

Fisheries in a Context of Economic Changes in Mozambique

Workshop

Access and Sustainable Fisheries

Building Consensus and Collaboration on ACP Fisheries

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Summary

1. The fisheries in Mozambique at the time of independence in 1975 and in the first years (1975-80)
2. The fisheries in the context of a centrally-planned economy (1981-87)
3. The fisheries in the transition for the return to a market economy (1988-2000)
4. Some current challenges of the Fisheries sector in Mozambique (2010)

The fisheries sector at the time of independence in 1975 and during the first years (1975-80)

In 1975

- ❑ A dominant industrial fishery – shallow water shrimp – dedicated to export, boats abandoned
- ❑ Semi-industrial fleets (ice) for shrimp and high value fish, for the supply of major urban centres, partly abandoned
- ❑ An artisanal fisheries in crisis due to market failures (rural marketing network)
- ❑ Foreign fleets fishing beyond 12 nautical miles, without connections with the authorities
- ❑ Absence of a public administration dedicated to fisheries
- ❑ General lack of national technical staff

In 1975-80

- ❑ Partial resumption of industrial shrimp fleet activity through a state company
- ❑ Transfer of abandoned semi-industrial vessels to private entrepreneurs
- ❑ An EEZ of 200 nautical miles declared and foreign ship-owners negotiating fishing licenses
- ❑ First assessment of fishing resource potentials and basic technical training initiated
- ❑ The first public administration institution dedicated to Fisheries created

The fisheries sector in the context of a centrally-planned economy (1981-87)

Definition of the first fisheries development policies

- ❑ An industrial fisheries sub-sector of mixed economy, oriented for the export of crustaceans and the supply of fish to larger cities
- ❑ A private semi-industrial subsector, primarily focused on the supply of fish and secondarily for export of crustaceans and high value fish
- ❑ An artisanal fisheries sub-sector providing increased economic and social conditions for the local communities dependent on fishing - support provided by government network of bases
- ❑ Creation of infrastructure to support both the industrial and semi-industrial fishing fleets (port services, cold storage and supply of ice)
- ❑ Establishment of industrial units producing fishing equipment and gear as well as providing services to small scale fisheries
- ❑ Intensive training of national technical staff
- ❑ Development of the scientific knowledge on marine and continental fishing resources

Cont.

- ❑ Political and administration functions concentrated in one single state body, which also took responsibility for economic orientation of companies with government shares
- ❑ Regarding the central planning system, only the industrial fishing companies were included, but due to its mixed economy nature, with indicative targets
- ❑ Despite the widespread fall in foreign exchange inflows, worsen by the security situation in the 80s, the fisheries sector kept some dynamic (allocation of a percentage of the hard currency originated in exports and licensing)

Support to fisheries development

- ❑ The artisanal fisheries subsector totally dependent on international aid
- ❑ The industrial fisheries subsector relying on the ability of fishing joint-ventures to obtain commercial/government loans in the home countries of the foreign partners
- ❑ The semi-industrial fisheries subsector in a situation of dependence in relation to domestic credit, hard to obtain (poor compliance)

The fisheries sector in the transition for the return to a market economy (1988-2000)

Fisheries development policies accordingly adjusted

- ❑ The industrial fisheries sub-sector, dominated throughout the 80s by an increasing number of joint ventures, prepared for a greater involvement of private enterprising
- ❑ The government network of bases to support small-scale fisheries also prepared for a gradual privatization, seeking to safeguard its role of linking the artisanal fishermen with the markets
- ❑ Industrial companies supporting small-scale fisheries privatized
- ❑ Fishing ports were reorganized in order to allow that certain activities could be performed by private operators
- ❑ The objectives of technical training of national staff and development of scientific knowledge on marine and continental fishing resources were kept
- ❑ The separation between political and fisheries administration functions were carried out gradually, although the process is not yet fully completed in 2010

- ❑ A Fisheries Master Plan designed for 1995-2005 approved on the basis of these policy guidelines, with a growing importance envisaged for small-scale fisheries (artisanal and semi-industrial), not achieved
- ❑ The loss of the government network in support of the artisanal fisheries initially caused an acute crisis because hardly any of the privatized units played this role
 - The search for an alternative approach, through development projects, was carried out during the first years of the 90s.
 - From 1995 to 2003, this new approach was materialised through an experimental and successful intervention in the southern districts of Nampula Province

Some current challenges faced by the fisheries sector in Mozambique (2010)

During the first decade of 2000, consequences of structural adjustment were already perceptible

- ❑ An industrial fisheries sub-sector with government shares in companies residual and taken by the foreign partners of joint ventures,
- ❑ A semi-industrial fishing sub-sector fully controlled by private stakeholders, facing constraints due to insufficient technical and financial capacity
- ❑ An artisanal fisheries subsector in which the support to development has regained momentum based on the development projects in the coastal area of the Sofala Bank which design was gradually extended to other areas
- ❑ The privatization of services and production of fishing equipments and gear diverted these companies to other activities
- ❑ Increased number of national technical staff (experience constraints) and knowledge potential and state of exploitation of fish stocks (insufficient progress)
- ❑ The fisheries public administration still under a process of separation between political and management functions

Decentralization in fisheries management

- ❑ In the mid-2000s the decentralization of public administration responsibilities was launched by the government
- ❑ As a result, the fishing licensing and enforcement of fishing activities were transferred to the district administrator.
- ❑ The support to construction of the new local fisheries administration with the integration of co-management committees in the system is a major challenge in the near future
- ❑ This process should provide a clear definition of competences regarding the management of local fisheries, particularly on
 - licensing limits
 - establishment of periods and areas for protection of fishing resources
 - and procedures for the surveillance of fishing activities
- ❑ This process should be accompanied by enlargement of the exclusive areas for small-scale fisheries (currently restricted to 3 nautical miles in the Sofala Bank and two semi-industrial fisheries) eventually under the concept of territorial use rights in fisheries

More value added to fishing produce

- ❑ This covers not only the industrial fisheries but also the small scale fisheries

Fisheries planning and management

- ❑ The fisheries management system to be improved having the fisheries administration as focal point, through better coordination between their components (including research, fish inspection, the administration itself and surveillance) and objectives and priorities for joint action identified
- ❑ Fisheries Master Plan 2010-19 (being finalised)
- ❑ Fisheries development and management plan to be established

Regional cooperation

- ❑ The development of new fisheries requires a greater integration of Mozambique into the Indian Ocean region and joint efforts in fisheries management and surveillance

Thank you

