



Meet Our Members



Béatrice Gorez (Belgium)
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)

Organisation (explain briefly who you represent or where you fish):

I work for the Coalition for fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA). It documents since 1994 the EU relations with African countries that affect African countries coastal communities and their environment. These include the EU fisheries, trade, aid policies. Our steering committee consists of European based Environmental and Development cooperation NGOs, as well as the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organisations (CAOPA).

Category (fishing sector/OIG) and Position:

I'm coordinating CFFA activities, which includes documenting issues of importance for our African partners, organizing exchange with our African partners, and communicating their views to a European audience.

When did you start to participate in LDAC meetings? What is your motivation for participating in them?

I have participated to the LDAC meetings since its inception phase, and before that, to the Advisory Council on Fisheries and Aquaculture, since 1998. For CFFA, it's important to engage with EU institutions through such participation mechanisms, and try to ensure that the voices of African coastal communities, and those NGOs that support them in Europe, are heard.

What are in your view the three main priorities/current challenges for achieving sustainable fisheries?

- The first one would be 'Policy coherence for sustainable fisheries development'. It means the EU has to ensure that the cumulated impacts of all its policies that affect African fisheries and coastal communities contribute to establish a good environment for sustainable fisheries.
- Secondly, the EU should better recognize and promoting the role of women in fisheries, particularly in Africa where women are present all along the artisanal fisheries value chains: prefinancing fishing trips, sorting fish landed, processing and selling it. They have a key role for brining affordable fish to African consumers, thereby playing a key role for food security. Without women in African fisheries, there is no sustainable fisheries.
- Finally, transparency in maritime fisheries is also important. In that context, I would like to see the EU joining the Fisheries Industry Transparency Initiative, that asks countries to be transparent in 12 fisheries areas. The EU is already doing much in terms of transparency, and joining FiTI would allow both to showcase its achievements, as well as to identify where further efforts are needed.

Can you name an inspiring figure in your field of expertise.

The person who inspired me most is Father Pierre Gillet, who passed away some years ago. He taught me most of the things I know about fisheries. His advice was to always let fishworkers, men and women, speak for themselves, our role as NGOs being just to support their advocacy work, rather than 'speak on their behalf' in decision making processes.

Which book, radio show, TV series or film related to the sea would you recommend?

My favourite book is an old French book called 'l'épopée de la sardine' ('the saga of the sardine') which describes, starting in the beginning of the 20th century, the exploitation of sardines in Brittany, between Les Sables-d'Olonne and Douarnenez. Men and women's whole life was organised around this humble little fish. The book also describes the social struggles, particularly of women employed in canneries, to get their rights recognized and improve their working conditions.

What is your favourite fish dish and why?

I'm from a small village deep in the Belgian countryside, far from the sea, and we didn't eat much seafood at home, apart from the odd smoked herring, so I don't have a particular taste for it. But I love shellfish, particularly langoustines, and also scallops. If you add a nice crisp white wine and some friends, it's one of my favourites meals.