

## **Updated Roadmap**

### **FISHING COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS AND OPERATIONS IN THIRD COUNTRIES: AFRICA, A CASE STUDY**

#### **Mandated by Chair and Vice Chairs of LDAC GA and ExCom**

Coordinator: LDAC Secretariat

Updated version: 28 Nov. 2022

The recommendations following the LDAC International Conference on the external dimension of the CFP<sup>1</sup> in 2015 included the following: *‘European investors in the fisheries industry in third countries (joint ventures) must be included and recognised by the CFP. The EU must promote a dialogue with African countries that fosters the development of a regulatory framework for joint venture with respect to catching (applicable to **all** vessels of foreign origin), processing and marketing, that guarantees that joint ventures operate transparently, do not compete with artisanal fishing and contribute to the development objectives of the country in question’.*

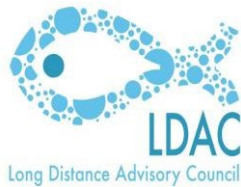
This recommendation was further developed through a concept note in December 2019 on European companies with investments in third countries fisheries, and this roadmap proposed for specific actions, that were discussed and approved by the Executive Committee meeting of 16 February 2022.

The main objective will be to look at the framework to be put in place for ensuring European companies’ investments in third countries fisheries are sustainable, and benefit these countries populations, whilst contributing to supply the European markets. Successful stories will showcase the reality of sustainable investment in fisheries. Problematic cases of joint ventures established with EU operators as well as with other distant water fishing nations like China, will also be examined to see how shortcomings can be addressed through dialogue between the EU and third countries. This is particularly relevant as the EU is reviewing its international policy with some developing countries (like the EU Africa partnership which highlights the importance of sustainable investments), and is also coming up with sustainability criteria for investments in third countries and also with the EU taxonomy for sustainable fishing activities.

To this end, some of the actions envisaged in the aforementioned concept note would be implemented, starting with the organisation of a high-level stakeholder workshop that hopefully will include authorities of the relevant national administrations and competent Directorates General from the European Commission (DG MARE, DG INTPA, DG EMPLOYMENT, DG SANTE, DG TRADE, etc.) as well as the European Parliament and other EU bodies. It is also expected that stakeholders from third countries where EU fishing operators are present will participate, to

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 1.5: *“European investors in the fisheries industry in third countries must be included and recognised by the CFP. The EU must promote a dialogue with African countries that fosters the development of a regulatory framework for joint venture with respect to catch (applicable to all vessels of foreign origin), processing and marketing that guarantees that joint ventures operate transparently, do not compete with artisanal fishing and contribute to the development objectives of the country in question”.* <https://ldac.eu/en/meetings/ldac-international-conference>



foster the dialogue between the EU and third countries on the creation of an enabling framework for sustainable investments in third countries fisheries.

For the organisation and preparation of the event a steering committee will be set up. The committee will meet regularly and be composed of interested LDAC members, from both NGOs and industry, which will be in charge of supervising, reviewing agendas and speakers, helping find sponsorship.

The high-level stakeholder workshop will involve speakers from political authorities and administrations, scientists, EU fishing companies, third countries' small-scale fishing organisations and larger operators of local capital and civil society (including environmental or development cooperation NGOs from the EU and NGO with active presence in third countries). The objective will be, based on real examples, to identify the framework for investments, and the type of investments, that could be beneficial for both the EU and developing countries, and how they could be supported, including through the optimisation of the sectoral support in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs); research and investments or cooperation from development funds from a EU and Member States; or funding opportunities and calls for projects from international organisations such as the World Bank or FAO. These collaborations and partnerships can play an effective role in improving fisheries governance, including for example deterring IUU and human rights abuses in the fisheries.

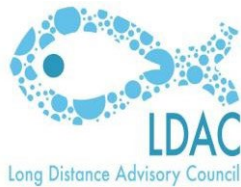
The objective of the stakeholders' workshop would be to issue an official declaration containing a number of recommendations aimed to:

1. Identify and analyse key aspects of governance towards establishing a robust framework (including a SWOT analysis, indicators for compliance and key deliverables) for sustainable investments in fisheries. This framework might also help to operationalise and give content to the clause on the promotion of investments that are embedded in bilateral SFPAs.
2. Propose positive incentives and other measures that could be incorporated onto trade and other EU policies to reward responsible behavior, sustainable production, accountability and transparency in traceability of value chain
3. If conditions allow, consider proposing the inclusion and recognition of EU investments in third countries fisheries as part of the external dimension of the CFP<sup>2</sup> given its importance for the European market and for food security.
4. Create the inceptual basis of a world accepted document serving as sustainable guidelines for third country investment in fisheries, ideally in collaboration with both the EU and the FAO.

The recommendations contained in the declaration could be presented to the EU institutions (Commission, Parliament and Council), as a contribution from the LDAC to the discussion on sustainable investments criteria, and as a contribution to the wider framework of international partnerships and alliances, such as the EU-Africa partnership, which gives an important focus on sustainable investments.

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<sup>2</sup> Vid. European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2012 on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy (2011/2318(INI)) Point 70 "Considers that European fisheries investments should be included as a third component in the external dimension of the CFP, together with fishing agreements and the RFMOs, and that the CFP must encourage sustainable external fisheries investment";



As an update to this roadmap, it is proposed to extend the scope to:

1. Link between: SFPAs, European fisheries investments in third countries and the Common Fisheries Policy.
2. Re-flagging.
3. The value chain: catching, processing, trading.
4. Show real case studies in Africa.

Each of these sections will contain specific presentation and discussion points that will serve to highlight aspects such as: job creation, the specific needs of third countries, capacity of the third country for research, MCS, adaptation to fishing opportunities, ecosystem protection measures, sustainable fisheries, as well as improving transparency.

It will serve as an exercise to work towards the objective of strengthening coherence and transparency in the context of development cooperation, scientific, technical and economic cooperation;

<b>Points to be taken into account when organising the event:</b>
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- Date<sup>3</sup> and venue: The date should be fixed at least 6 months in advance (to ensure the availability of selected speakers and the organisations of visas for African participants, as it usually takes two months on average).
- Key invitees<sup>4</sup>: start making a guest list
- Number of participants: decide on the maximum number of participants and the duration of the event.
- List of countries of particular interest: South Africa, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Ivory Coast<sup>5</sup>, Cape Verde, Seychelles, Mauritius...
- Need to find sponsors (i.e: Xunta de Galicia, MAPA...)
- Have clear guidelines on what expenses will be covered by the LDAC.

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<sup>3</sup> The informal meeting of EU agriculture and fisheries ministers (Agrifish) to be held by the European Union in Spain will take place in Vigo on 3 and 4 July 2023, within the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of that year.

<sup>4</sup> The idea is a high-level conference with invitees from government and organisations from: Africa, Spain, France and the rest of countries which could be interested.

Also, including local-fishing sector (small-scale/semi-industrial) from African countries as invitees.

<sup>5</sup> Fishing investment in land