

WCC-2012-Rec-170-EN

To enhance the community procedures to improve the management of coastal fishing

NOTING the fact that coastal zones are home to one-fifth of the world population, the density of the population in these areas being three times higher than the global average, and the fact that for several decades, the demographic growth there has been higher than in inland areas;

CONSIDERING that today West Africa, for a long time one of the least developed regions in the world, is experiencing record urban growth rates (over 5%), with urban development processes mainly concentrated in coastal zones (over 50% of the population in 2010), generating serious negative impacts on coastal ecosystems and fishing;

CONSIDERING that droughts and poverty have led to large migratory movements since various countries gained their independence, with people moving to cities and the coast, where the migrants have been directed towards the fishing sector;

RECALLING the importance of coastal artisanal fishing in providing sustainable livelihoods for West African coastal communities, and for national economies and food safety;

BEARING IN MIND the scientific information that indicates a collapse in the main coastal fisheries on which the dynamism of artisanal fishing is based, and which blames several factors for this development including the principle of free access and the non-transferability of the management of fishery resources at a local level in some countries;

OBSERVING a rapid increase in fishing activity, associated with an offshoring approach and long migrations to prospect for new fishing zones, which lead to intercommunity conflict as well as NOTING the incapacity of States to track the unloading and the origin of the catches;

AWARE of the need to involve coastal artisanal fishing communities in order to reconcile the sustainable management of fishery resources, food safety and access to the market, by enhancing endogenous local knowledge to define and apply fishing adaptation and management strategies;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the high pressure on coastal zones, which makes the coexistence of artisanal fishing activities with tourism, urban development and the exploitation of other natural resources like offshore oil or zircon very difficult;

NOTING that the involvement of local artisanal fishing communities involves the recognition and protection of their historical rights regarding access, the definition of access regulations, and the control and exploitation of resources in coastal areas corresponding to their territorial waters;

NOTING the success recorded in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau through the introduction of management areas for fishery resources and biodiversity, which has not only involved the communities taking responsibility, but also the introduction of innovative statutes such as indigenous and community conserved areas or community marine protected areas; and

REFERRING to the approaches undertaken by Guinea-Bissau to establish joint management areas in the country's main *rias* (swampy estuaries), facilitating access to resources for local communities and sharing with them certain responsibilities in terms of fishing management;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

1. RECALLS the fundamental role played by artisanal fishing in the economic development of coastal regions in southern countries;
2. STRESSES the urgent need to implement effective, viable and sustainable solutions to improve the governance and management of fishing, notably for coastal fisheries on which artisanal fishing communities depend for their livelihood, and coastal communities for their food safety;
3. URGES the States and regional organizations to recognize and integrate indigenous local knowledge into development plans for coastal zones, fishery resources, and strategies for the adaptation of the fishing sector to global changes;
4. RECOGNIZES the rights of artisanal fishing communities to be a central component of the decision-making process of development projects in coastal zones in order to preserve their homes, their fishing infrastructures and their access to the sea and to fishery resources in the face of high pressure from urban development, tourist activities and the exploitation of other natural resources;
5. ENCOURAGES States, regional organizations and development partners to support and participate in the implementation of shared governance and joint management of sustainable fishing, including the transfer of powers with regard to the management of fishery resources to decentralized institutions or actors made responsible through agreements, resulting on a local scale in the effective implementation of a territorialized management of sustainable fishing, and defining the rights and regulations for access, as well as the roles and responsibilities of local communities; and
6. URGES States, regional organizations, development partners and stakeholders in the fishing sector to define common strategies for the conservation of fishery resources, including the development of capacity for the control and management of the transfer of artisanal fishing skills, in particular in order to limit the risks of community conflict linked to migrant fishing operations.

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.