



The Importance of Capture Fisheries in Food Security in Senegal

Food Security: Fish accounts for 70 percent of the total animal protein consumption by the Senegalese population. Per capita consumption of fish is 26 kilograms per year; the world average is 16 kilograms per year. Fish plays a vital role for food security in Senegal.

Employment: The World Bank recognizes fisheries as one of the three most influential sectors in the Senegalese economy, "With a population estimated at about 12 million, its economy is dominated by a few strategic sectors, including groundnuts, fisheries, and services." (World Bank) The fisheries sector accounts for 2.3% of Senegal's GDP and 17% of the work force. 10% of the rural population works in fisheries. "...Marine fisheries play a critical role in the economy in Senegal, in terms of contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign exchange, food security and livelihoods." (World Bank) Fisheries currently generate approximately 100,000 direct jobs, and 600,000 indirect jobs, of which more than 90 percent are in small-scale fishing. (UNEP)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: Senegal is endowed with extremely rich natural resources. Having access to both deep-ocean fishing and fresh-water fisheries in lakes and rivers, fish contributes to the livelihood and food security of both coastal and inland communities. However, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for Senegal states that both inland and deep-sea fishing suffer from lack of stock assessments, degradation to spawning and aggregate ground, obsolete fishing techniques, and lack of proper training for fishery practitioners, organizations, and sellers affecting the whole supply chain. Senegal's PRSP highlights the need for fishery sector improvements as vital to ensuring food security, economic development, and ecological growth in the country. An African Development Bank analysis of the PSRP states that constraints affecting the fisheries sector have been identified and that fisheries revenues can contribute to the groups most affected by poverty. The report also determines the PRSP strategy will create wealth while prioritizing fisheries. Of the 29 countries to have developed PRSPs, Senegal is one of three to have effectively mainstreamed fisheries improvements as necessary in the PSRP.

USAID Assessment: Highlighting the importance of fisheries, the USAID produced "Fisheries Opportunity Assessment" of December 2006 states that Senegal is working to "Establish sustainable fisheries management, reduction of inter-African nation poaching and open access, and gender-sensitive economic development." (USAID) The need for proper implementation of fisheries management strategies is recognized by the Senegalese government as well as the United States government. Helping to improve the fisheries strategies is congruent with both governments' agendas.

Need for Improved Management: Fisheries contribute in a vital way to both the nutritional needs of Senegalese citizens as well as the national economy. However, it has also been recognized that management strategies are poorly implemented and therefore unsustainable. Helping create best practices for fisheries management will secure access to food for impoverished communities, promote economic growth and encourage environmental stewardship.

Other Donor Programs with Fisheries: World Bank - Agricultural Markets and Agribusiness Development Project in Senegal



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The Fisheries Sector in Senegal UNEP publication can be found at:

http://www.unep.ch/etu/publications/Synth_Senegal.PDF

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/12/03/000333037_20081203232601/Rendered/PDF/454620PADOP1051and0IDA1R20081031611.pdf

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper: Senegal 2006.

African Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs and the Fisheries Sector: Current Situation and Opportunities. by Reid Thorpe, et al. African Development Bank, 2004.

Fisheries Opportunity Assessment. USAID, December 2006.

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