

overarching objectives

- Sustainably exploit marine and coastal resources,
- Improve the socio-economic conditions of fishers and their family.

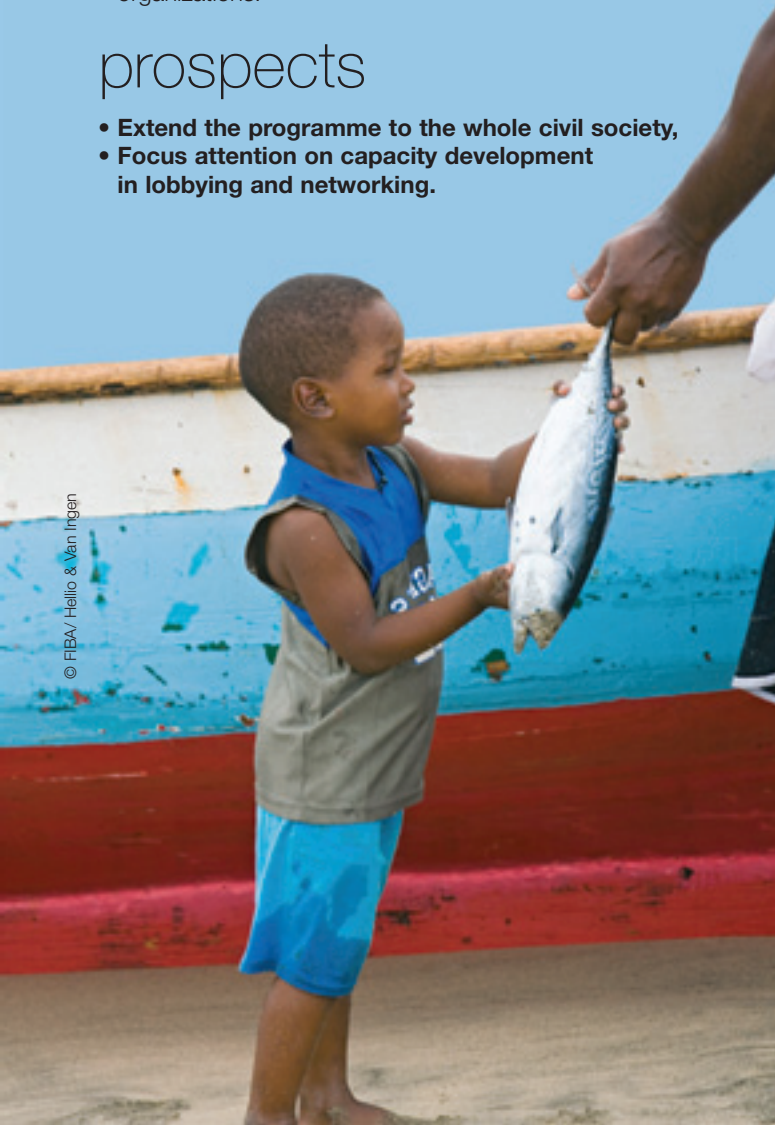
specific objective

- Safeguard the interests of fishers and their family by strengthening the organizational and operational capacities of their non-governmental and professional organizations.

prospects

- **Extend the programme to the whole civil society,**
- **Focus attention on capacity development in lobbying and networking.**

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partners

Royal Netherlands Embassy in Senegal

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WWF Netherlands

Pilot NGOs and PFAs in the sub-region:

ADAD *Cape-Verde*

ATELIER MAR *Cape-Verde*

GAMFIDA *The Gambia*

NAFO *The Gambia*

ADEPAG *Guinea*

DEPEG *Guinea*

QUITAPESCA *Bissau-Guinea*

ASPREM *Senegal*

ENVIPÊCHE *Senegal*

FENAGIE *Senegal*

Fish wholesale traders
Association in Nouakchott *Mauritania*

NGO MAURITANIA 2000 *Mauritania*



WAMER
Western African Marine
Eco-region programme

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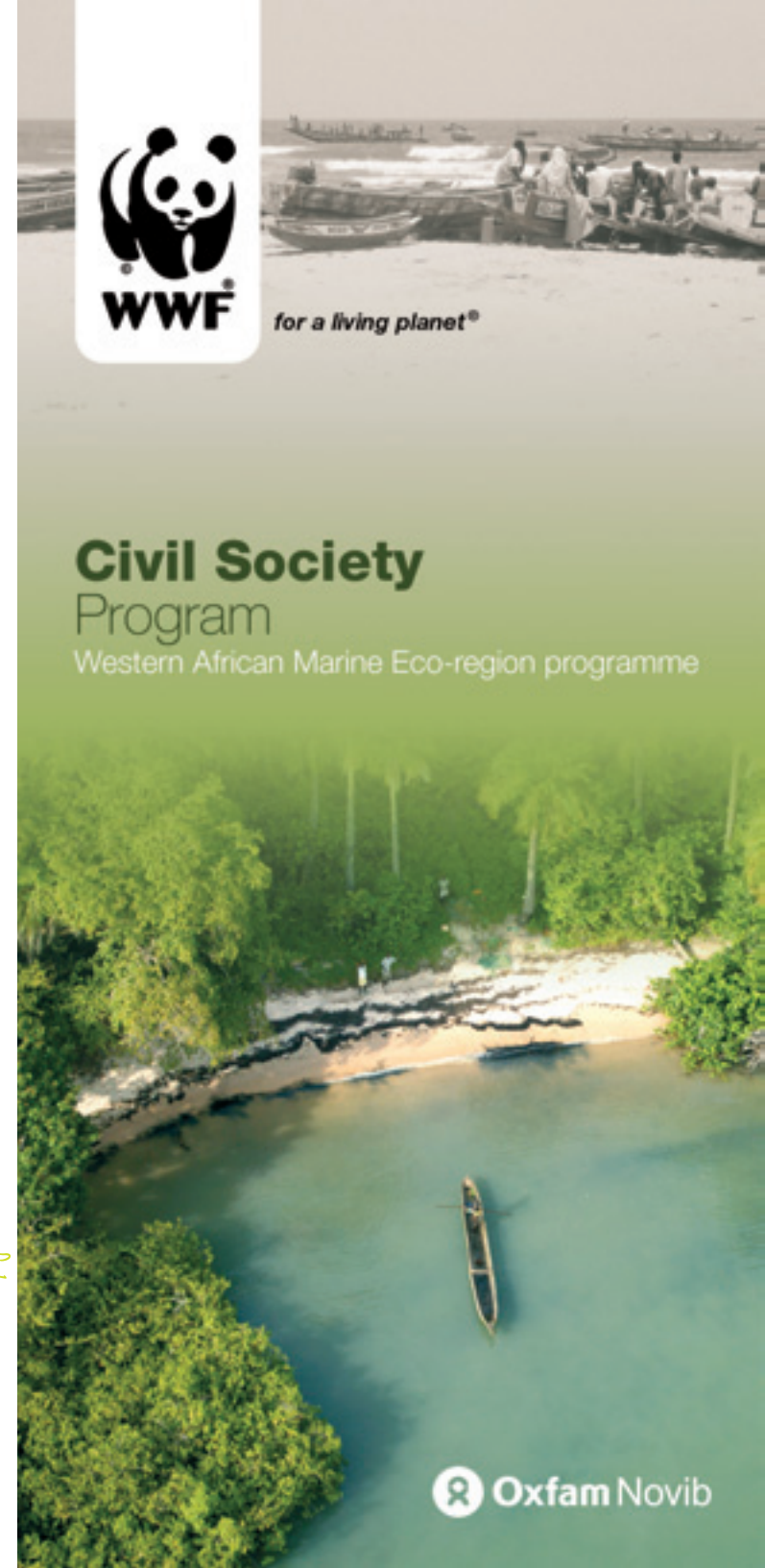
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Civil Society Program

Western African Marine Eco-region programme

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background

Fisheries are central to the economic and social development of countries the WAMER Ecoregion (Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Cape Verde). They play a key role in food security, creation of jobs and wealth and in the trade balance. In Senegal for example, fisheries are the main source of hard currency for the country. Fisheries exports generate an annual turn-over of over € 300 million. The sector creates 600 000 jobs in a country of 10,9 million people, and is the main source of food (75%).

Yet, fisheries in this ecoregion face a number of challenges related to overexploitation, destructive fishing methods, inappropriate and/ or inconsistent fisheries programmes and policies, the poor management of the fisheries sector, inadequate involvement of fisheries NGOs and professional fishers' associations in decision making processes, and the impoverishment of fishers.

The overall objective of the WAMER programme is to preserve marine and coastal resources of the ecoregion while improving the livelihoods of local coastal communities. To achieve this, WWF works with governments,

local communities, NGOs, professional fishers' associations, and the private sector.

To promote sustainable fisheries management, the ability of all the actors to identify, analyse and resolve problems needs to be developed.

To this end, WWF WAMER has developed a capacity building programme for the relevant governmental bodies and local communities in its focal areas. Unlike the private sector whose capacity is relatively well developed, NGOs and Professional Fishermen Associations (PFAs) lag behind.

Given the very real fisheries crisis and the inability of governments to find appropriate solutions, NGOs and Professional Fishers' Associations must play an increasingly significant role. Yet, as they are faced with a number of institutional, organizational and technical constraints, the impact of NGOs and PFAs is far below their true potential. This project therefore seeks to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs and Professional Fishers' Associations.

achievements

The capacity of NGOs and PFAs has been strengthened:

- 314 nationals representing civil society organizations from Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal have been trained in administrative and financial management and in project and report writing since the start of the project,
- After developing their proposal writing skills in, NGOs and PFAs from The Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal developed project proposals which were then submitted for funding.

A regional artisanal fishers' network has been created:

- A directory of fisheries NGOs and PFAs within the subregion was developed to help improve communications the different groups among them,
- Standardized administrative and financial procedure were developed, and adopt by organizations across ecoregion,
- A sub-regional communication plan was developed for the fisheries NGOs and PFAs in Mauritania and The Gambia,
- Fora were organized with governmental representatives, parliamentarians, and journalists from Cape Verde, Guinea and Mauritania to share perspectives, build their understanding of environmental issues, and communicate achievements of marine and coastal conservation projects,
- Operational national fisheries committees were established in the target countries of the sub-region.

