

FPAOI

The Federation of Artisanal Fishers of the Indian Ocean
Sub-component of the SWIOFish2 Regional Project





Introduction

The Indian Ocean Commission has supported the creation of the The Federation of Artisanal Fishers of the Indian Ocean (FPAOI) in 2015 through the Smartfish program. It was in response to a pressing need among the fishing community to participate more actively in the decision-making process to contribute to the sector.

The FPAOI rapidly asserted itself as a stakeholder by bringing together 36 professional organisations and associations from state members of the IOC, contributing to both the professionalising of the sector, and reflecting on the future of fisheries in the area.

Today, the IOC is still supporting the FPAOI through the SWIOFish2 project, funded by the World Bank. This is designed to build the capacity of the fishing community who are key stakeholders in responsible fisheries governance. Through the SWIOFish2 project, the IOC and the World Bank intend to contribute to the improvement of fishing practices and valorisation of products as well as to the diversification of fishermen's livelihoods.



About FPAOI

The FPAOI is the regional professional association of artisanal fishermen from 5 Indian Ocean Countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Reunion island).

The federation is a platform that represents the small-scale fishermen who depend on fisheries resources for their livelihood. In the 5 IOC member states, fishing generates nearly 130,000 direct jobs, mainly in the artisanal sector.



Artisanal Fishing

Artisanal fishing (or traditional/subsistence fishing) has for long been the primary method adopted by fishermen of the Indian Ocean islands.

Artisanal Fishing uses traditional fishing techniques such as fishing rods, arrows and harpoons, cast nets and small traditional fishing boats.

Fish is usually not processed and is mainly intended for local consumption.





Challenges

- ➔ Currently, artisanal fishing does not have the capacity to actively engage in administrative decisions affecting the management and exploitation of common resources in the Indian Ocean basin.
- ➔ This artisanal sector has a barely recognised potential for job creation and income generation in each of the IOC member states.
- ➔ Innovations carried out locally by professionals generally have little effect throughout the region, whereas their dissemination would enhance the expertise of fishermen and highlight the role of fishing in the region's economies.

Objectives of the FPAOI

- ➔ Facilitate the coordination and strengthening of the FPAOI Secretariat.
- ➔ Facilitate the inclusion of the artisanal fishermen's associations from the South West of the Indian Ocean in the regional and international forums.
- ➔ Support a more inclusive approach to fisheries policy and management.



Budget

USD 2,3 million from January 2018 to September 2023.





Activities

- a) Statutory meetings participation and regional consultations: Holding of FPAOI Executive Committee (COMEX) meetings, 4 meetings per year.
- b) Members training: 3 sessions planned per year.
- c) Participation in regional and international events:
 - (a) International Women's Day celebration in March (annual).
 - (b) Celebration of the World Fisheries Day in November.
 - (c) Meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the FAO among others.
- d) Fishermen's exchange program between the participating national fishing organisations: inter-professional exchange with a subsidy for Madagascar and Comoros fishermen only.
- e) Holding of the annual General Assembly; one meeting per year in October.
- f) Field Missions: 5 missions carried out annually to raise awareness of the FPAOI within the fishermen community and sensitise fishermen about the challenges of artisanal fishing in the Indian Ocean region.

A regional project of





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