A Contextual Analysis of Small-scale Fisheries Governance in Nigeria: Building on Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainability

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NIGERIA.....

- **Aquatic Ecosystems**: Marine (853 km coastline, 39,644 km² shelf area, 190,000 km² EEZ, Brackish and Freshwater (15,849,900 km²)).

- **Fishery Sectors**: Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF), Aquaculture and Industrial Trawl Fisheries.

- **Exclusive to SSF**: Freshwater, Brackishwater and Inshore Pelagic.

- **Non-Exclusive to SSF**: Inshore Demersal and Offshore fish stocks to 120 n.m.
SSF.....

- 70% and 50% of local fish production and supply, respectively in Nigeria.
- Source of livelihoods for over 6 million people.
- Source of animal protein; extremely significant in fishing communities.
- Highly informal, marginalized, very limited participation in conventional fisheries management.
- Failing to fulfil potential as an engine of social and economic development
How can the SSF Guidelines possibly help in getting action on SSF in Nigeria?

SSF Guidelines – voluntary international instruments developed to address the ‘neglect’ of SSF.

This Study:

- **Goal**: Elucidate challenges and use holistic approach centred around human dimensions to promote good governance.
- **Objective**: Gap analysis against the components of the SSF Guidelines.
Methodology

- Qualitative, descriptive based on inductive approaches.

- Internet search using Boolean string for terms with relevance to SSF in Nigeria, regional and international levels.

- Scanning and selection process using a four-point criteria to assess papers (Bene et al., 2016).

- Included several papers published before the 2000–2017 window, but unanimously recognized as critical are also cited in this paper.
Results and Discussions

- Literature was assessed for 8 thematic areas and 3 cross-cutting issues.

- Nigeria is yet to adopt the SSF Guidelines in policies and/or strategic development plans.

- Implementation hurdles in bureaucracy, legislation and statutory fisheries governance systems will have to scaled.

- Opportunities to contextualize or adapt the SSF Guidelines exist.
WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE?

TENURE SYSTEMS

- Land Tenure: Customary (patrimonial inheritance) and Modern (Land Use Act 1978)
- Aquatic Tenure: Communal in inland fisheries rarely individual, family and Open access in marine fisheries (Fregene, 2002).

USER/ACCESS RIGHTS:

- Gear type,
- Inheritance,
- Rentals,
- Tenancy
- Sales
- Formal fishing rights within the first 5 n.m. (7898.78 km²) of the open access inshore waters.
Gaps Analysis (Contd.)

CURRENT STATE
Insecure tenure rights to land and water
- Geography
- Climate
- Land-Use

STRATEGY TO IMPROVE
- Enhance institutional capacity and hazard risk assessments at community levels;
- Short-term and long term capture fisheries – specific policy options and strategies

FUTURE STATE
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE
Secure and Equitable access to land and fishery resources
## Gaps Analysis (Contd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATE</th>
<th>STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>FUTURE STATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weakening traditional norms in Inland fisheries</td>
<td>Adopt community based approach to Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS).</td>
<td>SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES RESOURCES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hierarchical approach to management by State.</td>
<td>National policies on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Decentralization</td>
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<td>Extant regulations are poorly enforced due to poor logistics infrastructure and human resources</td>
<td>Users rights based on spatial management scheme.</td>
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<td>Lack of institutional, inter- and intra-sectoral coordination and policy incoherence (Raji et al, 2012; Akintola et al., 2017).</td>
<td>Spatial planning to reduce intersectoral conflicts; Reduce intra-sectoral</td>
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### Gaps Analysis (Contd.)

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<td>Poor access to post-primary secondary education; vocational and fishing skills.</td>
<td>Divert funds from subsidy into Capital Construction Fund.</td>
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<td>Poor access to health facilities and patronage of traditional healers.</td>
<td>Intensify implementation of Migrant Fishermen Education (1990) and other related policies to enhance attendance rate of children and provide functional literacy education for adults (Akpan, 2015).</td>
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<td>Low access to formal credit and insurance schemes.</td>
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<td>Marginalization of poor fishers from subsidy scheme (Ovie and Raji, 2005); questionable quality of supplied fishing inputs (Akintola et al. 2017).</td>
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<td>Increased risks to occupational hazards during harvesting and smoking</td>
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<td>High dependency on child labor: 5-17 years make up 55% of labour force in Lagos Lagoon (Fakayode et al., 2016).</td>
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CURRENT STATE

Women predominate post-harvest value chain
More passive than active fishers

Poorer access to productive resources
Plans of action tailored towards empowerment of women in aquaculture

Apathy towards adoption of improved fish smoking ovens.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Transformative Gender Approaches

Sensitize women cooperatives on micro-credit schemes, special bank loan arrangement, Mass Literacy and Adult Education, vocational training

FUTURE STATE

GENDER EQUITY, DEVELOPED VALUE-CHAIN, & IMPROVED FISH TRADE
Thank You for Listening.