

CFFA Narrative report 2022

1. General information

Organisation, country: Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements

Reporting period: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

Contact person: Béatrice Gorez, CFFA Coordinator

2. Internal changes

In view of the additional workload, in particular as 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal fisheries (IYAFA), both employees have had their working time increased to 4 days a week. External researchers Dr André Standing and Dr Anaid Panossian have also provided several pieces of research. Our board members have remained the same, with Ms Marie Claude Lagasse de Locht as President and Mr Michael Earle as treasurer. Our carbon footprint policy and anti-corruption policy are on our website, as well as the accounts and reports from the last three years.

We greatly appreciated the possibility of being able to exchange regularly, both with Sara Froklin regarding our joint advocacy activities (that has been the case for many years), but also, for the first year, with the SSNC team regarding our reports and budgets.

3. Contextual changes

The main change in 2022 was the fact that IYAFA, in theory, provided more space for artisanal fisheries to be recognized and to be able to voice its concerns (see more in the results about how fishers have occupied this enlarged civic space, particularly with the launch of the Call to Action). One issue however has been the growing influence of big international environmental NGOs and American philanthropies in small scale fisheries debates, which have, in a way, 'displaced' bona fide artisanal fishers' organisations in many international fora, like the COFI. It's difficult for CFFA to change that, but we believe we can play a role in facilitating a dialogue between small scale fishers and some of these organisations, like the Rise Up¹ platform,

¹ <https://riseupfortheocean.org/>

which has set up a discussion group on SSF meeting every month, to which CFFA actively participates.

Regarding our way of working, we have increased our capacity to work in a hybrid mode, which has allowed more contacts with our partners.

4. Results of activities (*and deviations from the work plan*)

4.1. Advocacy

CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS: STEERING COMMITTEES

CFFA will organize at least one monthly two hours steering committee online, to keep up to date with developments during the IYAFA, and adapt our advocacy to the evolving state of policy debates. CFFA will strive to include more NGOs, including Brussels based NGOs, and African partners into our monthly meetings. [...] Further online meetings will be organized on specific topics during IYAFA, to be chosen with our partners, either to adopt a position (internal meetings) or to raise awareness/promote discussion (webinars).

Extract from Work Plan 2022

The pace of 2022 was marked both by the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) and by the holding of key conferences that had been postponed due to the restrictions to travel linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, there was six major events for which CFFA facilitated CAOPA and others small scale fishers representatives to participate: two main international and one regional conferences, adding to one online EU-Africa summit, the biennial FAO committee on fisheries (COFI) session and the yearly celebration of World Fisheries Day by CAOPA.

Early 2022 it was already clear that one monthly steering committee of two hours would not be enough to cover the discussions necessary for a good IYAFA advocacy: CAOPA started discussions with an organization of fishers from the Pacific, the Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (LMMA), to work together on advocacy for, first the EU-Africa Summit, and second, the 7th meeting of ministers of fisheries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) which was held in Ghana at the beginning of April 2022. They developed a “Call to Action from small-scale fisheries” which slightly evolved in May and June, as CAOPA and LMMA reached out to other fishers’ organisations in other continents in preparation of the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC). The Call to Action² has been a roadmap throughout IYAFA, and fishers are planning to continue using it in their advocacy in the future.

Throughout the year, CFFA supported the planning (coordination, interpretation, and translation in four languages – EN, FR, ES, PT -, supporting documents) of the online meetings to prepare joint advocacy, the development and design of key documents such as position papers, talking points and contributions, press releases and joint statements linked to the Call to Action. Due to the increase in the number of virtual meetings, our interpretation

² <https://www.cffacape.org/ssf-call-to-action>

budget has exploded. CFFA also printed materials for the conferences, a cost which will need to be considered again, as in person conferences restart.

There has been not really a opening for CFFA to get more actively involved in the Food Policy Coalition or other Brussels-based NGOs networks like CIDSE or APRODEV (beyond the exchanges at LDAC level). However CFFA has been contacted by the SSF cluster of the Rise Up For The Ocean Coalition.³ There is an increasing attention from Environmental NGOs to SSF, although sometimes these NGOs have interests that are conflicting with SSF. However, we see a possibility to address or shed light into these contradictions and promote a better partnership with SSF. Following lessons learned from the UNOC,⁴ CAOPA and LMMA have been spearheading “Ground rules on how to work with SSF,” which are still in progress and CFFA has been insisting on these principles in the discussions with Rise Up. Another example, we have raised concerns about debt-for-nature swaps (see below, p. 6 §2), and we plan to address that as some Rise Up members are promoting them.

INFORMING AND INFLUENCING EU INSTITUTIONS

CFFA will continue to inform and exchange with the EU Parliament and European Commission. In 2022, African partners will be invited to Brussels to meet with representatives of EU institutions. [...] CFFA will continue to actively participate to the elaboration of advices in the LDAC. [...] CFFA will also participate to a selected international meeting where it can influence the EU position, particularly in the context of IYAFA (FAO meeting, UN meeting on Ocean, EU-AU Summit).

Extract from Work Plan 2022

Throughout the year, CFFA has noted that the habit to hold videoconferences rather than meeting in person has now settled among EU decision-makers and it is increasingly difficult to organize in person meetings between EU institutions and our partners. It seems however, that some meetings (especially international conferences) are back on track. CFFA used these fora to facilitate informal meetings between decision-makers/EU representatives/representatives of EU development agencies, etc. and fishers. CFFA also adapted to continue informing and influencing EU institutions, despite the challenges.

For example, at the beginning of 2022, the European Parliament was discussing the new Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA). In preparation, we had already started a series of articles about Mauritanian fisheries issues. In January, we held an online meeting with key Mauritanian stakeholders, including fishers’ organisations representatives, civil society, and journalists in collaboration with the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Caroline Roose, who was shadow rapporteur for the Mauritania SFPA report. The participation of a Directorate General for Oceans and Fisheries (DG MARE) representative allowed for the clarification of questions raised by Mauritians regarding the SFPA. Most of the issues raised by Mauritians⁵ on that occasion were included in the Parliament report⁶ and recommendations. Beyond that, CFFA initiated an LDAC position

³ <https://riseupfortheocean.org/#:~:text=About%20Rise%20Up,action%20to%20safeguard%20the%20ocean.>

⁴ <https://immanetwork.org/2022/07/07/unoc-2022-final-declaration-of-small-scale-fishers/>

⁵ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/eu-mauritania-sfpa-the-requests-of-the-mauritanian-artisanal-fisheries-and-civil-society> and the series page: <https://www.cffacape.org/mauritania-series>

⁶ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/-meps-call-on-the-commission-to-use-fisheries-partnership-agreements-as-a-lever-for-regional-management-in-west-africa>

regarding the Mauritanian sustainable management plan for small pelagics.⁷ The Commission informed they considered the advice in the discussions of the EU-Mauritania Joint-Committee end of November.⁸

CFFA has continued to be very active in the Long-Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), and contributed to LDAC positions on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) review⁹ (focusing on women in fisheries and the need for a regional management of small pelagic stocks in West Africa), an exhaustive advice on the social dimension of SFPAs¹⁰ (initiated by CFFA in 2021), and on China DWF.¹¹ On the CFP, we also made recommendations directly to the consultant in charge of the SFPAs evaluation.¹²

Beyond the involvement at LDAC, CFFA has continued to work on access arrangements and report on issues linked with foreign fleets fishing in African waters, like the case of the Spanish vessels, flagged in Senegal and fishing illegally in Liberia. After the publication of a second article,¹³ CFFA discussed with the Spanish and Senegalese company representatives and wrote a follow-up article.¹⁴ CFFA has also informally discussed with the Commission about this issue.

We have also worked on documenting how the EU strategy to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Ghana is not working (the EU has given a yellow card to the country) and how IUU is threatening small-scale fishers' livelihoods.¹⁵

CFFA is also contributing to work on access arrangements by FAO.¹⁶ The overfishing and overcapacity of foreign fleets in African waters remains a concern, especially through joint ventures and other opaque arrangements, and for this reason, CFFA initiated an LDAC conference to be held mid-2023 on joint ventures. CFFA also denounced that this matter has not been addressed in the (much celebrated) WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies at a webinar organized by IDDRI.¹⁷

In the context of IYAFAs, and in line with CAOPA's advocacy based on Sustainable Development Goal 14.b (SDG14b) which calls states to "guarantee access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries" by 2030, CFFA also looked at progress with this SDG14b

⁷ https://ldac.eu/images/Final_Advice_Mauritania-West_Africa_25-11-2022.pdf

⁸ https://ldac.eu/images/EC_Reply_LDAC_advice_on_Mauritania_Dec2022.pdf

⁹

https://ldac.eu/images/FINAL_LDAC_Contribution_EU_Targeted_Consultation_2022_Report_Functioning_CFP_14March2022.pdf

¹⁰ https://ldac.eu/images/EN_LDAC_Advice_Policy_Recommendations_Social_Clause_SFPAs_27May2022.pdf

¹¹ https://ldac.eu/images/LDAC-MAC_Joint_Advice_China_Distant_Water_Fleets_13Dic2022.pdf

¹² See the presentation by the consultant at the LDAC meeting: https://ldac.eu/images/SFPAs_evaluation_January_2022.pdf

¹³ The first article was published in 2021. See: <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/experimental-fishing-or-experimental-pillaging-in-liberia> and <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/senegal-and-liberia-will-conduct-joint-fisheries-research-to-evaluate-liberia-fisheries-viability-for-liberia-carabineros-this-may-come-too-late>

¹⁴ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/activities-of-senegalese-trawlers-in-liberia-the-companies-incriminated-by-cffa-soperka-and-pereira-react>

¹⁵ We interviewed a Ghanaian fisher: <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/ghana-artisanal-fishers-facing-the-perfect-storm-of-climate-change-and-iuu-fishing> and we translated an article by a local journalist who had received support from CAOPA to write his article: <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/chinas-capture-of-ghanas-fishing-industry-is-threatening-food-security>

¹⁶ In 2021, CFFA contributed to a study which was finally published in 2022:

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2545en>, see our highlights here: <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/moving-towards-sustainable-fisheries-in-africa-a-fao-discussion-on-foreign-fishing-access-arrangements-is-essential>. CFFA has also worked on a second study which is still in progress.

¹⁷ Since the webinar was under Chatham House rules, we also published a position on the website:

<https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/wto-agreement-on-fisheries-subsidies-a-mouse-is-born>

and published several articles.¹⁸ CFFA participated and supported the fishers' participation in at least six main international and regional events, some linked to IYAFA:

- February – EU-AU Summit (Brussels): This summit, under the French presidency of the EU, was highly criticized by CSOs because they were not really allowed to participate (only decision-makers attended in person) nor contribute to preparations prior to the summit. The results of this EU-AU Summit were disappointing – the limelight of the Summit was on the Covid and access to vaccines. Fisheries, let alone small-scale fisheries, did not receive much attention.

However, there still were some opportunities to raise awareness about IYAFA, and SSF issues, with EU and AU institutions: CFFA helped CAOPA organize a webinar prior to the summit in which CAOPA could present its priorities for IYAFA¹⁹ and which was attended by 100 participants. A joint CSO statement²⁰ was released based on these priorities and CAOPA also sent them to the EU and AU. The Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) responded to the letter.

The Commission organized in parallel to the Summit a Europe-Africa week (online) and CFFA facilitated the participation of CAOPA at a high-level event.²¹ The Summit was also the occasion to shine light on the new pan African platform of non-state actors in fisheries, Afrifish-net,²² of which CAOPA is coordinator. As both forums are built for similar purposes, CFFA introduced Afrifish-net to LDAC, and Afrifish-net has since attended some LDAC meetings as observers.

- April – OACPS 7th Meeting of Ministers of Fisheries (Ghana): The Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) comprises 79 countries, of which more than 60 are coastal countries with important artisanal fishing communities. For many years, it has been perceived as a 'creation' of the EU, however, in recent years, the OACPS has had the ambition of becoming an actor in its own right, with key inputs in fora such as WTO.

As mentioned above, early in 2022, CAOPA starting collaborating with LMMA to prepare a joint position for this meeting, the Call to Action.²³ In parallel, CFFA built a close working relationship with the OACPS secretariat in Brussels. This allowed CFFA and its partners to provide inputs into the official documents prior to the meeting in Ghana. CFFA, CAOPA and LMMA also participated in OACPS preparatory webinars²⁴ on IUU fishing and SSF.

The OACPS invited CSOs to Ghana, which allowed for a more formal exchange between Ministers and fishers organisations in Ghana. Fishers could also intervene as

¹⁸ On EU contribution to SDG14B; <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/how-will-the-eu-contribute-to-support-sustainable-artisanal-fisheries-in-africa-through-its-international-partnerships>, one on women specifically: <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/making-fish-worth-its-weight-in-gold-granting-better-access-to-markets-for-women-in-african-artisanal-fisheries>, and one reviewing a FAO report on SDGs progress: <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/despite-what-fao-says-access-to-marine-resources-and-markets-is-not-yet-secured-for-small-scale-fisheries>

¹⁹ <https://caopa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CAOPA-priorities-IYAFA-2022.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/small-scale-fisheries-participation-in-decision-making-is-crucial-for-food-security-of-african-coastal-communities-xpg7r>

²¹ The event was attended both by the EU and AU commissioners on fisheries issues, and the Swedish and Portuguese ministers: "Fostering a cross-continental Africa-Europe dialogue on ocean governance." <https://app.swapcard.com/event/africa-eu-week-of-partnerships/planning/UGxhbm5pbmdfNzk30Tky>

²² <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/eu-au-summit-african-fisheries-stakeholders-speak-with-one-voice>

²³ The first version of the call was this one: <https://lmmanetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/A-call-to-Action-EN-compressed-version.pdf>

²⁴ See: <https://brussels.mfa.gov.gh/seminar---small-scale-fisheries-in-the-member-states-of-the-oacps> and <http://www.acp.int/content/oacps-seminar-brings-together-experts-discuss-iuu-fishing-within-members-oacps>

observers during the technical meeting. CFFA did not participate in person, and supported the fishers, men and women, through the drafting of talking points and position papers²⁵ linked to each session of the agenda and the layout and design of the Call and other related printed materials.

Overall, OACPS Fisheries Ministers came out of the Conference with the feeling that artisanal fishers were reliable and well-informed partners, which is essential for further dialogue. CAOPA and LMMA priorities are clearly considered into the final OACPS declaration,²⁶ which is the basis to highlight how its members will support the attainment of SDGs, in particular SDG 14.

- June – UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon): CFFA once again played a facilitating role between fishers from LMMA, CAOPA with the addition of fishers' groups from other continents who attended UNOC. Through several meetings, the Call to Action was reviewed to include Latin and Meso America specificities and was designed and published in four languages for UNOC (FR/ENG/SP/PT). It has since been translated into 3 more: Kiswahili, Wolof, and Arabic.

During UNOC, men and women fishers participated to a series of activities²⁷ and CFFA co-organized some of them, like two “breakfasts for decision makers,” to present the Call to Action, which were held in 5 languages (ENG/FR/SP/PT/Bahasa) and were attended by more than 100 people, including high-level decision-makers. CFFA also moderated a side event on fisheries and food security organized by the German Cooperation.

These events have reinforced the cohesion between the fishers' groups who attended UNOC to a point they are now working together in other fora (see below), using the Call to Action as a roadmap.

However, small scale fisheries issues (and fisheries altogether) were almost absent from the UNOC final declaration²⁸ showing rather an increased interest to invest in other “blue economy” competing sectors and the developing of new financing forms of conservation that could endanger the future of coastal communities.

There are many factors that brought this disappointing result, but we realized that, whereas fishers had prepared their Call well in advance, this was not enough. The lesson learned was that CFFA and its partners need to provide inputs through the preparatory process to the conference (0-draft) much earlier as well as trying to target the people on the draft committee. This was done more successfully in COFI (in a joint work with CAOPA, via EU and AU) and in CBD COP 15 in Montreal (by the Latin American fishers present there).

- September – FAO Committee on Fisheries (Rome): The 35th session of COFI was preceded by an SSF Summit, organized by FAO at the occasion of IYafa, and financially supported by some big environmental NGOs that are starting to take an interest in small-scale fisheries. Overall, the summit went well, although both CAOPA and CFFA expressed concerns about the lack of participation of SSF organisations in the drawing up of the agenda. In our opinion, the SSF summit should have been more useful if: (1) the agenda had been drawn up to match the agenda points from COFI

²⁵ See position papers: <https://caopa.org/en/ghana-caopa-and-lmma-present-the-priorities-of-artisanal-fisheries/12/04/2022/news/4220/>

²⁶ http://www.acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/user_files/user_15/Declaration_%207thMMFA_EN.pdf

²⁷ A summary can be found here : <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/speaking-with-one-voice-at-united-nations-ocean-conference>

²⁸ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/unoc-political-declaration-where-are-the-fishers>

that concern artisanal fishers, and if (2) more fishers, instead of NGO representatives, had been invited, especially youth (only one participant was below 30).

Due to difficulties in obtaining visas, only 2 members of CAOPA and 1 Meso American fisher could attend COFI. However, the signatories of the Call prepared COFI in online meetings and used the same strategy than for the OACPS meeting: they had position papers for each COFI agenda point, based on the Call, which CFFA helped in drafting. The communication officers of CAOPA, CFFA and CoopeSolidar coordinated throughout COFI to publish on a twitter thread the positions and other relevant interventions in French, English and Spanish respectively, which allowed for engagement of stakeholders beyond those present in Rome. Overall, the participation of fishers was a success,²⁹ with their inputs acknowledged and included by the UN Special Envoy for the Oceans, representatives of the EU (CFFA had shared them in advance of COFI), the AU, fisheries ministers, and other delegations. After several decades of struggle, small-scale fisheries (SSF) have managed to obtain a broad recognition for the role they play in food security, livelihoods, economies, culture and well-being and in the words of a long-term observer of COFI, “*never has there been such enthusiasm for small-scale fisheries.*”

The creation of a new sub-committee on fisheries management was approved by COFI members, and CFFA will follow with EU representatives how this Committee will be set up, working with the EU and African members to make sure SSF issues, especially the progress in the implementation of the SSF guidelines, are on the agenda.

- November – World Fisheries Day (Mombasa): As agreed with CANCO at COFI, CAOPA held its WFD in Kenya. Since the Kenyan government was organizing for the same occasion, CAOPA and CANCO decided to participate in the official meeting.³⁰ This allowed fishers to present the Call to Action to the Kenyan minister for mining, maritime affairs, and blue economy. CAOPA and CANCO also held a two-day seminar to take stock of the progress made in promoting the Call to Action throughout the year. CFFA supported the event and seminar, held its yearly in person two days steering committee and took the opportunity to meet with the EU fisheries attaché based in Nairobi, who is also in charge of following the implementation of the EU-Côte d’Ivoire SFPA.
- December – COP 15 Biodiversity (Montreal): Neither CFFA nor CAOPA could travel, but since the Latin and Meso-American fishers attended and were holding a side-event, CFFA and CAOPA communication officers produced a video³¹ which was broadcasted there. In the context of the 30x30 target,³² CFFA published a joint statement to reject debt-for-nature swaps as a way to finance conservation,³³ which expressed the concerns about transparency and potential nefarious impacts on coastal communities, backed by more than 35 organisations and individual signatories.

The lesson from our 2022 advocacy is that, in international fora which are not specifically on fisheries but which decisions still have an impact on SSF (i.e. oceans, climate change and

²⁹ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/cofi-35-never-has-there-been-such-enthusiasm-for-small-scale-fisheries>

³⁰ <https://caopa.org/en/mombasa-celebration-of-world-fisheries-day-and-awareness-raising-on-the-call-to-action/25/11/2022/news/4969/>

³¹ <https://youtu.be/Qp5e3v207x8>

³² Governments committed to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf>

³³ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/joint-statement-financing-the-30x-30-agenda-for-the-oceans-debt-for-nature-swaps-should-be-rejected>

biodiversity), countries still largely ignore small-scale fisheries. Yet, in these matters, SSF have much to say, and much to lose if they are not heard. The problem is that most of these decisions are made in other ministries than those responsible for fisheries. IYAFA has brought many engagements at international level, but, as discussed in the yearly steering committee, CFFA needs to continue documenting concrete cases of how international level decisions have an impact at national level and on local communities, and find opportunities to support local struggle, mainly through EU fisheries related policies. Regarding climate change and biodiversity loss, CFFA will need to continue documenting and shedding light on examples of blue economy sectors competing or threatening SSF, on the damages and impacts of climate change on SSF, but also on good cases of environmental and biodiversity protection by SSF communities. This documentation can then be useful for advocacy work at EU and international levels.

4.2. Research

CFFA advocacy priorities in 2022 will be supported by in depth research to enable us to make informed contributions in decision making processes on issues including: implementation of the Farm to Fork strategy, EU position on the blue economy (both in DG Mare and DG IntPa), the development of sustainable African artisanal tuna fisheries, in order to develop a common CAOPA/FPAOI/CFFA position for IOTC/ICCAT 2022 meetings, etc The topics for research are identified together with our African partners.

Extract from Work Plan 2022

CFFA's advocacy is supported by in depth research, either undertaken by the CFFA Secretariat (Joelle Philippe and Béatrice Gorez) for what concerns EU fisheries policy (in particular access arrangements), or for documenting particular situations in African countries where we have partners, or commissioned to associates such as Anaid Panossian, for what concerns EU International Partnerships/Development Cooperation Policy, or André Standing, for issues related to the Blue economy or transparency in maritime fisheries.

Even though there has been no opportunity to develop further the work on Farm to Fork strategy, due to the lack of political will linked to the impact of the Ukraine war, nor the development of sustainable African artisanal tuna fisheries, due to the illness of a key partner in Africa and the obvious focus on IYAFA, CFFA has continued its research which has fed the following 3 series of publications:

- EU-Mauritania SFPA: three papers have continued feeding the discussion at EP-level (see p. 2 §3), focusing on joint management of stocks of small pelagics³⁴ and on the demands of Mauritanian SSF organisations and CSOs.³⁵
- EU development and cooperation: Coinciding with IYAFA, Anaid Panossian wrote a broad review on how the EU-Africa partnership is supporting SSF.³⁶ We also took the

³⁴ An external contribution by Michel Morin: <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/fisheries-management-in-west-africa-the-example-of-sardinella> and <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/the-new-eu-mauritania-agreement-towards-a-sustainable-management-of-small-pelagics-in-west-africa>

³⁵ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/eu-mauritania-sfpa-the-requests-of-the-mauritanian-artisanal-fisheries-and-civil-society>

³⁶ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/how-will-the-eu-contribute-to-support-sustainable-artisanal-fisheries-in-africa-through-its-international-partnerships>

opportunity to provide comments into the PESCAO project review and published an article³⁷ accordingly.

- Conservation finance and the blue economy: Andre Standing researched in depth the impacts on the Belize debt-swap³⁸ into marine policy and more specifically the potential impacts to SSF communities. Thanks to this research, we were able to publish a joint statement (see p. 6 §2) to reject debt-swaps. Andre also looked critically into the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative (BEFI),³⁹ which are investment principles supported by EU funding. He finally also analyzed the Fisheries Improvement Project in Mauritania⁴⁰ (feeding also the Mauritania series) and how companies are trying to greenwash unsustainable practices. This triggered – so far unproductive – discussions⁴¹ with some of the promoters of FIP. CFFA also shared this research with the European Court of Auditors which is currently preparing an audit on aquaculture (report to be published in June 2023).

4.3. Communication

An important part of our communication in 2022 will be linked to the debates on artisanal fisheries around IYafa. CFFA will have a joint communication strategy with CAOPA. CFFA will support the production of articles and videos by African journalists about the major issues in play in African fisheries. The focus of these articles and videos will be identified with our African partners. CFFA will also continue to publish positions and recommendations related to EU policies that affect African fishing communities, both on its website, on social media, and with the publication of a newsletter twice a month.

Extract from Work Plan 2022

IYafa AND DAY-TO-DAY COMMUNICATION

During IYafa, the collaboration with the CAOPA communications officer has intensified, with weekly short coordination meetings and longer meetings when big events were coming up. The hiring of the communications officer at CAOPA is a welcome progress, as it allows CAOPA to be more autonomous, CFFA's communication officer to focus more on the EU audience, and amplify CAOPA's activities where relevant. The CAOPA officer also brings new assets to the joint work, especially with its knowledge of video-making, software (webinar organization) and social media.

The work in supporting communications during the international conferences CFFA and its partners attended (see pages 3-6) also included the development of dedicated pages on CFFA's website that would gather all the relevant documents/position papers of CFFA and its partners (mostly CAOPA) for easy reference. CFFA did that for the CAOPA IYafa priorities, for the Call and for COFI.⁴²

³⁷ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/west-africa-pescao-should-be-more-effective-and-attentive-to-artisanal-fisheries>

³⁸ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/debt-for-nature-swaps-and-the-oceans-the-belize-blue-bond>

³⁹ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/how-will-the-eu-contribute-to-support-sustainable-artisanal-fisheries-in-africa-through-its-international-partnerships-b97yy>

⁴⁰ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/certifying-unsustainable-fip-mauritania>

⁴¹ The core of the matter is that the promoters of the FIP continue insisting on the fact that fish feed production in West Africa can be made sustainable if well managed. CFFA's position is that there is no way the production can be sustainable, given the state of the stocks and the impact this industry has both on food security and the environment. Some of the exchanges can be seen on the website at the bottom of the blog page. See note 37.

⁴² <https://www.cffacape.org/iyafa-2022> ; <https://www.cffacape.org/ssf-call-to-action> and <https://www.cffacape.org/cofi>

CFFA and CAOPA jointly published several videos that were prepared during 2021 ahead of IYAFA. For example, during the EU-AU Summit, CFFA released two storyboards, one relating to the issue of overfishing of Sardinella (small pelagics) and one on the importance of SSF in Africa.⁴³ For 8 March, in the context of IYAFA, CFFA interviewed three women leaders in fisheries and published an article highlighting the challenges but also innovations that these women bring to their communities.⁴⁴ In the vein, CFFA also interviewed three young fishers following the IYAFA SSF Summit in September, which only had a 1 young fisher participant.⁴⁵

In the context of the EU-Mauritania SFPA, CFFA also released a video about the importance of the octopus fishery in Mauritania⁴⁶ and continued informing on the food security issues linked to fishmeal production in Mauritania.⁴⁷ All this content populated the Mauritania series mentioned above (see p.2 §3). The news section allows CFFA to continue raising the issue on the agenda while pointing again at recommendations (publications and policy papers).

When needed, CFFA communications officer created animated videos to summarize longer-read reports, such as the one on debt swaps⁴⁸ by Andre Standing.

CFFA published 15 publications, 12 newsletters (coinciding more or less with the publications), including 6 external contributions (3 from Andre Standing, 2 from Anaid Panossian and the one from Michel Morin), 18 news articles, including 4 external contributions, and 2 longer pieces by CFFA itself. CFFA also published 1 joint statement for the EU-AU summit⁴⁹ and 1 joint statement on debt-swaps⁵⁰ at the occasion of COP15 Biodiversity. CFFA also published 1 joint press release for UNOC⁵¹ and 1 for COFI.⁵²

ENGAGEMENT WITH JOURNALISTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

CFFA has continued to respond to all requests by journalists. The challenges we face are either the journalists' own time constraints (tight deadlines which do not allow CFFA to respond in length or on time) or their lack of knowledge of the topic (very generic or biased questions). CFFA's coordinator was interviewed by several journalists,⁵³ including for a documentary on Senegal fisheries (yet to be published).

CFFA has continued to collaborate with journalists ad hoc, publishing articles that are of importance to African SSF. For example, thanks to the collaboration with an American photographer, we could document better the initiatives of USCOFEP-CI in Ivory Coast, which was beneficial to help build the case for financing with other partners.⁵⁴ We also translated an

⁴³ See <https://youtu.be/7ITHtBwZSvc> and https://youtu.be/psB_MW3zoro

⁴⁴ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/our-business-is-to-create-jobs-for-our-communities>

⁴⁵ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/people-think-fishing-business-for-the-illiterate-can-t-be-more-wrong>

⁴⁶ <https://youtu.be/ajQAbaiVUVY>

⁴⁷ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/when-people-are-starving-footage-of-fresh-fish-used-for-fishmeal-is-disturbing> and <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/fishmeal-and-fish-oil-production-in-west-africa-destroys-the-regions-resources-to-the-benefit-of-foreign-countries>

⁴⁸ <https://youtu.be/1Vx-eBPfVSc>

⁴⁹ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/small-scale-fisheries-participation-in-decision-making-is-crucial-for-food-security-of-african-coastal-communities-xpg7r>

⁵⁰

⁵¹ <https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/joint-press-release-small-scale-fishers-call-for-global-leaders-to-act-now>

⁵² <https://www.cffacape.org/cofi>

⁵³ See for example: https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/cameroon-becomes-a-go-to-country-for-foreign-fishing-vessels/2022/07/27/4f84de42-0d78-11ed-88e8-c58dc3dbaee2_story.html

⁵⁴ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/something-cool-for-cte-divoire-women-fish-processors-will-give-them-more-power-in-the-marketplace> and <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/grand-bereby-cote-divoire-marine-protected-area>

article⁵⁵ from the USCOFEP-CI blog to amplify the work done by the cooperative. CFFA also asked a Guinean journalist to better document the “special category” of “advance artisanal fishery”⁵⁶ in the West African country.

With the reopening of activities post-Covid but also at the occasion of IYAFSA, CFFA had the opportunity to present its work but also the priorities of African SSF (CAOPA) at a series of events, such as an event by Belgian NGOs in Namur;⁵⁷ an international conference gathering mainly European and Ibero-american SSF organisations,⁵⁸ which allowed CFFA to link up with some Latin-American organisations; a Conference on ‘food otherwise’ organised by the University of Wageningen and NGOs,⁵⁹ and at a fisheries scientist conference⁶⁰ in Rennes.

5. Corruption in fisheries

Corruption in fisheries is rife, and that’s a topic we are addressing by calling, since 2012, for more transparency in fisheries related decision making processes. CFFA has a page on its website dedicated to this issue.⁶¹

To avoid corruption within the organization, and in the relationship with our partners, CFFA follows its anti-corruption policy, and asks its partners to conform to it.

6. Promotion of gender equity

In 2022, CFFA has facilitated the participation of women organisations representatives in the various international events we attended and has tried in as much as possible to have gender-balanced delegations. CFFA has also promoted the Call to Action from artisanal fisheries, which priorities are key to improving women in fisheries livelihoods, with one specific priority on support and promoting the role of women in fisheries. We have continued our work on specific issues (like fishmeal production, access to raw material in Ivory Coast) that are key for women in fisheries.⁶²

⁵⁵ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/doors-wide-open-for-the-san-pedro-cold-store>

⁵⁶ <https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/artisanal-fishermen-complain-that-asians-are-fishing-in-the-area-reserved-for-them>

⁵⁷ https://www.entraide.be/rencontre_namur_20220523

⁵⁸ <https://www.europapress.es/andalucia/cadiz-00351/noticia-nace-cadiz-rediberoamericana-pesca-artesanal-pequena-escala-20220515144854.html>

⁵⁹ <https://www.voedselanders.nl/voedsel-anders-conferentie-2022/>

⁶⁰ <https://halieutique.institut-agro-rennes-angers.fr/files/fichiers/default/Programme-halieute-des%20transitions.pdf>

⁶¹ <https://www.cffacape.org/transparency>

⁶² See footnotes 36, 44, 54 and 55 for examples.