

IGAD-EEOFISH PROJECT REPORT

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Baro-Akobo-Sobat Basin in Bor (Jonglei State) Fishing Communities, South Sudan



June 11 – 12, 2022

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1, OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP

1.1 Opening Remark by IGAD Secretariat



Dr. Aleu Garang, IGAD Head of Mission to South Sudan, made an opening and welcoming remarks for the workshop participants.

Directors and Experts from the national Ministry and Jonglei State Fisheries Directorates and delegates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan, Distinguished Participants, Fishing Community Members in Jonglei State,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IGAD region has very rich water resource potential. The fisheries sector in IGAD member countries has been recognized as one of the important growth sectors in the region. The potential fish production in the IGAD region is estimated to be more than 3 Million tons annually but the actual production is about one million tons annually. 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 Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is one of the implementing Regional Economic Community for the ECOFISH project. 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:

As you might remember last year (2021) we validated an integrated fisheries management plan (IFMP), or simply called fisheries co-management plan for BAS Basin. 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 Basin 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 this basin is prepared with the above assumption, i.e., involving the fishing communities. Some model fisheries co-management units in the Jonglei State fishing communities will be established in the South Sudan side of the lake. A similar workshop was organized in the Ethiopian side to establish fisheries co-management units in Baro-Akobo fishing communities (Gambella region, Ethiopia). 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 in the Jonglei State fishing communities. Discuss challenges and possible interventions to make the Co-Management Units more effective.

I would like to thank Jonglei State for hosting this workshop here in Bor Town and European Union for the financial support of the project. I would also like to thank for the workshop organizing team from IGAD and Government of South Sudan for the smooth communication and timely coordination.

I thank you all.

1.2 Official Opening



The official opening was made by the Director General (DG) of Fisheries in Jonglei State, **Mr. Geu Wunthony Gak**. The DG emphasized the importance of fisheries in the Sudd Swamps for livelihood and food security. He appreciated IGAD for considering BAS RB fisheries. He also mentioned that South Sudan as a young nation requires support from

different partners like IGAD. He finally declared that the workshop was officially opened.

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Dr. Wassie Anteneh, regional Fisheries Management Expert (IGAD) presented the workshop objectives and expected outputs of the workshop. 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). The BAS 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 Bor are of Jonglei State will be established. A similar fisheries co-management unit established in Gambella region of Ethiopia which shares the BAS RB.

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 Jonglei State
- Awareness of local communities on fisheries co-management raised
- Capacities of local communities in managing fish resources improved
- Some common understandings created.

3. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. Jackson Muso, Director General of Fisheries in the National Ministry of Livestock and



Fisheries of South Sudan provided summarized information how the fisheries management is operated in South Sudan. He expressed that Fisheries management in South Sudan is a challenge like in other in-land fishery within the region; because it questions the planning processes and action taking to:

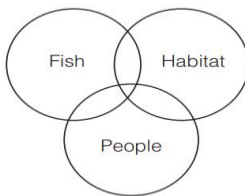
- manipulate fish populations (stock),
- fish habitat, and

- people (livelihoods & wealth creation)

to achieve specific human objectives (SDGs) and sustaining the natural resource base.

He explained that fisheries management is nexus of science and policy; and fisheries managers serve as central points of communication, translating scientific principles and data into simple terms for their stakeholders. Despite lack of data and information, fisheries managers must make decisions that are important to stakeholders (e.g. conservation organizations, government officials (federal, state, and local levels); including farmers.

He showed the below diagram to explain the Interrelation, planning and taking actions: on fish populations, fish habitat and the people.



Finally, he summarized the situation of fisheries management in South Sudan in the table below:

S/No:	Challenges:	Way forward:
1	Low production capacities (use of traditional fishing methods)	Mobilize and improve on production systems
2	Undeveloped landing sites – probably in the entire State fishery	Mobilize resources to develop the fish landing sites
3	Undeveloped fish marketing, handling, shorting & freshness preservation facilities	Invest on development of fish markets and mobile freezers (internal and regional markets)
4	Lack of fish processing facilities and standardization of exports within the region	Develop to standards fish handling and appropriate technology processing facility
5	Inadequate ice plant in the town for storage service of the unsold produce within the market	Need to invest on ice plant in the town to minimize post-harvest lost and add value to production
6	Capacity development on marketing, negotiation skills and market information system	Need to develop and integrate regional market information systems

4. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN JONGLEI STATE

This presentation was made By Mr. Jilo, Director of Fisheries in the state and he summarized the existing fisheries management in the state as follows:

- No fisheries data collection takes place in the Jonglei State
- Akobo Area of Jonglei State is rich in fish potential,
- No fish marketing system in the area,
- Jonglei State has nine counties but fishing is open access,
- No fish licensing system in the State
- Very high fish post-harvest loss.

5. 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
- Conclusions, Recommendations and Opportunities

6. GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

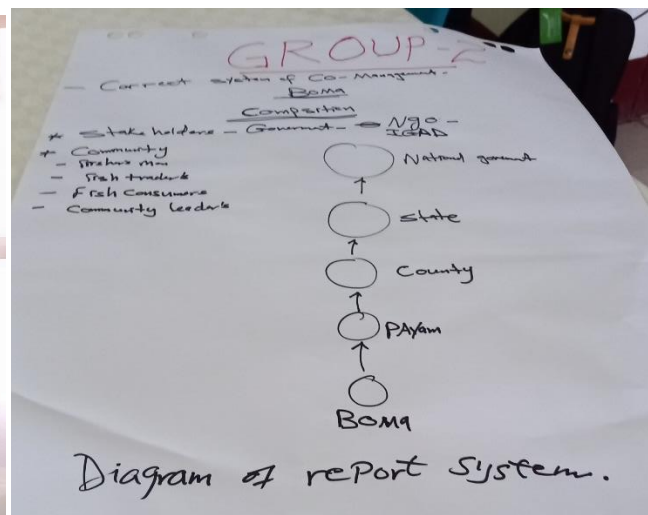
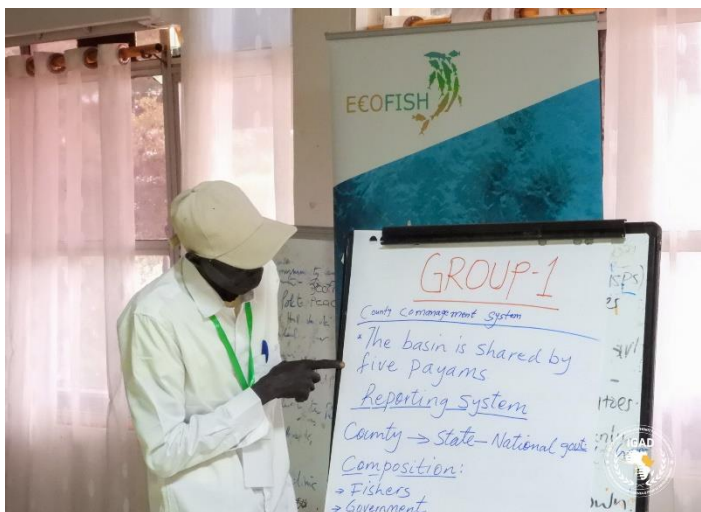
There were two groups. Both groups were discussing on the challenges and possible interventions as well as on the recommended fisheries co-management system.



The major challenge clearly and boldly came out was the absence of fishery organizations, i.e. fishers are not organized. Another major challenge was lack of infrastructure in the state. Mobility because of flooding and security is the major challenge.

The strongest recommendation was that the existing IGAD grant is quite small resource and they recommended IGAD to support technically to develop a comprehensive fisheries capacity development project for Jonglei State.

The recommended fisheries co-management system was **Boma Fisheries Co-Management System**. Boma is the smallest administrative unit in the state structure.



7. CLOSING REMARKS

- The closing remarks were made by the DG of Fisheries in Jonglei State, Mr. Mr. Geu Wunthony Gak.
- He thanked IGAD for the very innovative initiative to support the fisheries management in the BAS Basin shared by Ethiopia and South Sudan,
- He also appreciated the contributions made by participants in reflecting the realities in the fisheries management system in South Sudan in general and Jonglei State in particular.
- He categorized challenges as natural, such as frequent flooding in the area, and man-made such as security problems.
- He promised to take all the relevant issues to the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries in Jonglei State.
- He emphasized further support from IGAD and other development partners to utilize the fisheries in the swamp.

8. SUMMARY OF FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

Consultation and field observation in Bor (Jonglei State) Fishing Communities, South Sudan

Discussion with Fisheries DG
in Bor, Jonglei State



Observation of
Fresh Fish
Market in Bor



Dry Fish Packing in Bor to
export to Uganda



9. ANNEX

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Workshop on Establishment of Fisheries Co-Management Units and Building Capacities of Baro-Akobo-Sobat River Basin, Jonglei State Fishing Communities (South Sudan) to manage the shared fish resources June 10 - 11, 2022 Bor Town (Jonglei State), South Sudan

Date/Time	Time	Activity	Responsibility
Day 1: 11 June, 2022	9:00	Registration of Participants	IGAD
	9:05	Welcoming Remark	Dr. Garang (IGAD) or Dr. Eshete (IGAD)
	9:10	Opening Remark	Mr. Geu, Director General of Fisheries, Jonglei State or another delegate from the State
	9:20	Introduction of participants	IGAD
	9:30	Workshop Objective	Dr. Wassie (IGAD)
	10:00	Brief overview of Fisheries in Baro-Akobo Sobat River Basin, especially in Jonglei State	Mr. Jilo Gilo, Director of Fish Production, Jonglei State
	10:30	Health Break and Group Photo	
	10:50	Brief overview of Fisheries Management Practices in South Sudan	Jackson Mugga, DG of Fisheries and Ecofish Project Focal person, S. Sudan
	11:10	BAS RB Fisheries Co-Management Plan and Fisheries Co-management practices	Dr. Wassie (IGAD)
	12:00	Discussion	Chair
	13:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00	Discussion on the importance of establishment of Co-Management Units and Members of the units	Chair
	15:30	Health Break	
	16:00 – 17:00	Group discussion: Challenges and recommended interventions to implement fisheries co-management in BAS RB	
Day 2: June 12, 2022	8:30	Group discussion (Cont'd) Discussion	IGAD
	10:30	Health Break	
	11:00	Group Presentation	Chair
	12:00	Way forward and Recap	Chair
	13:00	Lunch Break	
	14:00	Field Mission to a nearby river fisheries	