

Roadmap

FISHING COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

Mandated by Chair and Vice Chairs of LDAC GA and ExCom

Coordinator: LDAC Secretariat

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Following the LDAC International Conference on the external dimension of the CFP¹ in 2015 and the drafting of a concept note in December 2019 on European companies with investments in third countries fisheries, this roadmap is proposed for the coming months with proposals for specific actions, to be discussed and eventually approved by the Executive Committee that will be meeting on 16 February.

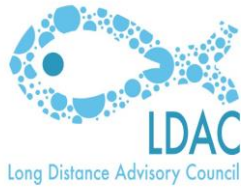
The main objective will be to look at the conditions to meet for ensuring European companies' investments in third countries fisheries are sustainable, and benefit these countries populations, whilst contributing to supply the European markets. Successful existing stories will be included to showcase the reality of sustainable investment in fisheries. This is particularly relevant as the European Commission is coming up with sustainability criteria for investments in third countries.

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 will count with the authorities of national administrations and competent Directorates General from the European (DG MARE, DG INTPA, DG EMPLOYMENT, DG SANTE, DG TRADE, etc.) as well as the European Parliament and other EU bodies.

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, not only from the EU but also local NGO with active presence in third countries). The objective will be, based on real examples, to identify the type of investments that could be beneficial for both the EU and developing countries, and how they could be supported in terms of funding, including 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

¹ 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>



and calls for projects from international organisations such as the World Bank or FAO. The role of these collaborations and partnerships can play an effective role in improving fisheries governance and deterring IUU and labour abuse in the fisheries chain.

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

1. Develop a robust framework (including a SWOT analysis, indicators for compliance and key deliverables) for analysing the sustainability of investments. This framework might also help to operationalise and give content to the clause on the promotion of investments that are embedded in the new modality of bilateral SFPAs.
2. Propose positive incentives that could be incorporated onto trade and other EU policies to reward responsible behaviour, 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 given its importance for the European market and for food security.

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.