



## **FAO/NEPAD workshop on climate change, disasters and crises in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in West and Central Africa**

**Accra, Ghana, 1-2 November 2012**

### **Prospectus**

#### ***Background***

Fishers, fish farmers and the communities they live in tend to be particularly vulnerable to disasters. This is because of their location, the characteristics of their livelihood activities, and their overall high levels of exposure and sensitivity to natural hazards, livelihood shocks and climate change impacts. Exposure and vulnerability to these hazards and risks are increasing.

While considerable uncertainties and research gaps remain, it is clear that changes in the resource base and climate will have a variety of impacts on national economies and livelihoods including, a need for changes in gear use and fishing strategies, changes in the availability of fish and hence in nutritional levels, shortages of freshwater, and increased damages by tropical storms and other natural disasters. In addition, mobility is already a common livelihood strategy among many fishing communities and climate change may imply further migration and displacements. It is projected that climate change will affect poorer African countries disproportionately and that the poorest people in these countries will suffer the greatest consequences. There will also be differences in the impacts on men and women, with the latter often constituting the more vulnerable group.

Component C of the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme (NFFP) focuses on the need to assist the development and integration of disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) plans into fisheries and aquaculture strategies – and of fisheries and aquaculture in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation strategies and plans - at local (community), national and regional levels. Activities will cover community level adaptation plans, policy integration, strategic partnerships and regional coordination. The work will also include collaboration between FAO and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) on the coordination of regional fisheries and aquaculture DRM and CCA related issues. At the national level, the Programme will support the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in National Communications on climate change, and in particular National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and ensure that Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) national compacts integrate fisheries and aquaculture DRM and CCA aspects.

#### ***Objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop***

The overall objective of the workshop is to establish the current baseline with regard to the integration of climate change, disaster risk management and fisheries and aquaculture in West and Central Africa, with the aim of coordinating activities and identifying gaps and priority areas for support by NFFP and other partners.



Specifically, the workshop aims to:

- Deepen the understanding of climate change and disaster impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in West and Central Africa (potential vulnerabilities and actions to address these).
- Provide an overview of current status of regional and national priorities with regard to CCA and DRM in fisheries and aquaculture, and vice versa, of fisheries and aquaculture in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies and plans, as expressed in regional and national policies and strategies.
- Provide a regional overview of relevant past, ongoing and planned initiatives/activities.
- Present best practices examples and lessons learned in addressing climate change and disasters.
- Identify priority actions to be supported by NFFP and other partners.

### ***Participants***

Participants will include i) fisheries and aquaculture managers from relevant national and regional institutions, ii) representatives from Regional Economic Communities, Regional Fisheries Bodies, Lake and River Basin Authorities, LME (Large Marine Ecosystem) Programmes, and fisheries and aquaculture networks and iii) other relevant stakeholders and resource people working on issues or carrying out activities contributing to CCA/DRM.

### ***Venue and dates***

Accra, Ghana, 1-2 November 2012. The meeting is held back to back with the FAO/NEPAD Workshop on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and to Aquaculture in Africa, 29-31 October 2012. The venue will be communicated shortly.

### ***Language***

The meeting will be in English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available. Although an effort will be made to have the key documents available in English and French, some documents may only be available in their original language (English or French as applicable).

### ***Further information***

For further information contact:

Florence Poulain ([florence.poulain@fao.org](mailto:florence.poulain@fao.org))

Gunilla Greig ([gunilla.greig@fao.org](mailto:gunilla.greig@fao.org)) or

Peter Shivute ([peters@nepad.org](mailto:peters@nepad.org)).

### ***Workshop organisers***

The workshop will be organised by FAO and NEPAD with the support of the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme (NFFP).

