

Fisheries co-management in Senegal

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Background :

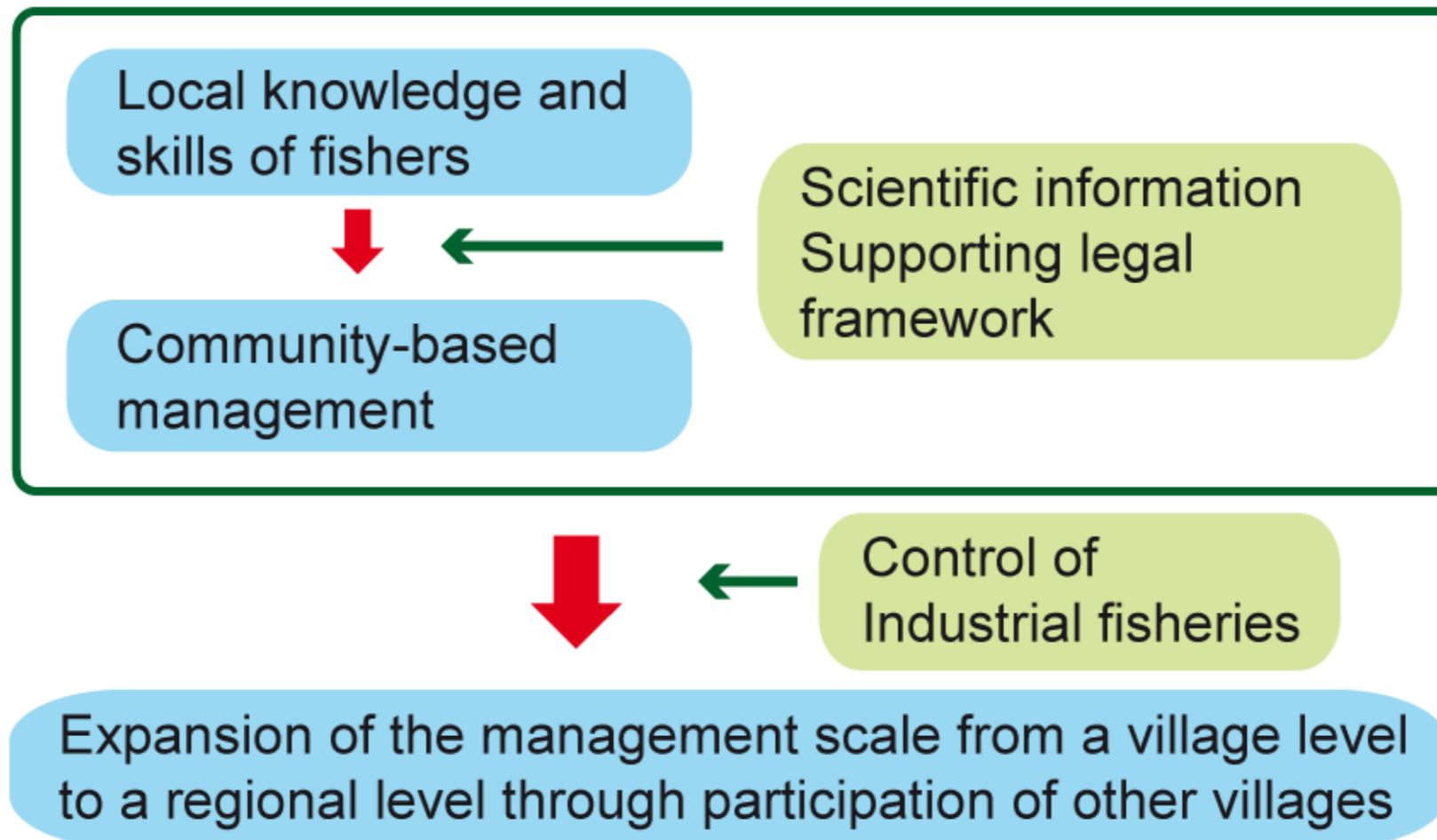
Fisheries resources, particularly those species with high commercial value, have been over exploited in Senegal in the last decade. Although the government tried to manage them with a top-down approach, it has not been very effective. Now communities' initiatives in resources management are highly required.

Project objective and steps toward

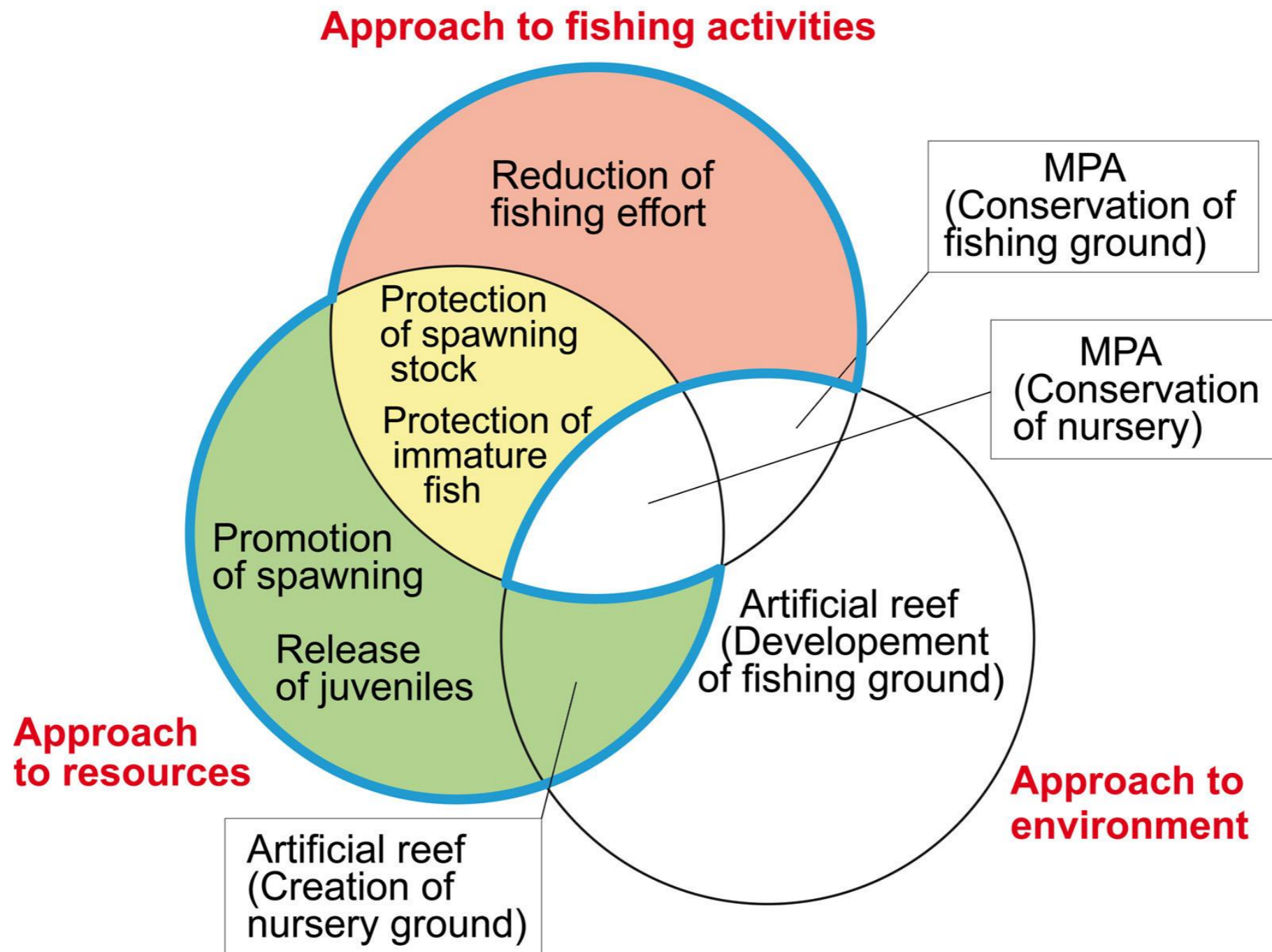
Project objective :

With the initiative of various stakeholders of small-scale fisheries, co-management of fisheries resources are established and adopted in the neighboring fishing villages along the coast of Senegal.

Steps toward :



Combination of management approaches in Senegal



Approach to fishing activities

Reduction of fishing effort and protection of immature fish

Management of “Thiof” (Grouper)

(Epinephelus aeneus)

“Thiof” is a national fish in Senegal. Due to high price, this fish is over fished in recent years. In order to conserve them, long-line fishers agreed to reduce the number of hooks to be used and partially use large sized hooks.



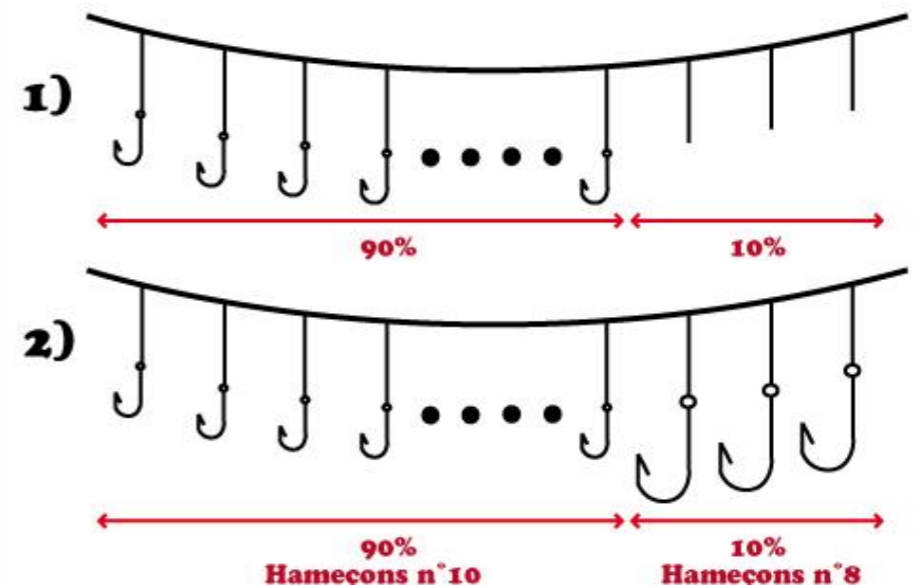
Gérons nos ressources

Thiof



Mesures prises :

- 1) Diminuer le nombre d'hameçons de 10%
- 2) Combiner 10% d'hameçons n°8 avec ceux de petite taille (n°10)



CLPA Joal-Fadiouth

Approach to fishing activities

Reduction of fishing effort and protection of immature fish

Management of bottom gillnet

Fishers have agreed to enlarge the mesh size and reduce the number of bottom gillnet in order to reduce the fishing pressure on high valued demersal fishes.



Approach to resources

Protection of spawning stock and promotion of spawning

Octopus resource management adopted in wider areas

Started at a small village called Nianing in 2004, closed period for octopus fishing was introduced with supplementary installation of terracotta pots to protect and promote spawning. This management measure has been expanded to two neighboring villages in 2005 and to all (11) villages in the Department of Mbour in 2010.



Approach to resources

Release of juveniles

Release of *Cymbium* juveniles

Cymbium holds 10~20 juveniles of 20~30g in their incubation sac during breeding season. The project collected 10,007 juveniles from captured *Cymbium* and released to the sea, which otherwise would have been consumed by villagers, with the hope that they are recaptured after growing to market size.



Approach to resources

Promotion of spawning

Promotion of spawning of cuttlefish using artificial branches

Artificial branch has been developed not only to catch cuttlefish but also to serve as a spawning substratum. Eggs spawn to artificial branches are well protected in the trap and hatched.



Approach to environment

Creation of nursery ground

Installation of artificial reef made from discarded shells

Recycling of such fisheries waste as the discarded shells of *Cymbium*, artificial reefs have been made and installed on flat and smooth sea beds to create nursery ground for demersal species.



Involvement of fishing enterprises (processing factories)

In Senegal, the export of fishery products is very important. Demersal species are exported mainly to Europe and Asia by fishing enterprises. They support co-management of fisheries resources.

Octopus resource management :

Fishing enterprises agreed not to buy octopus during the closed period and donated US\$1,600 for making terracotta pots to promote spawning.

Release of *Cymbium* juveniles :

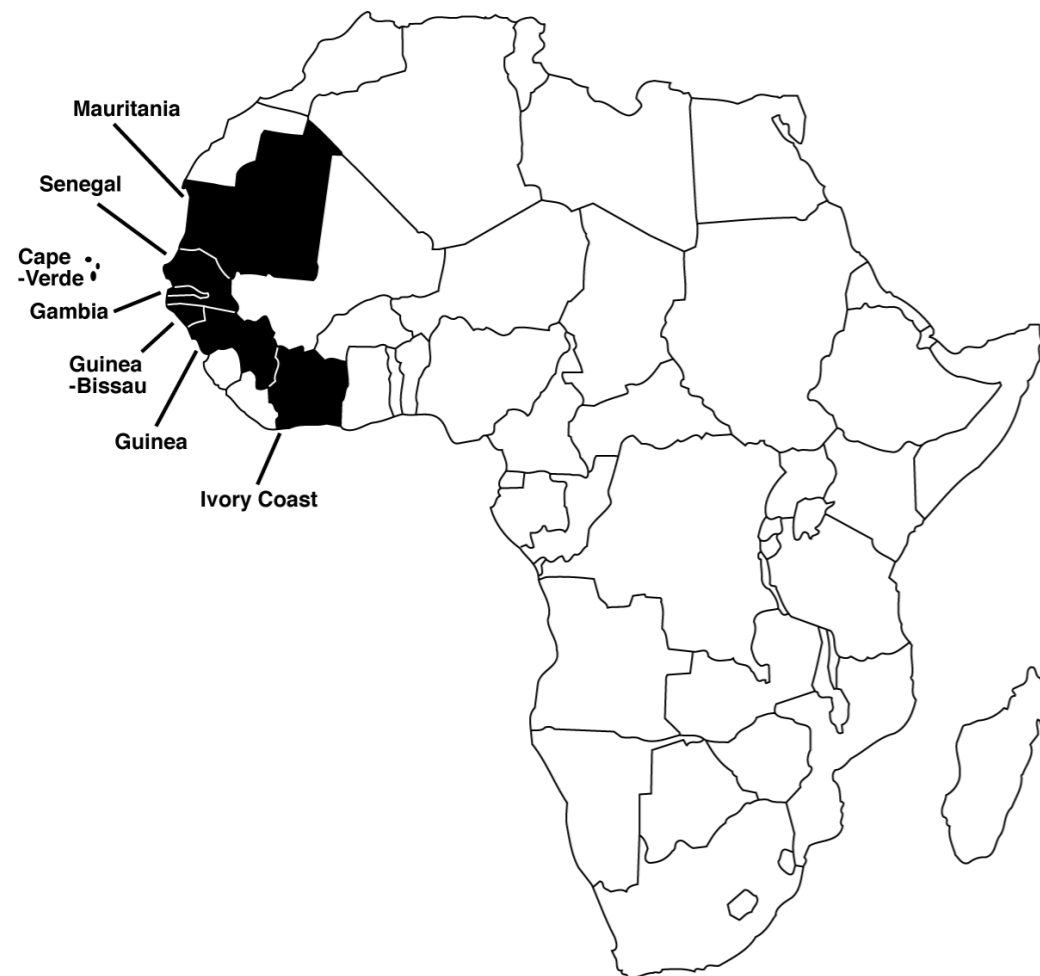
Fishing enterprises help collecting *Cymbium* juveniles to release in the sea.

Collaboration with the World Bank and USAID in fisheries co-management

Other donors are also involved in co-management of fisheries resources and collaborated with the project. The World Bank and USAID donated US\$1,800 and US\$1,600 respectively, to fishers for making terracotta pots.



Information sharing with neighboring countries



Neighboring countries such as Mauritania, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Ivory Coast were invited to an international workshop organized in 2011 by the Department of Marine Fisheries of Senegal. All the participants shared the experience of fisheries co-management in Senegal.



Challenges and perspectives

Challenges :

Pursuit of successful fisheries co-management in Senegal will involve following challenges ;

- ✓ How can we demonstrate fishers that management measures are effective ?
 - Resources have not been rehabilitated clearly.
- ✓ How can we attain cooperative mind of buyers and consumers ?
 - They are not active participants of co-management yet.
- ✓ How can we expedite the government actions ?
 - Government policy of fisheries co-management has not yet been formalized completely.

Perspectives :

For sustainable fisheries co-management, further efforts will be required on the following points ;

- ☞ To improve the capacity of management organizations and their leaders ;
- ☞ To establish a financial support system for the organizations ;
- ☞ To spread the co-management to other villages which have not started yet.