



## Senegal Dekkal Geej, Towards Sustainable Fisheries

The Senegal Dekkal Geej (DG) project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Winrock International. DG is working with local and national governing institutions, civil society actors and the private sector to improve the sustainability of Senegal's fisheries sector by improving management practices while addressing the increasing domestic and international demand for fish, to improve food security, increase incomes and strengthen resilience.

Senegal is the second largest fish producer in West Africa. Fish products are a key primary export and the catch rate is increasing due to increased artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fishing. Fish is an essential source of protein for most Senegalese, with a growing domestic demand for fresh and processed fish throughout the country. There is also an important sub-regional market for both dried and smoked fish that supplies countries in the West African interior, with much-needed protein. Demand for fish meal is also increasing on international markets. Increased pressure on Senegal's fish stocks is exacerbated by an open-access regime, an overabundance of fishers, and illegal fishing practices, which are thought to cost the nation approximately \$300 million annually in lost revenues.

### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

#### Improve management of Senegal's fisheries for ecological resilience.

Over 5 years, The DG program will build on previous USAID interventions in the fisheries sector which have contributed to substantial progress towards sustainable fishery management that is accountable, equitable and inclusive.

**Vision:** A sustainable, equitable and inclusive fisheries management system is established in Senegal by 2024, resulting in the conservation of biological diversity; the regeneration of priority stocks; the strengthening of community resilience and food security; and an increased contribution to GDP and peoples' living standards.

### RESULTS and STRATEGIC APPROACHES

The project will reduce threats to biodiversity through the following six strategic approaches:

1. **ADVOCACY:** Strengthened constituent demand and engagement for more sustainable, accountable, and equitable fisheries management;
2. **DECISION-MAKING:** Enhanced capacity for adaptive, evidence-based decision-making;
3. **CO-MANAGEMENT:** Strengthened institutional capacity for decentralized co-management of fisheries at all levels of governance;
4. **BEHAVIOR CHANGE:** Piloted and strengthened initiatives that effectively incentivize behavior change toward sustainable fishing practices;
5. **LIVELIHOODS:** Enhanced livelihoods along sustainable fisheries value chains;
6. **POLICY:** Strengthened policy formulation and implementation to support sustainable, equitable fisheries management.

## ADDRESSING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

Through the above six strategic approaches, DG will achieve the following key biodiversity threat reduction outcomes, with targeted support to critical biodiversity interests and species of ecological and economic importance:

- Reduced use of inappropriate or illegal fishing equipment and practices
- Reduction in overfishing
- Improved ecosystem capacity to adapt to climate change
- Improved management of solid waste and pollutants, including plastics and micro-plastics
- Reduced mangrove deforestation

In addition to reducing threats to biodiversity, DG will achieve the following capacity building and human well-being outcomes:

- Improved fisheries management capacity
- Improved food security through access to high-quality, nutritious, protein in the fisheries value chain
- Reduction in post-catch losses
- Improved community resilience to climate change
- Improved employment in the fisheries value chain

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Resilience.** The project will seek out market solutions which are more conducive to lasting self-reliance. The activity will use a facilitative approach to market solutions, creating the enabling conditions for private sector solutions for improved fisheries management.

**Empowerment.** Women and youth represent are critically important in the domestic fisheries value chain. The project will integrate gender by implementing the most appropriate actions for the advancement of women in the fisheries sector, seeking to tap into the often-hidden power that women wield in fishing communities. Interventions will be inclusive, equitable in process and outcome, and meet the specific needs of different women and men in the fisheries sector.

**Thinking and Working Politically (TWP).** Domestic policy change and institutional reform are critical elements our approach. DG will facilitate the development and implementation of more harmonized fisheries management policies to focus on power dynamics, interests, incentives, and institutions. Senegal's strong cultural and religious values will be harnessed by engaging local religious leaders to support improved governance and stewardship of coastal resources.

**Adaptive Programming and Management.** Recognizing that politics are not static, the DG team will continually assess the local context to test original assumptions and adapt programs based on new information and opportunities. Evidence-based analyses will be applied to better understand cause and effect linkages between drivers and threats that impact biodiversity and human well-being.

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Women fish traders assess a fresh catch at Guereo village, south of Dakar, Senegal

## COLLABORATING, LEARNING, ADAPTING (CLA)

- A collaborative, stakeholder-driven approach will engage a diverse set of actors including activity participants, local community groups, government institutions and others.
- Learning will occur by engaging staff and stakeholders to provide feedback on implementation strategies and activities as they take place. DG's team will create an agile environment that allows quick adaptations to strategy.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Government of Sénégal, REPAO, Viamo, Opportunity International

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Centre de Suivi Ecologique, ISRA/CRODT, Conseil Local de Pêche Artisanal (CLPAs).

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