

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SECTOR

The fisheries sub-sector continues to play a significant role in the national economy and food security of the country. It contributes about 10% GDP and it is the most important economic activity along the coastline of Sierra Leone. Fish is the largest source of animal protein for majority of Sierra Leoneans, supplying about 80% of total animal protein consumption. Over 500,000 people are directly or indirectly employed in the fisheries sector.

Vision of MFMR

The fisheries sector policy seeks to promote responsible and sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices through good governance while contributing to poverty reduction and wealth creation in Sierra Leone. The policy envisages significant contribution by the sector to social welfare in an equitable manner, sustainable economic growth and wealth generated through the environmentally sound and prudent exploitation of the nation's living aquatic resources.

Mission of MFMR

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has as its mission, to plan, develop, rationally manage and conserve all living aquatic resources of the country for the benefit of the country.

To achieve this, the ministry is promoting good governance including co-management practices, establishing sustainable MCS procedures, to enhance livelihoods of fishing communities, supporting commercial fisheries development, increase the contribution of the fish resources to the national economy. The Ministry is moving well towards the implementation of the following key initiatives:

- 1) Increasing fish production and reducing spoilage and wastage of fish and fishery products to support national nutrition and food security
- 2) Increase employment opportunities for Sierra Leoneans

- 3) Enhance the socio-economic status of people in the fisheries sector, particularly women
- 4) Improve export earnings from the fishery sector and facilitate fish export to lucrative international markets including the European Union
- 5) Improve the skills of the fishing communities and ensure rational management of the fisheries based on scientific information
- 6) Promote artisanal and inland fisheries for local protein production and promote industrial fisheries for export earnings
- 7) Strengthen regional and international collaboration for sustainable management and conservation of fish resources
- 8) Enhancing service delivery through the implementation of management and functional review (MFR)

Mandate:

The mandate of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is to foster economically and ecologically sustainable management and development of the fisheries.

In 2007, an assessment was done of the fisheries sector which shows that it was facing several challenges including:

- 1) High level of Illegal fishing including trawler incursion into the Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) reserved for artisanal fishers Fishermen livelihoods were threatened as a result of heightened use of illegal fishing gears in the artisanal fisheries sectors
- 2) Inadequate governance regime
- 3) Inadequate human resource capacity
- 4) Inadequate official controls and infrastructure for value addition and export

Total revenues from the sector in 2007 were only around Le 4.3 billion. The Agenda for change which represented the vision of HE President Ernest Bai Koroma, provided a concrete road map for the development of the fisheries sector by providing the basis for the reinvigoration of the fisheries sector with guidance for the development of a more efficient modern fisheries management and development strategy that have seen increases in fishery revenues around

Le11 billion, Le 13.7 billion and Le 14.8 billion in 2010, 2011 and as of November 2012 respectively. The Agenda for Change strategies for the fishery sector was implemented with emphasis on the following:

- 1) Combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing through improved monitoring, control and surveillance of our territorial waters
- 2) Ensuring increased fish production for our people
- 3) Conservation and sustainable use of our fish resources
- 4) Enhancing extension services through the promotion of co-management through collaboration with stakeholders such as artisanal and industrial fisheries sectors
- 5) Implementation of functional extension services in fishing communities
- 6) Value addition through the development of infrastructure and processing facilities to promote export of fish to EU and other lucrative markets
- 7) Development of aquaculture and Mari culture

This Agenda for Change has been implemented in tandem with the country's results based management (RBM) framework which is based on a performance tracking table (PTT) for appraisal of performance of development programmes implemented by specific Ministries.

1. NAMES AND ADDRESS OF MFMR

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (**MFMR**) is housed in the seventh floor of Youyi Building, Brookfields Freetown. You can contact us at mariatu28@gmail.com, bushuracole@yahoo.com and telephone numbers 076503320/076619641 or visit our website at www.mfmr.sl.gov. You can also get in touch the Ministry through our extension offices at Goderich and Tombo in the Western Rural Area, Kissy Dockyard in the eastern part of Freetown, Shenge in the Moyamba District, Konakridee and Bailor in the Kambia District, Gbondapi in the Pujehun District, Bonthe Town in the Bonthe district, Makali in the Tonkolili District and Bo City in the Bo District.

2.NAMES OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT

No.	Pin	NAME	DESIGNATION	GRADE
1		Elisabeth Mans	Hon. Minister	
2		Charles Rogers	Hon. Deputy Minister	
3	109671	Mrs. Mariatu Koroma	Permanent Sec.	11
4	122848	Patrick S. Sundifu	Ag. Deputy Sec.	8
5	145108	Mohamed B. U. Cole	Dir. of Fisheries	12

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

STATUS OF FLAGSHIP PROJECTS OF MFMR FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

A. GOVERNANCE

- i) **Review of Fisheries Laws:** Through consultation with stakeholders, we have reviewed the fisheries legislation to modernize it in line with international instruments and to reflect the current standards and prescribe stringent penalties against defaulters. The 1994 Fisheries Management and Development is undergoing review and renamed the fisheries Management and Aquaculture Bill of 2016 which will soon be sent to cabinet for approval and to Parliament for ratification.

- ii) **SUPPORTING DEVOLUTION FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

There has been devolution of a major artisanal fisheries management functions to Local Councils - licensing of fishing canoes and attendant fishing gears, as provided by the Local Government Act of 2004. We have supported the devolution process through the registration of all small scale fishing canoes to provide detailed information on the number of fishing canoes and fishing gears operating in the artisanal fisheries. These fishing crafts have also been affixed with number plates. This will ease the licensing of canoes by local councils as required by the Local government Act of 2004, support revenue generation for communities and Local Government.

- iii) **Sensitization of fishing communities and grassroots for establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Introduction of Fishing Rights**

We have adopted **co-management principles** which ensure **partnership** and collaboration with stakeholder institutions and international partners in the area of governance, including, the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs). Four MPAS have been established, namely, Sherbro River, Yawri Bay, Scarcis River and Sierra Leone River Estuaries. **MPAs are marine areas**

designated by law where fishing and other activities are restricted or banned. MPAs limit fishing access to certain areas but enhance profit for communities. The MPAs will consequently graduate into territorial use rights in fisheries (TURFs) and will create wealth in fishing communities which is in line with the Agenda for Prosperity. The MPAs will be managed by community management associations (CMAs) consisting of traditional rulers, civil society including fishermen union, local councils, Government and NGOs.

Registration of all artisanal Fishing Canoes

The Ministry has registered over 10,000 fishing canoes in the country and fitted number plates on all and have input in a database in support for the Councils. This will assist the local councils in licensing of canoes to generate revenue for their communities. We have also deployed Fisheries officers from the MFMR to ten (10) Out-Stations, who are to serve as extension Officers at the same time, double as community organisers with a view to working with their respective communities to manage the four marine protected areas.

B. REDUCTION OF ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Replacement of Illegal Fishing Nets with Legal Nets

We have provided fishing inputs including legal fishing gear materials under an incentive for change package supported by the Japanese Government. Government has provided fishing nets for exchange with illegal fishing nets , at affordable and subsidized rates. Fishermen that voluntarily handed in their illegal nets to Government are also been provided with legal nets in exchange for illegal ones as an incentive for responsible fishing. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of nets will be provided to the communities to enable their development. We have also received around **US\$500,000** worth of netting materials and appropriate fishing gears under the World Bank funded West African Regional Fisheries Programme (**WARFP-SL**). This, we believe, will assist fishing communities in having access to legal fishing nets to reduce illegal fishing.

Formation of a Joint Maritime Committee (JMC)

In 2009 Government had set up, the Joint Maritime Committee (**JMC**) following cabinet's conclusion. The **JMC** is led by **MFMR** and comprises all major maritime stakeholders, including the MFMR, the Maritime Wing of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, the Maritime Police, the Sierra Leone Maritime

Administration, the National Ports Authority, and Office of National Security **(ONS)**. The **JMC** undertakes fisheries protection and maritime security surveillance operations.

Installation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on fishing vessels

We have put in place a more advanced and tamper-proof vessel monitoring system **(VMS)**, to monitor the position and activities of licensed fishing vessels at sea. Monitoring through the VMS is done at the MFMR radio operations room and the JMC ops room, monitored on a 24 hours 7 days basis. The new system which replaces the old one was donated by the Isle of Man Government in **2013**. Since the installation of this system, indicators show that trawler incursions in the Inclusive Economic Zone **(IEZ)** have significantly reduced and fishermen are now happy that they are not competing with trawlers for fishing grounds. Fish sizes have also improved which is the pathway to wealth creation in the artisanal Fishery sector.

Improved Surveillance Patrol Assets



In addition to the inshore patrol boat donated to our Ministry by the Isle of Man Government, Government has procured a sophisticated patrol vessel, named, Sorie Ibrahim Koroma - **(SIK)** , worth about **US\$ 6 million**. This patrol boat now patrols on a routine basis, the entire Exclusive Economic Zone of Sierra Leone.

Community Surveillance patrols are also jointly conducted at the fisheries outstations and forward operation basis by the Maritime Wing and **MFMR** within the **JMC** framework using the patrol boats which were procured under the Artisanal Fisheries Development Project by the African Development Bank **(ADB)** project and distributed to the outstations.

For prosecutions of defaulters, the Ministry contracted a Legal Adviser to the Ministry who now assist with legal proceedings on illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishery (**IUU**) and other fisheries enforcement related matters.

Cooperation with USA for fisheries Patrols

Joint Maritime patrols were organised by the **JMC** and the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (**AMLEP**) and have led to the arrest, prosecution and levying of fines against various categories of vessels which has boosted the revenue generation base of the Ministry. These initiatives have sent a strong message to would be defaulters that **IUU** is no longer tolerated in Sierra Leone. The Ministry has also embarked on community surveillance, working together with the Sierra Leone Maritime Wing at Forward Operational Bases (FOBs) in the 6 coastal districts of Moyamba, Portloko, Kambia, Western Area, Bonthe and Pujehun Districts. Extension services have been improved in these areas through the rehabilitation of the ministry's respective Outstations. The World Bank funds provided funds to procure fuel and lubricants to support some of these operations.

Sub-regional Collaboration in Surveillance

Being one of the seven-member countries of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission- SRFC, we cooperate with the sub-regional fisheries commission to undertake regional fisheries surveillance patrols and enforcement of fisheries regulations and laws. In 2011, we collaborated with Liberia arrested and handed over to that Government, a vessel that committed IUU offence in Liberia, escaped and took refuge in our waters. We recently negotiated a collaborative framework with Liberia, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Guinea for MCS enforcement and establishment of a Regional Fisheries Observer Programme. We have attended several meetings with the SRFC to set up a framework for surveillance operations. Joint patrols of SRFC member states are often times conducted to alert the region on IUU matters.

Increasing Revenue Generation for the fishery sector

Under the dynamic leadership of this Government, revenue generation has increased from Le 4.3 billion in 2007 to Le 47 billion as of October 2016, mainly from fines, licenses and royalties. We expect high increase of revenues through the introduction of a Quota Management System based on Total Allowable Catches (TACs), learning from experiences of Namibia and New Zealand Fisheries. Experts have undertaken studies to introduce Quota system where licensing will now be based on the quantity of fishing vessels catch instead of on the size (gross registered tonnage) of vessels. This will surely take us towards prosperity.

C. AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT



A Fish Pond at Makali



The hatchery

The Ministry has made major strides towards the development of aquaculture to a commercial level. We have constructed forty fish ponds in the Bo, Kenema, Kono and Tonkolili Districts through the FAO/SIL/TCP/3502 Project and we collaborated with the diversified food production project (DFPP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFs) to identify suitable fish farming sites in the Bombali and Koinadugu Districts. In collaboration with FAO, we constructed 12 (400m²) fish ponds at four sites in Koinadugu and Kono Districts. We are using mined out pools to develop aquaculture such mining areas such as Sierra Ruitile where we reactivated 8 fish ponds in mining pools by stocking them with brooders and fingerlings of catfish and tilapia. We also provided 15 bags of fish feed imported from Brazil under the FAO/TCP project for strengthening fish farmers. The growth rate of fish species have improved under this intervention. We have also provided training for fish farmers and provided them with fish farming inputs free of cost to improve farmed fish production in the Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces.

Commercialization of Aquaculture

Through the support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Partnership for African Fisheries, we have carried out an aquaculture needs assessment and cost benefit analysis for the development of an aquaculture opportunity and investment strategy. A document called, Strategic Framework for Sustainable Aquaculture is available upon request by potential investors and development partners in the sector. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to develop and promote a viable commercial aquaculture in Sierra Leone to enhance increased fish production in this all-important fishery sub-sector.

In another development, there has been significant improvement in fish farming in the Tonkolili district. A consultancy was arranged by **Worldfish Feed the Future project** to explore the current and future demand for fish seed in Sierra Leone, and assess the demand and requirements for upgrading

the hatcheries and development of fish seed supply systems towards sustainable aquaculture development within Sierra Leone, including assessing and defining models for sustainability involving public and private sectors. Integration of technical services for farmers within a public or private hatchery business supplying fish seed is being explored.

D. CAPACITY BUILDING AND VALUE ADDITION

In addition to measures the ministry has adopted to address the European Union Certification Process and gain access to EU and other lucrative International markets, the ministry has organised a number of trainings such as those on Fish Hygiene, Sanitation, Safety and Quality Control.





Biomass Stove



Cold room



Substantial rehabilitation of fisheries outstations have been undertaken and new fisheries Outstation buildings have been constructed. These facilities have also been furnished to permit enabling environment for service delivery to the outstations.

Fish stock Assessment, Fishery Information Sharing and Transparency

Under an EU funded institutional support for fisheries management (ISFM) project, assessment of major fish stocks has been carried out in the Sierra Leone Fishery Waters from 2008 to 2010 with an estimated fish biomass of about 450,000mt. Shrimp biomass is put around 2000mt.

In another development, procurement process for an international firm to build the capacity of the Ministry and IMBO to conduct another fish stock assessment has now been completed and fish stock assessment is on-going with capacities built in the Ministry of Fisheries at in the University of Sierra Leone.

Construction of a Fish Harbour Complex, 12 km road from Lungi to Konakridee and Fish Landing Clusters at Konakridee

Proposal for the construction of a fish harbour complex with a huge potential for Public Private Partnership- PPP investment has been developed. The proposed fish harbour complex that will be constructed will have a transshipment quay capable of berthing over 14 vessels at a time and a refer quay. Three possible sites have already been selected in the Western Urban and Western Rural Areas. The cost of constructing the fish harbour complex is estimated at US\$ 80 million with the possibility for a public private partnership investment in areas including rental of cold storage facilities, bonded stores for fish export, sale of ice to fishing vessels and fish processing plants, purchase and processing of fish and fishery products for export, construction and maintenance of fishing and patrol crafts. The Ministry is ready to partner with other interested parties for support to enhance the construction of the fish harbour complex.