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Development

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Fisheries Cooperation with developing countries

▶ [The ACP-EU Fisheries Research Initiative](#) fr

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▶ **Fisheries Cooperation with developing countries**

Fisheries was introduced into the EC development cooperation from the very beginning, albeit at very modest levels. Initial work concentrated on infrastructure improvements, mainly targetting industrial operations. During the eighties, support to the artisanal subsector grew in significance as both countries and donors realized that industrialisation was neither an easily achievable nor always desirable objective in fisheries and that the predominant characteristics of ACP fisheries were small to medium scale in nature.

On the strength of guiding texts specifically on fisheries first introduced into the Lome III Convention, then adopted for a duration of five years, the portfolio grew and diversified. A sector evaluation was carried out between 1987 and 1988, leading to the adoption of *Basic Principles* and a series of *publications* documenting the step by step learning process on specific aspects and on fisheries cooperation in general.

The Lome IV Convention, now for a duration of 10 years, deals with fisheries in Title III (Art.58-68) which have modest adjustments to the changing perception of the scope and problem of the sector compared to the precursor convention. The most recent adaptations in sector analysis and approach, largely assisted by active participation of the Commission in international analyses and sector diagnoses, is reflected in the *Sector Orientation for Programming* of the Second Financial Protocol of Lome IV.

The **guiding principle** of development cooperation in fisheries (and aquaculture) - with ACP countries and beyond the Lome framework - is to

contribute to sustainable benefits for sector stake holders in developing countries without further degradation of the natural environment. In so doing, conservation of biodiversity and other post-Rio themes of strategic Union interest will be effectively addressed. It is recognized that the complexity of the issues and the stakes are such that no player can work and solve problems in isolation. Multifaceted forms of cooperation able to mobilize the best capacities of all players and generating **mutual benefit** are therefore the working mode. Collaboration and coordination takes place with various Commission services, with EU Member States, institutions and individuals in both industrialised and developing countries to further those goals and make development cooperation more effective

As institutional questions are overriding factors to current levels of conflict and often unsustainable exploitation patterns, investment into human and institutional resources must be the backbone of the Commission's sector cooperation. Combined with special attention to information and information management responding to the needs of decision makers in both the public and private sectors, this orientation of fisheries cooperation aims at developing proactive capacity and a new type of partnership in an increasingly global market place.

The principal thrust of Fisheries Cooperation is delivered through:


- support to administrations' efforts for greater coherence in sector approach through
 - formulation of rules sets (e.g. regional fisheries legislation project in West Africa) in support of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
 - enforcement (assist with development of monitoring, control and surveillance capacity, e.g. regional project to support the development of the of SADC Regional Sea Fishery Inspectorate, and part of the support to South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency)
 - development of information systems in support of sector planning, management and policy (e.g. fisheries information and analysis system (FIAS) in North, West Africa).
- support to private sector largely through training and information services to increase its competitiveness in a global market place (e.g. national project in Casamance, Southern Senegal, Regional postharvest programme in West Africa, both addressing needs of micro to medium scale enterprises).
- support planning and general anticipative capacity of both public and private sectors through research, e.g. ACP-EU Fisheries Research Initiative with emphasis on new partnership between the Union and

developing countries and concretely as an early measure to create an enabling environment in ACP countries, project in the June EDF Committee Strengthening of fisheries and biodiversity management in ACP countries, Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project and several research collaborations set up with financial help from the Framework Programmes for Research and Technology on priority themes of the Research Initiative.

- support resource conservation and protection (not only through EDF, but also through the Commission's own resources e.g. budget line for Ecology in developing countries and promoting broad based collaborations with EU Member States and other organisations in areas such as biodiversity conservation etc..

(Additional information, including access to a database with overview information of all types of EC fisheries cooperation irrespective of the funding instrument, is currently under preparation for inclusion into this Web Site)

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