Title: Artisanal Fisheries in Senegal-Landing Sites As Engines for Local Development

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Abstract: The artisanal fishing sector is very active in Senegal, providing 75% of total catch and major contributions to food supply, employment and exports. Artisanal fishing is spread along the coastline and involves different groups of migrants or sedentary fishermen using various fishing gears and techniques. Resources are heavily exploited and the priority is on maximising net income from the catch by reducing operating costs and post harvest losses, and improving market efficiency. With external donor funding, the government of Senegal invested in landing sites providing facilities for fish landing, processing and marketing, as well as suitable infrastructure for inputs supply and support activities. The landing sites are property of the local municipalities which retain responsibilities on roads, security and waste management, while day to day operation is conceded to fishermen organizations. The expected outcomes of the projects were multifold, including: safety at sea; improvement of sanitary quality; increased fishermen income; capacity building; new business opportunities; improvement of working conditions, security and health; and overall local development. Actual projects outcomes were very site specific, and some unexpected effects occurred, including fishermen capacity to manage landings for maintaining sales prices and even addressing statistics and resource management issues. The relationship between municipalities and fishermen, reflecting the integration of the fishing industry in communitys life, strongly influenced sites profile. The paper reviews sites performance, outcomes and impacts in their different contexts, using cost-benefit analysis together with multidisciplinary project assessment tools. Lessons and recommendations are drawn for improving sites management and maximising social benefits.