

A light blue silhouette of a world map is centered in the background of the slide.

Small-scale fisheries Academy – testing the waters in Senegal

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Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl

Scale matters

Global specialty vs. local multi-functionality

- Whether it's peak oil, water availability or global fisheries statistics by FAO, such large-scale analyses and the policy advice derived from them tend to be the domain of technical experts in the respective discipline or large bureaucracies operating in “silos”.
- Further down towards local levels, the patterns become more complicated, because e.g. “water” is linked to many different purposes – drinking, washing, irrigation, fishing, food production and processing – energy, jobs, foreign exchange earnings, ... and local actors must combine them to thrive.

Diversity matters

The Power of diverse ethnic, cultural, gender,... perspectives: *Nature*, 7 June 2018

Making labs more diverse enhances scientific output and pertinence of research questions for problem solving. Success factors:

- Mutual respect and suspending judgement
- Active incorporation of other knowledge systems and perspectives - From research “about” to research “with” - work for inclusiveness
- Create connections, listen attentively
- Recruiting, mentoring, supporting – 15-30% critical
- Continuity of investment in people & collaboration

Social regulation vs state power

Two examples illustrating the mutually beneficial relationship between traditional (social) regulation through the community elders and dignitaries and the public fisheries administration:

- MCS by pirogues in Fass Boye capturing captains of industrial vessels infringing rules and handing them over to the coast guard for fining.
- Prohibition of certain gear and under-sized sardinellas in catches could not always be enforced by under-resourced administrative services, but was enforced by several fishing communities and tacitly sanctioned by attendance of fishing inspectors at the community meetings.



Breakdown of a tacit alliance

World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (US\$ 28 mio. for Senegal): 80% for management, but **only 12% for research, after** the start

- Supported introduction of **new institutions**: local committee for artisanal fisheries (CLPA) with far-reaching prerogatives trespassing those of the traditional leaders – headed by relatively young people nominated by the prefect – legality vs. legitimacy – fishers are openly defiant to many new rules and restrictions.
- **Global market** demand for Octopus and Largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*) absorbs much local fishing capacity and curtails women's access to raw material, undermining their traditional family business.



Connecting the issues in Kafountine

- Researching viable alternatives to inefficient fish smoking, which leads to deforestation of fragile coast with effects on water table and other activities;
- Analysing pros and cons of fisheries vs. agriculture vs. tourism – how to reconcile flows of costs and benefits to different populations;
- Fish for food in local and regional markets in the Sahel vs fish meal for export;
- Curbing illegal fishing by industrial fleets competing with artisanal fishers;
- Town planning, social services and participatory management.



A huge challenge in practice

Some 15,000 people looking for their food and future



Photos T. Grand, Documentary "Poisson d'or, poisson africain"

Options for ways forward

Recognition and restoration of the synergies between conventional legal institutions and informal instances of social regulation – the latter are spaces for producing alternative law;

Development of a **small-scale fisheries academy** as a collective meeting and learning space blending existing and newly co-produced knowledge from different spheres;

Specific support to women to evolve in their roles according to their aspirations;

Developing learning modules on demand for fishers, e.g. on ecosystem approach to fisheries.



Expressed demand

- learning more about ecosystems, how they are composed, function and change and why and how this is concerns us all
- have more research conducted about the structure and dynamics of fishing communities, not only about the fish (and teasing out opportunities for improved well-being that makes research worthwhile for them)
- get better access to research results in formats that are suitable for their level of formal education
- being more involved in research themselves, have a space and means to share and refine their indigenous knowledge in research and decision making
- being recognised as legitimate stakeholders in management processes

Elements for implementation (1)

- an agora – a safe space for respectful dialogue (using art of hosting technologies)
- preparation of pedagogical aids that break down key scientific results into info sheets, posters, videos, possibly role plays (theatre is a strong cultural element), fish rulers with biological minimum sizes of major exploited species etc.
- participatory research with fishers and women in fish processing and marketing about their economic and social conditions (accompany a small sample of women for 48h in their daily chores....)
- workshops about links between macro- and micro-trends in the fishery and market access to explore opportunities vs. current

Elements for implementation (2)

- a space for students, both local and foreign, to do field work for their theses
- celebration of local culture open to the world
- support to local leadership for effectively participating in various processes
- IUU fishing, MCS, and where to go from here
- reducing school drop outs in fishing villages to open more opportunities in- and outside the fisheries.
- Ultimately, become a resource centre for life-long learning and exploration?

**I'm still a baby,
let me live and grow**



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