

## **Pan-Africa project to focus on upping fish trade, consumption**

A new pan-African project has been launched to strengthen the continent's great potential for increased trade in fish.

Africa, a continent that is endowed with plentiful fish resources in oceans, rivers, lakes, floodplains and fish farms accounts for just 4.9% of global fish trade.

More efficient trade could significantly improve income and nutrition for millions of Africans, particularly those 12.3 million that are directly employed in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Trade is constrained by inadequate market and trade infrastructure and poor policy implementation. High transport costs, complex and unaligned trade rules and poor market information also prevent Africa from optimizing the social and economic benefits available.

"FishTrade for a Better Future", a European Commission funded project implemented by WorldFish, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will strengthen value chains and, with a focus on sustainability, give better access to intra-regional markets and subsequently improve food and nutritional security and income in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Africa has the potential to develop its fisheries and aquaculture to play a much greater role in promoting food security, providing livelihoods and supporting economic growth," said Stephen Hall, director general, WorldFish.

"Per capita consumption has fallen, despite Africa's great abundance of aquatic resources. FishTrade will create the foundations for a more solid, productive and sustainable building-up of this great, continent-wide, resource," he said.

"Recent years have seen increased growth in aquaculture. FishTrade will provide the opportunity to learn from past successes and failures and governments will be given the right information to be able to create the incentives and infrastructure that investors need to meet local demand and penetrate higher value-added export markets," said Hamady Diop, Program manager for fisheries and aquaculture, with NEPAD.

FishTrade will work in four 'corridors' to generate information on the structure, products and value of intra-regional fish trade and its contribution to food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recommendations will be prepared on policies, fish certification guidelines and quality and safety standards, as well as regulations. A second stage will focus on strengthening the trade capacities of private sector associations, in particular of women fish processors, women traders and all aquaculture producers, in order for them to

make better use of expanding trade opportunities through competitive small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Finally, Fish Trade will support adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, fish certification procedures, standards and regulations by key stakeholders in intra-regional trade.

Fish accounts for just over one fifth of sub-Saharan Africa's protein intake but per-capita fish consumption has stagnated and is now under half the global average.

The continent produces 9.9m metric tons of fish a year and yet its share of global trade in this valuable commodity is just 4.9%.

In 2011, Africa became a net importer of fish.

Of the 9.9m metric tons of fish produced in 2010, one third came from inland fisheries and 1.49m metric tons came from aquaculture.

In 2011 the value of pan-African fish trade was \$24 billion, equivalent to 1.26% gross domestic product of all African countries.

The fisheries sector in Africa employs 12.3m; accounting for 2% of Africa's population between 15 and 64 years old; and of whom 27% are women.

The cost of illegal and unregulated fishing in Africa is estimated to be over \$1bn a year.

Source : [http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2015/03/03/pan-africa-project-to-focus-on-upping-fish-trade-consumption/?utm\\_source=Undercurrent+News+Alerts&utm\\_campaign=c192bfd9c2-Europe\\_briefing\\_Mar\\_03\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_feb55e2e23-c192bfd9c2-92423501](http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2015/03/03/pan-africa-project-to-focus-on-upping-fish-trade-consumption/?utm_source=Undercurrent+News+Alerts&utm_campaign=c192bfd9c2-Europe_briefing_Mar_03_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_feb55e2e23-c192bfd9c2-92423501)