





du poisson encore pour demain

## REPORT OF WORLD OCEANS DAY Eighth (8th) Mbour Forum

## **Thursday June 13th**

# **Abbe David Boilat Centre**



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#### Introduction

The celebration of the "World Oceans Day 2019" by the two organizations, the Association for the Promotion and Empowerment of Artisanal Fishing Actors (APRAPAM) and the African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA), whose theme for this year is: "Men and women of the ocean: issues and challenges for the improvement of women's working and living conditions in the artisanal fishing sector, was held on 13 June 2019 at the Abbé David Boilat centre in Mbour. In attendance, apart from the school government of the students of the David Boilat Centre who celebrated the tenth anniversary of their school, were nearly forty participants composed of representatives of national artisanal fishing organizations from the Senegalese fisheries administration and the CAOPA technical support team. Media coverage of the event was provided by some 20 journalists

#### 1. The opening ceremony

The opening ceremony, which started at 9:55 am, was marked by the national anthem sung by the school government of the students of the David Boilat Centre that joined us and by the speech of the President, Mariama Véronique Kandé, on the situation of local artisanal fishing. According to the president of school government: "The Senegalese coasts were once full of fish and offered many jobs and incomes to the local populations, who lived in harmony with the ocean. Currently they have become poor and have difficulty to satisfy their local needs. Some species such as thiof may not be known by future generations due to overexploitation related to high demand from export plants. The sardinella species accessible to the greatest number of the population began to show signs of scarcity, at a time when, paradoxically, fishmeal factories have begun to settle in our coastal areas by targeting it and thereby competing with local demand as the mainstay of food security. This unenviable situation, with its human causes, has had a negative impact on artisanal fishing activities, through the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems, the emergence of environmental and public health problems, product scarcity, and the decline in income and food insecurity".

After describing this dark picture of the fishery, the President wondered what would happen if this situation continued, other than the disappearance of several activities, including those of women who, despite their difficult working conditions, play an important role in the fish value chain. She ended her speech by asking the State fishing authorities to grant more responsibility and protection to our ocean and a lot of respect and representativeness, for women in the artisanal fishing sector.

In his speech, Mr Gaoussou Gueye, President of CAOPA, focused on the difficult living and working conditions in African artisanal fisheries, with particular attention to women in coastal communities. He mentioned the main challenges faced by women, namely the lack of access to water and electricity, the lack of nurseries for their children and the weakening of their health due to poor working conditions and a working environment plagued by various forms of pollution. It also invited all professional organizations that are members of APRAPAM and CAOPA and their partners to work in order to defend the rights of coastal communities to decent working conditions by adopting greater transparency and consideration in the definition of policies and decision-making on artisanal fisheries. He ended his speech by denouncing the numerous fishmeal factories that have disrupted the stability of post-capture activities while polluting the environment and undermining the food security of coastal communities.

The Director of Maritime Fisheries, Dr. Mamadou Goudiaby, was responsible for opening the work of the 2019 World Oceans Day celebration and welcoming the participants. He was very pleased with the various speeches, particularly that of the president of the school government, whose content, he described as a perfect indictment of the current situation in the fishing industry and the state of our oceans. He also underlined the socio-economic importance of fisheries and its potential for growth and recalled the particular attention given to it by the State by giving it a privileged place in the Senegal Emerging Plan (SEP), the reference framework for the country economic and social development policies. Referring to the relevance of this year's theme, which is in line with the State's orientations in the sector, he announced "that it is fundamental to change the paradigm for sustainable fisheries development by adopting transparency and good governance as a posture of good management in the fisheries sector". And to achieve this, he indicated a series of measures initiated by the State, including a new fisheries code favouring the participation of communities, local artisanal fishing councils, protected fishing areas, the handover of fishing infrastructures, etc. He concluded his speech by reassuring participants of the special attention that will be given to the recommendations that will emerge from the workshop and wishing success and achievement in the celebration of World Oceans Day.

Before the suspension of the meeting for the coffee break, a round table introduction of the participants was held, followed by discussion, validation and adoption of the agenda for the day.

#### 1. The Synthesis of the work

After the coffee break, the work resumed at 11:23 am with the moderation of Dr Alassane Samba who thanked the David Boilat Centre for the attention they paid to educating their students in the protection of the ocean and its environment. The work then proceeded throughout the day with presentations followed by discussions on issues related to the theme of this year's celebration.

# **2.1 Women in artisanal fisheries in Africa: a source of innovation for sustainable fisheries:** presented by Mrs Khady DIOP, CAOPA Programme Officer

Mrs Diop, in her presentation first recalled the theme of this year's World Oceans Day which is "Gender and Oceans" and presents itself opportunely to the organization of a forum (8th) by APRAPAM as a pretext to talk about the conditions of women in fishing communities. She stressed that the choice of theme was in line with the strategic orientation of CAOPA and APRAPAM on women in the fisheries sector and was inspired by international instruments promoting the sustainability of fisheries and the improvement of the living conditions of artisanal fishing communities. She then mentioned the main instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 22), Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (ODD 5, 8 and 14), the ILO's Primary Objective, ILO Convention C188, the Voluntary Guidelines to Ensure Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries (Chapters 6 and 7), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Article 12 session 1 and 2) and the Policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (Chapter 4.2) etc. In particular, it has implemented the two main instruments that are most critical to women's living conditions in fisheries: the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries (Chapter 6: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work, Chapter 7: Value Chain, Post-Capture Activities and Trade) and the SDGs by 2030 (Objective 8: Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full productive employment and decent work for all).

From all these texts, she deduced that the need to recognize the importance of post-capture activities, the role of women and their participation in decision-making must be considered. It also showed progress in women's capacity for innovation and adaptation in the processing of

fishery products by improving their environment, living conditions and equipment for more decent work. To better value women's innovative capacities, she called for their activities to be made more visible and to have equal access to professional organizations and decision-making processes. She concluded by saying that equality between men and women is essential to any form of development and the recognition of the essential role of women in artisanal fisheries, equal rights and opportunities must be encouraged.

2.2. From the centre to the periphery, changes in the position of women in the fishing sector: presented by Mrs Fatou Ndoye, SADA Pole Coordinator, Sustainable Alternative Food Systems /Enda Graf Sahel Gender.

Mrs Fatou Ndoye, on the basis of a study carried out in 2012, presented the working conditions of women in the artisanal processing of fishery products in 5 major sites (Cayar, st-louis, Joal, Mbour Thiaroye). To conduct the study, it adopted, in collaboration with the fisheries services, a participatory approach in the form of a focus group on the various actors in the processing sector, with a strong involvement of women. The results revealed significant economic activity contributing to food security and the reduction of post-capture losses while contributing to poverty reduction and the creation of jobs strongly represented by women. It showed that the quantitative data in 2012 had given for the 5 sites 5005 jobs, a turnover of 7,094,288,000 CFA francs for an added value of 3,017,595,251 CFA francs. She also pointed out that activities that were based on a system of family exploitation with a sexual division of labour had become very open with actors from the sub-region, leading to the consequences of fierce competition and women's vulnerability. The profession has become more masculinized and women are fiercely competitive in terms of supply to landing sites by sub-regional actors and the settlement of numerous factories that confiscate processing spaces and reduce women to works' rank with a negative impact on local food security.

**2.3.** The support of POs for the emergence of women: CONIPAS and CAOPA Experiences presented respectively by Awa Djigal of CONIPAS and Gaoussou Gueye president of CAOPA.

Ms. Awa Djigal in her presentation listed the constraints women face in their work. These constraints are mainly related to difficulties in the access to resources, funding, markets and adequate materials. These constraints are exacerbated by poor governance of POs and insufficient technical capacity of human resources. She then announced the support provided to women by the POs that make up CONIPAS to alleviate the difficulties in the form of

alternative credit, collective savings and working capital, training in various technical and organizational fields and the provision of equipment and materials.

Mr Gaoussou Gueye in his presentation listed CAOPA's achievements in support of POs for the emergence of women in the dynamics of organizations. First, by promoting and ensuring the effective representation of women in the bodies of POs. Then by offering support for technical training in hygiene and quality, particularly in Guinea-Bissau. And finally, by giving women safety support with life jackets in PMA areas where women fish and gather shellfish on board artisanal pirogues.

### 2.4. Difficulties of access to resources: role played by fishmeal factories. Examples from The Gambia and the sub-region: presented by Dawda F. Saine General Secretary of CAOPA

Mr. Dawda Saine has in a clear explanation with supporting diagram shown the process of manufacturing fishmeal. Through the Gunjur factory in Gambia, he explained how the activity of processing fish into flour has increased fishing effort and landings. This plant has caused soil and sea pollution with the waste it releases into the environment. The health of populations is threatened by accidental capsizing of overcrowded canoes and diseases caused by smoke from factories. This has led people to organize and demonstrate against the installation of fishmeal factories. He also mentioned and denounced the attitude of Senegalese fishermen (75 crews), who, on the basis of contracts signed with the Chinese owners of fishmeal factories, exploit sardinella stocks on a sustained basis, compete insidiously with Gambian fishermen and incidentally limit women's access to products.

#### 3. Summary of the discussions

Discussions were held around the various presentations and on proposals for solutions to improve the current situation, in relation to the main obstacles to equality and equity in fisheries on the one hand. On the other hand, they led to the identification of actions to be taken to protect the marine and coastal environment, to improve women's working conditions and to find elements for an advocacy programme.

The various presentations showed the participants' satisfaction with the awareness of the existence of international instruments that promote the sustainability of fishing and the improvement of the living conditions of artisanal fishing communities. They hoped that these instruments, rather than simply being mentioned, could be taken into account and applied in

the definition and development of fisheries policies in African countries. They also called for the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Development Goal 8 to be at the centre of all development strategies for the African fisheries sector. Referring to their capacity for innovation and the important role they play in food security, women called for more attention to be paid to them in post-capture activities.

The lack of reliability of quantitative data on survey studies in the artisanal processing sector has been widely discussed. Women denounced the lack of reliable statistics on their activities and expressed concern about the negative impact this could have on decisions and orientations in their socio-economic and environmental development, which is corroborated by the current lack of conformity of processing sites with standards despite the State's efforts to modernize them.

The issues of research have been decried because of its virtual absence since 2008, due to a lack of financial resources and adequate staff, to deal with the challenges facing artisanal fisheries in real time. The participants denounced the threats to the importance of women and the role they play in the evolution of a sector that is largely open to other more masculinized and highly competitive sub-regional actors.

Women felt that for the sustainability of the sector's activities, it is necessary to facilitate their access to resources, funding, equipment and the existence of POs that practice good governance and strong leadership.

The settlements of fishmeal factories have been strongly criticized for their impact on human health, environmental pollution, limiting women's access to resources and taking over coastal areas at the expense of women who have become highly vulnerable. The impact of fishmeal processing plants on women's lack of access to resources was addressed in all its aspects. It was denounced the difficulties encountered by women in processing sites for the supply of resources, in a context of scarcity, which have been further exacerbated by the uncontrolled settlement of fishmeal factories. The attitude of the State authorities has been criticized for the complacent issuance of permits of installation of plants without any respect for the requirements related to environmental and socio-economic aspects. The chartering of Senegalese pirogues to supply to Chinese factories located in Gambia with resources, has also been denounced and actions should be initiated to raise awareness and supervise fishermen on the real issues and dangers of these fish meal factories on the African coast.

Women, in order to make their activities sustainable, have called for professionalization in order to slow and regulate the high level of permeability and disorder that prevails in the processing sector. Attempts to achieve this have been made since 2012 but have not yet been completed: their completion is a strong demand.

The question of women's representation in PO bodies and decision-making processes was widely discussed. The observation is that women are very poorly represented in POs and are almost absent in decision-making. Women have advocated for a good consideration of their activities in the State's public policies, at a time when their working time has been considerably reduced to eight (08) months of the year due to the disruptions of climate change. The forms of support provided by CAOPA and CONIPAS to POs have been greatly magnified and encouraged in order to enable women to gain greater self-confidence in their development initiatives.

Regarding equality and equity in fishing, the main obstacles identified are:

- ✓ First, the lack of a real representation of women in the decision-making bodies and processes of POs due to the often inappropriate texts or the slowness in the implementation of co-management (CLPA),
- ✓ Secondly, the failure to observe and non-application of international conventions and texts in fisheries policies due to the lack of good will of the state authorities,
- ✓ Finally, the lack of competence of the organizations related to the absence of appropriate infrastructure (water, electricity, basic social structures, security, etc.), social services (insurance, health, pensions, etc.) and the lack of training and information.

The solutions to overcome these obstacles are the professionalization of actors on the basis of reliable data from the sector through a well-regulated and supervised approach, as well as the State referral for consideration and proper application of international texts and conventions promoting sustainable fishing, the good representation of women in the implementation of fisheries policies and the strengthening of the technical and financial capacities of POs for good governance.

#### 4. **Recommendations**

At the end of the workshop held to celebrate World Oceans Day, general and specific recommendations were formulated calling for a change in behaviour at all levels, compliance with texts and commitments and securing supplies for local processors and wholesalers:

#### 4.1. General Recommendations:

1) Invite the State authorities to take into account, in the definition and development of artisanal fisheries policies, international conventions that promote sustainable fishing and the participation of women and facilitate their dissemination among POs;

2) Invite the State authorities to take the necessary steps to set up a reliable system for collecting and analysing data in accordance with approved protocols, involving professionals in the database;

3) To encourage decision-makers (State, local authorities, non-state partners) to involve communities and their organisations more closely in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects that concern them, as well as in their evaluations and in the environmental and social impact studies conducted in their living and working environment;

4) invite the State to relaunch the finalization of decrees and texts to support the professionalization of artisanal processing actors;

5) Support and promote the representation of women in the decision-making bodies and processes of fisheries POs;

6) Involve women in participatory studies on the setting-up of modern fish processing sites in order to ensure that their development needs are properly addressed and their knowledge is taken into account;

7) Organise and organise fishermen's activities within the framework of artisanal fishing charter agreements signed between fishmeal industries and fishermen's organisations in third countries;

8) Rationalize the settment of pelagic species processing and export plants, which compete strongly with women and limit the local consumption demand;

9) Advocate for the systematic prohibition of the installation of fish meal processing plants in landing sites, to preserve women's access to the resource, the health of coastal communities, the protection of the environment and the quality of life;

10) Support and assist women shellfish gatherers with safety equipment and the restoration of their marine and coastal environment.

#### 4.2 Specific recommendations

1) Mandate the organisation "APRAPAM" to assist POs in their dealings with the State authorities, in particular the re-launching of the professionalization of actors in the processing sector, the measures to be taken to compile reliable statistics and the advocacy for the prohibition of the installation of fish meal processing plants...

2) Invite POs to take a greater interest in the activities of their members in neighbouring countries that could be detrimental to regional cooperation.

3) Set up a follow-up team to monitor the results of the workshop to identify the elements of an advocacy and memorandum that contribute to the promotion of good ocean behaviour and use, for the attention of decision-makers.

#### 5. Press conference with media

In the margins of the closing ceremony of the day, a press conference was held jointly hosted by Dawda Saine (CAOPA Secretary General), Gaoussou Gueye (CAOPA President) and Awa Djigal (CONIPAS) in front of an audience of many journalists (see attendance sheet).

The press conference was a heartfelt cry from Senegalese and Gambian representatives who called on their States to hold them accountable for the all-out implementation of fish meal factories and the difficult living and working conditions of women processors. During the conference, voices were raised to denounce the damage caused by factories on increasing fishing effort, limiting women's access to the resource and their vulnerability through loss of income, the negative effects of smoke and asphyxiating odours on the health of populations, environmental pollution and food insecurity. The difficult living and working conditions of women were mentioned and their eradication, according to the speakers, can only be achieved by taking into account with particular attention the situation of women in the definition and implementation of fisheries policies.

#### ANNEXES

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