

# CCLME INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Dakar, Senegal

From 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

GAMBIA

# Introduction

- The Gambia is a sub-tropical coastal country in West Africa
  - A coastline of about 80 km long, 25 km of this lie in the bay-shaped
- The coastal area: areas that border the Atlantic Ocean and brackish water environments that border the River Gambia, extending 200 km inland
- The coastal areas are of particular importance in The Gambia Environment Action Plan (GEAP) and in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
- Rich in natural resources and with particularly high biodiversity of national, regional and global environmental significance.

# Introduction contd

- Conservation and management of the coastal and marine resources
- Public interventions remain sectoral in perception and inadequately coordinated in terms of policy objectives.
- Public institutions and organizations have varied technical, institutional and financial capacities

# Stakeholders

- The coastline has since independence developed intensively and presently is occupied up to the very limits of the sea.
  - residential, commercial and fish landing facilities and following the tourist boom of the 1970's, a significant number of beach hotels
- Economic activities in the coastal zone are dominated by fisheries, tourism, housing, industry, agriculture and mining with varying socioeconomic importance.

# Socioeconomics: Fisheries

- The artisanal fishing industry provides
  - direct employment to 6100 fishermen and an estimated 11 000 people as members of the head fishermen households
- livelihoods of over 200 000 people are directly or indirectly dependent on artisanal fisheries
- over 90 % of fish exports from The Gambia
- Industrial; benefits are limited to license fees and 20 percent of vessel crews
  - Less than 2000 employees

# Tourism

- Tourism is an important source of income for the Gambia since the arrival of the first tourist flight Sweden in 1965
- It makes up about 12 % to GDP
- Fastest growing sector of the economy:
  - contributing significantly to foreign exchange earnings,
  - and providing employment opportunities for an increasing number of people.
- Socioeconomic indicators in Table 1a and 1b

# Physical and biological characteristics

- The climate is a Sudano-Sahelian type, characterized by
  - a short rainy season (June to October) and a dry season (November to May).
  - The average annual rainfall is about 900mm,
  - while the mean temperature lies around 25°C
- It lies within a region with:
  - an active seasonal upwelling,
  - relatively persistent oceanic current important in respect of transport of substances, water temperature, meteorology and biological conditions.

# State of fisheries

- First survey (1964 and 1965) indicated that the Gambia has abundant and diverse fish resources.
- The brackish and estuarine portions of the river are very rich in terms of species diversity and abundance
- Responsible and sustainable exploitation and utilization of the fisheries resources is an important issue to the Gambia Government
  - GOTG has formulated legislations and put in place institutions for their implementation
  - Enforcement issues
  - IUU impacting negatively on resources



# Status stocks

<b>Fish stock</b>	<b>Tonnes/year landed</b>	<b>Stock status (of stock in country)</b>	<b>Reference</b> (year and data source)
Demersal fish	24101	Fully - overexploited	FAO/CECAF DEM_WG (FAO, 2010)
Shrimp	1 910.	Overexploited	FAO/CECAF DEM_WG (FAO, 2010)
Cephalopods	1080	Fully exploited	FAO/CECAF DEM_WG (FAO, 2010)
Small pelagics	20 600	Fully exploited	FAO SPWG NWA (2010)
Tuna	57	fully exploited	<b>ICCAT</b>

# State of marine and coastal area

- These areas are rich in natural resources and with particularly high biodiversity of national, regional and global environmental significance
- Threats
  - Direct: loss and fragmentation of the natural habitats; harvesting of mangroves, wetland drainage and infrastructural development, the use of destructive fishing methods, overgrazing and poor farming practices.
  - Coastal erosion
- Indirect: population pressure, inappropriate policy and institutional regimes, etc.

# State of marine and coastal area

- Biological diversity has experienced serious assault from both human activities and natural forces
  - Due to deforestation, over-exploitation of biological resources, etc.
- There is no recent water quality assessment of impact of development programmes on the river (last was in 2000)
  - results obtained indicated that the river water quality was medium to good

# State of marine and coastal area

- The river and its tributaries has become an outlet for untreated domestic and industrial waste
- Runoff of fertilizers and pesticides
- Tidal and pump irrigation in the Gambia (CRR and URR) rely on the river water and are on the rise; a potential for increased saltwater intrusion
- hydroelectric dam at Samangalou (Senegal)
- Damming of River Gambia tributaries originating in Senegal

# Biodiversity

- Biodiversity form an important component of the country's biotic assets from both ecological and economic point of view
- seven Wildlife Protected Areas covering 42,000ha (4.2% of the total land area)
- Four accorded the status of Marine Protected Areas namely: Nuimi National Park, Baobolon Wetland Reserve, Tanbi Wetland Reserve and Tanji/Karenti Bijol Islands Bird Reserve

# Challenges facing Management of Marine Protected Areas

- Unsustainable utilization of biological resources,
- Loss of habitat and fragmentation due to deforestation
- Wetland drainage and infrastructural development
- Population pressure, Poverty, limited manpower and inappropriate policy and institutional regimes.

**Government agencies relevant for fisheries, coastal or marine management**

**Several institutions are implicated in fisheries, coastal or marine management**

# The state of marine/coastal environments

<b>Marine/coastal ecosystems</b>	<b>Total surface (km<sup>2</sup>) (10 years ago)</b>	<b>Total current surface (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Number of MPAs (10 years ago)</b>	<b>Current number of MPAs</b>	<b>References (year and data source)</b>
Mangrove	59,000 ha(1993)	Current data shows that mangrove account for 14% of the land mass (1582ha)			(GBoS, 2006) (SoE, 2009)
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	4940 ha (1999/2000)	33586 ha(2008)	1 MPA	4 MPAs	SoE,2009

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Relevant departments</b>	<b>Main areas of responsibility (in relation to fisheries, marine/coastal environment)</b>
Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters	Fisheries Department	Fisheries
	Department of Water Resources	Water resources
Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	National Environment Agency	Coastal Zone Management
	Department of Forestry	Forest resources including mangroves
	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	Marine Protected Areas and Marine Mammals
Ministry of Tourism and Culture	Department of Tourism	Tourism
	Gambia Tourism Authority	Tourism and Tourism Development Area
Ministry of Local Government, Mines and Land	Geology Unit	Mines



## inter-agency committees relevant for fisheries, coastal or marine management

Name of committee	Members	Function
Inter-ministerial taskforce on Coastal Zone Management	Representatives from which agencies	Making decision on intervention related coastal erosion within the coastal zone
Coastal and Marine Working Group	National Environment Agency (Lead Agency) Department of Fisheries Department of Forestry Department of Parks and Wildlife Management Department of Lands and Surveys Department of Physical Planning and Housing Department of Water Resources Department of Technical Services Department of Tourism Geology Unit	Monitoring the coastal zone management and coordinate all the development initiatives within the zone
Fisheries Advisory Committee	MoFWR and NAM, MoTIE, MoLGL, MoHSW, Gambia Navy, NEA, MA, Industrial	Advise Minister on Fisheries related matters

# Legal instrument

- **National legal instruments relevant for fisheries, coastal or marine management**
- **Bilateral, regional or international agreements or instruments relevant for fisheries, coastal or marine management**

# ***Surveys***

<b>Name of survey</b>	<b>Programs funding and undertaking survey</b>	<b>Short description on survey focus</b>
<b>Survey of small pelagic fish stocks off Northwest Africa</b>	Nansen Programme	Mapping of abundance and distribution of small pelagic species
<b>National survey of fisheries economic units</b>	Gambia Artisanal Fisheries Development Project	Number of fishing units operating in the country

# Environmental awareness, education and communication

- The National Environment Agency has established Environmental Education and Communication (EE&C) Unit with the Agency
  - main objectives of the EE&C are to educate and raise public awareness of the environment issues
- Embark on School outreach programmes.
- Organizing Drama/poetry and quiz competition between school children.
- Coordinating the establishment of Environmental clubs in School and at community level.
- Organizing Radio/TV panel discussion on environmental issues

## National and local stakeholders of importance for CCLME project activities

- The important stakeholders include several Ministries and their line technical departments, non-governmental organizations and professional fishers organizations.
- Most stakeholders are either members of the Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC) or Coastal and marine management working group of the National Environment Agency

*Refer to table above*

# Past and future undertakings in relation to the CCLME project

- The Gambia has participated in almost all the activities of the preparatory phase
  - data review
  - trial TDA exercise
  - completion of the preliminary TDA
  - Etc.
- With regard participation in projects related to CCLME, the Gambia is only participating in the Holland/SRFC small pelagic project

# Recommendation

- Include a climate change working group
- Active participation of the Project Steering Committee in decision making
- A forum for NTCs to exchange experiences
- Build stronger links with GEF funded projects such as GCLME, ACCC

Thank you for your attention