

IGAD-EEOFISH PROJECT REPORT

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Baro-Akobo Fishing Communities to Manage the Shared Fish Resources

December 22 – 23, 2021, Gambella (Ethiopia)



Contents

1, OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP.....	3
1.1 Opening Remark by IGAD Secretariat	3
1.2 Welcoming Remark.....	4
1.3 Official Opening	5
2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS	6
3. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES IN BARO-AKOBO RIVER BASIN.....	7
5. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN ETHIOPIA.....	8
6. BAS RB FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	9
7. FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN ETHIOPIA.....	10
8. GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION.....	12
8.1 Group Discussion	12
8.2 Group Presentation.....	12
10. MAJOR POINTS RAISED DURING DISCUSSION, WAYFORWARD AND CLOSING	13
9. MAJOR ISSUES RAISED, WAYF ORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS	15
9.1 Major issues raised	15
9.2 The Way Forward.....	15
9.3 Closing Remarks (in the field visits in Baro River fish landing)	15
10. ANNEX.....	16

1, OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP

1.1 Opening Remark by IGAD Secretariat

Dr. Eshete Dejen, Programme Manager of Environment Protection of IGAD, made an opening and welcoming remarks On behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary, H.E Dr. Workneh Gebayehu.



His Excellency Mr. Bagual Joke, Mayor of Gambella City, Ethiopia

Directors and Experts from Gambella and Addis Ababa

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebayehu and myself I welcome you to the beautiful city of Gambela where river Baro/Opio cross for this very important workshop.

Africa has diverse fish resources with immense potential and opportunities for contributing significantly to the socio-economic growth of Africa and improving livelihoods of its citizens.

The sector generates a variety of benefits, including nutrition and food security, livelihoods, employment, exports and foreign currency and conservation and biodiversity values that are of global significance. There is less attention and focus to develop the fisheries subsector.

The fisheries sector in IGAD member countries has been recognized as one of the important growth sectors in the region. Fishery sector can contribute to accelerated economic growth and development, income generation, nutrition, employment and export earnings and overall food security. The focus should be on increased production and value addition since fish has high domestic market demand, can contribute to improved domestic nutrition, offer good trade opportunities at the global, regional and intra-regional levels; and have potential to foster backward and forward linkages to support efficient value addition.

Dear Participants:

The promotion of sustainable small scale fisheries is constrained by a number of factors, such as: lack of attention by policy makers, lack of appropriate and efficient fishing equipments, high post-harvest loss, difficult access to markets and lack of promotion of fish as an excellent source of animal proteins.

Dear Participants

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the implementing Regional Economic Community for the ECOFISH project. On Result 3 Call for proposal Lot 1: Actions in the Eastern Africa region, IGAD applied and granted a 3-year project on: Support to Sustainable Utilization, Development and Management of Two Transboundary Basins Fisheries of Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin (BASRB) between Ethiopia and South Sudan, and Lake Turkana Basin (LTB) shared between Ethiopia and Kenya.

The overall objective of the project is to develop gender responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, and foster use of fisheries for building of resilience and bolstering of food and nutrition security and local economies especially for the fishing and “Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)” communities in the two basins.

Dear Participants:

The IGAD Secretariat has developed and validated an integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP), or simply called fisheries co-management plan for Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin (BAS RB). In the fisheries co-management plan, In the fisheries co-management plan, one of the most important milestone stated is to establish fisheries co-management units. During the last decades, there has been a shift in the governance of fisheries to a broader approach that recognizes fishers’ participation, local stewardship, and shared decision-making in the management of fisheries. Thus, the BAS RB Fisheries Co-Management Plan is prepared based on the assumption that the resource users (fishing communities) will be involved in all the processes of the fisheries management system of the basin. The principles of fisheries co-management and the fisheries co-management document for the BAS RB is prepared with the above assumption, i.e., involving the fishing communities. Some model fisheries co-management units in the Gambella Town Fish Cooperatives of the Gambella Regional State located in the BAS RB will be established in the Ethiopian side. A similar workshop will be organized in South Sudan side to establish fisheries co-management units. In the coming 2 days we will have fruitful deliberation on capacity building of the Fisheries Co-Management Unit Members about the principles and practices of fisheries co-management. Draft some guidelines for the Co-Management Units.

I would like to thank the Federal Government of Ethiopia and Gambela Regional State for hosting and European Union for the financial support for the project. I would also like to thank for the workshop organizing team from IGAD and Government of Republic of Ethiopia, especially Tigist Shimles from IGAD who made this workshop with very good coordination and timely communication.

I thank you all.

1.2 Welcoming Remark

The City Mayor of Gambella, His Excellency Mr. Bagual Joke, made a welcoming remark to the participants.



His Excellency Mr. . Bagual Joke appreciated IGAD Secretariat for choosing Gambella City to organize this workshop. He also appreciated the project since the fisheries in Gambella is still untapped. He promised that his office is ready to support facilitation of any of the project activities when needed. Finally, he thanked all the participants and wished fruitful training for all young fishers.

1.3 Official Opening

The official opening was made by Mr. Hussien Abegaz, Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ministry of Agriculture (Ethiopia).



*His Excellency Mr. Bagual Joke, Myaor of Gambella City
Representative of His Excellency, IGAD Executive Secretary
Dear Participants;
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good morning,

*First of all, it is my pleasure to welcome you all in this important workshop.
Again, I am glad to see the more representation of young women in this workshop. It is another true testament to the importance of Baro River fisheries for the sustainable development the Gambella region and the country as a whole.*

This is a crucial sector that underpins the food security, nutritional requirements and livelihoods of many people in Gambella regional state. The riverine fisheries resources of the Gambella Regional State represent significant natural wealth that the IGAD-ECOFISH project strives to ensure the sustainable management of these assets by putting in place fisheries co-management systems to handle them effectively, by protecting them and by promoting good fishing practices.

I have been informed that the objectives of the IGAD-ECOFISH Project is to develop gender responsive and climate-smart sustainable utilization of fisheries resources, and foster use of fisheries for building of resilience and bolstering of food and nutrition security and local economies especially for the fishing communities in the Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin.

Dear Participants,

we recognized the effort of IGAD-ECHOFISH project to support to Sustainable Utilization, Development and Management of two trans boundary fisheries of Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin between Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The present training shows that IGAD-ECHOFISH Project is working on the ground with the fishing communities. This training will build the capacities of the local fishing communities to involve in the fisheries co-management in the Baro (and other water bodies) river fisheries. As you will learn from this training in detail, fisheries co-management is kind of partnership formation between the resources users (fishers, fish traders, processors etc) and the Government. Thus, the establishment of the Kebele Fisheries co-Management Units (KFMU) is an important step to practice fisheries co-management in this basin.

Finally, please, allow me to also express my appreciation to the IGAD Secretariat for choosing Gambella for hosting this workshop, i.e. just inside the BAS RB Community.

Many thanks for your kind attention. Once again, welcome, the training is officially opened!

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The workshop objectives and expected outputs were presented by Dr. Wassie Anteneh, regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD). He explained that the IGAD Secretariat has developed and validated an integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP), or simply called fisheries co-management plan for Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin (BAS RB). In the fisheries co-management plan, the OTB Fisheries Co-Management Plan is prepared based on the assumption that the resource users (fishing communities) will be involved in all the processes of the fisheries management system of the basin. The principles of fisheries co-management and the fisheries co-management document for the OTB is prepared with the above assumption, i.e., involving the fishing communities. Some model fisheries co-management units in at least two fishing communities of Turkana County located in the shore areas of Lake Turkana will be established. A similar workshop will be established in the Ethiopia side of the lake to establish fisheries co-management units.

Objectives:

- *To establish pilot fisheries co-management units in the basin*
- *To Introduce the principles of fisheries co-management for local fishers*
- *To build capacity of local fishing communities to involve in fisheries management*

Expected Output:

- The pilot fisheries co-management units established in the Turkana County
- Awareness of local communities on fisheries co-management raised
- Capacities of local communities in managing fish resources improved
- Some guiding rules and community-based bylaws developed

3. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES IN BARO-AKOBO RIVER BASIN

This presentation was made by Mr. Chieng, Gambella Region Fisheries Expert. He elaborated that fishery is an important economic activity in Gambella region due to the presence of perennial rivers and lakes



He stated that Baro-Akobo sub-basin has 111 species of fish (6 endemic), highest diversity of fish in Ethiopia and it is potential world heritage site. The total production is estimated to be not more than 2500 tons/year in the region. However, fishing activity in Gambella Region has not yet been scientifically developed.

He stressed that most of the fish exported to Sudan and other countries as dry fish is harvested from Bar-Akobo sub-basin.



Dry Fish harvested from Gilo River (Akob Woreda) for export purpose.



Export Dry Fishes to Neighboring countries(Sudan) & Egypt

5. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN Ethiopia

Brief overview of existing fisheries management practices of Ethiopia was presented by Mr. Hussein Abegaz Director of Fishery Development Directorate Ministry of Agriculture- Ethiopia. He summarized the Ethiopia's current fish production as follows:



Water body	Potential	Production (MT) 2020/21	% share
Major lakes	39262	40,945	68%
Major Rivers	21,405	3,200	5%
Reservoirs	33,875	15,416	26%
Aquaculture		534	1%
Total	94542	60,095	100%

The total Value added fisheries annual is estimated to be 2.2 billion Ethiopian Birr (USD 50 million) but the Consumption rate is close to 0.5kg/person/year, which is one of the lowest in the world.

He also mentioned the available fisheries legal frameworks and guidelines to manage the fisheries sustainably. He also stated the objectives of fisheries management measures in Ethiopia. These objectives include:

- To conserve fish biodiversity and its environment as well as to prevent and control over-exploitation of the fisheries resource;
- To increase the supply of safe and good quality fish and to ensure a sustainable contribution of fisheries toward food security

Mr. Hussein also explained the practices of fisheries co-management in some Ethiopian water bodies such as Lake Tana, Lake Ziway, Tekeze Reservoir and Lake Hawassa. The fisheries co-management established in most of these water bodies was successful. The co-management units were established at Kebele level (the lowest administrative level in Ethiopia). These Units were called Kebele Fisheries Management Committees (KFMC). One of the challenges common to all was the lack of resource to run the committee activities.

6. BAS RB FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dr. Wassie Anteneh, Regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD), made presentations on the integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP) document prepared for BAS River Basins. The presentations for the IFMP document focused on the following outlines and detailed interactive discussions made in each points below

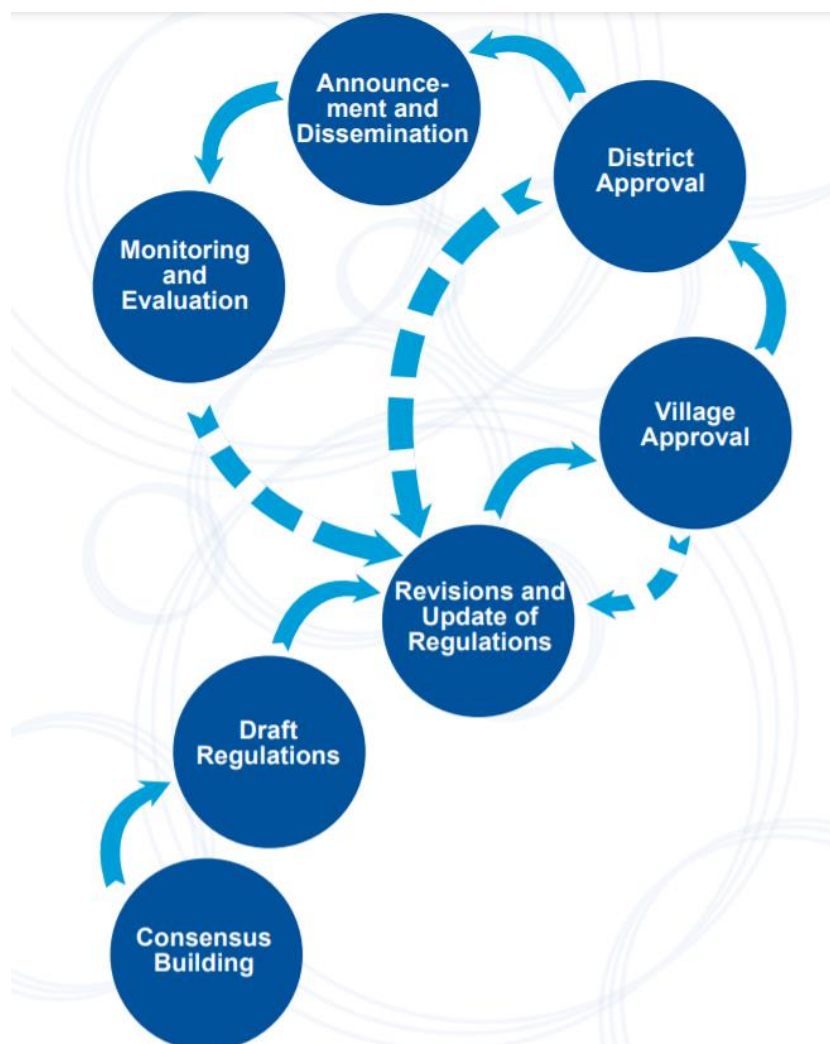
- Approach for Development of IFMP
- Background information
 - o Why and nature of IGAD involvement
 - o Status of ecosystem and its fishery
- Existing fisheries policy and legal frameworks

- Fisheries Management Interventions
- Key lessons that informed the development BAS River Basin IFMP
- Development of shared data bases
- Management Actions
- IFMP implementation framework
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- IFMP Implementation log
- Conclusions, Recommendations and Opportunities



7. FISHERIES CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN ETHIOPIA

The presenter, Dr. Wassie Anteneh, Regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD), made detailed discussions on the steps in developing regulations for Participatory Aquatic Resources Management using the below chart (Source: https://www.mekongfishnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DLF-and-WWF-2009_Guidelines-for-Fisheries-Comanagement_eng.pdf).



He also explained the experience of fisheries co-management in Ethiopia in different water bodies, Generally, it is based on Kebele Fisheries Management Committee (KFMC) establishment as co-management units. Key members of KFMC include:

- ❖ *Establishment of co-management Units at Kebele Level (Experience from Lake Tana and Tekeze Reservoir) ...it is named as....Kebele Fisheries Management Committee (KFMC) presented in local (Amharic) language and English*
- ❖ *“የቀበሌዊ በተሳተፉ የዓሳ ሀብት አስተዳደር ኮሚቴ” ዋና ዋና አባላት (Members of Kebele Co-management Committee):-*
- ❖ *1. Kebele Chairmen (በሌዊ አስተዳዳሪ..... ሰብሳቢ (Chair Person)*
- ❖ *2. Kebele Agriculture Deputy Head (የቀበሌዊ ግብርና ጽ/ቤት ም/ኃላፊዉ ም/ሰብሳቢ/ፀሀፊ (Deputy chair person)*
- ❖ *3. Kebele Livestock Expert (የቀበሌዊዉ የእንስሳት ሀብት ባለሙያ) ... ፀሐፊ/አባል (Secretary)*
- ❖ *4. Kebele Police (የቀበሌዊ ኮሚቴ ፖሊስ)..... አባል (Member)*
- ❖ *5. Fishers and fish traders (3) (ከዓሳ አስጋሪዎች/ነጋዴ (ሶስት).....አባል (Member)*
- ❖ *6. Cooperatives (ህብረት ስራ ማህበራት ባለሙያ)..... አባል (Member)*
- ❖ *7. Land Administration Expert (የመሬት አስተዳደር ባለሙያ).....አባል (Member)*
- ❖ *8. Environment Protection Expert (የአካባቢ ጥበቃ ባለሙያ)..... አባል (Member)*

8. GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

8.1 Group Discussion

There were two groups: The first group discussed on drafting some preliminary bylaws for the KFMC or the Fisheries Co-Management Units. The second group discussed on the development of draft action plan for the year 2022. Participants were grouped into two groups based on their experience (research vs extension). Guidance has been provided by Mr. Hussien, Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (Ethiopia) and by Drs. Wassie and Eshete (from IGAD).

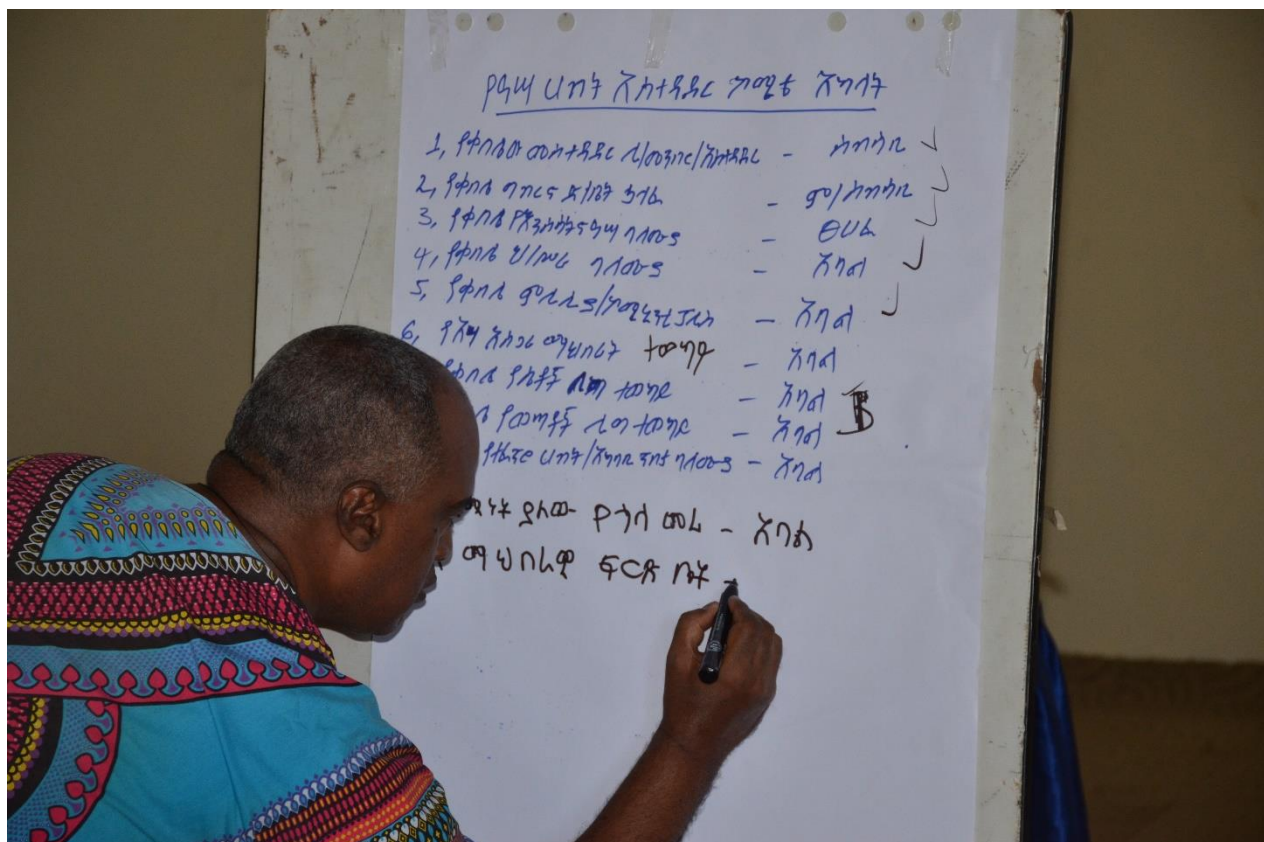


8.2 Group Presentation

Group 1 (A) presentation slides (partially):



The proposed list of KFMC Members for Gambella Baro Akobo Fisheries management is listed in the slide (in a local language – Amharic):

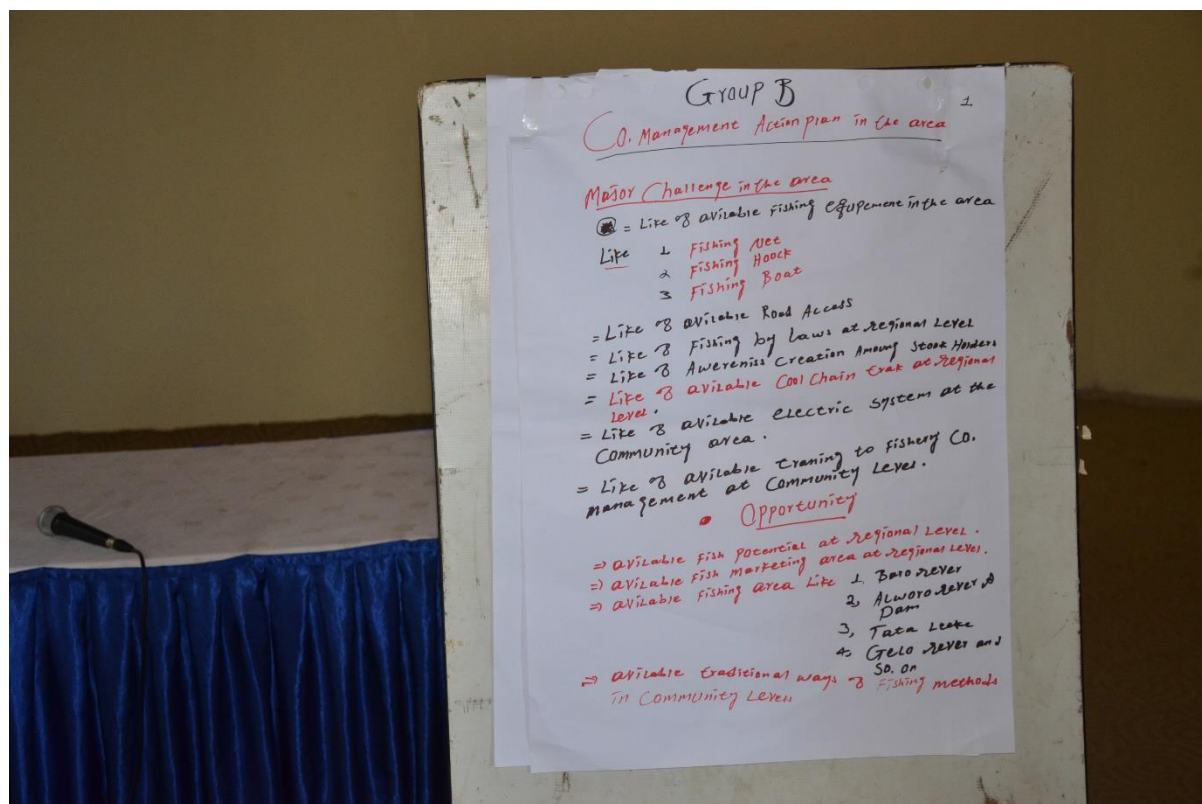


During the discussion, participants suggested two other committee members: One prominent Clan Leader (they call him “Father of Fish”). The second is from Kebele Justice Office.

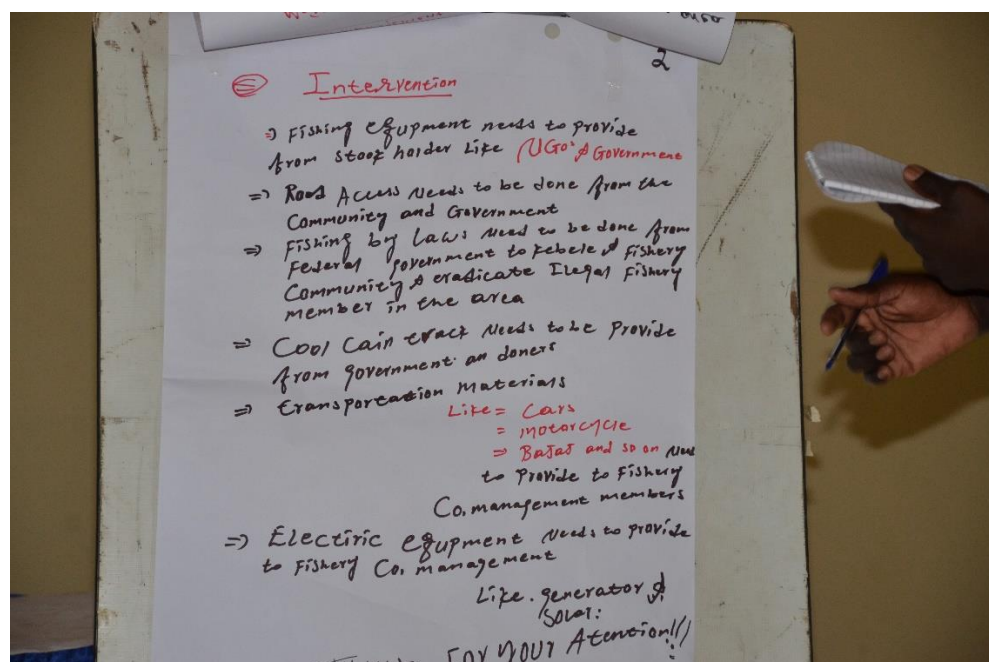
Group 2 (B) presentation slides (partially):



Group two, first discussed major Challenges and Opportunities in the Baro-Akobo fisheries in Gambella region:



The group then proposed key interventions:



9. MAJOR ISSUES RAISED, WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING REMARKS

9.1 Major issues raised

- The fishermen and fisherwomen strongly appreciated the training organized by IGAD with the facilitation supports from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Gambella Region Fisheries Expert.
- The Lack of fishing equipment from the market is their major challenge and they requested Mr. Hussien from the (MoA) to bring suppliers from Addis Ababa or elsewhere. He informed them that recently the Government lifted any tax for any agricultural technology importation. This will stimulate the suppliers to import these fishing gears and he took the assignment to contact suppliers in Addis Ababa.
- The fish market is the biggest challenge in Gambella and needs strong intervention. Dry fish market to Sudan is the major outlet.
- The Fish Cooperatives in Gambella are currently supplying fresh fileted fish directly to big hotels (five star hotel) but they said cost of transport by airplane is expensive. There are no refrigerated cars to transport fish in the area.
- Fish landing and processing sites are poorly developed and needs intervention.
- Postharvest loss is high as the area is highly humid and hot.

9.2 The Way Forward

- The Gambella Region Fisheries Expert, Mr Chieng, will follow and assist the re-structuring of the KFMC based on the discussion.
- MoA will support the fishers by providing additional trainings from other projects, such as world Bank supported project.
- Involvement of women in all the fisheries management processes has been seriously considered
- IGAD, depending on resource availabilities will work on further capacity buildings of the KFMC.

9.3 Closing Remarks (in the field visits in Baro River fish landing)

- Participants appreciated the hospitalities of the society in Gambella Town.
- Mr. Desalegn, Deputy Head of Bureau of Livestock and Fisheries, provided detailed advices to the young participant fishers as to how they can benefit from this and other projects by smoothly working with development partners and he appreciated IGAD for the support.
- He stressed the importance of respecting the culture of the clans in implementing any development projects.

10. ANNEX

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Baro-Akobo Fishing Communities to manage the shared fish resources

December 22 – 23, 2021 Gambella, Ethiopia

Agenda

Date/Time	Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 1: December 22, 2021	9:00	Registration of Participants	IGAD
	9:05	Welcoming Remark	Dr. Eshete (IGAD)
	9:10	Opening Remark	Mr. Desalegn Biru, Livestock and Fisheries Vice Bureau Head, Gambella Region, Ethiopia
	9:20	Introduction of participants	IGAD
	9:30	Workshop Objective	IGAD
	10:00	Brief overview of Fisheries in Baro-Akobo River Basin	Gambella Region Fisheries Extension Officer
	10:30	Health Break and Group Photo	
	10:50	Brief overview of Fisheries Management in Ethiopia	Mr. Hussein Abegaz Issa Director, Fishery Development Directorate MoA- Ethiopia
	11:10	BAS RB Fisheries Co-Management Plan	IGAD
	1:00	Discussion	Chair
	2:00	Lunch Break	
	3:30	Group discussion: Group1: Prepare draft action plan for Unit Group2: Prepare draft guideline for the Unit	Chair
	4:00	Health Break	
	5:30	Group Discussion (Cont'd)	
Day 2: December 23, 2021	8:30 – 9:30	Group discussion (Cont'd)	
	10:30	Group Presentation	IGAD
	11:00	Health Break	
	1:30	Way forward and Recap	
	1:30	Lunch Break	
	5:00	Field Mission to a nearby river fisheries	