

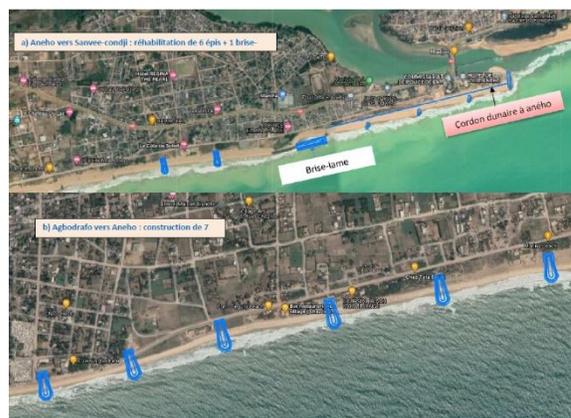
**Togo West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (P162337)**  
**Note on Fisheries and Coastal Protection**  
**May 23, 2022**

*This note responds to the question of what disturbance of fisheries is anticipated, how impact will be identified and monitored, and what will be done about it if there are impacts on livelihoods.*

**About WACA.** The West Africa Coastal Areas Management (WACA) Program supports governments in managing coastal erosion of countries' coastlines to protect the homes and livelihoods of communities in critical sites, prevent loss of national infrastructure, and enable sustainable economic development. The Program complements other government efforts to sustainably develop coastal zones.

**Context.** Fishing has traditionally taken place along the whole of Togo's 56 km of coastline, in the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone. Artisanal fishing is more prevalent than industrial fishing and involves many small-scale fishers. Fishers use very simple gear and techniques. The catch is pelagic and demersal. In 2014, several studies estimated annual national fish production at 22,000 tons. These statistics indicate that production does not meet national needs, which were estimated at 65,000 tons, the remainder being imported. This situation is reflective of the state of fisheries worldwide.<sup>1</sup> According to the FAO (2020) the fish catch shows a downward trend due to environmental degradation (such as coastal erosion), and "fully exploited" or "over exploited" of the fishery resources.<sup>2</sup> Technical-structural reasons contributing to losses include the use of purse seine (*Senne tournante*, in French) and beach seine (*Senne de plage*, in French) fishing methods, which is known to negatively affect fishery resources and their habitat due to their non-selectivity and capture of juvenile fish, among other reasons.<sup>3,4</sup> Coastal erosion has meant that Dévikinmé and Nimagna are no longer considered fishing communities by the FAO.

**The groynes.** The construction of groynes, together with beach nourishment, was identified as the best solution to protect the coast. There is no relevant documentation available on how groynes on West African shores might affect fishery resources. Even as their construction seeks to protect social infrastructure and thus jobs and livelihoods, the physical footprint of the groynes may change where fishing can be practiced. The significance of the impacts is difficult to assess ex-ante. Hence, there is a need to monitor, identify, and address issues during implementation, which the project has foreseen. It is likely that the approximate distance of 0.5km between the groynes



would allow fishers to continue using the beach seine method, depending on the gear dimensions, even though the practice by experts is considered detrimental in the long run for sustainable fisheries. It should be noted in this regard that the WACA Program is not a fisheries management initiative and is not involved in national or regional management of fishing capacity, effort, or governance, for which the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) is engaging national and international players.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/state-of-fisheries-aquaculture>

<sup>2</sup> Per FAO categories of exploitation

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260399118\\_PECHE\\_A\\_LA\\_SENNE\\_DE\\_PLAGE\\_AU\\_BENIN\\_ET\\_DURABILITE\\_DES\\_RESSOURCES\\_HALIEUTIQUES](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260399118_PECHE_A_LA_SENNE_DE_PLAGE_AU_BENIN_ET_DURABILITE_DES_RESSOURCES_HALIEUTIQUES)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8716fr/>

**Anticipated disturbances.** Per the project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), because fishing is one of the principal activities of the communities, and fishers are among the people potentially most affected by the project, more than 150 people were consulted in Agbodrafo and Aného in August 2021, in addition to consultations with fishermen associations. A matrix was used as an analytical approach to assess relative importance of risk (ESIA, page 74 ff). Disturbance of economic activities was identified as an important impact (ESIA, page 321 ff). To mitigate the identified economic impacts, the ESIA proposed to consider a landing site for fishermen at Kpémé, support to acquire materials and equipment (motors, nets, canoes, hooks), construction of public toilets to help prevent open defecation, construction of sheds at several sites (Kpémé, Agbodrafo, Adissem, Goumou-Kopé, Gbodjomè and Tango) to sell fish, construction of a cold room at Kpémé to keep the catch fresh. It was also recommended to limit dredging in high intensity fishing areas. Other impacts identified included those occurring during the groyne construction phase, including disturbance of marina fauna, work site and storage area issues of health and safety for workers and the local population, and interruptions of fishing activity in the construction zone.

**Managing impacts.** Because of the uncertainty in determining the precise location of impacts, stakeholder engagement and monitoring constitute key elements of environmental and social management. A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) has been put in place so that project-affected people can submit feedback and concerns about the project, via established grievance committees. Communities are also reached through an ongoing information campaign, including a Coastal Radio (*Radio du littoral*, in French) station that provides information about the project, its footprint, construction phases, schedules for completion and anticipated benefits. These efforts, together with engagement of civil society, are designed to support a dynamic and productive development process. With regard to potential livelihood impacts, the project implementing unit has already received a number of suggestions to address them, and consultations will be held with communities to identify and decide on proposed solutions. The upcoming mid-term review (June 2022) will assess the progress made on social sub-projects. Regarding environmental impacts, the contractor will monitor water quality, among other parameters. The contractor also will maintain a log to record any incidents that could have a significant impact on the environment or livelihoods of the population.

**Positive impacts.** The ESIA anticipated that the widening of the beaches on the protected segments of the coastline could reduce vulnerability to marine submersion and better protect the upper sections of the beach where people live and conduct business. The protection offered by the groynes and beach nourishment will help to support the local economy (fishing and tourism) in the coastal zone. Improvements in the tourism appeal of the beaches through socio-economic development is planned under the project. The temporary works for coastal protection will also contribute positively to community livelihoods, as highlighted in the social audit for the emergency infrastructure works. On the other hand, if no groynes were constructed, fishing using beach seine nets would likely become impossible in the medium term as a result of coastal erosion causing the exposure of beach rock, as has been the case in the areas where the emergency works were needed. A reduction in beach seining would likely have benefits for the recovery of the fish stock on which the communities depend for their nutrition and livelihood.