

Securing the foundations for fish food security in a changing ocean, West, Central and Southern Africa

Scoping meeting for project design

FAO/NORWAY/UNEP

**Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
15 to 17 August 2014**



OUTLINE

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1. Abidjan Convention

- Adopted by the Governments in 1981 and entered into force in 1984.
- Two protocols concerning cooperation in combating marine/coastal pollutions. the Protocol concerning cooperating in combating pollution in cases of emergency (1984) and the Protocol concerning Land-based Sources and Activities (2012).
- Covers the marine environment, coastal zones and related inland waters falling within the jurisdiction of the States of the West, Central and Southern African Region, from Mauritania to South Africa inclusive (22 coastal countries).
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1. Abidjan Convention (C'd)

- The (16) Contracting Parties to the Convention are: Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and RSA
- Cote d'Ivoire is the Depository, and the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat. The Regional Coordinating Unit is based in Abidjan



2. The Abidjan Convention area and the challenges

The Abidjan Convention area

The coastline of this area from Mauritania to South Africa exceeds 14,000 km

Spanning 22 countries and marked by the Canary, Guinea and Benguela large marine ecosystems (LMEs).

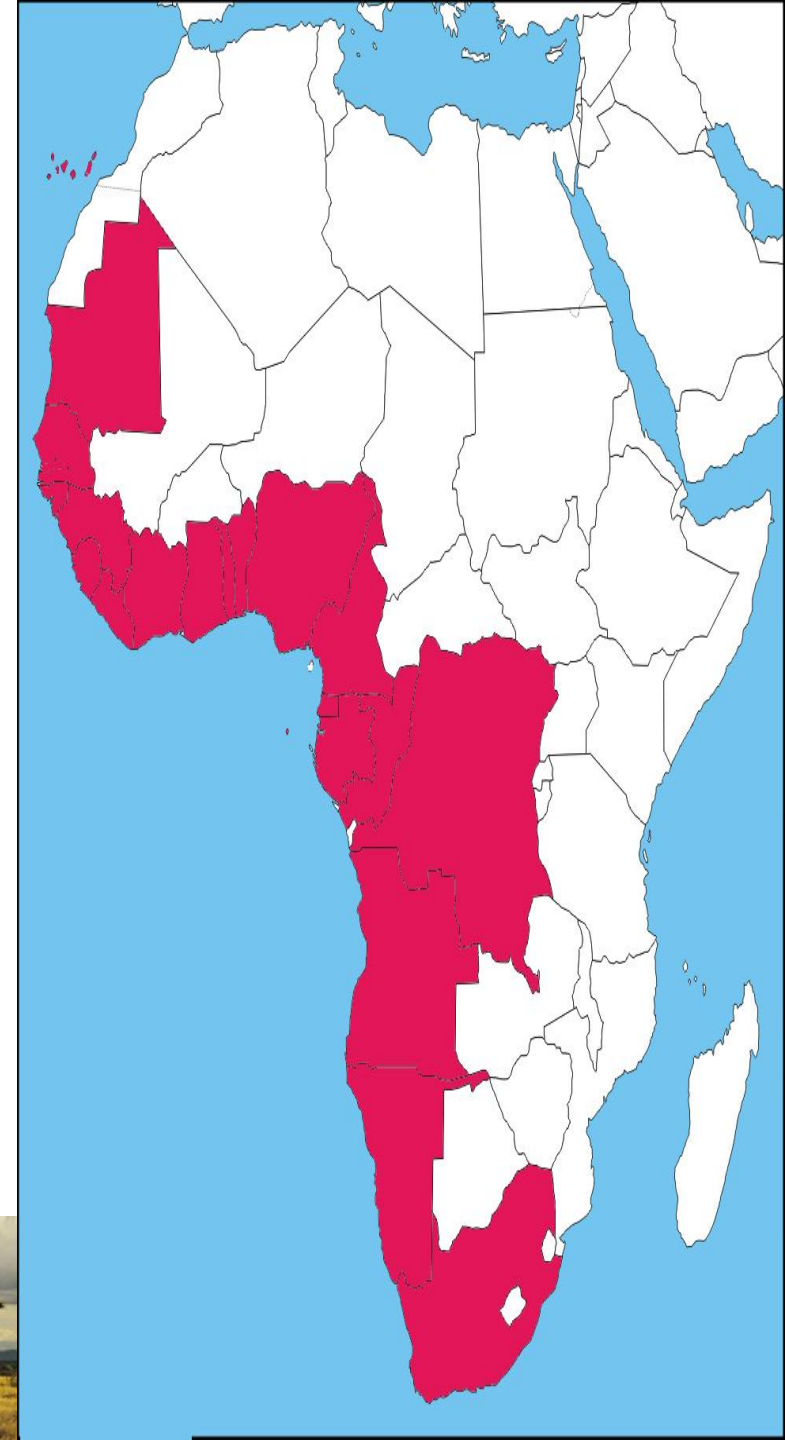
Among the most productive marine zones in the world

These coastal ecosystems include deltas, mangroves, seagrass, meadows, wetlands, barriers and lagoons.

From an economic perspective, the most important resources include fisheries, diamonds, oil and gas (among the world top three) and other minerals like limestone and sand. Tourism is also growing in importance

The (many) issues

- Monitoring and assessment/ •Land-based sources of pollution (LBS)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) / •Oil spill contingency/recovery plans / •Coastal habitat management / Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) / •Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) / •Marine Litter, including ship generated marine pollution / •Regional legal and institutional frameworks
- Economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services



2. Abidjan Convention and fisheries

- Articles of the Convention
- CCLME project
- MoUs with COREP and CSRP

The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate cooperation between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources including fisheries resources in our region



2. Abidjan Convention and fisheries (C'd)

COPs 10 and 11 decisions

- **Decision-/CP.10/15. Cooperation with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs)**
- *To give* a priority role to the Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) to work together with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention, in the elaboration and implementation of sustainable fisheries management policies, programmes and projects;
- *To strengthen* coordination and cooperation with the RFBs whose competence areas overlap with or are adjacent to that of the Abidjan Convention to achieve common goals in relation to ecosystems supporting sustainable use of natural resources, by:
 - participating in the meetings of RFBs and facilitating participation of RFBs in relevant meetings of the Abidjan Convention;
 - exploring fields of cooperation (e.g. environmental policies and legislation; ecosystem approach; data collection and information sharing and exchange; capacity building; marine protected areas; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing etc.);
 - Concluding MoUs with the different RFBs



2. Abidjan Convention and fisheries (C'd)

COPs 10 and 11 decisions (C'd)

CP.11/1 on Cooperation with Regional Fisheries Bodies

- *To recognize* draft agreements aimed at establishing cooperation with sub regional fisheries bodies on the themes defined at COP10 ;
- *To request* the Secretariat to continue to further incorporate sub regional fisheries bodies into the action and governance framework of the Abidjan Convention ;



THANK YOU!

