

## **Crisis of Governance:**

Can traditional forms of regulation in artisanal fisheries survive under conditions of global markets and shifting baselines between legal operations and organised crime?  
A case study from Senegal

Aliou Sall and Cornelia E. Nauen  
Mundus maris  
Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl

# Senegal – Guet Ndar fisheries



# Methodology

Administration of **semi-structured interviews** in seven traditional fishing communities in Senegal in 2014 and 2015 with focus on the obstacles to fisheries policy reform in Senegal. 234 questionnaires were detailed enough for further analysis.

Follow-up with three sessions of **focus group discussions** in 2015 involving 625 boat owners/fishermen, 340 women fish processors and retail vendors, and 263 fish mongers in seven major landing sites of the small-scale fisheries (by total landings and gear types): Guet Ndar in Saint Louis, Kayar, Yoff, Hann, Mbour, Joal, and Ngaparou.



# Social regulation vs state power

Two examples illustrating the mutually beneficial relationship between traditional (social) regulation through the community elders and dignitaries and the public fisheries administration:

- MCS by pirogues in Yoff capturing captains of industrial vessels infringing rules and handing them over to the coast guard for fining
- Prohibition of certain gear and under-sized sardinellas in catches could not always been enforced by under-resourced administrative services, but was enforced by several fishing communities and tacitly sanctioned by attendance of fishing inspectors at the community meetings.



## Breakdown of a tacit alliance

World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (US\$ 28 mio. for Senegal): 80% for management, but **only 12% for research**, after the start

Supported introduction of **new institutions**: local committee for artisanal fisheries (CLPA) with far-reaching prerogatives trespassing those of the traditional leaders – headed by relatively young people nominated by the prefect – legality vs. legitimacy – fishers are openly defiant to many new rules and restrictions.

**Global market** demand for Octopus and Largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*) absorbs much local fishing capacity and curtails women's access to raw material, undermining their traditional family business.



# Options for a way forward

Recognition and restoration of the symbiosis between conventional legal institutions and informal instances of social regulation – the latter are spaces for producing alternative law;

Development of a small-scale fisheries academy as a collective meeting and learning space blending existing and newly co-produced knowledge from different spheres;

Specific support to women to evolve in their roles according to their aspirations;

Developing learning modules on demand for fishers, e.g. on ecosystem approach to fisheries.



**I'm still a baby,  
let me live and grow**



[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org) [www.facebook.com/MundusMaris](https://www.facebook.com/MundusMaris)

**Thanks for your  
attention**

More info on

[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)

[aliou@mundusmaris.org](mailto:aliou@mundusmaris.org)  
[ce.nauen@mundusmaris.org](mailto:ce.nauen@mundusmaris.org)