Developing the Marine Stewardship Council in Africa: The role of governments

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Context

- 76% of the world’s fish stocks are fully or over-exploited
- 20% of all fish caught is discarded
- Wider habitat and biodiversity impacts threatening function and integrity of marine ecosystems
- 1950-2000, world fish production increased 18m to 93m MT
Fisheries: A Vital Resource

- 7.3 million tonnes annually (Source: NEPAD)
- Source of income for up to 10 million people in Africa
- Export value of $US2.7 billion
- Important to food and nutrition security of 200 million Africans
50% of international trade from developing countries
Growing trade flows to developing countries!
Changing world markets

• Rapid economic transition under way in many developing countries.

• Domestic markets are growing rapidly and inter-regional trade in seafood, especially wild caught, is starting to change.

• Future growth in more intra-regional trade.
African Fisheries and the MSC

• **First African fishery certified 2004**
  – South African hake fishery
  – Contributes 150,000 tonnes of white fish in MSC programme

• **Two African fisheries engaged in pilot studies**
  – Banc d’Arguin mullet fishery, Mauritania
  – Sole fishery, Gambia
Fisheries Sector at Risk

– Overfishing (depleted stocks)
– Inadequate management systems
– Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU) fishing
– Ecosystem impact
The best environmental choice in seafood

MSC Standard

1. The sustainability of the stock
2. Ecosystem Impact
3. Effective Management

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Marine Stewardship Council
Default Assessment Tree Structure

MSC Principles &
Criteria For
Sustainable Fishing
(MSC Standard)

Principle 1
Principle 2

Governance
and Policy

PI 3.1.1: Legal and/or
Customary Framework
PI 3.1.2: Consultation, Roles
and Responsibilities
PI 3.1.3:
Long Term Objectives
PI 3.1.4: Incentives for
Sustainable Fishing

Fishery Specific
Management System

PI 3.2.1: Fishery Specific
Objectives
PI 3.2.2: Decision Making
Processes
PI 3.2.3: Compliance and
Enforcement
PI 3.2.4: Research Plan
PI 3.2.5: Management
Performance Evaluation
Two Components to Principle 3 (Management)

1. Governance and policy

2. Fishery specific management system
1. Governance and policy

- Legal and/or customary framework (e.g. respect for laws, dispute mechanisms, observing of legal rights)
- How does it function (e.g. management of risks and uncertainty, transparency, open to review, scrutiny, is it adaptable)
- Consultations
- Precautionary approach
- Incentives for sustainable fishing
2. Fishery specific management system

- Decision making processes
  (e.g. use caution when information is absent or unavailable)
- Compliance & Enforcement
- Research plan
- M&E of management performance
MSC Assessment/Certification Process

1. Client decides to proceed with MSC certification and selects independent certification body
2. Pre-assessment undertaken by certification body
3. Confidential pre-assessment report produced
4. Decision to proceed to full assessment
   - No further action
   - Yes
     - Certification body assembles expert team
     - Performance indicators and scoring guideposts developed and fishery assessed against standard
     - Stakeholder input
     - Expert team assesses fishery
     - Draft assessment report produced
     - Peer review and stakeholder comment
     - Final report and determination
     - Objections procedure
     - Stakeholder input
     - Decision on certification
       - Pass: Product from certified fishery carries logo
       - Fail: Process stops

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*MSC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL*
### Expected benefits from certification for different interest groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected benefit</th>
<th>Retailers/Food service sector</th>
<th>Consumers</th>
<th>Producers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price increase</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved client relationship</td>
<td>✓ (with consumers)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ (with retailers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved management resulting in longer term sustainability</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better knowledge of provenance / source</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued / improved access to markets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved public image</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product differentiation and market segmentation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concerns raised about eco-labeling

- Eco-labeling schemes could be used as new forms of barriers to trade
- Scientific basis of certification standards and criteria – too complicated to understand, capacity issues
- Potential difficulties for developing countries to participate in such schemes, especially the small-scale producers in these countries (cost, data deficiency in fisheries etc.)
- National governments fearing loss of the sovereignty over their resources – being dictated to by an NGO
- Potential confusion among traders and consumers - too many different labels to choose from
Limiting factors

- Data requirements
- Cost of certification
- Awareness/Capacity
- Stakeholder participation
Addressing key challenges

• Guidance for assessing small-scale and data-deficient fisheries (GASS/DD)
  – Development of Risk based assessment methodology
  – Pilot projects
  – Become part of main stream methodology

• Outreach
  – Different regional and national fisheries institutions
  – Increasing awareness
  – Identification of potential fisheries
  – Developing capacity
  – Dispelling misconceptions about the MSC
Costs of MSC Assessment

• Costs depend on the complexity of a fishery
• Costs believed to be very low in relation to benefits

* Example: Norwegian Saithe*
* Intrafish, July 13, 2005

Costs for MSC assessment, certificate lasts 5 years, estimated at £ 59,122

Based on this estimate and a TAC of 200.000 tons (now 242.000 tons) the costs are £0.059 / MT.

• Pre-certification: 10 - 20000 USD or R70 - 140 000
• Certification: 100 000 USD or R700 000

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Sharing the costs – Building partnerships

– NGO’s
– Government
– Development Agencies
  Sustainable Fisheries Fund (SSF)
– Match funding 1:1
– Have allocated funds to 75% of applicants
Benefits of the MSC Programme

for governments

1. Third party confirmation of good management
2. Fish stocks managed sustainably
3. Providing guidance on current management shortcomings (pre-assessment)
4. Guidance on corrective action needed (after pre-assessment)
5. Possibility to obtain donor funding to address problem areas in fisheries (corrective action after pre-assessment)
6. Possibility of obtaining more data on current data deficient fisheries – good for long-term management of fisheries
7. Focusing of research efforts/resources – purpose driven
8. Economic - stabilisation of seafood export prices, more secure market access

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