


**SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES
COMMISSION SEMINAR ON
SHARED- STOCKS, Dakar,
Senegal 15-17 April 2009**


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Perspectives and Lessons learned
from the Seminar to guide the
Commission in pursuing
Cooperative Management of
Shared Small Pelagic Fisheries
Resources of Northwest Africa


Main observations from discussions

- ▶ Many small pelagic stocks in the region are shared stocks
 - ▶ Much information is available on several of these stocks but more information is still required
 - ▶ Several if not many of the shared stocks are over-fished
 - ▶ Contacts between science and other stakeholders is very limited
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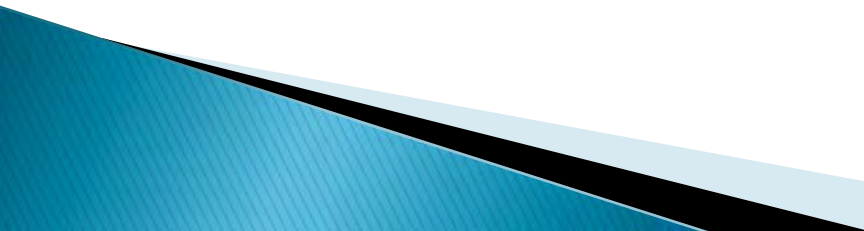
Main Observations Continued

- ▶ With a few exceptions fishers organizations or associations do not have any legal recognition
 - ▶ Cooperation among Scientists on aspects of shared stocks is much advanced
 - ▶ Very little exchange of information among policy and decision makers as well as other stake-holders of States about shared stocks
 - ▶ Shared stocks in the region are “managed” by individual states
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Main Areas of Agreement

- ❖ The need for countries in the sub-region to cooperate in the management of the shared small pelagic fishery resources of the region
 - ❖ Participants have strongly expressed their commitment to work together and ensure these resources are managed responsibly so that the resources continue to contribute to the long-term sustainable development of the sub-region
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How to Foster these Agreements

- ❑ SRFC should have in place stable and robust arrangement (sum total of approaches and strategies) to ensure sustainable management of these shared fish stocks
 - Best of all alternatives
 - All countries are better off with the arrangement than without it
 - Resilient through time i.e. it is “time consistent”
 - Contains effective implementation measures
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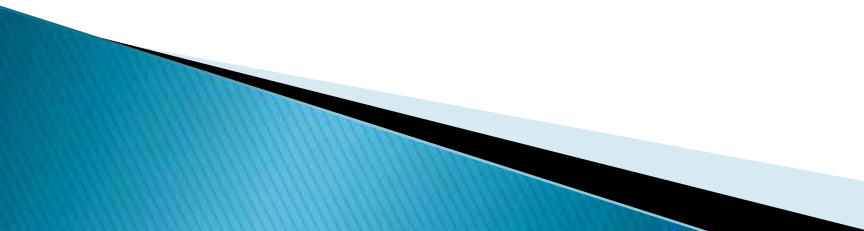
How to make Arrangement Stable and Robust

- ❖ There are two major approaches
 - ▶ Classical Approach made up of two levels Primary (Science alone) and later Secondary (coordinated/joint Management programmes)
 - ▶ Progressive Step-wise, Pragmatic Approach consisting of 7 inter-related levels
 - ▶ My preference is for the second approach
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Ingredients for Success of Classical Approach

- ❖ Countries share similar research capabilities
 - ❖ Have similar economic interests
 - ❖ Presence of significant human capacity
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Criticisms of Classical Approach

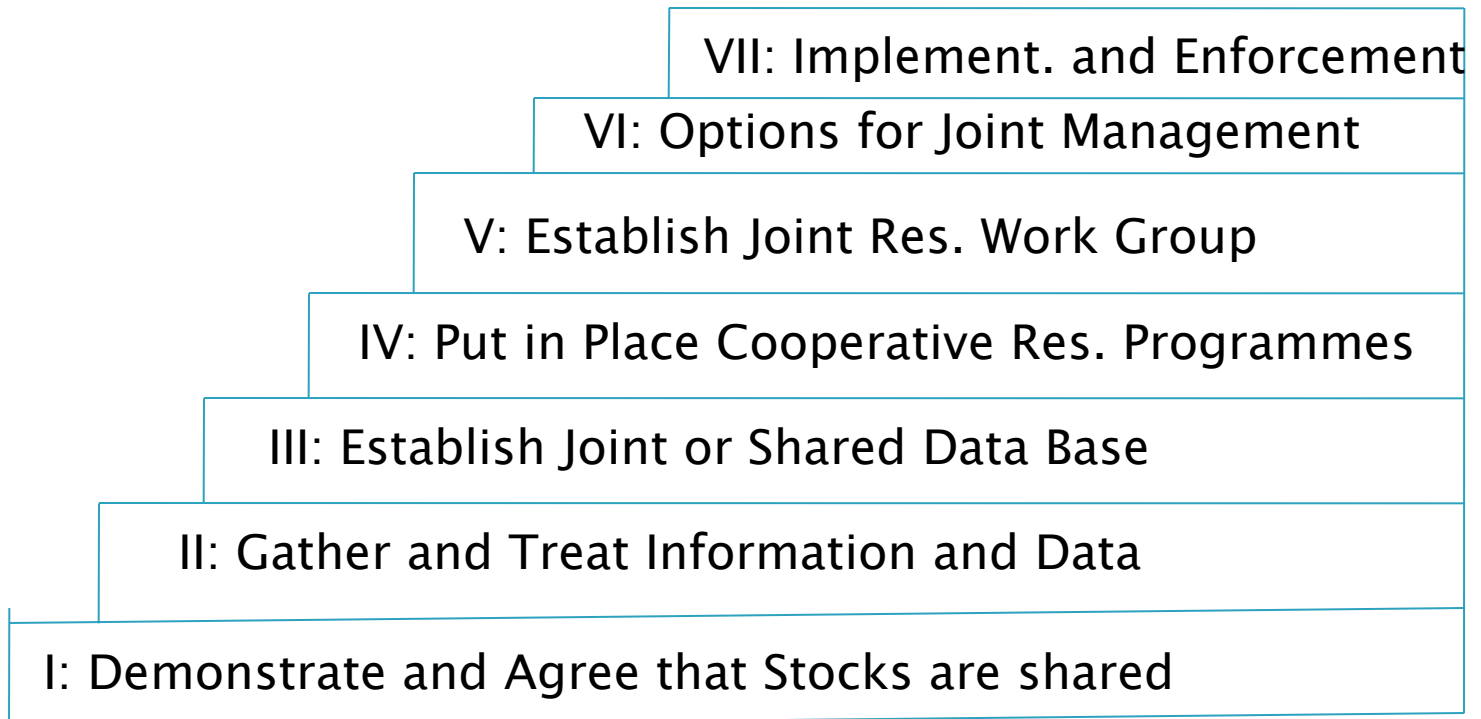
- The entire process and in particular the first level tend to be too heavily science driven
 - Too narrowly focused on issues relating to the fishery resources rather than the entire fishery
 - Tends to down play the role of other stake-holders
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Criticisms continued

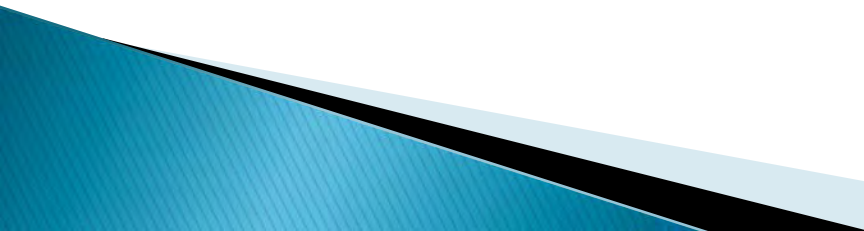
- Issues relating to fishing capacity, economic performance, capacity building, employment etc may be overlooked and this might eventually affect the effectiveness of the management regime
 - Often, absence of close and continuous interaction between the science and management.
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Progressive, Step-wise Programmatic Approach


The Seven Steps of the Approach




Advantages of Progressive Approach

- ❖ Involvement of all stakeholder groups in the entire process from the beginning
 - ❖ Progressive accumulation of experience to all involved
 - ❖ Building of trust and know-how
 - ❖ Emphasis on partnerships and stewardship
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Advantages Continued

- ❖ Importance placed on capacity building
 - ❖ Emphasis on sound science with appropriate management strategies or measures going hand-in hand
 - ❖ Putting in place appropriate institutional arrangements early in the process to ensure recommendations and decisions are implemented
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Additional Considerations

- ❖ Continue to lay emphasis on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management under the auspices of CCLME Project
 - ❖ Prepare and implement a Sub-Regional Fishery Management Plan or Work Plan.
 - ❖ Application of the Precautionary Approach
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Additional Considerations Continued

- ❖ Promote better linkage between science, policy, decision-makers and fishers
 - ❖ Encourage improved communication
 - ❖ Canvass for increased Investment for the process
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THANK YOU

