



Brussels Rural Development Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

**Briefing session n°10: Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU):
Impacts and challenges for ACP countries**

29th April 2009 – 8h30 – 13h00

ACP Secretariat

451, Avenue Georges Henri – 1200 Brussels – Room C

<http://brusselsbriefings.net/>

Context

More than 50 out of the 77 ACP States are coastal States, most of them with important coastal fishing communities, and more than 60 ACP states export fisheries products, both from maritime and inland fisheries and from aquaculture. The fisheries sector plays a key role for ACP countries in terms of food security and poverty reduction, economic growth and job creation, as well as foreign exchange earnings. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major threat worldwide to the sustainability of fish stocks and marine biodiversity, and is detrimental to fishing fleet operating legally in developing countries. IUU fishing is not limited to the illegal harvesting of fish but also includes the shipment, processing, landing, sale and distribution of fish and fishery products. IUU fishing (i) generates harmful effects on the economic and social welfare of those involved in legal fishing; (ii) distorts competition for legal fishermen and reduces incentives to play by the rules; (iii) threatens the survival of coastal communities and jeopardizes the viability of resources; (iv) contributes to the depletion of fish stocks and undermines efforts to secure and rebuild those stocks; (v) destroys marine habitats.

Impact of IUU on ACP countries

IUU fishing is not new but it has become more visible and pronounced in the past 20 years: it is increasingly observed in high-seas fisheries. It is motivated by economic gain and is sometimes, in industrial fisheries, associated with organized crime. It exploits weak management regimes, preys on developing countries and takes advantage of corrupt administrations with respect to vessel registration, “authorizations to fish” and shore-side operations. Recent estimates placed the annual global value of IUU fishing at US\$10-23 billion¹ although accurate quantification remains difficult due to the covert nature of the activities. IUU fishing is pervasive, occurring in all regions of the world; it is found in the high seas, in exclusive economic zones and in near-shore fisheries. If not adequately controlled, these activities pose serious problems for all types of fisheries: industrial, small-scale and artisanal, having potentially serious environmental, economic and social impacts. IUU fishing causes environmental concerns as a threat to the sustainability of fish stocks and marine biodiversity; economic losses to fishing fleets operating legally and confronting with unfair competition and social concerns for coastal communities where fish may represent a major source of food supply. Additional negative effects are the reduction of the access to EU markets and the rise of the costs tied to EU market access conditions (eg standards, administrative requirements..) or no access at all in case of no compliance with those requirements.

Initiatives to fight IUU Fishing and collaborative solutions

The international community has been trying to eradicate IUU fishing through various measures since it became a prominent issue on the global agenda, approximately ten years ago.² But, its complex nature

¹ Source: *The Global Extent of Illegal Fishing*, Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) and Fisheries Ecosystems Restoration Research, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, 2008 (in press). The report indicates that its estimates do not include catches that are discards and unreported legal catches.

² At each FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) session since its twenty-third in 1999, IUU fishing has been addressed. In 1999 COFI started procedures to elaborate an international plan of action on the subject. FAO, *International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU)* Rome, FAO. 2001. 24p was adopted by COFI in 2001. Each successive COFI also included IUU fishing on its agenda. The FAO conference and separate ministerial meetings have also focused

defies simple or uniform solutions. The emphasis has shifted from targeting IUU fishing vessels to targeting their catch. FAO has put in place for many years Action Plans to combat IUU: the FAO International Plan of Action on IUU fishing (IPOA) and the FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fishing³. The European Commission has been involved in the fight against IUU fishing for over a decade and in 2002 an Action plan against IUU fishing was adopted, inspired by the FAO's IPOA of 2001⁴. Implementation of the Community action plan for the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is one of the top priorities of the Community Fisheries Control Agency, established in 2005 to organise operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by the Member States and to assist them to cooperate⁵. The IUU Regulation of 29 September 2008 applies to all vessels engaged in the commercial exploitation of fishery resources, and seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate all trade of fishery products into the European Community deriving from IUU fishing in all waters, and the involvement of Community nationals in IUU activities conducted under any flag⁶. In order to achieve this goal, an EC catch certification scheme has been introduced with the aim of improving traceability of all fishery products traded with the Community and to facilitate the control of their compliance with conservation and management rules, in cooperation with third countries⁷.

Emerging challenges for compliance for ACP countries and private sector

Mandatory product certification and catch documentation are increasingly used as a natural extension of normal monitoring and enforcement in fisheries, and as a means of excluding IUU products from consumer markets and therefore rewarding responsible fishing with protected markets. Certification initiatives, ranging from Fairtrade to eco-labels, have become common place in today's European and American markets. The greatest driver for fisheries certification has been environmental sustainability, as processors and retailers respond to demands from customers and NGOs to avoid overexploited fisheries. Many certifications provide an eco-label which, through preferential consumer choice, creates market incentives. Despite the considerable growth in fisheries certification schemes in recent years, there are a number of challenges for developing countries related to such initiatives: low capacity in developing countries and high costs to reach certification; potential non-tariff barriers for developing countries; low involvement of developing countries in standard setting.

Objectives of the Briefing

To improve information sharing and promote networking, CTA, the EC-DG Development and EuropeAid, the EU Presidency, the ACP Secretariat, Euforic, Concord and IPS - organise bimonthly briefings on key issues and challenges for EU/ACP cooperation. The briefing on 29th April co-organised with the ACP Working Group on Fisheries will discuss the need to Fight IUU fishing in order to (i) raise awareness on existing and emerging key challenges; (ii) promote exchange of information and expertise sharing; (iii) feed in the debate by bringing various perspectives.

Target group

Around 100 ACP-EU policy makers, representatives of EU Member States, civil society groups, research networks and development practitioners, international organisations based in Brussels.

Outputs

Input and comments before, during and after the meetings will be included in the Briefings blog: <http://brusselsbriefings.net/> . Short reports (briefings) in printed and electronic format will be available shortly after the meeting. Articles by IPS Europe, partner in this event, will be widely disseminated.

on IUU fishing. In 2003, the FAO Conference adopted an IUU fishing resolution. The 2005 ministerial meeting on fisheries, dedicated in part to activities related to IUU fishing, produced the 2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

³ FAO, *Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, 2005, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a0985t/a0985t00.htm>

⁴ Communication from the Commission, Community action plan for the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, COM(2002) 180 final, 28.5.2002,

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2002:0180:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁵ Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) website is <http://cfca.europa.eu/>

⁶ DG Fisheries website: Information note on the IUU Regulation,

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/external_relations/illegal_fishing/pdf/information_note01_en.pdf

⁷ DG Fisheries website: Technical note on the catch certification scheme,

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/external_relations/illegal_fishing/pdf/technical_note01_en.pdf



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Programme

08h00-08h30 Registration

08h30-08h45 Welcome remarks: ACP WG on Fisheries, DG Fisheries, CTA

08h45-10h30 **Panel 1 - What do we know about IUU and how it affects ACP countries?**

This panel will review the main economic, social and environmental challenges that IUU present at global and regional levels, especially looking at the ACP context. It will review the existing global and regional initiatives against IUU and the role of the various stakeholders.

Panelists:

- Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing: the economics of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the impact of IUU Fisheries on ACP countries
David J. Agnew, Division of Biology, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
- Closing the Governance Gap
Kieran Kelleher, Fisheries Team Leader, the World Bank
- Overfishing and pirate fishing: more effective action needed
Saskia Richartz, EU Oceans Policy Adviser, Greenpeace International
- The perspective of the small-scale fishermen
Samba Gueye, Secretary General, FENAGIE Pêche, Senegal

Discussant: *H.E. Hanno Burkhard Rumpf, Ambassador of Namibia*

10h30-10h45 Coffee break

10h45-13h00 **Panel 2 – The EC regulation and the challenges for its implementation**

What is the substance of the Council Regulation establishing a European Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU and what is the potential impact for ACP countries? What are the views from the private sector? What will be the needs of the ACP sector as to comply with the new requirements?

Panelists:

- The EC community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU
Jean-Pierre Vergine, DG Mare, European Commission
- The impact of the EC regulation on ACP countries and ACP responses
Professor Martin Tsamenyi, Professor of Law, Director, the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong
- Some views from the ACP private and public sector
Roy Bross, Secretary of the South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association (SADSTIA)
Pedro C. Celso, EVP-Managing Director of RD Tuna Canners Ltd, Papua New Guinea
Alois Kinol, National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea
- The role of the ACP regional organisations in fighting IUU
Terrence Philips, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)

Discussant: *H.E. Mr. Roy M. Joy, Ambassador of Vanuatu*

Conclusions: *Ndiaga Gueye, FAO, H.E. Joseph Ma'ahanua, Chair of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors*

13h00-14h00 Networking Buffet Lunch