- worked with ECOWAS, SRFC
- Establishment of Regional MCS Centre in 2020
- Holding of joint patrols between Benin & Togo
- Development of a regional pool of observers
  - protocols for organizing joint patrols
  - protocol for establishing regional pool of observers
- West Africa Sustainable Oceans Project (WASOP) (under development)

# FCWC PROJECTS



**(2014 - present)**

Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa project

**(2018 - 2023)**

Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa (PESCAO) project

**(2021 - present)**

Improving Fisheries Governance in Ghana and Wider Sub-region (IFG) project

**(2023 - present)**

Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Management in the FCWC Region

**(2024 - present)**

Utilization of Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the Implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Nature-Based Coastal Solutions project

**(2024 - present)**

Creating Synergies between Indigenous Practices and Scientific Knowledge (ISIPSK)(Sankofa) project



# FCWC **Projects**

## **Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa (2014-present)**



- Funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- supported by a Technical Team comprising TMT and Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF)
- West Africa Task Force
  - established a regional communications platform
  - 2 regional meetings annually
  - at least 1 national working group meeting annually





# FCWC **Projects**

## **Improving Fisheries Governance in Ghana and Wider Sub-region (IFG Project) (2021 - present)**



- funded by Oak Foundation and Oceans 5
- implementing partners FCWC, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Friends of the Nation Ghana (FoN Ghana), Hen Mpoano and TMT
- strengthen fisheries governance and transparency
- suspension of Transshipment at sea (saiko) since September 2021
- collaboration on fisheries closed season, starting with Ghana (2016), Côte d'Ivoire (2023 & 2024), others to follow
  - establishment of Landing Beach Enforcement Committees (LaBECs)
  - Advocating for Regional Fishing closed season

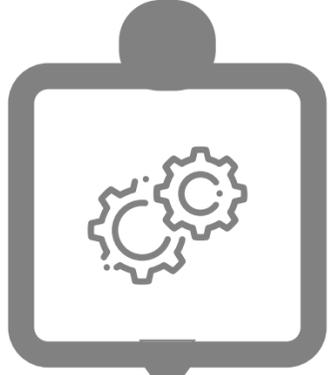




# FCWC **Projects**

## **Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Management in the FCWC Region (2023-present)**

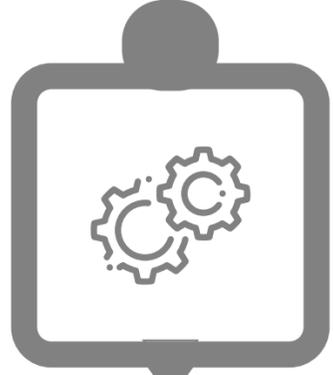
- funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- Objectives:
  - Strengthening Monitoring Control and Surveillance for aquatic biodiversity conservation
  - environmental protection efforts through marine spatial planning and marine protected areas
  - Aquatic biodiversity conservation through a multi-faceted approach (closed season, gear directives, etc.)



# FCWC **Projects**

## **Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Management in the FCWC Region (2023-present) CONT'D** :::::

- The FCWC RMCSC is providing support to the Member Countries through Monitoring closed and non trawling zones to support the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the FCWC region.
- The RMCSC have plotted the coordinates for the zones on the RMCSC RVMS for surveillance and monitoring.
- The FCWC received support from AU - IBAR to identify the various restricted zones, Ramsar sites in the FCWC region and also provided some equipment to support data collection and inspections of these areas.



## FCWC **Projects**

### **Utilization of Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the Implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Nature-Based Coastal Solutions (January 2024-present)**

- Funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Jointly implemented by IUCN
- 3 pilot countries - Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo
- 4 components:
  - Component 1 - Marine Spatial Planning
  - Component 2 - Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)
  - Component 3 - Coastal and Marine Nature-Based Solutions
  - Component 4 - Capacity building, regional coordination and knowledge management



# **Utilization of Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the Implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Nature-Based Coastal Solutions (January 2024-present)**

- **Objectives**

- Mapping and management of coastal and marine areas improved by establishing a sub-regional MSP to enhance cooperation and support partnerships for financing.
- Improved organisation of regional integrated ecosystem services
- Improved understanding of the state of ecosystems pertaining to the provision of ecosystem services
- Establishment of a PES system, increasing the monetary contribution by users for their use of ecosystem services, improved regional cooperation and understanding of PES.
- Improved management of ecologically important ecosystems for the provision of ecosystem services through NBS.
- Capacity development and Cross-cutting regional institutional arrangements
- Improved regional coordination for scaling up of NBS and PES



FAO-  
FIRMS

# FCWC LOAs & MOUs

## FCWC & FAO- Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Secretariat (2019-present)

- Enhancing the regional fisheries database on catch and effort data for artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial
- Improving the data collection systems
- Integrate regional data collection systems





FCWC-ILO

# FCWC **LOAs & MOUs**

## FCWC & International Labour Organization - Memorandum of Understanding (2022-present)

- Development of a draft protocol to address labour standards in fisheries in the region
- Operationalize the provisions of C188
- Support the adoption of C188
  - Establish a regional working group on labour standards in fisheries



# KEY CHALLENGES

- Lack of finance
- Lack of technical capacity
- Some member states are unaware of the instruments



***Thank you***

